



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

Working for Wetlands - The Ramsar Small Grants Fund

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



Project portfolio 2006



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Working for Wetlands...

The Small Grants Fund Mechanism for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use - SGF

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

From 1991 to 2005 the Fund has provided a total of 7 million Swiss Francs to 186 projects from 89 countries, providing up to 40,000 Swiss francs (about US\$32,000) per project. Over this same period, 383 projects (68% of those evaluated favorably) were not supported due to lack of funds. The Fund relies exclusively upon the voluntary contributions from government agencies and national and international NGOs.

Projects may be proposed and implemented by any agency, NGO, or individual, but proposals **MUST** be endorsed and monitored by the Administrative Authority (the Ramsar implementing agency) in the Party's government.

Each year a rigorous evaluation procedure is carried out by the Ramsar Secretariat to assess the project proposals according to the strength of the project design and proposal presentation, their relevance to the objectives of the Fund, and the capacity of the proponents to complete the project successfully. Projects evaluated favourably are then approved by the Convention's Standing Committee, the Convention's global intersessional governance body, and allocations are made to the top-ranked proposals as contributions permit. Additional funding sources are then sought for the remaining approved projects.

For more information on the Fund, please visit http://www.ramsar.org/sgf/key_sgf_index.htm.

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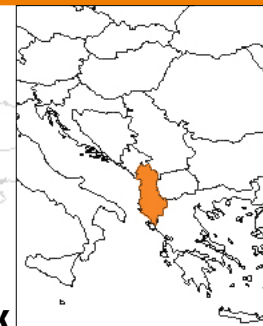
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Ramsar, Spain, 1971

Working for Wetlands...

The Small Grants Fund Mechanism for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use - SGF

Twelve projects have been evaluated and approved for funding in the 2006 SGF cycle. No fund is currently available for these projects. These are briefly described in the following pages and identified with an orange frame...

Six projects have been funded in the 2006 cycle. They are identified by a green frame in the next pages.



Development of a management plan for the Lugina e Valbones National Park *and other educational and training activities.*

The project area is located in a high altitude river basin and karst area of the Albanian Alps. The main objective of this project is to promote the sustainable use of wetlands through comprehensive educational activities for local people and particularly schoolchildren. The project aims to help local stakeholders become better users of the site, in order to benefit from its resources more sustainably and contribute to poverty reduction. One aspect is to explore the development of ecotourism. Furthermore, the project includes the development of a fishing policy and the drafting of a management plan for the National Park, including zoning and prioritizing of future actions to follow up on, for example, in the field of species conservation.

Keywords: local community awareness; poverty reduction; ecotourism; CEPA; management planning.

Project code | *SGF/06/AL/01*

Country | **Albania**

Amount requested
39.987,- CHF



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Development & formulation of Implementation Strategy *and launch of the National Wetland Policy in Armenia.*

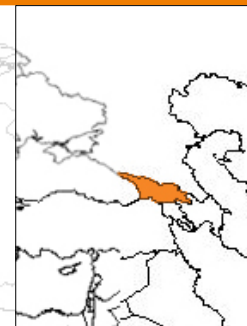
The central objective of the proposal is the elaboration of a National Wetland Policy with an action plan and implementation time frame. Beginning with the definition of stakeholders and with enhancement of the communication and coordination amongst institutions and organizations, it will lead to public awareness campaigns and the elaboration of a feasibility study on Armenian wetlands (including the mapping of Ramsar sites).

Keywords: wetland inventory; mapping; national wetland policy; CEPA; community participation.

Project code | **SGF/06/AM/01**

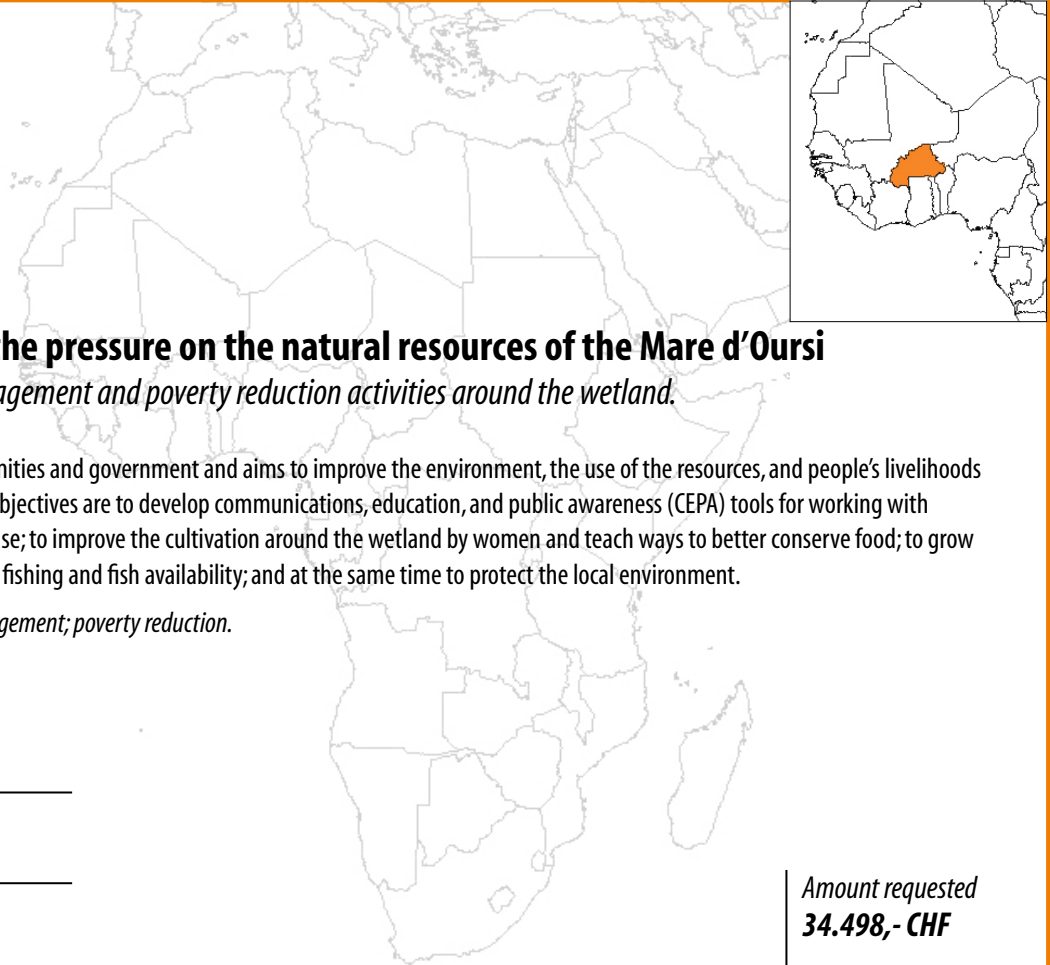
Country | **Armenia**

Amount requested
40.000,- CHF





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Pilot project to reduce the pressure on the natural resources of the Mare d'Oursi *by promoting sustainable management and poverty reduction activities around the wetland.*

The project involves both local communities and government and aims to improve the environment, the use of the resources, and people's livelihoods around the Mare d'Oursi Ramsar site. Objectives are to develop communications, education, and public awareness (CEPA) tools for working with local stakeholders regarding resource use; to improve the cultivation around the wetland by women and teach ways to better conserve food; to grow bourgou grass for livestock; to improve fishing and fish availability; and at the same time to protect the local environment.

Keywords: CEPA; local community management; poverty reduction.

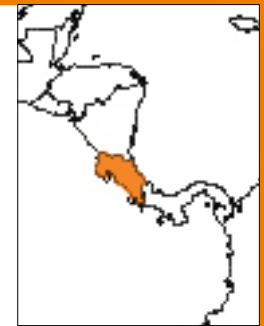
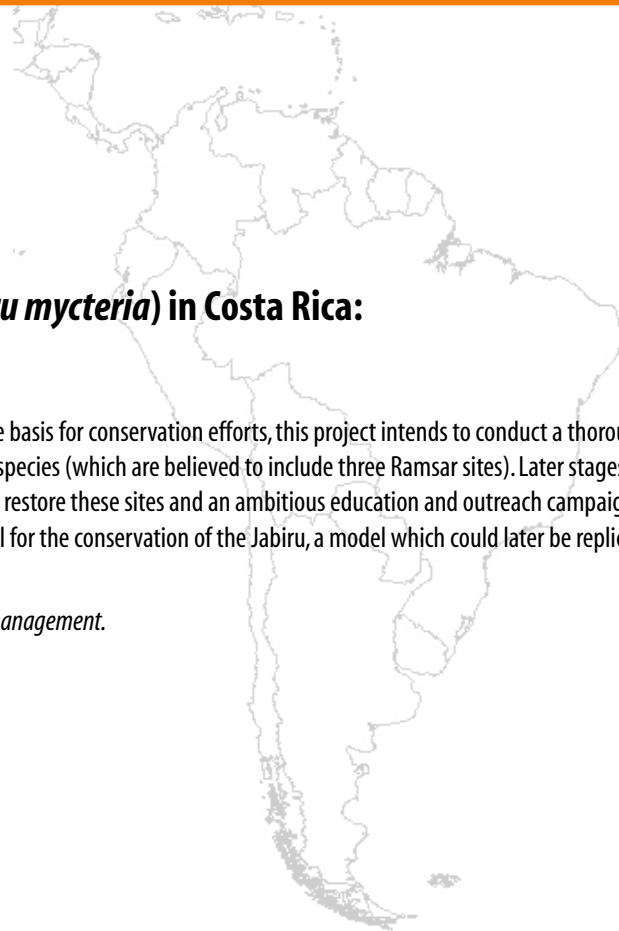
Project code | **SGF/06/BF/01**

Country | **Burkina Faso**

Amount requested
34.498,- CHF



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Conservation of the Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) in Costa Rica:

An effort for the protection of wetlands.

Taking the endangered Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) as the basis for conservation efforts, this project intends to conduct a thorough assessment of those wetlands critical for the breeding and nesting of this species (which are believed to include three Ramsar sites). Later stages would involve the introduction of an array of management strategies to restore these sites and an ambitious education and outreach campaign. The ultimate goal would be the establishment of a network of wetlands critical for the conservation of the Jabiru, a model which could later be replicated elsewhere in the region.

Keywords: species conservation; wetland restoration; management.

Project code | SGF/06/CR/01

Country | Costa Rica

Amount requested
40.000,- CHF



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Restoration of the Hydrological Functions *of the Eastern Sector of the Ciénaga de Zapata Ramsar site.*

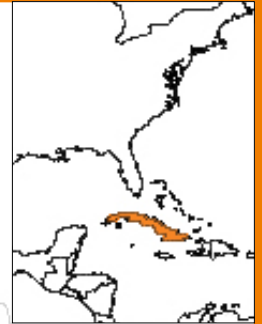
The largest wetland and Ramsar site in Cuba has been affected by the building of infrastructure works in the 1960s and 1970s. Since the physical removal of these waterworks is not viable, the project plans to reestablish the natural hydrological functions of the wetland's eastern sector through the construction of a regulating mechanism, the implementation of monitoring and management strategies, and various other education and awareness-raising activities.

Keywords: wetland restoration; wetland management; CEPA.

Project code | SGF/06/CU/01

Country | **Cuba**

Amount requested
32.114,- CHF





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Monitoring program, protection and health of the Ñucanchi-Tuopamba wetland complex *as a proposed Ramsar Site for Ecuador.*

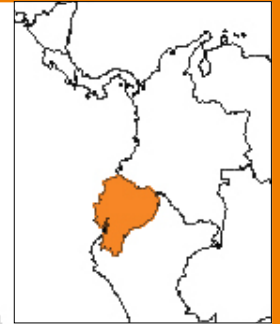
The integrity of the “Ñucanchi-Tuopamba” candidate Ramsar site is essential to the water supply of Quito, the country’s capital, and is currently threatened by the construction of water works. This project aims at elaborating a detailed assessment (model, GIS, map, database) to determine the “minimal flow” needed to maintain the ecological character of the site, establish monitoring programs, determine the closing seasons for hunting and fishing, and train park rangers. Regulated fishing would provide the financial resources for the long-term management of the site.

Keywords: assessment; wetland management; environmental flows; Ramsar site designation.

Project code | *SGF/06/EC/01*

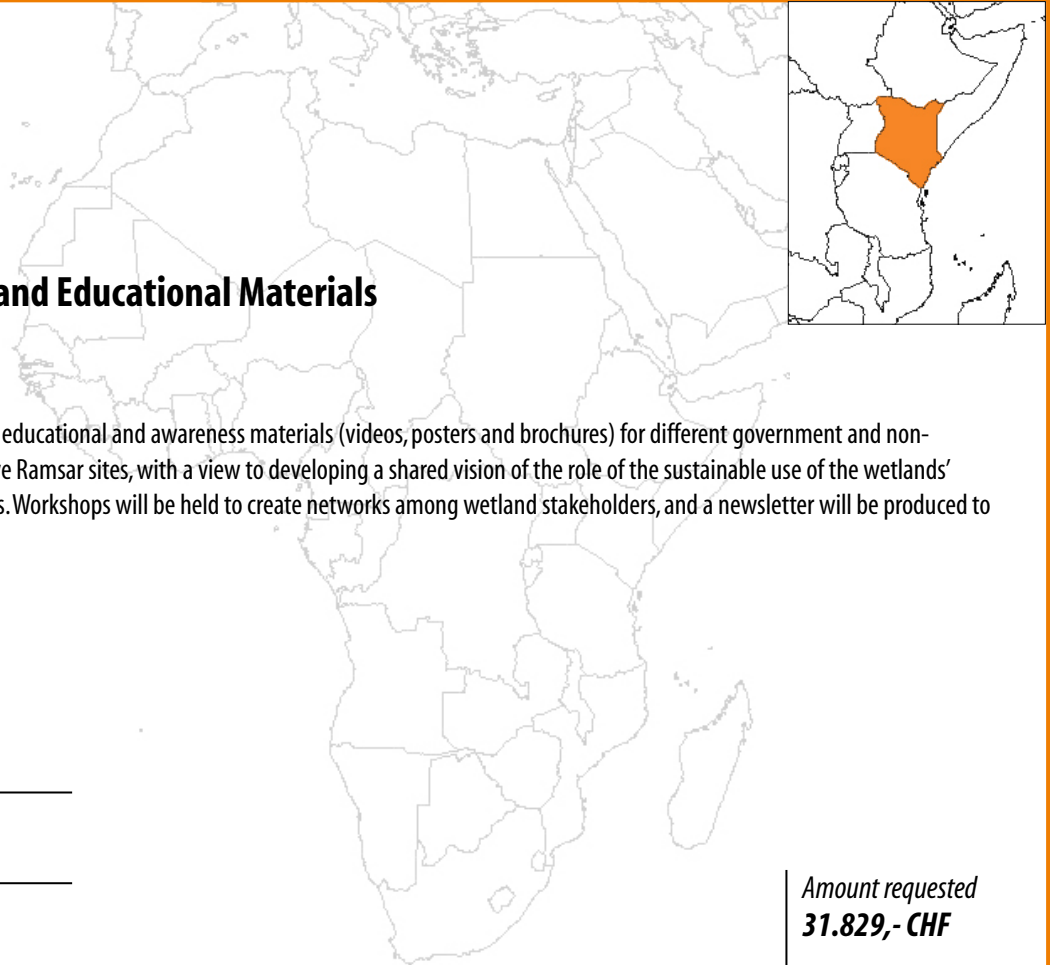
Country | *Ecuador*

Amount requested
39.958,- CHF





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Developing Awareness and Educational Materials *about Ramsar sites in Kenya.*

The project involves the preparation of educational and awareness materials (videos, posters and brochures) for different government and non-government stakeholders at Kenya's five Ramsar sites, with a view to developing a shared vision of the role of the sustainable use of the wetlands' resources in the life of the communities. Workshops will be held to create networks among wetland stakeholders, and a newsletter will be produced to raise awareness further.

Keywords: CEPA; community awareness.

Project code | *SGF/06/KE/02*

Country | **Kenya**

Amount requested
31.829,- CHF



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Safeguarding our Wetland:

a community initiative to promote Kfar Zabad wetlands for birds, nature and people.

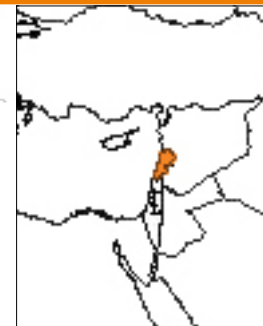
The project aims to contribute to the safeguarding and sustainable management of the Kfar Zabad wetland in order to improve livelihoods for the local community. This will be accomplished through a survey of the socio-economic and cultural aspects of the village, capacity building, and strengthening public awareness of the importance of wetland's resources for the well-being of community. It will also identify Kfar Zabad as potential Ramsar site. Activities involving ecotourism and integrated pest management practices will be included as well.

Keywords: local community capacity building; livelihoods; CEPA; Ramsar site designation.

Project code | SGF/06/LB/01

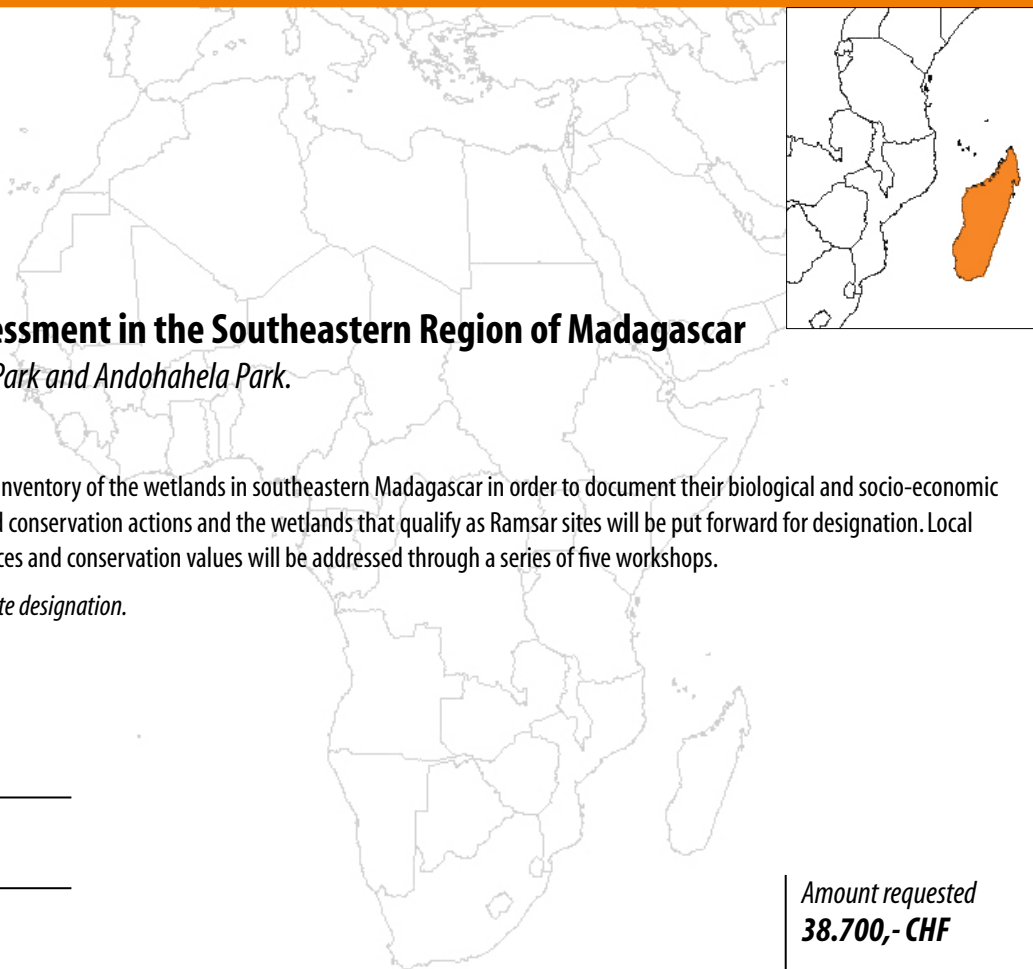
Country | **Lebanon**

Amount requested
40.078,- CHF





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Wetland Ecological Assessment in the Southeastern Region of Madagascar *between Andringitra National Park and Andohahela Park.*

The project is intended to carry out an inventory of the wetlands in southeastern Madagascar in order to document their biological and socio-economic features and threats. It will recommend conservation actions and the wetlands that qualify as Ramsar sites will be put forward for designation. Local users' awareness of the wetlands' services and conservation values will be addressed through a series of five workshops.

Keywords: wetland inventory; Ramsar site designation.

Project code | *SGF/06/MG/01*

Country | ***Madagascar***

Amount requested
38.700,- CHF



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Support system for the monitoring, conservation and sustainable development *of the northern lakes area of the Inner Niger delta, in Mali.*

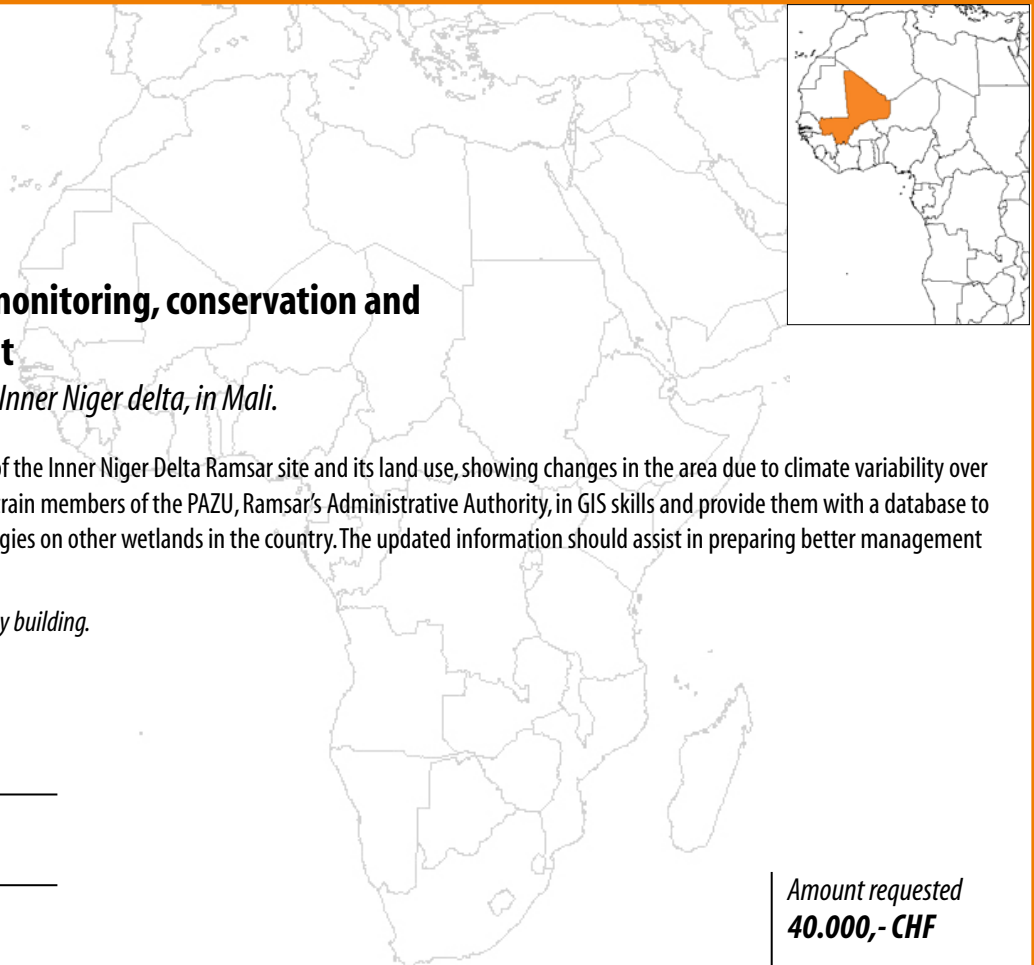
The project will produce updated maps of the Inner Niger Delta Ramsar site and its land use, showing changes in the area due to climate variability over the past thirty years. It will endeavor to train members of the PAZU, Ramsar's Administrative Authority, in GIS skills and provide them with a database to continue working with these methodologies on other wetlands in the country. The updated information should assist in preparing better management plans for those sites.

Keywords: wetland inventory; GIS; capacity building.

Project code | *SGF/06/ML/01*

Country | *Mali*

Amount requested
40.000,- CHF





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Sustainable Wetland Management

for Wildlife and People at Jagdishpur Reservoir, Central Nepal.

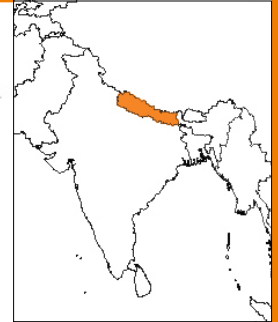
The goals of the project are to improve local communities' understanding of the values of wetlands as well as the threats to their livelihoods and to disseminate information on best practice methods for the wise use of wetlands in the area. It will be done through conducting a participatory wetland valuation assessment and surveys to assess bird-human conflicts, water quality and quantity, and threats to the Reservoir and associated wetlands from invasive alien species. The project also aims to improve the skills of local communities for alternative income generation and establish micro-credit financing, chiefly by exploring the most efficient indigenous income-generating sources, training, and establishing a reserve fund.

Keywords: wetland valuation; local community capacity building; CEPA; livelihoods.

Project code | *SGF/06/NP/01*

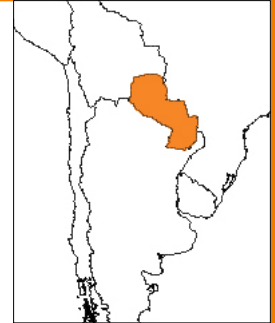
Country | **Nepal**

Amount requested
38.964,- CHF





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Implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for Paraguay.

The project has a general, national and a site-specific component. In the first case it aims at assessing the state of all Ramsar sites in Paraguay (with GIS and map) to identify those requiring immediate action. In the second case it will develop a draft management and monitoring plan for the “Lago Ypoa” Ramsar site, training local actors and involving them in the management of this site. The overall aim of the project is to deliver increased capacities in wetland management and planning at both the national and local levels.

Keywords: national wetland planning; assessment; wetland management; capacity building.

Project code | **SGF/06/PY/01**

Country | **Paraguay**

Amount requested
40.000,- CHF



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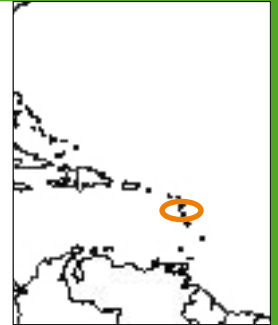
Inventory of wetlands in Antigua & Barbuda.

Having recently joined the convention, this country does not currently have either a comprehensive wetland inventory or a wetland policy. This project is intended to gather detailed information on all wetlands in the country in order to assess their status and values, and to produce a map. In turn, this information will assist in the identification of priority sites and management strategies to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands and significantly increase the capacity of the country to implement the Convention.

Keywords: national wetland inventory.

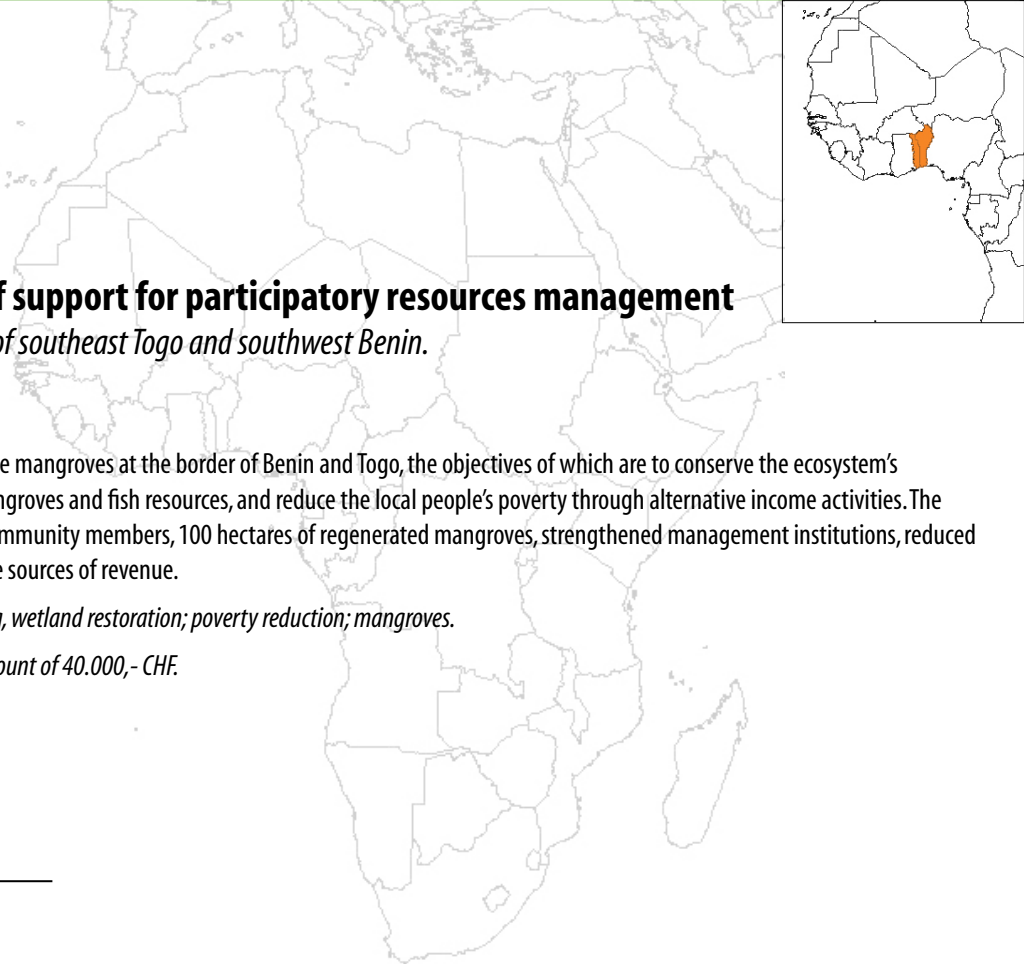
This project has been approved for the amount of 36.225,- CHF.

Country | **Antigua & Barbuda**





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Transboundary project of support for participatory resources management of the Chenal Gbaga mangroves of southeast Togo and southwest Benin.

A transboundary cooperative effort on the mangroves at the border of Benin and Togo, the objectives of which are to conserve the ecosystem's biodiversity, sustainably manage the mangroves and fish resources, and reduce the local people's poverty through alternative income activities. The main outputs will be 600 trained local community members, 100 hectares of regenerated mangroves, strengthened management institutions, reduced pressure on the resources, and alternative sources of revenue.

Keywords: management; capacity building, wetland restoration; poverty reduction; mangroves.

This project has been approved for the amount of 40.000,- CHF.

Country | **Benin & Togo**



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National preparatory activities for accession

to the Ramsar Convention in Kiribati.

The primary objective is to help the country to accede to the Convention, chiefly by mobilizing appropriate local and international consultants, liaison with relevant regional organizations, and a stocktaking exercise of existing information that is relevant to the proposed first Ramsar site. It plans to review and recommend on the legislation, policies and regulations appropriate to the site management.

Keywords: preparatory assistance; Ramsar site designation.

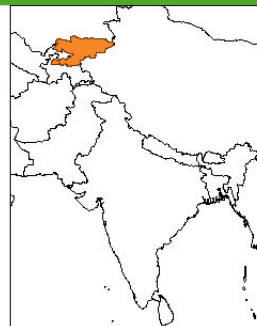
This project has been approved for the amount of 20.000,- CHF.

Country | **Kiribati**





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Development of the National Wetland Conservation Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The purpose of the project is the development of a National Wetland Conservation Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic, through activities including active participation of stakeholders, review of national policies on land-use, and natural resource management. The project will identify stakeholders and working groups to organize workshops in order to define goals and objectives of the national strategy.

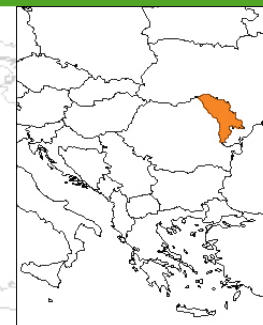
Keywords: national wetland policy.

This project has been approved for the amount of 40.000,- CHF.

Country | **Kyrgyz Republic**



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Management scenario development for the Unguri-Holosnita new Ramsar site *and awareness raising of the Ramsar Convention's wise use policy.*

The objective of the project is the development of the zoning and management framework for this Ramsar site in the Dniester Basin in the northeastern part of Moldova, near the border with Ukraine. Based on the zoning and determination of regimes, the Convention's policies will be promoted at national level. Further to this the tourist potential will be assessed and discussed locally with the main stakeholders. At the same time, it is planned to initiate cooperation with Ukrainian partners to recognize the area as a transboundary Ramsar site and support the joint management of the river basin. At the national level, the management plan and recommendations will be introduced in forest organization documents and communicated to local authorities as well as the private sector.

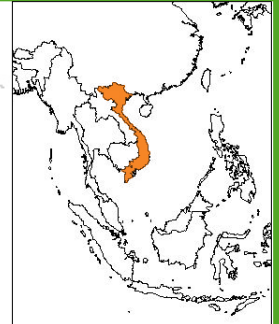
Keywords: wetland management; international cooperation; transboundary management.

This project has been approved for the amount of 40.000,- CHF.

Country | **Republic of Moldova**



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Community-based wise use of the local wetland *at Xuan Thuy Ramsar site, north of Vietnam.*

The project aims to improve the livelihoods of the local community through establishing and maintaining community-based organizations (CBO) or local interest groups such as mushroom growing or eco-tourism associations. It also proposes to establish a direct liaison between the site management authority and CBOs; raise public awareness about the importance of wetlands by group meetings using a participatory approach, open discussions and training; and improve the capacity of the local stakeholders to manage their resources sustainably. It is also intended to construct an ecological shrimp pond as an example of environmentally sound farming techniques in order to change the local shrimp farmers' aquaculture practices. The project experience could form a good demonstration case study for sharing with other mangrove areas.

Keywords: community-based organizations; capacity building; livelihoods; aquaculture.

This project has been approved for the amount of 38.310,- CHF.

Country | **Vietnam**