

Agenda item 14

**Progress report on regional initiatives  
and approval of their financial arrangements for 2007**

**Annexes**

- I. WacoWet Ramsar Budget
- II. Estrategia Regional de Humedales Altoandinos
- III. Ramsar Regional Center for Central and West Asia (Iran)
- IV. CREHO Budget 2006 – 2008
- V. Budget for the operation of the MedWetCom and Coordination Unit of the MedWet Initiative
- VI. CREHO report: Main Activities . . . January-September 2006

## WacoWet Ramsar Budget

N°		units	unit costs		Total XOF	Total CHF
			XOF	CHF		
<b>1.</b>	<b>study visit to MedWet secretariat</b>					
<b>a</b>	flight WacoWet coordinator (Cotonou-Athens)	1	719000	1736.00	719000	1736.00
<b>b</b>	flight Ramsar Secretariat Senior Advisor Africa (Geneva-Athens)	1	217000	523.94	217000	523.94
<b>c</b>	subsistence WacoWet coordinator	6 days	150000	362.17	900000	2173.02
<b>d</b>	subsistence Ramsar Senior Advisor	6 days	150000	362.17	900000	2173.02
<b>2.</b>	<b>Assistant of WacoWet coordinator</b>					
<b>a</b>	elaboration of job profile and ToR	PM				
<b>b</b>	Recrutement	2 days	200000	482.89	400000	965.79
<b>c</b>	Salary	12 months	250000	603.62	3000000	7243.40
<b>3.</b>	<b>Preparation of basic documents (MoU, Strategic Plan)</b>					
<b>a</b>	preparation of ToR	2 days				
<b>b</b>	consultant	25 days	100000	241.45	2500000	6036.17
<b>c</b>	reception of documents	PM				
<b>4.</b>	<b>Sub-regional workshop to launch initiative (official and technical)</b>					
<b>a</b>	identification of participants	PM				
<b>b</b>	invitation letters by DHL	22	45000	108.65	990000	2390.32
<b>c</b>	flights for 14 participants (network actors)	2*7pers	2300000	5553.28	4600000	11106.55
<b>d</b>	subsistence for participants (network actors)	14*3 days	150000	362.17	2100000	5070.38
<b>e</b>	document folders	20	5000	12.07	100000	241.45
<b>f</b>	secretariat / organisation committee	global	200000	482.89	200000	482.89
	simultaneous interpretation	3 days	200000	482.89	600000	1448.68
<b>5.</b>	<b>Elaboration of technical tools</b>					
<b>a</b>	elaboration of ToR	PM				
<b>b</b>	consultant "transboundary guidelines"	25 days	100000	241.45	2500000	6036.17
<b>c</b>	consultant "WacoWet Database"	25 days	100000	241.45	2500000	6036.17
<b>d</b>	consultant "WacoWet Professionals Register"	25 days	100000	241.45	2500000	6036.17
<b>6.</b>	<b>Total</b>				<b>24726000</b>	<b>59700.12</b>

414,17 XOF/CHF (West African CFA Francs/Swiss Francs)



**ESTRATEGIA REGIONAL DE HUMEDALES ALTOANDINOS**  
**TALLER PARA DISEÑO DE PROYECTOS PRIORITARIOS DEFINIDOS EN EL PLAN DE ACCIÓN**  
 Mérida, Venezuela, Mayo 2007



ITEM	Ramsar CHF	Counterpart CHF	Total CHF
<b>Pasajes / flights</b> Lugar de Origen-Venezuela-Origen (10 Personas)	15000	5000	20000
<b>Alojamiento / lodging</b> (15 personas x 5 días)	4500	1500	6000
<b>Alimentación / food</b> (15 personas x 5 días)	500	2500	3000
Apoyo Logístico / logistical support		5000	5000
<b>Materiales / office costs</b> Uso computador, correo, toner		3000	3000
Publicación / publication	2000		2000
<b>TOTAL GASTOS fs</b>	22,000	17,000	39,000

### Ramsar Regional Center for Central and West Asia (Iran)

Activity	Specification	Total budget (CHF)								
		2006			2007			2008		
		Total budget	Ramsar core budget	I. R. of Iran (DOE)	Total budget	Ramsar core budget	Other sources of funding	Total budget	Ramsar core budget	Other sources of funding
Staff costs	Staff costs	17040	-	17040	19620		19620	23544	-	23544
External staff	International and national experts, consultants and trainers	14000	-	14000	25000	10000	15000	30000	10000	20000
Travel	Travel center staff	14000	4000	10000	16000	8000	8000	19200	9000	10200
	Travel participants from regional countries and invited speakers	9000 (4 countries)	6000	3000	50000 (2 worksh. 18 cttries)	30000	20000	60000	30000	30000
Conference expenses	Local, regional, international workshops, management board meetings every two years, (space rental, hospitality, stationery, copying, technical services etc	42000	5000	37000	50000	9000	41000	60000	9000	51000
Office costs	General expenses/utilities	8400	-	8400	11400	2000	9400	13680	2000	11680
	Communications	4200	-	4200	4700	-	4700	5640	-	5640
	Equipment	9800	5000	4800	11000	-	11000	13200	-	13200
Printing costs	Posters, leaflets, etc.	5600	-	5600	15000	10000	5000	18000	10000	8000
Insurance	Insurance	560	-	560	2000		2000	2400	-	2400
<b>Total</b>		124600	20000	104600	204720	69000	135720	245664	70000	175664

**CREHO Budget 2006 – 2008 CHF**

Budget Component	2006			2007			2008			TOTAL
	Panama	Ramsar	Others	Panama	Ramsar	Others	Panama	Ramsar	Others	
<b>1) Operation</b>	<b>71800</b>	<b>50000</b>	<b>205000</b>	<b>39800</b>	<b>60000</b>	<b>229400</b>	<b>39800</b>	<b>55000</b>	<b>317900</b>	<b>1068700</b>
1.1. Personnel	43200	30000	104000	13200	40000	163400	13200	42000	228900	677900
1.2. Subcontracts	10000	5000	5000	8000	5000	5000	8000	5000	10000	61000
1.3. Travel	11000	5000	20000	11000	5000	20000	11000	5000	25000	113000
1.4. Capital goods	0	5000	18000	0	0	0	0	0	0	23000
1.5. Perishable goods	7600	0	1000	7600	0	1000	7600	0	1000	25800
1.6. Other expenses and income in kind	0	0	50000	0	0	50000	0	0	50000	150000
1.7. Board of directors - follow up	0	5000	3000	0	5000	3000	0	3000	3000	22000
<b>2) Training courses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30000</b>	<b>611550</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25000</b>	<b>614550</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25000</b>	<b>619550</b>	<b>1925650</b>
<i>2.1. Regional courses (2 -E &amp; S- per year for 30 participants 2 weeks)</i>	0	30000	439250	0	20000	447250	0	20000	447250	1403750
<i>2.2. Courses per country (4 one week event per year for 30 participants)</i>	0	0	172300	0	5000	167300	0	5000	172300	521900
<b>3) Information and monitoring system for wetlands</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>219600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>116800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>124300</b>	<b>460700</b>
<b>4) Regional and subregional initiatives CREHO participation</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35800</b>	<b>107400</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71800</b>	<b>80000</b>	<b>1067950</b>	<b>39800</b>	<b>80000</b>	<b>1009550</b>	<b>39800</b>	<b>80000</b>	<b>1097550</b>	<b>3566450</b>

## Budget for the operation of the MedWetCom and Coordination Unit of the MedWet Initiative

### INCOME (in Swiss Francs)

	2006	2007	2008
<b>1. Host country (Greece) for the Coordination Unit of the MedWet Initiative</b>	263,483	263,483	263,483
<b>2. Ramsar core budget</b>	26,000	15,499	10,849
<b>3. MedWet countries</b>	146,354	149,020	149,700
<b>4. Projects</b>	166,678	189,180	214,719
<b>5. To be secured</b>	20,497	30,998	35,647
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>623,012</b>	<b>648,180</b>	<b>674,399</b>
Budgeted expenditure	623,012	648,180	674,399

#### Notes on Income

1. Contribution by the Host Country (Greece), as confirmed in the letter of the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works to the Secretary General of the Convention, dated 3 June 2005.
2. Contribution from the Ramsar core budget for the triennium 2006-2008 (budget line – Support to Regional Initiatives).
3. Additional annual contributions from the Contracting Parties participating in MedWet earmarked to cover costs of the MedWet Coordination Unit (see Table 1 in Annex II of Resolution IX.7 for the list of contributions for 2006). These figures assume that 100% of contributions will be made by these countries.
4. Income from project overheads and project implementation undertaken by and through the MedWet Coordination Unit.

#### Note on Expenditure

The expenditure side of the budget shall continue as in the year 2005 (as approved in the Annex to Resolution VIII.30) and shall be revised, as necessary, as soon as the Terms of Reference of the MedWet Initiative are approved by the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee.

## **REPORT**

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### **MAIN ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CAPABILITIES STRENGTHENING FOR WETLANDS MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

**January – September 2006**

#### **Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative Workshop**

Workshop with representatives from government and organizations associated to the issue of migratory species convened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to produce a regional proposal to be presented to the Global Environmental Fund (GEF); some 60 participants; San Jose, Costa Rica; January 2006.

#### **Establishment of Panama's National Wetlands Committee (CNHP)**

In the context of the Wetlands World Day, the Environmental National Authority (ANAM), along with CREHO, facilitated the establishment of the National Wetlands Committee as a group supporting wetlands conservation in Panama and the implementation of the Ramsar Convention signed by Panama by Law 6 of 1989. The committee meets monthly with the participation of other governmental institutions, members of academia, research institutes and the civil society; some ten institutions/organizations participate; Panama, February 2006.

#### **Celebration of Wetlands World Day – February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

As part of the celebration of Wetlands World Day, a press release was provided to the media for publication on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, CREHO participated in a radio show hosted by ANAM in *Radio Nacional* on February 15<sup>th</sup>; Panama, 2006.



## Project “Adaptation of the Basic Curricular Guidelines for Teachers About the Wonderful Wetlands of Guatemala”

Project coordinated by Mangrove Action Project (MAP) with the participation of the local partner *Amigos del Bosque-Filial Coatepeque* and financing from *Wetlands for the Future*. This second workshop was targeted to teachers and community members, who were trained to use the Handbook “The Wonderful Wetlands” to be included in teaching activities for teachers as part of the school curricula; some 30 participants; Guatemala, April 2006.



## II Mesoamerican Congress on Protected Areas

- *Symposium “State Policies, Regional Initiatives and International Agreements for Conservation and Sustainable Development”*: CREHO presented the issue

“Regional Initiatives Concerning Wetlands of International Importance”, with emphasis on the High Andean Conservation Strategy and the Central American Policy for the Conservation and Rational Use of Wetlands; some 100 participants; Panama, April 2006.



- Workshop organized by Birdlife International “Integration of IBA’s in Existing Conservation Initiatives in Central America”; a link was established between that issue and the Ramsar Convention; some 30 participants; Panama, April 2006.

## Birdlife Workshop with Partner Organizations in Central American



Workshop to evaluate progress made in the implementation of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Central America organized by Birdlife Ecuador and carried out at CREHO’s offices; Birdlife partner organizations from seven Central American countries participated; Panama, April 2006.



## Board of Directors Annual Meeting

CREHO's Board of Director Annual Meeting was held in Panama; it was presided by the Environmental National Authority (ANAM); present were sub-regional representatives of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention in the Western Hemisphere: Central America (El Salvador), the Caribbean (Bahamas), North America (USA) and South America (Ecuador), the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (representing research centers at the world level related to the issue) and IUCN (representing international organizations associated to the Ramsar Convention). During this meeting, the Board reiterated that training in wetlands through CREHO is a priority for the Americas; Panama, May 2006.



## Financial Strategy for the High Andean Conservation Strategy

Workshop to produce the Financial Strategy for the High Andean Conservation Strategy held in Iquique, Chile; eight countries (Argentina, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Costa Rica), the *Grupo Páramo*, the *Grupo de Flamencos Altoandinos* and Ramsar's partner organizations (IUCN and WWF) participated. Baseline data was identified and used to produce a regional proposal for High Andean Wetlands that will be presented to potential financial sources; Chile, May 2006.



## Technical assistance and inquiries for the conservation of wetlands in the region

During 2006, technical assistance and information concerning wetlands in general, and mangroves in particular, have been provided; some examples follow:

- Visit to the Bay of Panama's Wetlands by the Senior Advisor for the Americas of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to a project implemented by a local NGO in a community located near a wetlands of international importance; Panama, May 2006.



- Assistance and exchanges between members of Panama's National Wetlands Committee and representatives and focal points from governments of Ecuador, El Salvador and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat; Panama, May 2006.

- Information provided to officials from ANAM, National Maritime Authority, NGOs and students; Panama, January to July, 2006.



- Inquiry about goods and services provided by wetlands. Royal C. Garden, Professor of Law and Director. Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy. Stetson University. College of Law, Gulfport, Florida, USA.
- Inquiry about impact on wetlands at *Parque Flamencos*. Parks Unity, Environmental Ministry, Colombia.
- Support in the preparation of workshop concerning wetlands environmental education issues. Ecosystems Direction, Education Office. Colombia.
- Bi-national wetlands Belize-Guatemala. Hugo Hidalgo. Coordinator, Marine Coastal Projects, FUNDAECO, Guatemala.
- Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative. USFWS. USA.
- Technical Assistance to Panama's Maritime Authority. Vacamonte. September, 2006.
- Technical assistance to community group in Montijo; Panama, September 2006.
- Diagnostic evaluation of threats to the internationally important wetlands of Montijo; September, 2006.



### **Celebration of Special Events Related to the Environment**

- *World Environment Day*: as part of the initiative promoted by the Panamanian civil society and governmental institutions concerned with the environment, CREHO participated in organizing and coordinating different activities and events to celebrate World Environmental Day. One the main activities was a press conference to promote this day and the planting of shoots in the *Explora* Interactive Museum; Panama, June 2006.

- *Month of the Oceans*: CREHO has joined activities carried out by some twenty private and public organizations to strengthen consciousness and active participation among citizens concerning ocean conservation; among the activities being carried out are a photo contest, public forum, mass media communication; Panama, September 2006.



### Specialized Workshop for Officials from Public Institutions Related to Wetlands

- **“Introduction to Environmental Flows” / IUCN** – workshop for ANAM officials at the national level working with hydrographical watersheds; they were presented with Ramsar Convention resolutions pertaining to hydrographical watersheds; some 40 participants; Panama, June 2006.



- **Workshop “Coastal Wetlands and Environmental Impact Evaluation within the Framework of the Ramsar Convention”** – workshop for ANAM officials within the framework of legislation being recently adopted that has a direct impact on wetlands; some 40 participants; Panama, September 2006.

### Annual Course on Environmental Legislation for Legal Advisors in Latin America and the Caribbean

CREHO participated as a presenter in the III Latin American Regional Program for Training in Environmental Law and Policies organized by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; some 60 people from legal offices of Latin American environmental ministries participated; Argentina, June 2006.

## Launching of INFOHUMEDAL – CREHO’s Information Service

The electronic bulletin *INFOHUMEDAL* was launched. It is an informative service geared to organizations, networks and the general public interested in wetlands issues. The bulletin is published in Spanish and English every three months and it is being distributed to more than 400 contacts globally; Panama, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006.



## Strengthening of CREHO’s Capabilities to Provide Services in the Region

In response to a competitive and open international bidding process, CREHO hired Carolina Hoyos as Institutional Development Officer and María Rivera as Technical Officer. They augment CREHO’s capabilities to provide services to the countries in the region in order to increase the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

## Infrastructure Improvements to Provide Specialized Inquiry Services to Visitors



Improvements to CREHO’s infrastructure are almost ready in order to establish the *Documentation Center for Wetlands in the Americas*. This center has more than 10,000 specialized bibliographic references donated by IUCN-ORMA (printed and digitalized) available to specialists, students, educators and the general public interested in conservation issues, in general, and wetlands, in particular; Panama, January-September, 2006.

## Web Page to Strengthen Management and Wise Use of Wetlands

This is a communication and broadcasting tool for the community working in wetlands in the Western Hemisphere; its content is entirely bi-lingual (Spanish and English); it has interactive tools to provide both basic and specialized information regarding wetlands, with space dedicated to the 29 countries which are part of the Ramsar Convention in the Americas; the Webpage is being tested and will be launched in October 2006. See [www.creho.org](http://www.creho.org)



## XI Regional Meeting of Latin America and Caribbean Partner Countries of the United Nations Convention in the Fight against Desertification

A presentation was made during the Latin American and Caribbean Partner Countries meeting; in the final resolution a reference was included underwriting the importance of alliances for training between the Ramsar Convention and the Desertification Convention; July 2006.



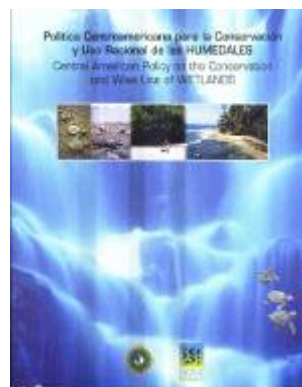
## I Symposium of Wetlands in Ecuador

This symposium was held in order to integrate scientific and technical contributions for wetlands conservation; CREHO had an active participation on issues pertaining to the strengthening of guidelines and technical guides of the Ramsar Convention, particularly in wetlands management; some 100 participants; Ecuador, July 2006.



## Design of Conceptual Framework to Formulate Panama's National Wetlands Policy

Taking into consideration the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, the establishment of the National Wetlands Committee and the existence of the Central American Policy for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use, a conceptual framework has been drawn to guide the process that will produce a National Wetlands Policy; this, in order to comply with the international commitments made by Panama as a signatory of international agreements and conventions, as well as the National Environmental Strategy; Panama, July-August 2006.



### Some On-going Activities for the Period October-December 2006:

- **International Course in Wetlands Management:** this course will be held for English-speaking countries of the Ramsar Convention in the Western Hemisphere; October 2006.
- **Workshop "Introduction to the Ramsar Convention and Technical Guidelines for Wetlands Management":** this workshop will be directed to ANAM officials and the National Wetlands Committee; November 2006.
- **INFOHUMEDAL:** the second issue of this bulletin will be dedicated to the High Andean wetlands; November 2006.
- **Evaluation of the Application of Resolution VIII.45:** CREHO will be evaluating the application of Resolution VIII.45 "Functioning of the Contracting Parties Conference and Effectiveness of Ramsar Resolutions and Recommendations"; this evaluation will be carried out in Panama, Costa Rica and Colombia; it will also be applied to a smaller group representing eight countries in the region.
- **Participation in Fora:**
  - Conference on the Creation of Capabilities for Sustainable Management of Marine-Coastal Resources; Panama, November 2006
  - Third National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration – Forging the National Imperative; USA, December 2006



## Benefits Derived from the Creation of the Ramsar Regional Center – CREHO



Benefits can be grouped into three categories: economic, strategic and impact.

- *Economic*

- Income generation by mobilizing resources to finance wetlands projects via international donors.
- Earnings for the region via financing of events and activities by the Center (use of hotels, tourism agencies, airlines, transportation and others, plus the human resources).

- *Strategic*

- Positioning of the region in the development of actions related to wetlands via exchanges, alliances, broadcasting and others.
- Increased visibility of key players at the local, national and international level, particularly in the Western Hemisphere, with global reach through the various networks where the Center is a participant.
- Incidence in matters of training and research in the 29 countries with which the Center has to work in the Western Hemisphere, with the ensuing visibility and projection of the region as the site of the first Ramsar Regional Center and the promoter of this initiative.
- Fulfilment of the commitment made by the Panamanian Diplomatic Mission at the Convention COP7 and the Central American Commission of Environment and Development, providing Panama and the region with credibility in terms of their capabilities, seriousness and leadership and demonstrating effectiveness vis-à-vis other initiatives relating to the environmental sector.
- Facilitation of the establishment of strategic alliances with similar regional initiatives, which will increase the impact of the Center's actions and the projection of the region in international fora in the Americas and other regions of the world.

- *Impact*

- Generation of highly specialized research, studies and information concerning environmental issues, not only at the national level but also at the regional level, which will provide adequate information for decision-making in terms of the economic, social, cultural and environmental value of wetlands.
- Strengthening of capabilities in national and regional entities through technical assistance and specialized training for wetlands management.



- Facilitation to establish policies and institutional and legal frameworks that are positive for the conservation and rational use of wetlands at the local, national and regional level.
- Development of capable professionals specialized in integrated wetlands management and related issues (water, watersheds and the like).
- Production of specialized documentation and broadcasting, educational and conscience-raising tools geared towards local, national and regional communities.