

**CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**  
**31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee**  
**Gland, Switzerland, 6-10 June 2005**

**DOC. SC31-21 Additional  
Addendum**

Agenda item 9.4

**Proposals for Regional Initiatives within the framework of the  
Convention**

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. Subsequent to the circulation of DOC. SC31-21 Additional, containing the forms submitted by Parties for proposed regional initiatives within the framework of the Convention, the Secretariat has received a revised proposal submitted by Australia, New Zealand and Samoa for the “Ramsar Oceania Support Initiative” (formerly entitled “Regional initiative for the protection and wise use of wetlands for the Pacific Islands”).
2. This form is attached and should replace that provided in DOC. SC31-21 Additional.
3. The form includes some revised budget information. Since this affects the figures presented in DOC. SC31-21, paragraph 14, a revised version of this table is provided here:  

The funds (in Swiss francs) requested from the Convention core budget 2006-2008 by regional initiatives are as follows:

<b>Name of proposed initiative</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Total requested from core budget: 2006-2008</b>	<b>Other funding: 2006-2008</b>
MedWet Initiative	47,497	47,497	47,497	139,491	1,822,188, (including 570,580 from projects)
West African Coastal Zone Wetlands Network (WacoWet)	171,574	[8,640]	[8,640]	188,854	123,702
Himalayan Initiative	~100,000	~100,000	~100,000	~300,000	[detailed budget not available]
Carpathian Wetland Initiative	[67,333]	[67,333]	[67,333]	202,000	22,000
Ramsar Oceania Support Initiative	112,124	112,124	112,124	336,372 (442,022*)	Provisional 33,000 for 2005/6; allocations for subsequent years to be advised later
Regional Initiative to apply the Ramsar	100,000**	100,000**	100,000**	300,000**	187,000

Convention: Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO)					confirmed; 3,921,050 to be sought
Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands	20,000	20,000	20,000	60,000	30,000 committed
<b>Total funds requested from core:</b>	<b>618,528</b>	<b>455,594</b>	<b>455,594</b>	<b>1,632,367</b>	

Notes. Where the funding request has not been provided on an annual basis, total funding request for the triennium has been divided equally between the years concerned and shown for each year, in [...].

\* budget tables for this initiative are presented for 2005/6, 2006/7, 2007/8 and 2008/9: in addition to the amounts requested for these latter three periods given in the table above, US\$ 84,150 (~CHF 105,650) is requested for 2005/6.

\*\* the precise amounts to be requested from a Convention core budget allocation for this initiative will be advised following overall Panama Centre budget approval by its Board when it meets in Gland on 6 June 2005, immediately prior to SC31.

## Ramsar Oceania Support Initiative

### Countries involved:

Current Oceania Contracting Parties

*Australia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua-New Guinea, Samoa.*

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in advanced stages of joining:

*Fiji, Cook Islands, Tonga*

Other Pacific Island Countries who have shown interest in joining the Ramsar Convention:

*Niue, Nauru, Tokelau, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.*

Overseas Dependent Territories in Oceania:

*New Caledonia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas*

### Proposal submitted by:

*Australia, New Zealand, and Samoa*

COP8 Resolution VIII.30 <i>Guidance</i>	Proposed regional initiative
<b>AIM</b>	
1. The overall aim of regional initiatives should be to <b>promote the objectives of the Convention</b> in general and to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan in particular, through regional and sub regional cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern.	<p><b>The aim of the Oceania Initiative is to:</b> “facilitate the protection, management, and wise use of wetlands of international and national significance across the Oceania region, especially in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)”</p> <p><b>The Oceania Initiative’s main objectives are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enhance the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Oceania region, particularly coral reefs, mangroves and the small, unique freshwater wetlands of the Pacific Islands;</li> <li>• To promote and facilitate accession to the Ramsar Convention, and the Ramsar listing of internationally significant wetlands in the Oceania region;</li> <li>• To facilitate and enhance the protection, management, and wise use of wetlands of international and national significance in SPREP member countries of the Oceania region; and</li> </ul>

- To engage with the national focal points of the region to build capacity and facilitate Communication, Education, and Public Awareness across the Oceania region, especially in SPREP member countries.

**Key strategies for achieving the Initiative include:**

***Strategy 1 – resourcing the out-posted Ramsar regional support officer:***

To provide continued funding support, through the establishment of a core budget line for the 2006-2008 triennium, for a SPREP-based Ramsar regional officer position for Oceania, as per Resolution VIII.42, Ramsar Strategic Plan (Action 13.1.8), and the Ramsar-SPREP Memoranda of Cooperation and Joint Work Plan (2002).

***Strategy 2 – implementing the Ramsar Convention in the Pacific:***

To progress the adoption of the Ramsar Convention in the Oceania region by:

- Facilitating the accession of Pacific Island Countries and Territories, particularly signatory members of SPREP, to the Convention;
- Seeking support for the development of management plans for Ramsar sites and identified wetlands of international, regional, and national significance through a range of bilateral and multilateral funding sources (eg UNDP small grants, Ramsar SGF, DGIS, Wetland NGOs, philanthropic organizations);
- Facilitating government, NGO, and community partnerships for effective management of wetlands.

***Strategy 3 – incorporating Ramsar principles into regional policy frameworks (policy and governance):***

To integrate the protection and wise use of wetlands principles into key regional and national strategies, including:

- the SPREP Island Ecosystems Strategic Programme,
- National Sustainable Development strategies,
- The Review of Regional Wetlands Action Plan,
- the Pacific Regional Action Plan Sustainable Water Management, and
- the Action Strategy for Mainstreaming Nature Conservation.

***Strategy 4 – facilitating a better enabling environment (policy and governance):***

To help develop sound policy and governance structures by:

- Facilitating effective national legislative and policy frameworks for wetland protection and wise use;
- Facilitating and / or coordinating PIC participation in regional fora, with the aim of progressing the integration of wetlands issues into regional and national strategies;
- Supporting Oceania regional Parties in Ramsar COP and Standing Committee preparations; and
- Supporting and / or coordinating training and capacity building activities for wetlands managers, policy makers, and community groups;

	<p><b>Strategy 5 – Pacific clearing house mechanism:</b> To provide capacity for Pacific Island Countries and Territories to manage their wetlands data and information in an integrated, cost-effect, and transparent manner through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of guidelines and information systems for establishing baseline Ramsar information, describing Ecological Character, rapid assessment techniques, indicators, and monitoring and evaluation plans, consistent with MDGs and regional indicators, for wetlands of international, regional, and national significance;</li> <li>• Updating the wetlands component of the SPREP information system;</li> <li>• Identification, review, and / or update of wetlands of regional significance and threats including climate change</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy 6 – CEPA:</b> To raise awareness of the Ramsar Convention and its wise use principles with policy makers and wetlands resource users at the regional, national; and community levels by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coordinating and supporting networks of wetlands sites and site managers in the Oceania region; and</li> <li>• Supporting and coordinating World Wetlands Day activities in the Pacific region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mandate: Resolution VIII.42 and Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003 – 2008:</b></p> <p>The Oceania Initiative is the primary mechanism for implementing the COP 8 resolution on Small Island Developing States in the Oceania Region (Resolution VIII.42). Amongst other things, Resolution VIII.42:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>“STRONGLY URGES the Ramsar Bureau to recognize the need for a Regional Coordinator to be assigned to the Oceania Region and to review its working arrangements in order to formally assign this role to an officer of the Bureau by the time of the COP9, and, as an interim arrangement, to identify the resources to support a position of intern for the Oceania Region”.</i></p> <p>The Oceania Initiative is also structured to deliver a number of outcomes articulated in the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008, as amended at COP 8, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 13.1.3 (under Operational Objective 13): to give priority to the implementation of MoUs with different MEAs, including that with SPREP;</li> <li>• Action 12.3.2 (under Operational Objective 12): to continue the development and implementation of joint work plans under the Memorandum of Cooperation between Ramsar Convention and the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP);</li> <li>• 2002-2005 global resources identified to expand internship program, including an Oceania intern.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS</b></p>	<p><b>2. Regional and sub regional initiatives should be based on a bottom-up approach.</b> As a matter of priority, the</p> <p>The Oceania Initiative is a direct response to PIC and Oceania regional priorities articulated at COP 8 (in Resolution VIII.42). The Initiative has been developed in consultation with the current Contracting Parties of the region (that is, Australia, New Zealand,</p>

<p>involvement of as many as possible Contracting Parties of the region or sub region(s) covered by the new initiative should be sought from the start.</p>	<p>Papua-New Guinea, Palau, Samoa, and Marshall Islands). Fiji and other potential contracting Parties were also consulted. As such, the Initiative addresses specific PIC priorities, and as such is endorsed by Australia and New Zealand who see the Initiative as a important mechanism for providing continued support to the Contracting Parties in the Pacific, and as a platform for engaging non-contracting Parties in the region.</p>
<p>3. Each initiative should entail the participation, from the start, <b>not only of the Administrative Authorities</b> responsible for the application of the Convention in the Contracting Parties involved, <b>but also of all other relevant stakeholders</b> with an interest in and directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues, <b>including the ministries responsible for the environment and water issues</b>, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia, and economic actors.</p>	<p>The Administrative Authorities of the Contracting Parties (Australia, Samoa, Papua-New Guinea, Palau, Marshall Islands, and New Zealand) have been consulted in the development of Oceania Initiative.</p> <p>To facilitate the engagement of all relevant stakeholders with a direct or indirect interest in wetlands issues in the region, SPREP and the Ramsar regional support officer will work with the Parties to ensure interdepartmental representation in / or effective linkages with national committees in the Pacific, in particular for fisheries, natural resources management, and planning authorities. Engagement with non-government stakeholders, key environment organisations (such as WWF, Wetlands International, etc), academia, and industry will be encouraged, in order to actively promote the management and wise use of wetlands in the Pacific.</p> <p>At the national level, SPREP and the Ramsar regional support officer will continue to assist and support national Ramsar Committees in contracting Parties across the Pacific, and will encourage broad stakeholder representation and help establish linkages to other related national committees (such as NBSAP and other intergovernmental committees).</p> <p>At the regional level, SPREP and the Ramsar regional support officer will facilitate the engagement / representation / input from other regional organisations and bodies; and will continue engaging non-contracting parties in regional activities such as training and information sharing on Ramsar wise use principles and wetland management in order to facilitate accession to the Ramsar Convention.</p>
<p>4. A regional initiative should base its operation on the <b>development of networks of collaboration</b> established upon clearly defined terms of reference, thus creating an enabling environment for the involvement of all stakeholders at all levels.</p>	<p>The Initiative builds on existing regional Agreements, networks, and fora involving the Administrative Authorities and relevant stakeholders across the Pacific, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramsar national focal points</li> <li>• SPREP focal points for wetland-related issues in the ODT's</li> <li>• The Regional Wetlands Action Plan (RWAP) 1999</li> <li>• The Roundtable on the Action Strategy for Mainstreaming nature conservation</li> <li>• The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network,</li> <li>• The Locally Managed Marine Area network,</li> <li>• The Council of the Regional Organization of the Pacific (CROP) (ie Marine Sector Working Group)</li> <li>• the International Waters Programme national focal points</li> <li>• The Pacific Island Regional Oceans Policy (PIROP)</li> <li>• The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003-2007</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SPREP Action Plan 2001-2005</li> <li>• The SPREP Strategic Programme 2004-2013</li> <li>• Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the International Waters of Pacific SIDS.</li> <li>• Pacific Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Sustainable Water Management (Sigatoka, 2002)</li> <li>• Caribbean and Pacific Joint Programme for Action on Water and Climate (Kyoto, 2003)</li> <li>• Pacific Wastewater Policy (Majuro, 2001)</li> </ul> <p>A detailed work programme, supporting the aims and objectives of the proposed Oceania Initiative and with clearly defined terms of reference, will be developed and agreed by Parties in the region following endorsement of the proposal by Ramsar.</p> <p>This Initiative aims to implement the Oceania SIDS Resolution agreed at COP 8 (VIII.42) by supporting PICs to develop National Wetland Policies and / or other appropriate policy instruments designed to ensure the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Activities to be progressed under this Initiative include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting accession to the Convention;</li> <li>• Designating additional sites to the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”), and the development and implementation of management plans for these sites;</li> <li>• Building capacity in PICs for the protection, management, and wise use of Pacific Island wetlands;</li> <li>• Monitoring the ecological character of Sites of International Importance;</li> <li>• Assisting in the updating of Ramsar Information Sheets;</li> <li>• Assisting in the preparation of national reporting to forthcoming COPs;</li> <li>• Reviewing the Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands; and</li> <li>• Facilitating the updating of the Oceania Directory of Wetlands (1993).</li> </ul>
<p>5. At an early stage, a regional initiative should <b>seek collaboration with other intergovernmental or international partners operating in its region</b>, by establishing complementary and non-duplicative activities.</p>	<p>The Initiative will strengthen collaborative links with the Ramsar Convention’s international partner organisations and other international NGOs and networks operating in the Pacific region, to ensure delivery of targeted activities designed to progress implementation of the Convention and to avoid unnecessary overlap and duplication.</p> <p>The Initiative will strengthen existing collaboration and synergies between the regional bodies represented in the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP), including PIFS, SPREP, SOPAC, SPC, SPTO, FFA, USP, and other regional IGOs at the policy and technical levels, with a view to better supporting PICs on wetlands issues. In addition, collaborations with regional and international NGOs, the private sector, and donors through the Roundtable for the Action Strategy on mainstreaming nature conservation will be used to minimise overlap and coordinate regional implementation of both Ramsar and CBD island biodiversity and</p>

	<p>inland waters work programmes.</p> <p>The Initiative will also foster collaboration by promoting new cooperative implementation based on partnerships with Ramsar's partner organizations (IUCN, Wetlands International, BirdLife International and WWF) and other international NGOs and networks (such as the Global Water Partnership).</p> <p>Coordination will also be improved under the Initiative by maintaining contact with Contracting Parties and appropriate counterparts in the secretariats of regional and international Conventions to assist with harmonised implementation and joint actions, and in other international and regional intergovernmental bodies working in environmental and natural resources management issues.</p>
<p>6. The operation of a regional initiative should be <b>based upon strong scientific and technical backing</b>, provided by relevant institutions, which should be recognized as partners in the initiative.</p>	<p>Scientific, technical and policy support for the initiative will be provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramsar STRP;</li> <li>• Relevant CROP agencies (SPREP, SOPAC, SPC, PIFS, FFA, PIDP);</li> <li>• UNDOALOS, UNEP-GRID</li> <li>• Conservation International;</li> <li>• Wetlands International Oceania;</li> <li>• WWF South Pacific;</li> <li>• NIWA-NCCO;</li> <li>• The Australia Water Partnership; and</li> <li>• NTF.</li> </ul> <p>Regional academic institutions will also contribute, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Centre for Tropical Wetlands Research (NCTWR);</li> <li>• Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist (ERISS);</li> <li>• The University of the South Pacific; and</li> <li>• other institutions based in Australia and New Zealand.</li> </ul> <p>Where appropriate, support from national academic institutions will be solicited through their representation on national Ramsar Committees.</p>
<p>7. The strategic and operational targets of a regional initiative should be <b>fully aligned with the Strategic Plan of the Convention</b> by means of policy and site technical work and activities.</p>	<p>The Initiative supports the implementation of various actions specified in the Ramsar Strategic Plan, as amended at COP8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action 13.1.3 under Operational Objective 13</b> – to give priority to the implementation of Memoranda of Cooperation with different MEAs, including that with SPREP;</li> <li>• <b>Action 12.3.2 under Operational Objective 12</b> – to continue the development and implementation of joint work plans under the Memorandum of Cooperation between Ramsar Convention and SPREP;</li> <li>• <b>2002-2005 global</b> – resource identified to expand internship program, including an Oceania intern.</li> </ul> <p>The Ramsar-SPREP MoC and JWP (2002-2004) reflects the general objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and provides the basis for effectively implement the Strategic Plan objectives under this</p>

	<p>Initiative. Relevant actions under the Oceania Initiative (see attached draft work plan at Attachment B) provide direct support to outcomes identified in the Ramsar Strategic Plan.</p> <p>This Initiative also implements the Oceania SIDS Resolution agreed at COP 8 (VIII.42) by providing funding for an Oceania regional Ramsar support officer, and by assisting PICs to develop National Wetland Policies and / or other appropriate policy instruments designed to ensure the conservation and wise use of wetlands.</p>
<p><b>FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT</b></p>	
<p>8. A regional initiative requires <b>both political and financial support from Contracting Parties and other partners from the region.</b> A substantial support from the host country is especially important if a regional office is to be established.</p>	<p><b><i>Political support:</i></b> As a long-standing representative of the Oceania region, Australia has been actively promoting the adoption of the Ramsar Convention in the region.</p> <p>In terms of demonstrated political support, Ramsar's COP 6 adopted Recommendation VI.18: "<i>Conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Pacific Islands region</i>", which urged actions ranging from accession by these countries to Ramsar working in partnership with other conventions to explore opportunities for cooperation.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.42, adopted at COP8 in Valencia, Spain in 2002, called for increased assistance towards countries in Oceania for the wise use and conservation of wetlands. This resolution was sponsored by Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.</p> <p><b><i>Financial support:</i></b> A total of AUD\$88 190 for a SPREP-based Assistant Ramsar Officer position, for a period of 18 months starting from 1 July 2004, was provided by Australia, WWF international, the Ramsar Secretariat, and the Swedish SIDA. Australia is also considering the provision of a further AUD\$20 000 to support PIC participation at COP 9.</p>
<p>9. The launching of a regional or subregional initiative should rely upon secured start-up funding for planned activities and projects.</p>	<p>See criterion 8.</p> <p>The initiative, as an integral part of the Coastal and Marine programme of the SPREP's Island Ecosystem Strategic programme, will complement proposed activities, in particular those under the AFD/UNF funded Coral Reef Initiative in the Pacific. In addition, the Initiative will build upon financial support previously provided under the UNEP-ICRAN to Ramsar activities in the region, notably the nomination of Jaluit Atoll as Marshall Island's first Ramsar Site (2004), the SPREP based GEF International Waters Project, to be completed in 2006, and the GEF funded SPBCP programme (1992-2002).</p> <p>Additional funding will be leveraged for targeted activities from a range of sources to complement funding received from Contracting Parties, the Ramsar Secretariat, and the UNF/AFD funds.</p>
<p>10. Financial support from the Convention's core budget, should the Conference of the Parties so decide, will be provided for a <b>pre-</b></p>	<p>It is proposed that the initiative be funded through the Convention's core budget for the first three years. The continuation of the Initiative after this period will depend largely on the needs and priorities of the PICs and the Oceania region as a whole in relation to the Ramsar Convention and wetlands conservation.</p>



<p><b>determined period of time</b> – in principle not more than three years. After such a period, the support should be phased out. <b>A regional initiative should generate its own resources and should become financially self-sufficient in the long term.</b> When deciding financial support from the Convention’s core budget, geographically equitable distribution should be taken into account.</p>	<p>To generate additional financial support for the initiative, SPREP will formulate and implement an investment strategy aimed at securing long term funding. This strategy will actively seeking such funding through mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), NGOs operating in the region, and philanthropic organisations.</p>
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	
<p>11. Regional initiatives <b>should establish their own advisory mechanisms</b>, involving all the stakeholders, in order to provide guidance and insight. The Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee shall receive, through the Ramsar Bureau, reports on their activities and shall oversee their general policies relating to the implementation of the Convention.</p>	<p>The initiative will utilise existing regional and national advisory mechanisms developed by SPREP to engage a broad range of regional, national and international stakeholders (eg NGOs, GOs, Academic institutions, Donors, Industry). National NBSAPs and national Ramsar Committees (such as the joint Australia-New Zealand Wetlands and Waterbirds Task Force) will also play a key reporting role. New mechanisms may also be developed, such as a regional technical reference group, if required.</p> <p>The Contracting Parties will provide an annual report of the activities and outcomes achieved under the Initiative. The report will be drafted by the Oceania Ramsar support officer based on input from all stakeholders in the Oceania region and coordinated by SPREP for clearance, for delivery to the Ramsar Secretariat and distribution as appropriate. Electronic progress reports will be circulated to Contracting Parties every month, detailing issues and progress against the objectives and key strategies of the Initiative.</p>
<p>12. <b>Specific arrangements as to the coordination between a regional initiative and the Convention</b> should be worked out by the Ramsar Bureau under the guidance of the Standing Committee, and such arrangements should <b>ultimately be approved by the Conference of the Parties.</b></p>	<p>SPREP will work with Papua-New Guinea – Oceania’s Standing Committee representative – to develop specific coordination arrangements with the Secretariat. This coordination will be informed by the SPREP-Ramsar MoC and JWP, and will be developed in consultation with the Contracting Parties of the region.</p>

## Attachment A

**Table 1: Ramsar Oceania Support Initiative – Proposed Budget**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Year 2005-06 (\$US) Ramsar</b>	<b>2006-07(\$US) Ramsar</b>	<b>2007-08(\$US) Ramsar</b>	<b>2008-09(\$US) Ramsar</b>
Assistant Ramsar Officer	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Travel (regional/international)	20,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Printing, Email, Phone, Fax	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Stationery	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>76,500</b>	<b>81,500</b>	<b>81,500</b>	<b>81,500</b>
Admin. Fee (10%)	7,650	8,150	8,150	8,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,150</b>	<b>89,650</b>	<b>89,650</b>	<b>89,650</b>
<b>(USD\$)</b>				<b>USD\$353,100</b>
<b>Approx. equivalent in Swiss CHF (based on exchange rate for 17 May 05)</b>				<b>CHF\$534,488</b>
<b>Cash Contributions from Parties</b>	<b>Year 2005-06 (AUD\$)</b>	<b>2006-07 (AUD\$)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2007-08 (AUD\$)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2008-09 (AUD\$)<sup>3</sup></b>
Funding support for Pacific Parties participation at COP 9	20 000 <sup>1</sup>			
Funding support for Oceania Regional Preparatory Meeting	15 000 <sup>2</sup>			
<b>Total (as at 01 Jun 05)</b>	<b>35 000</b>			
<b>(USD\$)</b>	<b>USD\$26 277</b>			
<b>Approx. equivalent in Swiss CHF (based on exchange rate for 02 Jun 05)</b>	<b>CHF\$33 000</b>			

**NOTES:**

1. Indicative amount subject to Ministerial approval, anticipate payment being made in 2005-05.
2. Indicative amount, anticipate payment being made in 2005-06.
3. Allocations in 2006-07 to 2008-09 are subject to parliamentary appropriations and ministerial approvals. When exact figures become available they will be provided to the Secretariat.

**Attachment B**  
**Ramsar Oceania Support Initiative**

**Draft Proposed Programme of Work: 2006 – 2008**

SPREP will seek funding (through the Assistant Ramsar Officer position) for the activities below for the 2006-2008 period

Objective	Outcomes	Activity
<p>Support and assistance for national level activities in Pacific Islands Countries</p> <p>To assist Pacific Island Countries with planning and implementation of National level activities on wetlands conservation and wise use.</p>	<p>Wetlands conservation &amp; wise use translated into sustainable programmes at the national level</p>	<p>Plan and conduct a case study on harmonizing legislative and policy frameworks related to wetlands in 3 contracting parties</p> <p>Coordinate an update of the Directory of wetlands in Oceania (1993)</p> <p>Assist in developing and reviewing management plans for Ramsar sites in Contracting parties as appropriate</p> <p>Assist non-parties in the region with national accession activities</p>
<p>Communication, Education and Public Awareness &amp; capacity building</p> <p>To strengthen regional and national awareness and capacities to meet the objectives of the Convention and implement the conventions wise use principle</p>	<p>Awareness strengthened and enhanced regional and national capacities for wetlands conservation and wise use planning and informed decision making at all levels.</p>	<p>To develop and integrate a Wetlands component into SPREP Regional Communication strategies</p> <p>Develop, edit and print and widely disseminate awareness materials on wetlands wise use and the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>Plan and implement the Wetlands International-SPREP workshop on wetlands wise use and the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>Refine and implement an awareness raising component for the Ramsar convention to be integrated into the annual SPREP-USP Pacific Islands Community based Conservation Course</p> <p>Assist PICs and Territories to plan and implement suitable national activities for World Wetlands Day</p>

		<p>Develop and refine a project proposal for regional capacity building initiatives for PICs and seek to have it supported and resourced by bilateral donors or other sources.</p>
<p><b>Enhancing Policy Frameworks</b></p> <p>To review national and regional policy frameworks to reflect existing and emerging issues and challenges facing wetlands conservation and wise use.</p>	<p>An enabling environment for wetlands conservation and wise use is facilitated at the international, regional and national levels.</p>	<p>Plan and coordinate a review of the Regional Wetlands Action Plan 1999.</p> <p>Plan and implement a case study on the Integration of wetlands issues into regional policies (Roundtable, PI Regional Oceans Policy, PI Climate change framework) and national agendas (NBSAPs, NDSDs) and institutions</p> <p>Develop and implement an Investment strategy engaging the private sector and to forge partnerships for wetlands conservation and wise use.</p> <p>Assist and support Oceania Contracting Parties with Ramsar COP preparations and the work of other related MEAs</p> <p>Facilitate international cooperation on related MEAs (eg CITES, CBD, UNFCCC)</p>