

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

**30th Meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland, 13-16 January 2004**

DOC. SC30-11

Agenda item 10.2

Small Grants Fund: approval of project proposals for 2003

Action requested: The Standing Committee is requested to make decisions on the allocation of SGF2003 funds to projects, and to consider the proposed modifications to the SGF Operational Guidelines for 2004 and 2005.

Income and funds available for allocation

1. In an effort to raise funds for the 2003 round of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF), the Secretariat wrote in early 2003 to all Ramsar Contracting Parties that are donor countries (as it has done in previous years) soliciting their support. A further request for support, with a list of the projects assessed as feasible by the Secretariat, was sent to donor countries in October 2003, in line with the Operational Guidelines 2003-2005.
2. The contributions received up to 6 November 2003 are shown in Annex 1, which indicates that the funds available for allocation to SGF projects in 2003 amount to SFR 231,699. At the 30th meeting of the Standing Committee the Secretariat will provide an update on the funds available for allocation, should the situation have changed.

Project allocations

3. Following the established procedure, the Secretariat has reviewed and ranked the SGF projects using the approved form for SGF project evaluations. The form has been designed to provide both structure and objectivity to the way in which the Secretariat undertakes its assessment and preparation of recommendations for funding.
4. As required in the SGF Operational Guidelines, in October 2003 the Secretariat circulated its draft SGF 2003 assessment to the Regional Representatives in the Standing Committee from regions from which project proposals have been received, for their consideration and comment.
5. For the 2003 SGF cycle, 48 proposals (13 more than for the SGF2002 cycle) were received which were administratively complete:

12 from Africa
12 from Asia
12 from Europe
10 from the Neotropics
2 from Oceania

6. It should be noted that, as is customary practice, in order to seek equity of allocations among the Ramsar regions, the Secretariat has prepared its advice on a region by region basis and used this to formulate its overall recommendation by placing the top-scoring projects from each region into the first priority (Category A1) for immediate funding.
7. On the basis of the Secretariat's assessment, as shown in the list of projects by region in Annex 2, the projects have been divided into five categories - A1 and A2; B; C; and D as follows:
 - (A1) Projects that are technically sound and of highest priority for funding with the funds on hand. This includes six projects: 1 from Africa, 1 from Asia, 1 from Europe, 1 from the Neotropics, and 2 from Oceania¹. These are:
 - Mali (SGF/03/ML/03)
 - Lao PDR (SGF/03/LA/01)
 - Republic of Moldova (SGF/03/MD/01)
 - Bahamas (SGF/03/BS/01)
 - Marshall Islands (SGF/03/MH/01)
 - Tonga (SGF/03/TO/01)
 - (A2) Projects recommended for funding (in priority order based on the assessment score received by each project) if additional resources should become available for the 2003 SGF cycle. A further SFR 615,289 is required to fully fund all 16 of the A2 projects.
 - (B) Projects that are technically sound and are of medium priority for funding from the SGF.
 - (C) Projects that are technically sound but of lower priority for funding from the SGF.
 - (D) Projects that, on the basis of the information provided, are not considered technically sound or feasible.
8. One country with an A1 rated project (Mali) currently has not yet submitted a final report for an SGF 1996 project. In line with the Operational Guidelines and Resolution VI.5, the Standing Committee should make any approval for funding for this Mali SGF 2003 project conditional on Mali's satisfactory compliance with the reporting requirements from its SGF 1996 project.
9. The Secretariat also notes that for two A1 recommended projects (Mali and Lao PDR) the assessment has noted that some clarifications are needed on elements of the project proposal as submitted, and recommends that the Standing Committee approve these projects subject to the clarifications being satisfactorily made.
10. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee consider establishing, as in previous years, a reserve list of A2-rated projects for priority funding should sufficient additional funds become available from cancelled projects or from other sources. The

¹ Note. The second project from the Oceania region is included in this list as the highest scoring A-rated project, after selection of the top scoring project from each of the five eligible regions.

Standing Committee members may wish to consider whether, as for the selection of A1 projects, projects should be included in the A2 list in a similar geographically equitable manner. If so, then the Secretariat recommends that the following four projects (one from each eligible Ramsar region with A2-listed projects) in order of priority be placed on the reserve list:

Kyrgyz Republic (SGF/03/KG/01)
 Guatemala (SGF/03/GT/01)
 Kenya (SGF/03/KE/01)
 Ukraine (SGF/03/UA/01)

11. Alternatively, if the Standing Committee members consider establishing an A2 reserve list in order of priority of the highest ranked A2 projects, the following six projects are recommended to be placed on the reserve list:

Kyrgyz Republic (SGF/03/KG/01)
 Guatemala (SGF/03/GT/01)
 Bangladesh (SGF/03/BD/02)
 Kenya (SGF/03/KE/01)
 Nigeria (SGF/03/NR/01)
 Zambia (SGF/03/ZM/01)

12. Several countries with projects on the A2 list have previous SGF projects yet to be completed. As for A1 projects under similar circumstances (see paragraph 8 above), it is recommended that the Standing Committee should indicate that approval for funding for these projects (if additional funds become available) is conditional on satisfactory compliance with the reporting requirements from the country's previous SGF project. Furthermore, the Standing Committee may also wish to recommend that if funds become available for A2 projects, the next country in order of priority which has, by that time, fully complied with reporting on any previous SGF projects should receive the available funding.

Recommendations for amendments to SGF Operational Guidelines

Long-overdue SGF projects

13. The Secretariat wishes to draw to the Standing Committee's attention the fact that there remain a significant number of SGF projects from previous funding cycles which have not yet submitted satisfactory final reports, some of which date back to the 1995 and 1996 SGF cycles. In all there are 22 projects from the 1995-2000 SGF cycles which have yet to be completed (although three of these have now recently submitted final reports which are being evaluated by the Secretariat). In addition there are seven SGF 2001 projects yet to be completed.
14. This means that a substantial sum of funds is being held by the Secretariat for final payments for these incomplete projects – for the 1995-2000 projects, this amounts to SFr. 147,100. This would be sufficient to fund at least three further SGF project proposals.
15. For such overdue projects, the Secretariat regularly seeks contact with the recipients of the project funding to urge completion of their projects. In some cases this results in

completion and final reporting on the project, albeit delayed. In other cases, however, despite the Secretariat's attempts to achieve finalization, no response of any kind has been received from the grant recipients, and the Secretariat has no evidence that the project is being, or will be, completed.

16. So as to resolve this matter, it is recommended that the Standing Committee authorize the Secretariat to cancel, at its discretion, an SGF project which has not complied satisfactorily with reporting requirements within three years after the date of signing of the project contract, and for which the Secretariat has received no indication that the project is being implemented to completion. It should be stressed that such a project cancellation would be very much a 'last resort' action, to be applied only if the Secretariat's attempts to support and achieve project completion have failed. The Secretariat considers that it would not be appropriate to make such cancellations automatic, since in some cases the Secretariat agrees, in discussion with the grant recipient, delaying completion of a project owing to unforeseen circumstances which can prevent the anticipated rapid implementation.
17. The Secretariat suggests a three-year period for the completion of projects as well, since for some SGF projects the agreed implementation period is longer than the usual one year period under SGF funding.
18. The Standing Committee may wish also to consider the issue of eligibility for future SGF funding of those countries for which a previous SGF project has been cancelled owing to failure to comply with reporting requirements.

Recommended modifications to Section B "Request for Funding"

19. The Secretariat is finding that a significant number of the SGF project proposals it receives do not have both the required parts of Section B "Request for Funding" of the SGF Operational Guidelines completed.
20. To reduce this difficulty, the Secretariat suggests that the Standing Committee consider approving a simple reorganization of Section B, such that the "Project Summary and Endorsement Form" (currently "Section B continued") is placed before the "Detailed Proposal" guidance.

Recommended modifications to the Project Proposal Assessment Form Stage II

21. In the light of its experience in applying the Assessment Form to SGF projects over the last three assessment cycles, the Secretariat recommends two modifications to the Stage II part of the Assessment Form, which the Standing Committee may wish to consider introducing for the 2004 and/or 2005 SGF cycles.
22. As the SGF has now operated for 13 years, an ever increasing number of countries have now received funding for two or more SGF projects, which means that these countries receive a "0" score in section C of the Stage II assessment. This appears now to be leading to a overall decrease in the assessment scores for some regions, in particular for Europe, where relatively few countries are eligible for SGF support, and it is making it harder to achieve equitability of assessment scoring of high quality projects between regions.

23. So as to reduce this problem, the Secretariat recommends that Stage II Section C be amended such that the scoring would be as follows:
 - a) No previous projects – 10 points
 - b) Previously funded one to three times – 5 points
 - c) Previously funded four times of more – 0 points
24. Concerning section A of Stage II (“Technical quality of project”) the Secretariat has now had three years’ experience of applying this section introduced by Decision SC25-25 of the 25th meeting of the Standing Committee.
25. As it is currently constructed, this section of the Assessment Form addresses the technical quality of the proposal document itself, with a project scoring high when the budget is well presented, when the relationships between the project’s objectives, activities and outputs are clearly presented and linked, and when the proposal includes clear project management procedures. The Secretariat wishes to confirm that inclusion of this assessment section has proved valuable in leading to well-prepared and clearly-presented project proposals being afforded due recognition by gaining a higher assessment score.
26. However, the Secretariat believes that a particularly important aspect of the purpose of the Small Grants Fund, that of increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention where it is most urgently needed, is not covered by the current formulation of the Stage II assessment form.
27. It is the recent experience of the Secretariat in assessing project proposals that this leads to situations arising where projects of certain types achieve a high assessment score despite not being fully consistent with the purpose of SGF funding, in particular in relation to paragraph 10 of the Guidelines for the Operation of the Small Grants Fund, that: “a Contracting Party . . . should clearly consider how the project fits in with its national planning for the implementation of the Convention”.
28. For example, a well-presented project which addresses a specific wetland research issue and whose output is only a research report, but which does not directly lead to enhanced implementation of the Convention, still achieves a high score in Section A of the Stage II assessment.
29. Conversely, there is no opportunity in the Stage II assessment scoring to reflect the extent to which the anticipated outcomes of a project will be increased Convention implementation capacity in the country. Nor is there opportunity to give a high priority for funding to such a project when it is a high implementation priority for the Party in relation to its national planning priorities and targets, as is indicated in paragraph 10 of the SGF Guidelines.
30. So as to address this situation, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee approve the addition of an a new section to the Stage II Assessment Form, concerning “Project significance for Convention implementation”. Scoring for such a section might be:
 - a) The project’s outcomes will deliver significantly increased implementation capacity for a high national priority – 10 points

- b) The project's outcomes will deliver increase in implementation capacity for a lower national priority – 5 points
 - c) The project's outcomes will not directly lead to increased implementation capacity – 0 points
31. In this respect, it would also be appropriate to request the Administrative Authority for the country concerned to indicate the level of national implementation priority afforded the topic of the project, in the Endorsement section of the Project Proposal form.

Funding for “Emergency Assistance” SGF requests

32. The SGF Operational Guidelines indicate that one of the three forms of SGF assistance is “Emergency Assistance” in connection with Ramsar sites which have suffered damage or are in imminent danger of damage as the result of technological developments, pollution, other human interference or natural phenomena such as hurricanes or drought. Emergency assistance of up to SFr. 40,000 can be sought at any time.
33. Since a rapid response to such an emergency request for funding is necessary – the Operational Guidelines indicate that a decision will be made usually within a maximum of three months of the request being received – it follows that some funds should be maintained in the SGF budget line so as to be able to respond in a timely manner to such requests.
34. However, recent practice has been to fund as many as possible of the A-rated projects received in the annual SGF proposal call, and to fund further A-rated projects as and when sufficient funds accrue from project cancellations and other sources. Hence a reserve of SFr. 40,000 is not generally available to respond to emergency assistance requests.
35. To date, six requests from five Contracting Parties for Emergency Assistance, totaling SFr. 54,391, have received SGF funding. These are as follows:

Country	Year of request	Project	SGF funds provided (SFr)
Pakistan	1991	Preparation of documentation for new Ramsar sites in Pakistan and strengthening coordination of Ramsar activities in Asia	10,000
Costa Rica	1993	Effect of two grazing densities of cattle on marsh vegetation and resulting waterfowl response	8,664
Senegal	1993	Upkeep of sluice gates of the hydraulic system of the Djoudj National Park	2,500
Honduras	1995	Cadastral surveying of Jeannette Kawas National Park	5,727
Trinidad & Tobago	1998	Filling in of the irrigation channels (Rehabilitation of the Block B Area of Nariva Swamp)	14,000
Costa Rica	2002	Prevention and control of forest fires in the National Refuge of Silvestre Caño Negro	13,500

36. Each of these Emergency Assistance requests have been for considerably smaller amounts of funds than the maximum of SFr. 40,000 available for this form of SGF support.
37. The Standing Committee may wish to consider whether a mechanism should be established to ensure that some funds are available at all times to respond to such emergency requests.

Annex 1

SMALL GRANTS FUND - FUNDS AVAILABLE

**SGF funds available for allocation in 2003
(in Swiss francs, as at 06.11.2003)**

CONFIRMED FUNDS

Surplus from previous year carried forward	2,450.00
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CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE 2003 SGF CYCLE:

Austria, Federal Ministry for Land & Forestry, Environment and Water Management	15,448.00
Germany – Bundesminis. Fur Umwelt, Naturschutz Und Reaktosicherheit	46,233.00
Iran, Department of the Environment	10,000.00
Italy, Ministero del’Ambiente	31,000.00
Sweden, Sida	152,040.00
 Minus 10% administration fee	 (25,472.00)

TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION	CHF 231,699.00
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AMOUNT REQUIRED TO FUND THE PROJECTS IN CATEGORY A1	CHF 220,358.00
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Annex 2

Secretariat assessment of SGF projects and recommendations for funding

Category A1 projects, recommended for immediate funding	page 10
Category A2 projects, recommended for funding should additional funds for the 2003 SGF cycle become available	page 13
List of projects submitted by countries in Africa	page 20
List of projects submitted by countries in Asia	page 25
List of projects submitted by countries in Europe	page 30
List of projects submitted by countries in the Neotropics	page 34
List of projects submitted by countries in Oceania	page 39

SGF 2003 - Category A1 projects, recommended for immediate funding, listed by Ramsar regions

Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Assessment score	Comments
Africa				
Mali SGF/03/ML/03	Finalization of National Wetlands Policy	38,125	48	National Wetlands Policy. The Ministry of the Environment has placed the elaboration of a National Wetlands Policy in the governmental program for the first half of 2003. A national commission was established in May 2003, which carried out the elaboration of the draft policy validated technically in July 2003. The general objective of the project is to finalise the policy document with the support of national and international organizations, setting the main national trends for 2015 in order to promote wise use and conservation of wetlands in Mali, and to maintain the ecological and socio-economic functions of these sites for the well-being of the present and future generations. Note: the proposal indicates a 3-month implementation period for the project, which seems very short – this needs to be clarified with the proposer, as should some budget calculation discrepancies. Mali received SGF funding in 1996.
Asia				
Lao PDR SGF/03/LA/01	Preparatory Assistance for Lao PDR's accession to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	25,000	57	Preparatory assistance. This well structured and justified proposal aims to support the Lao Government to accede to the treaty through raising awareness of wetlands values and the role of the Ramsar Convention and analysis of the implications of the joining the Convention. A rapid inventory and selection of potential Ramsar site is envisaged. The proposal will constitute a part of the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation Programme, and other funding sources under this programme will contribute to the project. Some budget clarifications are needed.
Europe				

Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Assessment score	Comments
Republic of Moldova SGF/03/MD/01	Evaluation study to support implementation of management plan for the Lower Prut Ramsar site towards wise use and sustainable development	38,345	44	Wetland assessment & management planning. The proposal aims to provide missing data on the current environmental conditions of Moldova's Lower Prut Lakes RS by carrying out field studies, based upon the river basin approach. As a result, an action plan for the site will be developed. Ecological research activities are numerous and clearly defined. Two workshops are planned to raise public awareness of wetlands values. The project has good technical quality. Moldova has had one previous SGF project.
Neotropics				
Bahamas SGF/03/BS/01	National project to assist with the development of a Wetlands Policy	40,000	48	National Wetlands Policy & CEPA. The project will produce a brochure portraying wetlands in 5 islands in Bahamas and carry out wetland workshops in the northern and southern regions to assist in the development of a wetlands policy for the country. Additional posters will provide information on the socioeconomic and environmental effects of the loss of wetlands systems through local examples. The workshops will draw participants from the main stakeholders of wetlands in the country. Wetlands in the Bahamas are undergoing serious threats from human development and thus there is a need for a common ground and informative wetlands policy. Project will be carried out by the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission, the AA for the Ramsar Convention. Bahamas has not previously received SGF or Wetlands for the Future funding support.
Oceania				
Marshall Islands SGF/03/MH/01	Institutional capacity building and review of training needs for implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Republic of the Marshall Islands	39,667	47	Capacity building & legislative and institutional review. The project will help the Republic of the Marshall Islands prepare for implementation of the Convention, through review of the legislative framework and institutional arrangements needed to streamline implementation process and reduce resources needs. A training course will be developed about the Convention and training needs assessed as a basis for securing further donor funds for the Convention

Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Assessment score	Comments
				implementation. A well written proposal with good technical quality. The Secretariat anticipates the imminent accession of the Marshall Islands to the Convention, so that this proposal is most timely.
Tonga SGF/03/TO/01	Institutional capacity building and review of training needs for implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Tonga	39,221	47	Capacity building & legislative and institutional review. The project will help Tonga, which is progressing towards accession, to prepare for implementation of the Convention, through review of the legislative framework and institutional arrangements needed to streamline implementation process and reduce resources needs. A training course will be developed about the Convention and training needs assessed as a basis for securing further donor funds for the Convention implementation. A well written proposal with good technical quality.

Category A2 projects, recommended for funding should additional funds become available for the SGF 2003 cycle, listed in order of priority for funding based on assessment score

Priority for funding	Assessment score	Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Comments
1	46	Kyrgyz Republic SGF/03/KG/01	Ecological assessment of Song-Kul and Chatyr-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic to develop management guidelines and support proposed listing as Ramsar Site	39,652	Inventory, assessment & management planning. Baseline study and ecological assessment of the two potential Ramsar sites which are mountain wetlands. Simultaneously the project aims to develop management guidelines for both sites and to work with stakeholders to increase understanding of management practice and the law. A well written, clear and concise proposal with feasible objectives, with a well-presented budget. The Kyrgyz Republic acceded to the Convention in March 2003 and has not previously received SGF funding. This project will support increased capacity for Convention implementation, with follow-up planned to transfer approach to other wetlands in the country.
2	45	Guatemala SGF/O3/GT/01	Formulation of the National Wetlands Policy for Guatemala, Phase 2. (Política Nacional de Humedales Fase II)	40,000	National Wetlands Policy. The project is set out to carry out phase 2 of the development of Guatemala's National Wetland Policy. Phase 1 (mainly a consultancy to evaluate the current status about knowledge, institutional capabilities and human resources for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Guatemala) is underway, to be completed by December 2003. This will provide input to the drafting of the NWP. Phase 2 aims to facilitate discussion of Guatemala's NWP with all the different stakeholders in different parts of the country, having the draft version and consultancy report as a main reference. Its objective is to reach consensus and produce a final and approved NWP. Several consultation meetings will be carried out and the final document will be technically validated by experts. The NWP is expected to be launched officially at the end of the project and published in summarized and long versions. A well-prepared proposal, although the publishing costs of the Policy – a large part of the current budget - should be reduced (through preparing a monochrome rather than full

Priority for funding	Assessment score	Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Comments
					colour product). Note: Guatemala has an ongoing SGF project from 2001 due for final reporting in December 2003.
3	43	Bangladesh SGF/03/BD/02	Enhancement of capacity of women for wise use of wetland resources at selected villages of Tanguar Hoar	40,000	Sustainable use – enhancing the role of women. The project aims to raise women’s awareness about their role and capacities, motivation for wise use, and training on alternative livelihood programmes with the ultimate goal of poverty alleviation. The project is intended to be undertaken in five remote deprived villages located at the Ramsar wetland, Tanguar Hoar, which is heavily used by local population, over half of which is female. This is a useful project that addresses an important problem generally neglected of capacity-building to support the role of women. Some budget details need to be further clarified. The project has co-funding from IUCN Bangladesh and Ministry of Environment and Forest. Bangladesh has received one previous SGF funding.
3	43	Kenya SGF/03/KE/01	Ecotourism development for Lake Nakuru National Park	40,000	Integration of wetland wise use into sustainable development / Local community participation. The proposed project aims at supporting ecotourism within the protected area (a Ramsar site) as well as community-based initiatives in the wider catchment. Whereas there exists a high tourism potential in the area, there are still minimal initiatives in tourism education and awareness, training of local communities, diversification of products, marketing, infrastructure development and community involvement. This project will assist to address all these issues while also being a platform for alternative income generation through ecotourism, thus reducing pressure on the natural landscape. The project is co-financed by Banrock Station (Australia) and has been developed to meet Banrock’s intention to donate their COP8 Evian Special Award to an African ecotourism project. Note: the proposal indicates that a further CHF 20,000 for full completion of the overall project will be sought from SGF 2004. If the present SGF 2003 proposal is allocated funds it should be made clear

Priority for funding	Assessment score	Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Comments
					that further SGF support cannot at this stage be approved or guaranteed. Kenya has an ongoing SGF 2002 project.
3	43	Nigeria SGF/03/NR/01	Preparatory process towards the development of National Wetland Policy for Nigeria	40,000	National Wetland Policy. This project will form the first, consultative phase of developing Nigeria's National Wetland Policy, needed because the country's 1999 National Policy on Environment does not address wetland issues. The consultations – three workshops to identify the particular issues and problems which need to be addressed and to reach a consensus “Vision” for the conservation and wise use of Nigeria's wetlands - will be at community, state and Federal levels to obtain a consensus on the required development options, policy and instruments for policy implementation, to be developed subsequent to this project. Working documents and workshop reports will be drafted by a consultant. An important project, but there is a need to clarify what documents will be prepared before and after each workshop, and it is recommended that the proposed overall project duration of only three months may be too short to ensure preparation of and holding three workshops and draft report preparation and circulation. Nigeria has not previously received SGF funding.
6	41	Zambia SGF/03/ZM/01	The status and ecology of Wattled Cranes in Kafue Flats: implication and strategies for the management of Kafue Flats biodiversity	35,600	Participatory management. The project goal is to explore the links between hydrology, wetlands and Wattled Cranes and the conservation of biodiversity in Kafue Flats. The project will assessing the status and ecology of Wattled Cranes in Kafue Flats (Ramsar site), relationship between Cranes and various ecological factors that may control their distribution and abundance and their values as an umbrella species for community-based wetlands management and general biodiversity. This well-presented project will culminate in workshops that will bring together national policy makers, stakeholders, and community members with scientists to promote the wise management of biodiversity and subsistence economies in the Kafue Flats. Through field research, GIS analysis, and socio-economic surveys, the project

Priority for funding	Assessment score	Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Comments
					will determine the links between biodiversity, water management, and human welfare in the flats. Zambia has a pending SGF project from 1997.
7	40	Bolivia SGF/03/BO/1	Management plan for the Ramsar Site Lakes Poopó and Uru Uru, Bolivia (Propuesta para el plan de manejo del sitio Ramsar Lagos Poopó y Uru Uru, Oruro - Bolivia)	39,989	Management planning & CEPA. The project aims to elaborate a five-year management plan for the Ramsar site Poopó and Uru Uru lakes. It will be developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society – Bolivia, in coordination and consultation with local authorities, communities and the private sector. An excellent diagnostic which led to the Ramsar designation of the site received previous SGF funding, so this project would be a follow-up to that diagnostic. Note: Bolivia has a pending report from a 1994 SGF project: “Updating of information on the ichthiofauna of Lake Titicaca”.
8	39	Togo SGF/03/TG/01	Inventory and assessment of the natural resources and the ecological character of the Oti-Mandouri watershed and the coastal hydrological network of Togo for the designation of 2 Ramsar sites	39,973	Wetland inventory & assessment and Ramsar site designation. The project proposes to study the characteristics of two wetland areas so as to prepare for their Ramsar site designation. The sites are the basin of Oti-Mandouri and the network of the coast. The project is intended to inform and sensitize the stakeholders and to study the socio-economic values, cultural values, and the judicial, institutional, biophysical and ecological environment of the two wetlands. Togo has an ongoing SGF project from 2001.
9	38	India SGF/03/IN/01	Integrated management planning for conservation and wise use of Chilika Lake	39,688	Management planning. The proposal will implement a key recommendation of the December 2000 Ramsar Advisory Mission to Chilika Lake: to develop an integrated management plan for this wetland, which was removed from the Montreux Record in 2001. A well-structured and presented proposal for important activities in the high-profile Ramsar site, with substantial in-country co-financing. The project will involve the baseline evaluation, stakeholder workshops and consultations, development of strategies and establishment of an institutional framework and monitoring plan at the site and basin scales. The proposal anticipates that the management planning experience and process will be transferable to other wetland systems. The proposed budget requires clarification on its sufficiency to cover

Priority for funding	Assessment score	Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Comments
					workshop costs. India has had two previous SGF projects: in 1995 and an SGF 1998 project pending completion.
9	38	Ukraine SGF/03/UA/01	Pilot project on the development of a practical mechanism and legal scheme of Ramsar sites setting up in Ukraine	39,679	Wetland policy. The project addresses the improvement of the national policy for wetland conservation through the preparation of a methodology for, and listing of, new Ramsar Sites, and the improvement of management capacity of the Islands of Izmail, a potential Ramsar Site upstream of the Danube delta, through training of forestry staff and local stakeholders. Transborder aspects and public awareness issues are also covered through a planned international workshop, the promotion of transfrontier cooperation within the Lower Danube Euroregion, and the production of a film on the values of the Izmail Islands. The proposal is well-argued and well-founded. Ukraine executed a joint SGF project in 1997 together with Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.
11	37	Slovak Republic SGF/03/SK/03	Wetlands of the crossborder region Gemer-Turnà	22,000	CEPA. The project will provide educational materials and programmes in two languages, Slovak and Hungarian, to promote surface wetland conservation in a cross-border region (surroundings of the underground RS). A regional strategy for wetland wise use and a public list of wetlands of regional importance will also be elaborated. The project requests only a small amount of SGF money, focusing on specific CEPA activities, with significant in-country co-financing. The Slovak Republic received SGF support in 1997 and 1998.
11	37	Thailand SGF/03/TH/03	Community-based wetlands assessment in the Tha Chin River Basin - a pilot project	38,812	Assessment and wise use (community participation). The Tha Chin river, one of Thailand's most important river basins, has been suffering steady degradation of water quality that causes massive fish kills. The project aims to enhance the input and involvement of civil society in the assessment and monitoring of water quality, so as to increase engagement in implementation of a basin management action plan. This will help to increase awareness about wetlands among the local government, communities and general public. These objectives

Priority for funding	Assessment score	Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Comments
					are proposed to be achieved through consultations, workshop, training and forum establishment for all interested parties, with good follow-up planned. Objectives, activities and outputs are well-presented, but the budget contains limited information and needs to be revised and elaborated prior to funding approval. Thailand as an SGF 2002 project underway.
11	37	Peru SGF/03/PE/3	Creation of capacity and instruments for the co-management of Wakarpay Wetland in Peru (Creación de capacidad e instrumentos para el comanejo del humedal de Wakarpay, Peru)	39,932	Management planning & training. This well-developed and detailed proposal is included within a larger initiative started in 1999 of “Sustainable Development in the Wakarpay Wetland”, which has other projects on sanitation, ecotourism, restoration, etc. The current proposal, a collaboration between Fundación Andes (Peru) and Fundació Natura (Spain), will raise awareness about the values and functions of Wakarpay through a campaign with different sorts of activities. Community facilitators will be picked up from this, and they will be part of the management plan development. Finally, there will be an intensive capacity building training for communities to ensure the proper management and wise use for the future. Peru has no pending SGF reports, and has been funded 5 times from SGF, the last time in 1999.
14	36	Senegal SGF/03/SN/01	Development and implementation of a community-based monitoring system of nesting waterbirds in the “Bird Island” of the Delta du Saloum Ramsar site	39,964	Participatory management planning and monitoring (Ramsar site). The Island of Birds forms an integral part of the National Park of the delta of Saloum Ramsar site and receives each year more than 110,000 nesting birds. These are threatened by fishermen and by the many disturbances related to uncontrolled tourism. The objective of this project is to reinforce the capacities of the agents and the “écogardes” (young village volunteers) in order to gradually set up a monitoring system for the bird colonies along with the ecotourism activities. A well-defined proposal, with follow-up activities, the project provides a good example of how to promote direct participation of local communities in the conservation of biological resources through the development of management planning and monitoring for a Ramsar site: it involves government officials so as to

Priority for funding	Assessment score	Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Comments
					recognize the need for development of legislation that supports local conservation and wise use interests. Senegal has received SGF funding in 1998 and 1999.
14	36	Russian Federation SGF/03/RU/01	Building up a framework for Ramsar Convention implementation in Russia	40,000	Wetland legislation/ Education. The project proposes to fill existing gaps of a larger project “Supporting the National Wetlands Strategic Plan” (supported by Dutch funds) by providing manuals and methodology in the fields of legislation, management, and education. Among other results, a management plan for the Kamo-Bakaldino mires Ramsar site and programmes on wetland conservation to be integrated into official school curricula are expected. A clear and coherent proposal, wherein three different aspects of wetland conservation and wise use are treated. Russia has received support from Ramsar’s SGF in 1997, 1998 and 2001.
14	36	Colombia SGF/03/CO/1	Management plan as a conservation and wise use strategy for the San Juan River Delta as a Wetland of International Importance (Plan de manejo como estrategia para la conservación y uso racional del Delta del Río San Juan como Humedal de Importancia Internacional)	40,000	Management Planning. The Delta del Río San Juan is in process of designation as a Ramsar site (revised RIS currently under evaluation by the Secretariat) and the Ministry of the Environment wishes to prepare and adopt a management plan for the site. The Ministry has experience in such plans as it directed the development of the MP for Ciénaga Grande Ramsar Site with SGF funding from 2000 to 2002. The project is set out in 4 phases: gathering of information, mapping and zoning of the site, development and agreement of the management plan, and community capacity building, and will involve stakeholder participation. Colombia has received funding for two SGF projects in 1999 and 2002; the latter is still ongoing.

SGF 2003 – Projects submitted by the countries in Africa
listed in order of assessment score

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Mali SGF/03/ML/03	Finalization of national wetlands policy	38,125	Yes	48	A	<p>National Wetlands Policy. The Ministry of the Environment has placed the elaboration of a National Wetlands Policy in the governmental program for the first half of 2003. A national commission was established in May 2003. It carried out the elaboration of the draft policy validated technically in July 2003. The general objective of the project is to finalise the policy document with the support of national and international organizations, setting the main national trends for 2015 in order to promote wise use and conservation of wetlands in Mali, and to maintain the ecological and socio-economic functions of these sites for the well being of the present and future generations.</p> <p>Note: the proposal indicates a 3-month implementation period for the project, which seems very short – this needs to be clarified with the proposer, as should some budget calculation discrepancies.</p> <p>Mali received SGF funding in 1996.</p>
Kenya SGF/03/KE/01	Eco-tourism development for Lake Nakuru National Park	40,000	Yes	43	A	<p>Integration of Wetland Wise Use into Sustainable Development / Local community participation. The proposed project aims at supporting ecotourism within the protected area (a Ramsar site) as well as community-based initiatives in the wider catchments. Whereas there exists a high tourism potential in the area, there are still minimal initiatives in tourism education and awareness, training of local communities, diversification of products, marketing, infrastructure development and community involvement. This project will assist to address all these issues while also being a platform for alternative income generation through eco-tourism and thus reduce pressure on the natural landscape. The project is co-financed by Banrock Station (Australia), and has been developed to meet Banrock's intention to donate their COP8 Evian Special Award to an African ecotourism project.</p> <p>Note: the proposal indicates that a further CHF 20,000 for full completion of the overall project will be sought from SGF 2004. If the present SGF 2003 proposal is allocated funds it should be made clear that further SGF support is cannot at this stage be approved or guaranteed.</p> <p>Kenya has an ongoing SGF 2002 project.</p>

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Nigeria SGF/03/NR/01	Preparatory process towards the development of national wetland policy For Nigeria	40,000	Yes	43	A	National Wetland Policy. This project will form the first, consultative phase of developing Nigeria's National Wetland Policy, needed because the country's 1999 National Policy on Environment does not address wetland issues. The consultations – three workshops to identify the particular issues and problems which need to be addressed and to reach a consensus “Vision” for the conservation and wise use of Nigeria's wetlands - will be at community, state and Federal levels to obtain a consensus on the required development options, policy and instruments for policy implementation, to be developed subsequent to this project. Working documents and workshop reports will be drafted by a consultant. An important project, but there is a need to clarify what documents will be prepared before and after each workshop, and it is recommended that the proposed overall project duration of only 3 months may be too short to ensure preparation of, and holding 3 workshops, and draft report preparation and circulation. Nigeria has not previously received SGF funding.
Zambia SGF/03/ZM/01	The status and ecology of Wattled Cranes in Kafue Flats : implication and strategies for the management of Kafue Flats biodiversity	35,600	Yes	41	A	Participatory management. The project goal is to explore the links between hydrology, wetlands and Wattled Cranes and the conservation of biodiversity in Kafue Flats. The project will assessing the status and ecology of Wattled Cranes in Kafue Flats (Ramsar site), relationship between Cranes and various ecological factors that may control their distribution and abundance and their values as an umbrella species for community based wetlands management and general biodiversity. This well-presented project will culminate in workshops that will bring together national policy makers, stakeholders, and community members with scientists to promote the wise management of biodiversity and subsistence economies in the Kafue Flats. Through field research, GIS analysis, and socio-economic surveys, the project will determine the links between biodiversity, water management, and human welfare in the flats. Zambia has a pending SGF project from 1997.
Togo SGF/03/TG/01	Inventory and assessment of the natural resources and the ecological character of the Oti-Mandouri watershed and the coastal hydrological network of Togo for the	39,973	Yes	39	A	Ramsar Designation. Wetland Inventory Assessment. The project proposes to study the characteristics of two wetland areas so as to prepare for their Ramsar site designation. The sites are the basin of Oti-Mandouri and the network of the coast. The project envisages to inform and to sensitize the stakeholders, to study socio-economic values, cultural values, and the judicial, institutional, biophysical and ecological environment of the two wetlands. Togo has an ongoing SGF project from 2001.

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
	deziqnation of 2 Ramsar sites					
Senegal SGF/03/SN/01	Development and implementation of a community-based monitoring system of nesting waterbirds in the “ <i>Bird Island</i> ” of the <i>Saloum</i> Ramsar site	39,964	Yes	36	A	Participatory Management Planning and Monitoring (Ramsar Site). The Island of Birds forms an integral part of the National park of the delta of Saloum Ramsar site and receives each year more than 110 000 nesting birds. These are threatened by fishermen and by the many disturbances related to uncontrolled tourism. The objective of this project is to reinforce the capacities of the agents and the “écogardes” (young village volunteers) in order to gradually set up a monitoring system for the bird’s colonies along with the ecotourism activities. A well-defined proposal, with follow-up activities, the project provides a good example of how to promote direct participation of local communities in the conservation of biological resources through the development of management planning and monitoring for a Ramsar site: it involves government officials so as to recognize the need for development of legislation that supports local conservation and wise use interests. Senegal has received SGF funding in 1998 and 1999.
Niger SGF/03/NG/01	Establishment and organization of a national committee for the mangement of the Niger River Basin	35,000	Yes	30	B	Wetlands Committee & wetland assessment. Niger has a National Ramsar Committee and proposes to establish a decentralized regional Committee for the area of the Niger River Basin within the country, so as to be able to contribute fully to the basin-scale work on wetlands and water management through the Niger River Basin Authority (ABN). Work under the project will include establishment of the Committee and its terms of reference and statutes, and compilation of assessments from existing sources of the distribution, status and pressures on wetlands in the basin. Some clarifications are needed in the proposal, including assessment methods proposed, committee membership, governance relationships and responsibilities to National Ramsar Committee and ANB, and budget details. Niger has received SGF funding in 1996 & 2000.
Guinea SGF/03/GN/01	Designation of new wetlands of international importance in Gambia River Basin in the republic of Guinea	31,782	Yes	29	B	Ramsar Site Designation / CEPA. The project consists of designation of new Ramsar sites by the end 2004 with the sensitizing of the rural communities especially women, sector private and decision makers of the need for safeguarding of the wetlands. The project is feasible, but requires clarifications as to how its activities will be undertaken before funding is approved. Guinea received an SGF funding in 1994.

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Niger SGF/03/NG/02	Conservation of the hippopotamus and management of the wetlands in Niger	37,270	Yes	24	C	Management plan. In Niger, the two principal wetland areas currently used by the hippopotamus are the “National Park of W” (Ramsar site, Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site) and the region of “Ayorou”. This project aims to improve the management of these significant water ecosystems, through identifying the most favourable habitats for the hippopotamus, defining the possible economic activities and ensuring sustainable conservation of species and their habitat. The project is proposed for two-year duration – longer than the usual SGF implementation period of one year, and no detailed budget has been provided Niger received SGF funding in 1996 and 2000.
Mali SGF/03/ML/02	Integrated management of the natural resources of Lac Magui	39,964	No		D	Participatory management. The lake Magui which represents. This project aims at promoting the wise use of the natural resources of the lake Magui - an important wetland in the Sahel threatened by several factors (climatic, demographic, poor agricultural management etc. - through the implementation of tools adapted for participative management, and the development of alternative activities compatible with the protection of environment. The current proposal aims at providing additional funds needed to finalize part of a current project funded by IUCN-NL. A well structured and presented proposal to develop education and awareness activities with local communities in a potential Ramsar site, to encourage sustainable use within the site but the objectives are too ambitious and all proposed actions cannot be undertaken with a single Ramsar SGF funding in one year. Mali received SGF funding in 1996.
Mali SGF/03ML/01	Contribution to the conservation of the wetlands of the Ségou area, through the protection of the population of the Manatees in Mali-in situ	36,816	No		D	Species Conservation through wetland management. The National NGO “ADAM” in Mali, plans to contribute to safeguarding the endangered Manatee through the protection of its habitat by sensitizing local communities, collection of population information and achieving sustainable management of the wetlands with the participation of local communities in the area of Ségou. The objective of the project is relevant to Ramsar but the activities are not adequate for achieving in situ conservation, and the proposed activities are overambitious for an SGF project. Elements of the proposed budget are not clearly justified. Mali received SGF funding in 1996.

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Gambia SGF/03/GA/01	Boundary survey and demarcation of the Gambia's Ramsar Sites	40,000	No		D	Management Planning. The project seeks to clear boundaries as firebreaks and establish physical markers to delimit the boundaries of three wetlands (one a Ramsar site) in order that these sites to be officially recognized as protected areas and Ramsar sites. This activity will require detailed survey work on the ground incorporating close liaison with the communities. The local community will be involved in decisions about locating the boundaries and the work required to put them in place i.e. clearing the boundaries and making the concrete pillars. This proposal forms part of a much larger project brief submitted to GEF entitled "Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management". The Background and justification of the project is poor, activities are not clearly described, and there is no detailed budget provided. Gambia received SGF funding in 2002.

SGF 2003 – Projects submitted by the countries in Asia
listed in order of assessment score

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Lao PDR SGF/03/LA/01	Preparatory Assistance for Lao PDR's accession into Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	25,000	Yes	57	A	Preparatory assistance. This well structured and justified proposal that through raising awareness on wetlands values and the role of the Ramsar Convention and analysis of the implication in case of the joining the Convention aims to support the Lao Government to accede to the treaty. A rapid inventory and selection of potential Ramsar site is envisaged. The proposal will constitute a part of the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation Programme, and other funding sources under this programme will contribute to the project. Some budget clarifications are needed.
Kyrgyz Republic SGF/03/KG/01	Ecological Assessment of Song-Kul and Chatyr-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic to develop management guidelines and support proposed listing as Ramsar Site	39,652	Yes	46	A	Inventory, assessment & management planning. Baseline study and ecological assessment of the two potential Ramsar sites which are mountain wetlands. Simultaneously the project aims to develop management guidelines for both sites and to work with stakeholders to increase understanding of management practice and the law. A well written, clear and concise proposal with feasible objectives, with a well-presented budget. The Kyrgyz Republic acceded to the Convention in March 2003 and has not previously received SGF funding. This project will support increased capacity for Convention implementation, with follow-up planned to transfer approach to other wetlands in the country.
Bangladesh SGF/03/BD/02	Enhancement of Capacity of Woman for Wise use of Wetland Resources at Selected Villages of Tanguar Hoar	40,000	Yes	43	A	Sustainable use – enhancing the role of women. The project aims to raise women's awareness about their role and capacities, motivation for wise use, and training on alternative livelihood programmes with the ultimate goal of poverty alleviation. The project is intended to be undertaken in five remote deprived villages located at the Ramsar wetland, Tanguar Hoar that is heavily used by local population, over half of which is female. This is an useful project that addresses an important problem generally neglected of capacity-building to support the role of women. Some budget details need to be further clarified. The project has co-funding from IUCN Bangladesh and Ministry of Environment and Forest. Bangladesh has

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
						received one previous SGF funding.
India SGF/03/IN/01	Integrated Management Planning for Conservation and Wise use of Chilika Lake	39,688	Yes	38	A	Management Planning. The proposal will implement a key recommendation of the December 2000 Ramsar Advisory Mission to Chilika Lake: to develop an integrated management plan for this wetland which was removed from the Montreux Record in 2001. A well structured and presented proposal for important activities in the high-profile Ramsar site, with substantial in-country co-financing. The project will involve the baseline evaluation, stakeholder workshops and consultations, development of strategies and establishment of an institutional framework and monitoring plan at the site and basin scales. The proposal anticipates that the management planning experience and process will be transferable to other wetland systems. The proposed budget requires clarification on its sufficiency to cover workshop costs. India has had two previous SGF projects: in 1995 and an SGF 1998 project pending completion.
Thailand SGF/03/TH/03	Community-based Wetlands Assessment in the Tha Chin River Basin - A Pilot Project	38,812	Yes	37	A	Assessment and Wise Use (Community participation). The Tha Chin river, one of Thailand's most important river basins, has been suffering steady degradation of water quality that cause massive fish kills. The project aims to enhance the input and involvement of civil society in the assessment and monitoring of water quality, so as to increase engagement in implementation of a basin management action plan. This will help to increase awareness about wetlands among the local government, communities and general public. These objectives are proposed to be achieved through consultations, workshop, training and forum establishment for all interested parties, with good follow-up planned. Objectives, activities and outputs are well-presented, but the budget contains limited information and needs to be revised and elaborated prior to funding approval. Thailand as an SGF 2002 project underway.

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Bangladesh SGF/03/BD/01	Sundabaran Ramsar Wetland Conservation through ICTPs Education and Dissemination	21,818	Yes	32	B	CEPA. The main objective is to increase local community and agency awareness about the significance of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and national legislation in safeguarding the Sundarban World Heritage Site and Ramsar site. The project will prepare education and awareness materials on MEAs in the local language and establish an education centre to support the awareness-raising process and stakeholder workshops. However, the proposal contains only limited information about how each of the activities will be undertaken and on the operation and onward support of the education centre.
Thailand SGF/03/TH/01	Sustainable Water Use Plan for Bung Boraphet	39,100	Yes	31	B	Water resource management. The project proposes to develop a sustainable water use model for a non-Ramsar Listed wetland facing over-exploitation issues, and to make this available to water managers. Another project on this topic is already underway, but it is not clear what this SGF proposal will add to existing work, nor how its outputs will be transferred into improved water management implementation in relation to stakeholder interests. The objectives, activities and outputs are poorly structured, project management information is unclear as are elements of the budget. A significantly revised proposal is recommended before funding is approved. Thailand as an SGF 2002 project underway.
Thailand SGF/03/TH/02	Assessment of Land Use in Sam Roi Yot Wetlands	39,656	Yes	30	B	Inventory & Assessment. The proposal intends to establish a GIS database to handle ground-truthed satellite imagery to identify land-use distribution and change and to assess the extent of the degradation of a major wetland facing local opposition to Ramsar Listing, so as to progress a revised proposal for designation of a likely smaller area of the wetland. It is not, however, clear how this information will lead to change in local attitudes towards Ramsar designation. The budget needs substantial clarification and revision before project funding should be approved. Thailand as an SGF 2002 project underway.

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Israel SGF/03/IL/01	Saving the Otter and their Habitats	40,000	Yes	28	B	Wetland conservation & CEPA through a Species Action Plan. Israel's otter populations has undergone major decline, but the reasons (probably habitat degradation) are unclear. Using the Otter as a flagship species the project assess otter populations and causes of decline and prepare guidance for otter conservation and wetland management, with public participation, so as to promote awareness of wetland and wetland species management needs. Israel has had two previous SGF projects (1997, 1999).
Sri Lanka SGF/03/LK/01	Madu Ganga Environmental Education & Visitor Centre	39,909	No		D	CEPA. The project's aim is to establish an educational and visitors' centre to increase public awareness about the conservation of the Maduganga coastal wetlands (not Ramsar Listed) and to attract tourists and visitors for promotion of ecotourism. This may create other sources of income for local population. The implementer is an NGO that has been engaged actively in nature conservation and poverty alleviation activities in this area. The project proposal contains limited information on objectives, activities, outputs and budget, but activities and outputs do not appear to match. It has been submitted previously to SGF, but the proposal should be significantly elaborated before any resubmission.
Indonesia SGF/03/ID/02	Community based rehabilitation model of mangrove forest of Sulawesi Selatan coastal (Kabupaten Pinrang Case Study)	39,995	No		D	Mangrove Forest Rehabilitation Model. The project aims, with active community participation, to establish a sediment distribution pattern to develop suitable mangrove species by which a model should be established. This case study of one coastal area would then be taken where mangroves have undergone fast and significant degradation. The proposal does not provide clearly linked objectives, activities and outputs, and it is not clear how transferable the approach would be.
Thailand SGF/03/TH/04	The study and Development on Communal Capacity in Ramsar Site: the case study of Bung-Rajanok Phitsanuloke	48,442	No		D	Development of the community capacity to manage a Ramsar Site. The proposal intends to study the eco-physical characteristics and cultural aspects of Bung Rajanok wetland including local history and the traditional knowledge and practices. On the basis of the findings a workshop will be help to create a forum for identification of current problems and seek the views of the local community to address them. The projects envisages active participation of young

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
						<p>population through the education and awareness activities. The final outcome is proposed as a model for capacity development. Project activity, outputs and budget (not in CHF) information in the proposal is limited and are not clearly linked.</p> <p>Thailand has an SGF 2002 project underway.</p>

SGF 2003 – Projects submitted by the countries in Europe
listed in order of assessment score

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Republic of Moldova SGF/03/MD/01	Evaluation study to support implementation of Management Plan for the Lower Prut Ramsar site towards wise use and sustainable development	38,345	Yes	44	A	Environmental studies on a Ramsar Site The proposal aims to provide missing data on the current environmental conditions of Moldova's Lower Prut Lakes RS site by carrying out field studies, based upon the river basin approach. As a result, an action plan for the site will be developed. Ecological research activities are numerous and clearly defined. Two workshops are planned to raise public awareness on wetlands values. The project has good technical quality. Moldova has had one previous SGF project.
Ukraine SGF/03/UA/01	Pilot project on the development of a practical mechanism and legal scheme of Ramsar sites setting up in Ukraine	39,679	Yes	38	A	Wetland policy. The project addresses the improvement of the national policy for wetland conservation through the preparation of a methodology for, and listing of, new Ramsar Sites, and the improvement of management capacity of the Islands of Izmail, a potential Ramsar Site upstream of the Danube delta, through training of forestry staff and local stakeholders. Transborder aspects and public awareness issues are also covered through a planned international workshop, the promotion of transfrontier cooperation within the Lower Danube Euroregion and the production of a film on the values of the Izmail Islands. The proposal is well-argued and well-founded. Ukraine executed a joint SGF project in 1997 together with Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.
Slovak Republic SGF/03/SK/03	Wetlands of the crossborder region Gemer-Turnà	22,000	Yes	37	A	CEPA. The project will provide educational materials and programmes in two languages, Slovak and Hungarian, to promote surface wetland conservation in a cross-border region (surroundings of the underground RS). A regional strategy for wetland wise use and a public list of wetlands of regional importance will also be elaborated. The project requests only a small amount of SGF money, focusing on specific CEPA activities, with significant in-country co-financing. The Slovak Republic received SGF support in 1997 and 1998.

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Russian Federation SGF/03/RU/01	Building up a framework for Ramsar Convention implementation in Russia	40,000	Yes	36	A	Wetland legislation/ Education. The project proposes to fill existing gaps of a larger project “Supporting the National Wetlands Strategic Plan” (supported by Dutch funds) by providing manuals and methodology in the fields of legislation, management, and education. Among other results, a management plan for the Kamo-Bakaldino mires Ramsar Site and programmes on wetland conservation to be integrated into official school curricula, are expected. A clear and coherent proposal, with three different aspects of wetland conservation and wise use are treated. Russia has received support from Ramsar’s SGF in 1997, 1998 and 2001.
Armenia SGF/03/AM/01	Conservation of Armenian Ramsar sites and other wetlands: mitigating problems through public awareness, training and development of environmentally sound activities	40,000	Yes	35	B	CEPA. The project proposes to organize various meetings and a national training course to develop the involvement of the private sector in wise use of wetlands and to raise awareness of people whose life depends on wetlands. It will also promote ecotourism (especially bird watching) through the preparation and execution of a regional seminar in cooperation with partners in the Caucasus region (Georgia, Russia and possibly Azerbaijan). The proponent Armenian organisation successfully completed SGF projects in 1997, 1999 and 2000 and is currently implementing one from the 2002 cycle. This proposal is of good quality, but largely repeats approaches used in previous projects as well as introducing some additional approaches.
Slovak Republic SGF/03/SK/02	Wise use of the Wetlands of the Orava Basin Ramsar Site	39,394	Yes	34	B	Restoration and management plan/CEPA. Under AA responsibility and in collaboration with other ministries, the project will develop a management plan for the Wetlands of Orava Basin Ramsar Site, prepare a restoration plan for the peatbog Rudne, and develop cooperation with the Polish authorities to initiate a better conservation of the shared wetlands complex, including the possible designation of a bilateral Ramsar Site. Activities to increase public awareness form part of the project. Originally submitted in 2000, the proposal has been substantially improved. Slovakia received SGF support in 1997 and 1998.

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Belarus SGF/03/BY/01	Restoration of the ecosystem of the Osveya wetland complex and Ramsar site	39,390	Yes	29	B	Wetland restoration (peatlands). Osveiski Ramsar site is a large complex of lakes, forests, transition mires and raised bogs and an important breeding and stop over area for waterbirds. The site has been losing its biodiversity values, mainly due to peat extraction dropping the water level significantly. The project covers preparatory field studies and the preparation of technical documents in view of the hydrological works needed to restore the bog. The Ministry of Natural Resources (Ramsar AA) has confirmed a budget to undertake the restoration works once the preparatory studies will be available. A well-structured proposal, but in which methods to undertake the engineering plans would benefit from further development. Belarus was one of three countries that successfully completed a joint SGF 2001 project.
Czech Republic SGF/03/CZ/01	Restoration of peatlands on the central upland area of the Sumava National Park	39,420	Yes	29	B	Peatlands restoration/CEPA. The project covers hydrological restoration and maintenance work for peatland biodiversity of bogs forming part of the Sumava peatlands Ramsar Site that were damaged by former drainage. It will establish a monitoring programme and execute activities to raise the awareness of the general public and specific stakeholders on peatlands values with publications, presentations and field excursions. The project activities form part of the new management plan for the National Park. This country has not previously received support by Ramsar's SGF.
Slovak Republic SGF/03/SK/01	Promotion of sustainable management and public awareness in Danube floodplains Ramsar site	40,000	Yes	22	C	CEPA. This project is part of a larger EU LIFE-Nature project. Both projects aim to change forestry practices in floodplain forests. The SGF proposal focuses on public and stakeholder awareness by launching a large campaign for local communities and in organizing study visits for forestry and nature conservation personnel in neighboring countries (Austria and Czech Republic). Noteworthy is the international cooperation of different organizations. Slovakia received SGF support in 1997 and 1998.

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Czech Republic SGF/03/CZ/02	Preparation of documentation for restoration of two peatbogs	39,000	Yes	19	C	Restoration plan (peatlands). The project proposes to elaborate a restoration plan for two peatbogs of the Krokonosé mountain mires Ramsar Site including the preparation of a digital topographical model, the evaluation of the current hydrological regime and a project design to improve water retention. A seminar to present the restoration plan to the local public is part of the proposal, but it is not clear how and if implementation of the plan can be undertaken. This country has not previously received support by Ramsar's SGF.
Romania SGF/03/RO/01	Support for the improvement of the institutional capacity on the national and local level in the management of wetlands of the international importance in view to achieve a better national coordination, a national strategy to ensure the wise use of all wetlands within the Romanian territory and the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic plan 2003-2008	39,800	No		D	Institutional capacity. The main objective of the project is to establish a National Ramsar Committee with a secretariat to coordinate all wetland management and conservation activities. The newly established NRC would elaborate a National Wetland Strategy and a Wetland Action Plan. The project concept presents a valuable and interesting approach. However, the proposal is poorly developed and needs substantial improvements to be assessed feasible. Romania has still two SGF projects from the 1997 and 1998 cycles which are not yet closed.
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia SGF/03/MK/01	Nomination of Dojran lake in the Ramsar list	37,000	No		D	Designation of Ramsar Site. Carrying out various studies, the project plans to collect the necessary data to propose the designation of Djoran Lake as a Ramsar Site. A final objective is to develop tourism in the area. Crucial points of the project proposal are not clear. This country has not previously received SGF support.

SGF 2003 – Projects submitted by the countries in the Neotropics
listed in order of assessment score

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment Score	Funding category	Summary
Bahamas SGF/03/BS/1	National project to assist with the development of a Wetlands Policy	40,000	Yes	48	A	National Wetlands Policy & CEPA The project will to produce a brochure portraying wetlands in 5 islands in Bahamas and carry out wetland workshops in the northern and southern regions to assist in the development of a wetlands policy for the country. Additional posters will provide information on the socioeconomic and environmental effects of the loss of wetlands systems through local examples. The Workshops will draw participants from the main stakeholders of wetlands in the country. Wetlands in the Bahamas are undergoing serious threats from human development and thus the need of a common ground and informative wetlands policy. Project will be carried out by the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission, the AA for the Ramsar Convention. Bahamas has not previously received SGF or Wetlands for the Future funding support.
Guatemala SGF/O3/GT/1	Formulation of the National Wetlands Policy for Guatemala, Phase 2. (<i>Política Nacional de Humedales Fase II</i>)	40,000	Yes	45	A	National Wetlands Policy. The project is set out to carry out phase 2 of the development of Guatemala's National Wetland Policy. Phase 1 (mainly a consultancy to evaluate the current status about knowledge, institutional capabilities and human resources for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Guatemala), is underway to be completed by December 2003. This will provide input to the drafting of the NWP. Phase 2 aims to facilitate discussion around Guatemala's NWP with all the different stakeholders in different parts of the country, having the draft version and consultancy report as a main reference. Its objective is to reach consensus and produce a final and approved document of a NWP. Several consultation meetings will be carried out and the final document will be technically validated by experts. The NWP is expected to be launched officially at the end of the project and published in summarized and long versions. A well-prepared proposal, although the publishing costs of the Policy – a large part of the current budget - should be reduced (through preparing a monochrome rather than full colour product).

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment Score	Funding category	Summary
						Note: Guatemala has an ongoing SGF project from 2001 due for final reporting in December 2003.
Bolivia SGF/03/BO/1	Management plan for the Ramsar Site Lakes Poopó and Uru Uru, Bolivia (<i>Propuesta para el plan de manejo del sitio Ramsar Lagos Poopó y Uru Uru, Oruro - Bolivia</i>)	39,989	Yes	40	A	Management Plan. CEPA. The project aims to elaborate a 5 year management plan for the Ramsar site Poopó and Uru Uru lakes in Bolivia. It will be developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society – Bolivia, in coordination and consultation with local authorities, communities and the private sector. An excellent diagnostic which led to the Ramsar designation of the site received previous SGF funding, so this project would be a follow-up to that diagnostic. Note: Bolivia has a pending report from a 1994 SGF project: “Updating of Information on the ichthiofauna of Lake Titicaca”.
Peru SGF/03/PE/3	Creation of Capacity and Instruments for the Co-management of Wakarpay Wetland in Peru (<i>Creación de capacidad e instrumentos para el manejo del humedal de Wakarpay, Peru</i>)	39,932	Yes	37	A	Management Planning & Training. This well developed and detailed proposal is included within a larger initiative started in 1999 of “Sustainable Development in the Wakarpay Wetland”, which has other projects on sanitation, ecotourism, restoration, etc. The current proposal, a collaboration between Fundación Andes (Peru) and Fundació Natura (Spain) will raise awareness about the values and functions of Wakarpay through a campaign with different sorts of activities. Community facilitators will be picked up from this, and they will be part of the management plan development. Finally, there will be an intensive capacity building training for communities to ensure the proper management and wise use for the future. The proposal is presented jointly by. Peru has no pending SGF reports, and has been funded 5 times for SGF, the last time in 1999.

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment Score	Funding category	Summary
Colombia SGF/03/CO/1	Management plan as a conservation and wise use strategy for the San Juan River Delta as a Wetland of International Importance (<i>Plan de manejo como estrategia para la conservación y uso racional del Delta del Río San Juan como Humedal de Importancia Internacional</i>)	40,000	Yes	36	A	Management Planning. The Delta del Río San Juan is in process of designation as a Ramsar site (revised RIS currently under evaluation by the Secretariat) and the Ministry of the Environment wishes to prepare and adopt a management plan for the site. The Ministry has experience in such plans as it directed the development of the MP for Ciénaga Grande Ramsar Site with SGF funding from 2000 to 2002. The project is set out in 4 phases: gathering of information, mapping and zoning of the site, development and agreement of the management plan, and community capacity building, and will involve stakeholder participation. Note: Colombia has received funding for 2 SGF projects in 1999 and 2002; the latter is still ongoing.
Peru SGF/03/PE/1	Management for the International Recognition of Villa María Wetland and Promotion of its Natural Species and Resources (<i>Gestión para el reconocimiento internacional de los Humedales de Villa María y difusión de sus recursos y especies</i>)	9,825	Yes	29	B	Ramsar Site Designation & CEPA. Natura Institute carried out a Diagnostic study of Villa María Wetland with support of Wetlands for the Future Fund, and has recently submitted their final report - a good study. This SGF proposal request funds to prepare the RIS for the site, and also to publish a poster and a school book for 3rd graders in the form of comic strips based on the wetland. The book will be evaluated by experts from the Ministry of Education prior to publishing. It will be distributed aiming to reach 20,000 school children. The initial 2000 books will be sold to raise funds to print more copies. Peru has no pending SGF reports, and has been funded 5 times for SGF, the last time in 1999.
Nicaragua SGF/03/NI/1	Management Plan for the Ramsar Site Apanas-Asturias (<i>Plan de manejo del sitio Ramsar Humedal Apanás - Asturias</i>)	39,999	Yes	26	B	Management Plan, Wildlife Inventory. The project aims to develop a Management Plan for Ramsar Site "Lake Apanás-Asturias" in Nicaragua, a reservoir used for hydroelectric production. It aims to gather physical (climate, hydrology, soils) and biological information (wildlife inventories) about the site, but as well to assess socioeconomic aspects, and develop a zoning regime for the site. The project would be undertaken by several hired professionals under the guidance of a committee involving by local organizations, the country's AA and the company managing the reservoir. The methods for undertaking the activities in the project are poorly

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						described. Note: Nicaragua has a pending SGF 1998 project, which has yet to be implemented owing to legal difficulties in issuing contracts.
Venezuela SGF/03/VE/1	Proposal of an Integrated System for Environmental Management at the National Park Laguna de Tacarigua, Miranda State, Venezuela <i>(Propuesta de un sistema integral de gestion ambiental para Parque Nacional Laguna de Tacarigua, Estado Miranda, Venezuela)</i>	63,243	Yes	25	C	Management planning. GIS development. Though NP Laguna de Tacarigua has a land use plan and use regulations, it lacks a management plan and an appropriate information system. This project will undertake a map survey of the park and a study of socio-economical aspects will be carried out, as well as an assessment of the current state of enforcement and effectiveness of the land use plan. A management plan will be developed and a Geographic Information System for the park will be established. The budget submitted used an incorrect exchange rate, and the correct calculation gives a budget considerably in excess of the maximum SGF sum available – this will need resolving with a revised proposal if the project is to be SGF funded. This is a second proposal (from a different implementer) to SGF/03/VE/2 (see below), and the Secretariat recommends that the two be further reviewed and consolidated as appropriate. Venezuela has received funding from SGF twice. A pending report from an SGF 1995 project has recently been received by the Ramsar Secretariat.
Venezuela SGF/03/VE/2	Establishment on an emergency plan to address the current problems at Ramsar Site Laguna de Tacarigua Venezuela. <i>(Establecimiento de un plan de emergencia para atender la problemática actual del sitio Ramsar Laguna de Tacarigua, Estado Miranda, Venezuela.)</i>	39,980	No		D	Site assessment and monitoring & management planning. Laguna de Tacarigua Ramsar site has been seriously affected by drought, sedimentation and pollution. Studies of these phenomena will be carried out to propose several measures for mitigation and reduction of impacts, through preparation of an emergency management plan. Workshops, field surveys, assistance for farmers and geo-referencing of data are included in the proposal. This is a second proposal (from a different implementer) to SGF/03/VE/1 (see above), and the Secretariat recommends that the two be further reviewed and consolidated as appropriate. Venezuela has received funding from SGF twice. A pending report from an SGF 1995 project has recently been received by the Ramsar Secretariat.

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Peru SGF/03/PE/4	Habitat recovery in Pantanos de Villa wetland on its border with the adjacent urban area (Recuperación de habitats del humedal en límite de franja de los pantanos de villa y zona urbana adyacente)	39,780	No		D	<p>Restoration & CEPA. This project aims to restore and improve the landscape of a part of Pantanos de Villa Ramsar site by removing 10000 m3 of filling material, planting trees along a border highway, and creating a wall which will serve as an informative area for visitors and residents about the site. The project also includes a campaign with residents close to the site, since it lies within Lima's metropolitan area, to increase awareness of the educational, economic and recreational potential of Pantanos de Villa. A previous, similar SGF proposal, more focused to drainage rehabilitation, was funded for the site in 1999. It is not clear that the proposed activities are priorities for the site in relation to its management plan.</p> <p>Peru has no pending SGF reports, and has been funded 5 times for SGF, the last time in 1999.</p>

SGF 2003 – Projects submitted by the countries in Oceania
listed in order of assessment score

Country	Project Title	Amount requested (CHF)	Feasible under Assessment stage 1	Assessment score	Funding category	Summary
Marshall Islands SGF/03/MH/01	Institutional Capacity building and review of training needs for implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Republic of the Marshall Islands	39,667	Yes	47	A	Capacity building & legislative and institutional review. The project will help the Republic of the Marshall Islands prepare for implementation of the Convention, through review of the legislative framework and institutional arrangements needed to streamline implementation process and reduce resources needs. A training course will be developed about the Convention and training needs assessed as basis for secure further donor funds for the Convention implementation. A well written proposal with good technical quality. The Secretariat anticipates the imminent accession of the Marshall Islands to the Convention, so that this proposal is most timely.
Tonga SGF/03/TO/01	Institutional Capacity Building and Review of Training Needs for Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Tonga	39,221	Yes	47	A	Capacity building & legislative and institutional review. The project will help Tonga, which is progressing towards accession, to prepare for implementation of the Convention, through review of the legislative framework and institutional arrangements needed to streamline implementation process and reduce resources needs. A training course will be developed about the Convention and training needs assessed as basis for secure further donor funds for the Convention implementation. A well written proposal with good technical quality.