

Agenda item 15.3

Regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention

Action requested: The Standing Committee is invited to consider the information provided in the six progress reports, attached to this paper, by regional initiatives receiving financial support from the Ramsar core budget during this triennium. Based on this, Standing Committee is invited to agree and approve arrangements for the allocation of core funding from budget lines 3a and 3b for support to these regional initiatives in 2008.

1. This paper provides information on progress with regional initiatives operating within the framework of the Convention and receiving financial support from its core budget during the triennium 2006-2008. The paper responds to the requests made by Standing Committee during its latest meeting in February 2007 and provides the information necessary to make allocations for 2008 to the ongoing regional initiatives from the Convention's core budget. Standing Committee Decision SC35-7 included the following:
 - “ ii) From the CHF 262,382 thus available from the core budget for 2007, the following allocations of funding to regional initiatives from the core budget are approved for 2007:

WacoWet: CHF 59,700
High Andean Initiative: CHF 22,000
MedWet (as approved by Resolution IX.7): CHF 15,499
CREHO (Panama): CHF 80,000
Ramsar Centre, Iran: CHF 44,745
Pacific Islands Initiative: CHF 40,438*
* for project proposals A and B as provided in DOC.SC35-11 Addendum Annex 4
 - iii) Henceforth six-monthly progress and financial reports must be provided to the Secretariat from each initiative which has received funding from the core budget, the first such report being required by 31 July 2007, and the SC will then review and reallocate funds between initiatives if appropriate, and a full report for 2007 by 15 January 2008 or a minimum of six weeks in advance of the 36th meeting of the Standing Committee (whichever is earlier); and
 - iv) In relation for Decision SC34-21, insufficient information is as yet available from all COP9-approved initiatives to determine core budget allocations for 2008, and such allocations should be considered either inter-sessionally or at SC36, taking into account satisfactory progress and reporting of each initiative, and with a deadline for requests for 2008 allocations of 31 July 2007.”
2. All six regional initiatives (listed above) receiving financial support from the Ramsar core budget sent progress reports to the Secretariat in July 2007, as requested in paragraph iii) of

Decision SC35-7 above. In August 2007, the Secretariat submitted a summary of their reports to Standing Committee in a paper entitled “Progress and financial status of Ramsar regional initiatives”.

3. Furthermore, Decision SC35-7 requested “a full report for 2007 by 15 January 2008” (cf. above). Thus, in November 2007, the Secretariat sent all six regional initiatives a standard reporting form, based on Annex I of Resolution VIII.30, providing “Guidance for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands”, as adopted by COP8 in 2002 (Valencia, Spain), asking them to report by the deadline indicated.
4. All six initiatives submitted their report by mid-January 2008. They are attached to this paper in Annexes A-F, covering the individual initiatives as listed in Decision SC35-7:
 - A) WacoWet
 - B) High Andean Initiative
 - C) MedWet
 - D) Pacific Islands Initiative
 - E) CREHO (Panama)
 - F) Ramsar Centre, Iran
5. The reports in Annexes A-F are provided in their original form and language, with only minor editorial modifications added by the Secretariat, to bring them in line for the ease of comparison. The questions addressed in the report form are included in grey shading, to ease the understanding and comparison of the responses.
6. The Secretariat believes that the attached reports provide a useful overview of the essential elements, objectives and progress since COP9 of these six regional initiatives. Where suitable, illustrative documents on their operational structure, governance and forward planning are attached. This may provide models or useful ideas to other initiatives working on the elaboration of similar documents. In some cases, additional information was submitted to the Secretariat. Such additional information can be obtained on request from the Senior Advisor in charge of the respective region at the Ramsar Secretariat.
7. In their first six-month progress report submitted in July 2007, all six initiatives requested financial support from the Ramsar core budget for 2008, having regard to paragraph iv) of Decision SC35-7 above. These requests for Ramsar core budget funding for 2008 were reiterated by all initiatives in the reports attached in Annexes A-F.
8. No detailed and audited accounts for 2007 were submitted by any of the regional initiatives so far. This is largely due to the early deadline of submitting progress reports by 15 January 2008 not permitting the closure and full auditing of 2007 annual accounts in time.
9. The table below is based on the provisional financial information provided in the reports attached. It summarizes for each initiative the 2007 expenditures, 2008 expenditure forecasts, and financial contributions requested from the Ramsar core budget for 2008. For the 2007 expenditures, amounts are listed in the currencies provided in the progress reports (in brackets), but for ease of comparison, these amounts are also shown in rounded equivalents in Swiss Francs (CHF). For the 2008 expenditure forecasts and the requests from the Ramsar budget, the transformation into Swiss Francs was done using the

exchange rates of 23 January 2008 (indicated below), rounding the result to the nearest 100 CHF.

Initiative	2007 total expenditures	2007 budget unspent	2008 expenditure forecast	2008 request from Ramsar core budget	2008 Ramsar core budget allocation
regional networks (budget line 3.a)				230,949 CHF	179,190 CHF
	(23.6m XOF)		(43.3m XOF)		
WacoWet	59,700 CHF	nil	104,800 CHF 413.174 XOF/CHF	84,200 CHF	
High Andean Initiative	(35,000 USD + 70,777 CHF)	nil	(71,000 USD) 77,400 CHF 0.917405 USD/CHF	22,000 CHF	
MedWet	(275,408 EUR) 437,400 CHF	nil	(372,222 EUR) 591,200 CHF 0.629639 EUR/CHF	* 10,849 CHF	
Pacific Islands Initiative	c.8,400 CHF	19,556 CHF	(104,500 USD) 113,900 CHF 0.917405 USD/CHF	113,900 CHF	
regional centres (budget line 3.b)				160,000 CHF	100,000 CHF
	(170,000 USD)		(343,777 USD)		
CREHO	185,300 CHF	nil	374,700 CHF 0.917405 USD/CHF	80,000 CHF	
Ramsar Centre Iran	(2,044 m IRR) 241,400 CHF	nil	(2,032 m IRR) 240,000 CHF 8,466.49 IRR/CHF	80,000 CHF	

* amount allocated by COP9 through Resolution IX.7
m = million, nil = all funds budgeted for 2007 spent

10. The table shows that five of the six initiatives did progress with their work during 2007 as planned and spent their budget accordingly. These initiatives are requesting Ramsar core budget contributions for their follow-up work in 2008, as they detail in the reports attached in Annexes A-F. The summary information in the table above provides an indication of the importance of the requested Ramsar contribution relative to the total expenditure forecast for 2008, i.e., the percentage of the expenditures to be covered by the Ramsar contribution (spanning roughly from 2% to 100%).
11. The report on the Pacific Islands Initiative (in Annex D) states that its Ramsar-funded Project B (Update of the 1993 Oceania Wetlands Directory) was delayed and that in 2007 only about 40% of the Ramsar contribution for this project (21,881 CHF) was disbursed. It states furthermore that the second project funded in 2007 by Ramsar (Project A: Oceania Ramsar Site Managers Workshop) had to be postponed to the first half of 2008 and requests that the Ramsar contribution (19,556 CHF) be carried forward to 2008. In addition, the report lists a number of new activities planned in 2008, for which new Ramsar core budget funding is requested in 2008.

12. COP9 increased the Ramsar core budget funding line (3.a) for support to regional networks in 2008 compared to the first two years of the triennium 2006-2008 (cf. Resolution IX.12). Despite this increase, the requests for Ramsar core budget funding in 2008 for regional networks for cooperation (230,949 CHF *vs.* 179,190 CHF), as well as for regional centres for training and capacity building (160,000 CHF *vs.* 100,000 CHF), amount to substantially larger sums than those available in the Ramsar core budget.
13. Therefore, and in line with practice established during the 34th and 35th meetings of Standing Committee, the final allocations of available funds for 2008 will need to be decided during its 36th meeting, based on a careful analysis of the needs expressed by the initiatives in their progress reports attached.

A) WacoWet

AIM OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

1. Implementation of the Ramsar approach

1.1 *Describe briefly how your initiative is promoting the objectives of the Convention and how it is implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan through cooperation in your region:*

L'Agence Béninoise pour l'Environnement (ABE) assure la mise en œuvre et la coordination des activités de l'initiative régionale Ramsar. A ce titre elle est chargée de veiller à la promotion des objectifs de la convention Ramsar en général et de mettre en œuvre le plan stratégique en particulier, par la coopération sous-régionale sur des questions d'intérêt commun relatives aux zones humides.

Le réseau des zones humides côtières de l'Afrique de l'Ouest Africain (WacoWet) est une initiative régionale des pays côtiers de la CEDEAO. Il a été créé sous l'égide de la convention Ramsar. Cette convention a pour objectif principal la gestion des écosystèmes humides qui font l'objet d'une pression humaine compte tenu de leur opportunité.

En effet, les zones humides contiennent des richesses diversifiées sur le plan écologique qu'il faut pérenniser pour les générations futures. Cet esprit de gestion durable, pour qu'il soit efficace suppose une gestion partagée par l'ensemble des pays de la sous région. Etant entendu que la zone côtière ouest-africaine est longue de 4800km où on y rencontre une diversité d'écosystème, il importe que les modèles de gestion pour le développement économique tiennent grand compte des différentes dégradations et pollutions observées au niveau des zones humides. Pour être efficace, une charte a été adoptée par les pays membres. La charte précise la mission et l'objectif de l'initiative. Ainsi, WacoWet a deux missions. Il s'agit d'offrir un cadre qui permettra de:

- Harmoniser les efforts pour une meilleure conservation et une gestion intégrée et durable du continuum écologique des zones humides (marine, lagunaire et mangrove) de la côte ouest africaine ;
- Renforcer la coopération entre les autorités administratives et les structures techniques des pays de la CEDEAO dans le sens d'éradication de la pauvreté au sein des Etats membres de WacoWet.

L'objectif de WacoWet est de contribuer aux objectifs stratégiques de Ramsar mais de façon opérationnelle, il s'agit pour WacoWet de faire une plaidoirie auprès des acteurs politiques et privés pour une meilleure gestion et durable dans la prise de décision relative aux zones humides.

La charte a mis en œuvre une stratégie pour atteindre les objectifs qui lui sont assignés. Il s'agit de collaborer dans chaque pays membre avec les ONG actives dans la gestion des zones humides.

En ce qui concerne les moyens et outils de mise en œuvre de la charte, l'Agence Béninoise pour l'Environnement (ABE) héberge le bureau régional et mettra à la disposition du réseau la logistique de démarrage. La sensibilisation, la communication et l'éducation du public constituent les outils de la stratégie de mise en œuvre. Le WacoWet a enfin adopté un plan stratégique (2008-2017) approuvé par l'ensemble des pays membres lors de la rencontre de Cotonou en juin 2007. Ce plan constitue une base de coopération à l'échelle de la zone côtière ouest africaine. Ce plan stratégique se décline en huit objectifs stratégiques pour une période de dix ans.

Substantive elements of the regional initiative

2. Complete regional adherence and bottom-up approach

2.1 Describe briefly if your initiative is based on a bottom-up approach:

Face à la pression dont fait l'objet les zones humides avec les conséquences sur ses ressources, l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'un plan stratégique constituent un défi majeur aussi bien pour les pays de la zone côtière de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, parties prenantes à la Convention Ramsar, que pour les organisations internationales partenaires et un grand nombre d'organismes à l'échelle de la sous-région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Cette action nécessitera le développement de synergies réelles entre les pays et une participation accrue des organisations non gouvernementales, de la société civile, des communautés à la base, des fondations et autres institutions de conservation, des structures de recherches et de l'éducation et des instances nationales professionnelles. La recherche de toute action dans la pérennisation et la gestion durable des écosystèmes humides de la zone côtière de l'Afrique de l'Ouest fait appel également à l'intervention du secteur privé.

2.2 List the countries in the region, which your initiative covers:

L'initiative couvre un ensemble de pays ayant en partage les côtes du Golfe de Guinée. Il s'agit du Nigeria, du Bénin, du Togo, du Ghana, de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Libéria, de la Sierra Léone, du Sénégal, de la Gambie, de la Guinée, de la Guinée Bissau et de la Mauritanie.

2.3 Specify those countries in your region who do not participate in the initiative (if so):

Théoriquement l'initiative concerne tous les pays de la sous-région. La rencontre de Cotonou qui a permis sa création n'a pas vu la participation de tous. Le secrétariat provisoire de WacoWet a profité de la PréCOP de Yaoundé pour apporter l'information à tous et solliciter leur collaboration pour l'opérationnalisation de l'initiative. Tous les documents ont été balancés aux diverses parties pour réaction.

3. Active involvement of all relevant stakeholders

3.1 List the participants in your initiative and their affiliation:

Bénin	Agence Béninoise pour l'Environnement (ABE)
Côte d'Ivoire	Direction de la Faune et des Ressources Cynégétiques (DFRC)
Guinée Conakry	Direction Nationale de la Gestion des Ressources en Eau
Libéria	Environmental Protection Agency
Nigeria	Deputy Director Wetland Invasives
Sénégal	Direction des Parcs Nationaux du Sénégal
Togo	Homme pour la Nature et l'Environnement

3.2 Indicate if only Ramsar administrative authorities at national level, or also other relevant stakeholders (including ministries, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia and economic actors) are actively involved:

Actuellement aucune autre structure à part le Secrétariat Ramsar ne participe à la prise en charge des activités de l'Initiative.

4. Development of collaboration based on commonly agreed terms

4.1 Describe briefly how your regional network or centre is operating:

Le réseau régional est une plateforme de partenariat entre les acteurs organisés intéressés par la protection, la conservation et l'utilisation durable des écosystèmes humides de la zone côtière de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Il opère sous l'égide de la convention Ramsar et sous la tutelle de son secrétariat. Le réseau fonctionne à travers l'inventaire des zones humides et la diffusion des outils et bonnes pratiques à l'attention des gestionnaires des écosystèmes humides de la zone côtière de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Il assure également le renforcement des capacités régionales à travers la formation, la capitalisation et la diffusion des bases de données sur la gestion des zones humides côtières et marines. Son principal outil est la sensibilisation et la mobilisation des décideurs, des communautés, de la société civile, du secteur privé et des partenaires techniques et financiers qui investissent traditionnellement dans les zones humides.

Att. Attach the terms of reference (or other agreements) elaborated to guide its activities as separate documents:

non fourni

5. Involvement of other regional partners

5.1 List relevant intergovernmental or international organisations operating in your region:

UICN, Wetlands International, WWF International et la FAE (Facilité Africaine de l'Eau)

5.2 List those of them with whom you established common activities:

Les rencontres ont eu lieu avec un certain nombre d'acteurs des zones humides, qui sont intéressés pour établir une coopération avec l'Initiative. Les discussions sont en cours pour d'éventuels partenariats.

5.3 List your activities in common:

Pour le moment aucune activité n'est encore mise en oeuvre.

6. Scientific and technical backing

6.1 List the scientific and technical partners that provide a solid backing to your initiative:

Ils sont en majorité des laboratoires universitaires et privés. Il s'agit de :

- UREEQ : Unité de Recherche en Eco toxicologie et Etude de Qualité dont le responsable est Monsieur Henri SOCLO ;
- LABEE : Laboratoire de Biogéographie et d'Expertise Environnementale dont le responsable est Monsieur Jean HOUNDAGBA ;
- LHA : Laboratoire d'Hydrologie et d'Aquaculture dont le responsable est Monsieur Phillipe LALEYE.

Ce réseau inclut également le secteur privé et des Organisations Non Gouvernementales comme :

- Flora and Fauna International (Liberia), SOS-Forêt (Côte d'Ivoire), Green Earth Organization (Ghana), Homme pour la Nature et l'Environnement (Togo), Tropical Nature (Benin), Nigerian Conservation Foundation (Nigeria),
- Le secteur privé,
- Les institutions responsables du Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) of Gulf of Guinea ;
- Le Centre Africain des Zones Humides d'Accra .

7. Targets of the initiative and their links with Ramsar

7.1 List your initiative's strategic and operational targets for the period 2006-2008:

Les objectifs globaux de WacoWet sont :

- favoriser la mise en oeuvre des politiques pour l'utilisation durable des écosystèmes des zones humides dans les pays côtiers de l'Afrique de l'Ouest;
- fournir un cadre régional de coopération pour le développement des politiques de gestion des zones humides avec un endossement de la durabilité environnementale;
- favoriser la conservation de la diversité biologique des écosystèmes humides de la zone côtière de l'Afrique de l'Ouest par la gestion, la restauration et la réhabilitation durable des différents écosystèmes;
- permettre une meilleure connaissance des valeurs écologiques, culturelles, récréationnelles, scientifiques et sociales des zones humides de la zone côtière en Afrique de l'Ouest au niveau des décideurs, des communautés locales et autres ;
- accroître la capacité des structures étatiques ou non de la région ouest-africaine pour relever les défis de la conservation et de l'exploitation durable des écosystèmes des zones humides de la zone côtière ouest-africaine.

De façon opérationnelle, il s'agit pour WacoWet de :

1. Développer des mécanismes et des mesures appropriées pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de gestion durable des zones humides.
2. Contribuer à la réhabilitation des sites Ramsar dégradés ou en voie de dégradation et protéger les écosystèmes particuliers.
3. Développer des actions pour une bonne connaissance des fonctions des écosystèmes et une meilleure circulation de l'information scientifique et technique pour la prise de décision et la valorisation des zones humides.
4. Assurer l'intégration des principes et objectifs de gestion rationnelle des zones humides dans les stratégies et programmes des institutions sous régionales de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et renforcer la capacité des structures ayant en charge la réhabilitation des sites Ramsar.
5. Assurer que toutes les zones humides de la sous-région sont efficacement gérées
6. Contribuer au renforcement des cadres juridiques appropriés pour une protection légale des écosystèmes humides des pays côtiers en Afrique de l'Ouest.
7. Intensifier la coopération régionale et internationale et renforcer la collaboration entre tous les acteurs de la gestion durable des écosystèmes des zones humides des pays côtiers de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.
8. Renforcer la coordination des activités régionales avec d'autres conventions pertinentes et promouvoir les échanges d'informations par le jumelage et la création de réseaux de sites.

7.2 Specify the relations of your targets with the objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan:

1. Objectif général no.1 sur l'utilisation rationnelle
2. Objectif général no.3 sur la coopération internationale
3. Objectif général no.4 sur la capacité de mise en œuvre.

Att. Attach your work plan for 2008:

Plan de travail et budget 2008 sont attachés en Annexe 1.

8. Raising awareness of Ramsar objectives

8.1 Describe briefly your activities in the fields of communication, education, and participatory processes with relevant stakeholders:

La plus part des activités de l'initiative avec les communautés se fait sur la base de communication et de sensibilisation afin de faire adhérer les populations intervenants dans les zones humides aux objectifs de Ramsar. Quant aux décideurs, les séances de travail ont permis d'avoir leur adhésion aux objectifs de Ramsar.

8.2 Describe briefly the increased support for Ramsar objectives resulting from these activities. (This information may be used by Ramsar's CEPA Oversight Panel, according to Standing Committee Decision 35-14):

Pour accroître les activités résultant des objectifs de Ramsar, l'initiative s'est engagée à réaliser les objectifs opérationnels ci-dessous :

1. Développer des mécanismes et des mesures appropriées pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de gestion durable des zones humides.
2. Contribuer à la réhabilitation des sites Ramsar dégradés ou en voie de dégradation et protéger les écosystèmes particuliers.
3. Développer des actions pour une bonne connaissance des fonctions des écosystèmes et une meilleure circulation de l'information scientifique et technique pour la prise de décision et la valorisation des zones humides.
4. Assurer l'intégration des principes et objectifs de gestion rationnelle des zones humides dans les stratégies et programmes des institutions sous régionales de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et renforcer la capacité des structures ayant en charge la réhabilitation des sites Ramsar.
5. Assurer que toutes les zones humides de la sous-région sont efficacement gérées
6. Contribuer au renforcement des cadres juridiques appropriés pour une protection légale des écosystèmes humides des pays côtiers en Afrique de l'Ouest.
7. Intensifier la coopération régionale et internationale et renforcer la collaboration entre tous les acteurs de la gestion durable des écosystèmes des zones humides des pays côtiers de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.
8. Renforcer la coordination des activités régionales avec d'autres conventions pertinentes et promouvoir les échanges d'informations par le jumelage et la création de réseaux de sites.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

9. Who provides political and financial support?

9.1 List all your sources and the amounts of financial support for the triennium 2006-2008:

Les fonds proviennent du Secrétariat Ramsar pour les activités de mise en œuvre de l'initiative. Un projet est formulé et soumis au GEF. Au cours de la période 2006-2008 le Secrétariat Ramsar a mis la somme de XOF 23,629,449 francs CFA à la disposition de l'initiative.

9.2 List your sources and amounts of financial support for the year 2007:

Secrétariat Ramsar: XOF 23,629,449 francs CFA, equivalent to CHF 59,700.

9.3 List concisely (according to main budget lines) your expenditures for 2007. (If final figures are not yet available when writing your report, indicate an overall expenditure forecast and provide brief information about its likely accuracy):

Atelier de lancement de l'Initiative WacoWet.....	12,184,825 francs CFA
Elaboration du Projet GEF	7,900,000 francs CFA
Voyage d'Etudes des Cadres de l'ABE.....	3,544,624 francs CFA
Total	23,629,449 francs CFA

10. Financial planning

10.1 Summarize your funding needs (according to the main budget lines used above) for 2008:

Budget pour 2008: 43,300,000 francs CFA. Pour les détails voir le plan de travail en l'Annexe.

10.2 List the secured funding for your initiative for 2008 (specifying the sources):

En dehors du projet formulé et qui sera incessamment soumis au GEF, l'initiative WacoWet n'a pu encore mobiliser aucune ressource pour la mise en œuvre de son plan de travail 2008.

11. Request for Ramsar core budget support

11.1 Specify your funding request from the Ramsar core budget for 2008:

La Convention Ramsar est sollicitée pour couvrir les frais de l'atelier régional et pour l'élaboration du plan de formation, estimés à 34.8 millions francs CFA (voir le tableau dans l'Annexe 1), ce qui équivaut à 84,200 CHF.

GOVERNANCE OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

12. Governance mechanisms in place

12.1 Describe the governance and advisory mechanisms and structures (e.g. committees) established to provide guidance and insight to your initiative:

Wacowet fonctionnera sur la base des documents suivants :

- o Une charte et un plan stratégique déclinant le Plan stratégique de la Convention sur les aspects de son champ d'action ;
- o Un protocole et un mécanisme de décision ;
- o Un système de rapportage simple, complet et efficace aux instances de la Convention

WacoWet s'engage à travailler à la définition de dispositions claires et efficaces qui facilite le travail avec le Secrétariat Ramsar. Les expériences avec MedWet seront largement utilisées et adaptées dans ce domaine.

Att. Attach terms of references, rules of procedures, or operational guidelines, where existing:
non fourni

13. Coordination with the Ramsar Secretariat

13.1 Specify the operational arrangements between the governance structures of your initiative and the Ramsar Secretariat:

Les structures d'opérationnalisation de WacoWet sont :

- 1/ la Commission qui est un organe décisionnel, présidée par le Secrétaire Général de la Convention pour les zones humides ou par son représentant ;
- 2/ le Comité Directeur, l'organe de délibération ;
- 3/ le Secrétaire de WacoWet, l'organe exécutif.

La présidence de la commission est assurée par le Secrétaire Général de la Convention Ramsar ou son Représentant.

13.2 List the full name, telephone and e-mail contact of the main focal point of your initiative:

Mr Camille-Alex DAGBA, Ingénieur Génie Urbain

Tél : +229 97 63 40 48 ; +229 90 98 48 89 ; +229 21 30 45 56, Camaalex530718@yahoo.fr

Annexe 1**Plan de travail et budget 2008**

Activités	Résultats attendus	Échéance	Responsables	Budget
Rendre le secrétariat WacoWet opérationnel	Le secrétariat WacoWet est fonctionnel		ABE, Secrétariat Ramsar	
Mettre un bureau à disposition du secrétariat		Jan-Déc		
Equiper le bureau (ordinateur, connexion internet etc)		Jan		1.200.000 XOF
Identifier une personne-ressource pour animer le secrétariat		Jan-Dec		1.800.000 XOF

Informers les partenaires clés	WacoWet communiquent bien à l'interne et est reconnu dans l'environnement institutionnel des initiatives sous-régionales		Secrétariat, Commission WacoWet, secrétariat Ramsar	
Informers les initiatives similaires sur la Naissance de WacoWet, ses objectifs et stratégies		Jan-Mars		
Informers les organisations internationales partenaires (OIP) sur le WacoWet		Jan-Mars		
Informers les institutions sous-régionales		Jan-Avr		
Programmation des activités	La programmation des activités de WacoWet est réalisée		Secrétariat, Commission WacoWet, secrétariat Ramsar	
Organiser un atelier sous régional d'information et de planification des activités du réseau pour les 3 prochaines années	Le plan d'activités pour les 3 prochaines années est adopté	Mars	ABE, Secrétariat Ramsar	* 32.000.000 XOF
Lancer le processus de réalisation du Logo de WacoWet	le logo de WacoWet est adopté	Fev	ABE, Secrétariat Ramsar	2.000.000 XOF
Recruter un consultant pour élaborer un plan de communication afin d'appuyer la mise en œuvre des activités de WacoWet	Le plan de communication du WacoWet est adopté	Avr-Mai	Secrétariat WacoWet, Commission WacoWet, secrétariat Ramsar	3.500.000 XOF
Elaborer un plan formation et renforcer des capacités pour des points focaux nationaux Ramsar	les capacités techniques des points focaux Ramsar sont renforcées		Secrétariat WacoWet, secrétariat Ramsar	* 2.800.000 XOF
Budget 2008	cours de change Janvier 2008 0.00242029 XOF/CHF			43,300,000 XOF 104,799 CHF

* demande prioritaire de financement par le budget Ramsar

B) High Andean Initiative

AIM OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

1. Implementation of the Ramsar approach

1.1 Describe briefly how your initiative is promoting the objectives of the Convention and how it is implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan through cooperation in your region:

La *Estrategia Regional de Conservación y Uso Sostenible de los Humedales Altoandinos (EHAA)* tiene como objetivo general, promover la conservación y el uso sostenible de los humedales altoandinos, a través de la implementación de un proceso de gestión regional de largo plazo entre los países involucrados, a fin de mantener los bienes y servicios que ellos prestan, y reducir los impactos y amenazas existentes. Esta Estrategia está apoyando la implementación del Objetivo Operativo 12.1 del Plan Estratégico Ramsar: “*Promover la realización de inventarios y la gestión en cooperación de los humedales y las cuencas fluviales compartidos*”, ya que la misma se encuentra formando parte de la Agenda Ambiental Andina 2006-2010 de la Comunidad Andina de Naciones (CAN).

I. BIODIVERSIDAD		
OBJETIVOS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementar y difundir la Estrategia Regional de Biodiversidad (ERB) de manera que se constituya en la plataforma subregional para canalizar los esfuerzos y financiamiento en materia de conservación y uso sostenible de la diversidad biológica en la CAN; Concertar posiciones conjuntas antes diversos foros internacionales de negociación en materia de biodiversidad; Articular las acciones nacionales dirigidas a conocer, conservar y usar sosteniblemente la biodiversidad en cumplimiento de la ERB. 		
LINEAS DE ACCIÓN	ACCIONES 2006 - 2010	ALIANZAS
1. CONSERVAR Y USAR SOSTENIBLEMENTE LA BIODIVERSIDAD		
1.1 Desarrollar, fortalecer y compartir la capacidad de gestión de áreas protegidas, especies y ecosistemas transfronterizos y comunes	1.1.a Apoyar y dar seguimiento al Proyecto Páramo (GEF-PNUMA)**.	CONDESAN y Grupo Páramo
	1.1.b Apoyar y dar seguimiento a la Estrategia regional de Conservación y uso Sostenible de los Humedales Altoandinos.	Grupo de Contacto: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Los puntos focales Ramsar. Organizaciones internacionales asociadas a la Convención (UICN, WWF, Wetlands International, BirdLife International). El Centro Regional Ramsar para el Estudio de los humedales del Hemisferio Occidental (CREHO).
	1.1.c Diseñar e iniciar el proyecto de conservación de la biodiversidad de la amazonía en países andinos*.	Cooperación Gobierno de Finlandia
1.2 Integrar esfuerzos y desarrollar capacidades para la conservación y uso sostenible de la agrobiodiversidad nativa y adaptada de la región	1.2.a Elaborar e iniciar un proyecto regional sobre agrobiodiversidad*.	BID SPDA IICA CIP — CIAT FAO
1.3 Establecer políticas y acciones conjuntas en materia de biotecnología y seguridad de la biotecnología	1.3.a Elaborar e iniciar un proyecto regional sobre Biotecnología y Bioseguridad*.	BID SPDA CAF CIP - CIAT
1.4 Fortalecer y promover el comercio subregional e inversiones y generar capacidades que agreguen valor científico y tecnológico como factor de competitividad para apoyar la conservación y uso sostenible	1.4.a Consolidar el Programa Andino de Biocomercio**.	CAF UNCTAD AECI Ministerio de Ambiente de España OTCA OPES (Organismos de Promoción de Exportaciones)
	- Iniciar el proyectos de bionegocios de la biodiversidad en la región andina (CAF/GEF).	
	1.4.b Establecer sinergias entre los Programas Nacionales de Biocomercio, el Programa Andino de Biocomercio y el Programa Biocomercio Amazónico*.	
	1.4.c Empreder proyectos pilotos que generen condiciones para aumentar la exportación de productos de la biodiversidad andina.	

La Estrategia, además, apoya la implementación de los Objetivos Operativos 12.3, 13.1, 14.1 y 19.1.

SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

2. Complete regional adherence and bottom-up approach

2.1 Describe briefly if your initiative is based on a bottom-up approach:

La EHAA en especial se basa en los siguientes principios:

Enfoque ecosistémico: La estrategia se implementará bajo un enfoque ecosistémico para mantener o restaurar los humedales altoandinos, sus funciones y valores, de tal manera que se promueva su conservación y uso sostenible de una forma justa y equitativa, a través de la integración de los factores ecológicos, económicos y sociales dentro de un marco geográfico definido principalmente por límites ecológicos (Convención de Diversidad Biológica).

Participación: Los humedales altoandinos, por sus características ecológicas y los beneficios que prestan, son ecosistemas integradores de diferentes intereses de la sociedad, por lo tanto su conservación, recuperación, manejo y uso racional deben ser una tarea conjunta y coordinada entre el estado, las comunidades, organizaciones sociales y el sector privado. La participación de la población que habita en los humedales, incluso en la toma de decisiones, es clave para lograr su conservación y asegurar que las modalidades de uso sean sostenibles. El promover procesos de participación debe también incluir la difusión de información suficiente y adecuada a las características de los participantes.

Respeto y reconocimiento de la diversidad cultural: Se reconoce la diversidad cultural como parte de la diversidad biológica. La rica herencia de las culturas andinas, en particular en lo que se refiere al uso de los recursos naturales, el conocimiento tradicional asociado a estos, las tecnologías y percepciones sobre el agua y el medio en que habitan, deberá ser valorada a la hora de implementar proyectos o realizar intervenciones. Las instituciones deben reconocer los derechos de las comunidades indígenas, campesinas y/o tradicionales, y de las formas autónomas de organización.

2.2 *List the countries in the region which your initiative covers:*

Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina.

2.3 *Specify those countries in your region who do not participate in the initiative (if so):*

Ninguno

3. Active involvement of all relevant stakeholders

3.1 List the participants in your initiative and their affiliation:

- Autoridades Administrativas Nacionales Ramsar de los 8 países mencionados en el punto 2.2.
- Wetlands International
- BirdLife International – Oficina para las Américas
- IUCN – Sur
- WWF
- Grupo para la Conservación de los Flamencos Altoandinos
- Grupo Internacional de Trabajo de Páramos¹

3.2 *Indicate if only Ramsar administrative authorities at national level, or also other relevant stakeholders (including ministries, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia and economic actors) are actively involved:*

Ver punto 3.1.

¹ A ser reemplazado por otra instancia, según lo tratado en el IV Taller sobre la EHAA realizado en septiembre de 2007, en Mérida – Venezuela.

4. Development of collaboration based on commonly agreed terms**4.1 Describe briefly how your regional network or centre is operating:**

La EHAA opera en base de Puntos Focales Técnicos Nacionales designados ante la Secretaría de la Convención por cada una de las 8 Partes Contratantes concernidas, específicamente para implementar las decisiones adoptadas en el marco de Talleres Regionales anuales, organizados por turno en cada uno de los países participantes. El Representante Regional para Sudamérica funciona como Coordinador *ad hoc* de la Estrategia, con el apoyo de la Consejera Regional para las Américas de la Secretaría de la Convención.

Att. Attach the terms of reference (or other agreements) elaborated to guide its activities as separate documents:

Ver documento de la Estrategia y presupuesto correspondiente.

5. Involvement of other regional partners**5.1 List relevant intergovernmental or international organizations operating in your region:**

Wetlands International
 BirdLife International – Oficina para las Américas
 IUCN – Sur
 WWF – Colombia
 Proyecto Páramo Andino
 Comunidad Andina de Naciones (CAN)

5.2 List those of them with whom you established common activities:

Todas las mencionadas en el punto 5.1

5.3 List your activities in common:

Con BirdLife International, y el apoyo del CREHO, se ha preparado un proyecto presentado a Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, por un monto de USD 907.000, y que en parte atenderá en los años 2008 y 2009 a la implementación de los Objetivos 2, 3 y 4 de la EHAA.

La Global Peatland Initiative, IUCN – Sur y el Grupo Internacional de Trabajo de Páramo, desarrollaron en 2003 y 2004 el proyecto *Turberas y otros Humedales de la Alta Montaña de América Latina: Hacia la construcción de un sistema de monitoreo socio-ambiental*.

Con WWF – Colombia y el apoyo de la empresa Evian-Danone, se ha implementado en el año 2006 y principios de 2007 el proyecto *Estrategia de Conservación y Designación de Humedales Altoandinos Prioritarios en el Complejo Ecorregional de Andes del Norte*, que cubrió geográficamente a Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador y Norte de Perú, por un monto de USD 95.545.

Respecto del Proyecto Páramo Andino, los componentes de investigación de este proyecto (dinámica de los ecosistemas - ciclo hidrológico, motores socio-económicos que generan los cambios, mecanismos de valoración del ecosistema páramo e incentivos para la conservación), así como un mecanismo de información sobre páramos, son puntos donde se puede trabajar eficientemente con la EHAA, en los próximos 4 años.

Tomando en cuenta que la EHAA forma parte de la Agenda Ambiental Andina 2006-2010, se ha generado un acercamiento entre la Secretaría de la Convención de Ramsar y la Secretaría de la

CAN, con el objeto de trabajar conjuntamente, en el marco de un eventual convenio de cooperación, para implementar la EHAA.

6. Scientific and technical backing

6.1 List the scientific and technical partners that provide a solid backing to your initiative:

Wetlands International – Oficina América del Sur
 BirdLife International – Oficina para las Américas
 IUCN – Sur
 WWF – Colombia
 Grupo para la Conservación de los Flamencos Altoandinos
 Grupo Internacional de Trabajo de Páramos.

7. Targets of the initiative and their links with Ramsar

7.1 List your initiative's strategic and operational targets for the period 2006-2008:

1. Firmar un convenio de cooperación con la Secretaría de la Comunidad Andina de Naciones (CAN).
2. Que al menos tres de los ocho países participantes, levanten fondos del GEF, para implementar la EHAA.
3. Conseguir la aprobación del proyecto *Implementing Sustained Conservation Action for Waterbirds in the Neotropical Region*, presentado a Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.
4. Realizar el V Taller del Grupo de Contacto de la EHAA, en Colombia, en la que se hará una mesa de donantes.

7.2 Specify the relations of your targets with the objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan:

Ver punto 1.1.

Att. Attach your work plan for 2008:

Actividad 2008	Tiempo	Responsable	Presupuesto
Hacer acercamiento al GEF para definir posibilidades de financiamiento de un proyecto regional	Enero	Secretaría Ramsar	
Traducción de proyecto regional al Inglés y Francés	Febrero - Marzo	Secretaría Ramsar	USD 6.000
Reunión con el Fondo GEF Francés	Abril	Secretaría Ramsar	
Taller-mesa de donantes en Colombia	Mayo	Secretaría Ramsar – Grupo de Contacto	USD 50.000
Acercamiento con la Secretaría de la CAN	Primer semestre	Secretaría Ramsar – Representante Regional en el Comité Permanente	
Publicación de la EHAA en Español	Mayo	Grupo de Contacto	USD 5.000
Editar una película sobre la EHAA	Junio - Agosto	Grupo de Contacto	USD 10.000

8. Raising awareness of Ramsar objectives

8.1 Describe briefly your activities in the fields of communication, education, and participatory processes with relevant stakeholders:

En el marco del proyecto *Turberas y otros Humedales de la Alta Montaña de América Latina: Hacia la construcción de un sistema de monitoreo socio-ambiental*, se produjo un póster con fotografías e información sobre la importancia, diversidad, amenazas, bienes y servicios y necesidades de conservación de los humedales altoandinos; asimismo, se generó una publicación acerca de la relación entre las turberas y las formas de vida de poblaciones rurales en base de ocho estudios de caso, uno por cada país participante en la EHAA.

Igualmente, con el apoyo de la empresa Evian-Danone, IUCN, WWF y Ramsar, se editó un documento divulgativo en Español e Inglés, donde se presenta de manera resumida la EHAA.

En materia de capacitación, se tiene la continua participación y aportes del Centro Regional Ramsar para la Capacitación e Investigación sobre Humedales para el Hemisferio Occidental – CREHO.

Ecuador ha tenido experiencias de participación de comunidades locales en el manejo de humedales altoandinos, como en el Parque Nacional Llanganates, con el apoyo de Ecopar-Ecociencia y Fundación Natura. Se lleva varios años de experiencia del manejo de zonas altoandinas en el Ecuador alrededor del páramo, en el cual se encuentra una cantidad significativa de humedales; esta labor se ha realizado por parte del Grupo Nacional de Trabajo de Páramo. Igualmente en el proceso del plan de manejo del sitio Ñucanchi Turupamba ha habido participación de diferentes actores, tales como los Consejos Provinciales de Napo y de Pichincha, Municipio del Chaco, Municipio de Quijos, juntas parroquiales, comunidades locales, Ministerio del Ambiente, el Consejo Nacional de Recursos Hídricos, Empresa Metropolitana de Alcantarillado y Agua Potable de Quito, Ecoluz, Fondo del Agua, Fundación Ecológica Rumicocha, Termas de Papallacta, Fundaciones Terra y Antisana, Hacienda Campucocha y EcoCiencia. También se ha socializado la EHAA con la CONAIE (Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador), que ha manifestado su interés en participar en su implementación, ya que ven a la Estrategia como una oportunidad para cumplir sus objetivos.

Colombia tiene ejemplos de procesos participativos en humedales altoandinos, tales como el Sitio Ramsar de la Laguna de la Cocha en Nariño, cuya designación, construcción e implementación del plan de manejo han contado con la participación de las reservas campesinas, la Asociación para el Desarrollo Campesino, Municipios del Encano y Pasto. En la laguna de Fúquene, en Cundinamarca, hay varias organizaciones trabajando con las autoridades ambientales y se han desarrollado procesos que apuntan a distintas formas de protección y restauración de la laguna. Por otro lado, se ha dado un conversatorio de acción ciudadana en los páramos Chili y Anaime, en el Departamento del Tolima, vinculado con la gestión de la cuenca del río Coello. Otros ejemplos tienen que ver con la recuperación de los humedales que están dentro de la ciudad de Bogotá, y el avance del proceso en la zona fronteriza entre Ecuador y Colombia correspondiente al páramo de Chiles, y que se enmarca dentro del proyecto *Páramos Transfronterizos* ligado con el proyecto Páramo Andino; el proyecto *Páramos Transfronterizos*, está trabajando en la actualización participativa del plan de manejo de la Reserva Ecológica El Ángel, que procura integrar la visión indígena con formas occidentales de manejo.

Perú: Se ha desarrollado el proyecto *Un Paisaje Vivo* en el Sitio Ramsar de las lagunas Las Arreivatadas, trabajo que se hizo con la participación del INRENA y WWF-Perú, que generó un comité de gestión del Sitio, legalmente constituido, con una gran participación de los guardaparques y las comunidades locales para la recuperación de la cobertura vegetal en las zonas más sensibles de la cuenca de captación.

Venezuela se encuentra bajo un nuevo modelo de gestión que incluye la participación de las comunidades en la adopción de las decisiones gerenciales, como parte del manejo de las áreas protegidas, para lo cual están recibiendo la respectiva capacitación, así como en materia de levantamiento de información básica y rescate de los saberes tradicionales.

En **Chile**, el CONAF ha desarrollado iniciativas de capacitación en turismo de alta montaña, incorporando a los pueblos Aimara, en la Provincia de Parinacota, en el Parque Nacional Lauca, así como otras iniciativas contempladas en la Reserva Nacional Los Flamencos, que incluye al menos tres humedales (salares) donde se está trabajando con las comunidades.

En **Bolivia** la participación comunitaria es fundamental para el manejo de los Sitios Ramsar, bajo la figura de cogestión compartida entre las comunidades y los gobiernos locales. Un ejemplo de participación comunitaria de Sitios Ramsar altoandinos, es el aporte de los Urmuratos y otras comunidades Aimara para su declaratoria como Humedales de Importancia Internacional y la elaboración de los respectivos planes de manejo.

El Punto Focal Nacional Ramsar de **Argentina** organizó un evento especial en la reunión de la Alianza para las Montañas, realizada en Tucumán, en septiembre de 2007, donde se presentó la EHAA.

8.2 Describe briefly the increased support for Ramsar objectives resulting from these activities. (This information may be used by Ramsar's CEP A Oversight Panel, according to Standing Committee Decision 35-14):

De hecho, los participantes aumentan su conciencia de la Convención, en general aunque resulta complicado evaluar en qué grado estos resultados apoyan los objetivos de la Convención.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

9. Who provides political and financial support?

9.1 List all your sources and the amounts of financial support for the triennium 2006-2008:

- Wetlands for the Future Fund (WFF) y Río Tinto - BirdLife International Partnership Action Fund (PAF): USD 28.115
- WWF Colombia, WWF I y Evian-Danone: USD 95.545
- Secretaría Convención de Ramsar: CHF 64.020
- Gobierno de Chile:
- Gobierno de Venezuela: ≈ USD 35.000
- Evian-Danone: CHF. 48.777
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act: USD 907.000
- Gobierno de Colombia:
- Fuentes aún no identificadas, para 2008: ≈ USD 21.000

9.2 List your sources and amounts of financial support for the year 2007:

- Secretaría Convención de Ramsar: CHF 22.000
- Gobierno de Venezuela: ≈ USD 35.000
- Evian-Danone: CHF. 48.777

9.3 List concisely (according to main budget lines) your expenditures for 2007. (If final figures are not yet available when writing your report, indicate an overall expenditure forecast and provide brief information about its likely accuracy):

Se ha gastado la totalidad de los fondos asignados para 2007: CHF 70.777 + ≈ USD 35.000.

10. Financial planning

10.1 Summarize your funding needs (according to the main budget lines used above) for 2008:

Actividad	Presupuesto
Traducción de proyecto regional al Inglés y Francés	USD 6.000
Taller-mesa de donantes en Colombia	USD 50.000
Publicación de la EHAA en Español	USD 5.000
Editar una película sobre la EHAA	USD 10.000
Proyecto <i>Implementing Sustained Conservation Action for Waterbirds in the Neotropical Region</i>	USD 907.000

10.2 List the secured funding for your initiative for 2008 (specifying the sources):

Ningun financiamiento obtenido ya.

11. Request for Ramsar core budget support

11.1 Specify your funding request from the Ramsar core budget for 2008:

CHF 22.000 (aproximadamente 20,200 USD).

GOVERNANCE OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

12. Governance mechanisms in place

12.1 Describe the governance and advisory mechanisms and structures (e.g. committees) established to provide guidance and insight to your initiative:

La estructura de la EHAA está conformada por un Comité de Coordinación y Seguimiento de la Estrategia, constituido por los 8 Puntos Focales de los Países que forman parte de la misma y la Secretaría de Ramsar (Consejera Regional para las Américas). Otra instancia es el Grupo de Contacto, conformado por los 8 países y las organizaciones Wetlands International, Birdlife International, UICN y WWF, así como las redes técnicas Grupo Internacional de Trabajo de Páramos² y el Grupo para la Conservación de Flamencos Altoandinos con los cuales hay una continua retroalimentación.

Att. Attach terms of references, rules of procedures, or operational guidelines, where existing:
non proporcionado

13. Coordination with the Ramsar Secretariat

13.1 Specify the operational arrangements between the governance structures of your initiative and the Ramsar Secretariat:

Existe una permanente comunicación entre la Consejera Regional para las Américas y los Puntos Focales Nacionales de la EHAA, designados oficialmente por las Partes Contratantes concernidas

13.2 List the full name, telephone and e-mail contact of the main focal point of your initiative:

Sergio Vinicio Lasso Barreto, Mgtr.; 593 2 2506337, Fax: 593 2 2564037;
slasso@ambiente.gov.ec.

² A ser reemplazado por otra instancia, según lo tratado en el IV Taller sobre la EHAA realizado en septiembre de 2007, en Mérida – Venezuela.

C) MedWet

AIM OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

1. Implementation of the Ramsar approach

1.1 Describe briefly how your initiative is promoting the objectives of the Convention and how it is implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan through cooperation in your region:

Conservation and wise use of wetlands and water resources. During 2007 the development of the “MedWet information and knowledge network for the sustainable development of wetland ecosystems”, (MedWet/CODDE) was finalized. This innovative web-based tool a) allows different stakeholders to use information on the location, ecological characteristics and socio-economic importance of water related ecosystems (wetlands and their surroundings) and b) aims to assist the MedWet/Com member states to carry out wetland inventories and to build their capacity on the use of the MedWet inventory method and tools. Ultimately, it will support decision-making on development activities at local, national and Mediterranean level while it can be used to support MedWet/Com members in monitoring and managing listed Ramsar sites.

International cooperation: In the frame of its partnership with GWP-MED, MedWet participated in the International Roundtable on Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in SE Europe (November 2007), with the aim to promote information exchange and cooperation for the sustainable use, management and protection of shared groundwater resources in this region.

Implementation capacity: Establishment of a new governance structure in 2007, approved by MedWet/Com 8, in order to increase the Initiative’s capacity to achieve its mission. Technical implementation capacity leveraged by the participation of five major wetland centres in the MedWet Technical and Scientific Team (STT) and by the collaboration with five international NGOs. Furthermore, through these implementing bodies, the Initiative has promoted training and capacity-building schemes thus assisting member states (and Ramsar Contracting Parties) in the implementation of the Convention.

Membership: One additional member joined in July 2007: Montenegro.

Implementation of Ramsar Strategic Plan through cooperation on wetland –related issues of common concern:

GWP-Med: MedWet continued to participate in the Partnership Committee of the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean as its member and also as leader of the Programme Component : *Water, Food & Environmental Interaction*.

SAP-BIO: MedWet is a full member of the Advisory Board of the SAP-BIO initiative operated by UNEP/MAP, and is following up various Regional Priority Actions of the SAP-BIO programme, in particular the completion of an integrated inventory of Mediterranean coastal, wetland habitats, monitoring the effectiveness of coastal protected areas, and assisting countries to protect coastal sites of particular interest.

Middle East Regional Training Board: As of November 2007, and after having consulted the STT, MedWet (represented by its Interim Coordinator) became a member of the Middle East Sub-Regional Training Board in the framework of the UNEP/GEF project “*Wings Over Wetlands (WOW): Enhancing Conservation of the critical network of sites required by Migratory waterbirds on the African/Eurasian flyways (AEWA)*”. The project led by Wetlands International (WI) and BirdLife

International (BLI) aims to assist countries to take measures for the improvement of the conservation status of such critical wetland areas. One of these measures is the development of Training and Awareness Raising Programmes for the sub-region. The Training Board is a forum overseeing the development of the Training and Awareness Raising Programme for the Middle East, assuring its quality and relevance. Main tasks will be: to review and approve the working sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programme; to mobilise resources for Programme implementation; to monitor Training and Awareness Raising Programme progress; and to evaluate the Training and Awareness Raising Programme's success.

UNEP –MAP Coast Day: The co-organization of the event in Athens on October 22nd 2007 with UNEP-MAP, Eliniki Eteria and the French Institute (Athens Branch) aimed to raise awareness of policy makers and the public on the value of the coast and on the necessity of using an integrated approach in managing the coastal area.

Prespa Park Monitoring and Conservation Working Group (MCWG): This working group in which MedWet is participating, has been established (October 2007) in the framework of the UNDP-GEF Prespa Park Project with the task to guide the development of a consensus based transboundary monitoring program for the [Transboundary Prespa Park](#). The MCWG will also provide input to other transboundary components of the Project.

SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

2. Complete regional adherence and bottom-up approach

2.1 Describe briefly if your initiative is based on a bottom-up approach:

The MedWet Initiative was established in 1991 by a number of Mediterranean countries, organisations and international bodies (including the Convention on Wetlands). In the next few years all 26 countries of the Mediterranean Basin (including Bulgaria, the FYR of Macedonia, Jordan, Portugal and Serbia, Montenegro as well as the Palestine Authority) participated in MedWet and have guided its strategy and activities through the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com), a forum for collaboration on wetland issues in the Mediterranean, acting as an advisor to the Convention in this region (Ramsar COP7 Resolution VII.22, paragraph 3) and constituting the decision-making body of the Initiative, which operates within the framework of the Ramsar Convention. Since 2006, the Initiative's operational decisions are taken by its Steering Group with the responsibility to resolve problems and issues identified during the implementation of the MedWet/Com decisions. The MedWet Initiative has this bottom-up approach by drawing interest and inputs from very different stakeholders: ministerial departments, major regional NGOs and other Research and Wetlands centres. Through the various projects the Initiative implemented these last years, lessons and feedback have been drawn from a larger circle of local and national stakeholders

2.2 List the countries in the region which your initiative covers:

Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, The FYR of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority.

2.3 Specify those countries in your region who do not participate in the initiative (if so:

All states around the Mediterranean participate officially in the MedWet Initiative.

3. Active involvement of all relevant stakeholders

3.1 List the participants in your initiative and their affiliation:

The MedWet initiative consists of 42 voting members. These include:

- 27 countries and entities (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, The FYR of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Palestinian Authority).
- 5 IGOs (Barcelona Convention, Bern Convention, European Commission, Ramsar Convention, United Nations Development Programme)
- 5 Ramsar IOPs (Birdlife International, IMWI (International Water Management Institute) IUCN, Wetlands International, WWF International)
- 5 Wetland Centers [ARPAT (Agenzia regionale per la protezione ambientale della Toscana)-Italy, EKBY (Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre)-Greece, CEZH (Centro de Zonas Humidas)-Portugal, ENHEA/ SEHUMED (Sede para el Estudio de los humedales mediterráneos)-Spain, Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat-France]
- 2 Non-voting, honorary members: Luc Hoffmann, Thymio Papayannis

3.2 Indicate if only Ramsar administrative authorities at national level, or also other relevant stakeholders (including ministries, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia and economic actors) are actively involved.

All the above participate through their membership in MedWet/Com. States also contribute financially to MedWet.

4. Development of collaboration based on commonly agreed terms

4.1 Describe briefly how your regional network or centre is operating:

The MedWet Initiative is an endogenous mechanism based on voluntary participation, mutual trust and mutual benefit. **MedWet/Com (44 members)**, is the decision-making body of the Initiative providing strategic guidance and governance through the decisions taken during its meetings. Its main aim is to build synergies in favour of wetland conservation and their sustainable use in the Mediterranean basin, and to avoid duplication of other existing or projected initiatives. MedWet/Com meetings take place every 18 months (back-to-back with Ramsar COP and inter-sessionally once in-between two COPs). Decisions are usually taken by consensus.

The MedWet **Steering Group (5 members)** provides operational guidance and governance to the Initiative on behalf of the Committee in between MedWet/Com meetings. It takes operational decisions and resolves problems identified during the implementation of MedWet/Com decisions. The Steering Group takes decision via electronic communication among its five members, or during their regular meetings. The Group is chaired by one of the country representatives who maintains close working contacts with the MedWet Coordinator and instructs the latter regarding matters related to the MedWet programme of work and its implementation.

The MedWet **Secretariat** is legally established in Kifissia (Athens, Greece) since 2002, as an “Association of a non-trading, non profit-making partnership” with an international remit. Its aim is to serve the public interest and in particular to coordinate and facilitate the Initiative in carrying out its mission. It operates under the authority and supervision of the MedWet/Com, MedWet Steering Group, and the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention. It is headed by the MedWet Coordinator and composed of a number of staff positions, as decided by

MedWet/Com. To assure that the MedWet Secretariat operates according to the Terms of Reference adopted by MedWet/Com, a **Governing Board** was established for the “MedWet Secretariat Association” on an interim basis.

The MedWet **Coordinator** is the central person to drive and to support the Initiative. S/he is leading the Secretariat providing support to the members of the Committee, the Scientific and Technical Team, the Steering Group and other MedWet partners

Att. Attach the terms of reference (or other agreements) elaborated to guide its activities as separate documents:
The MedWet Terms of Reference are attached in Annex I.

5. Involvement of other regional partners

5.1 List relevant intergovernmental or international organizations operating in your region:

UNEP-MAP, UNESCO, Ramsar Convention, Barcelona Convention, Bern Convention, European Commission, UNDP, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, WWF-International, IWMI, INWENT, GWP-Med.

5.2 List those of them with whom you established common activities:

UNEP-MAP, Ramsar Convention, Barcelona Convention, European Commission, IWMI, INWENT, GWP-Med.

5.3 List your activities in common:

Integrated Water Resources Management (GWP-Med, European Commission), Dialogues and participative approaches (INWENT), wetland conservation (EC funded LIFE NAWN Project), Coastal wetlands conservation.

6. Scientific and technical backing

6.1 List the scientific and technical partners that provide a solid backing to your initiative:

Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione Ambientale della Toscana (ARPAT), Greek Biotope Wetland Centre (EKBY), Portuguese Wetland Centre (CEZH/ICNB), Sede para el Estudio de los Humedales Mediterráneos (SEHUMED), Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat (TdV).

7. Targets of the initiative and their links with Ramsar

7.1 List your initiative's strategic and operational targets for the period 2006-2008:

For the period 2006-mid 2007, no strategic/operational targets for the MedWet Initiative had been formally approved by the MedWet/Com or the MedWet Steering Group. In September 2007, the Interim Coordinator submitted to the Steering Group a draft Secretariat Work Plan for the period July 2007-end 2008, which is currently being re-adjusted according to comments submitted by the Steering Group in early January 2008. Hence, the 2008 Secretariat activities will focus on the following four strategic targets:

- a) The preparation of two Strategic Documents, i.e. the *MedWet Strategic Vision* for the next 25 Years and the *2009-2011 MedWet Work Plan* for submission to MedWet/Com9, including identification of related costs.

- b) The effective completion of all on-going projects by the MedWet Secretariat, while the Scientific and Technical Team will evaluate the relevance of the outcomes of each one, identify lessons learned and promote the dissemination of results and lessons learned.
- c) The assessment of the Secretariat's structure, costs, human resources, as well as the timeline, targets and indicators of the 2008 activities, according to MedWet needs, by the New Coordinator.
- d) Completion, by the Secretariat, of all non-project related pending matters (i.e. financial, administrative, legal) which affect the main activities of the Secretariat.

7.2 Specify the relations of your targets with the objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan:

Target (a) is related to Op. Obs :2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 19, 20

Target (b) is related to Op. Obs : 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20

Targets (c) & (d) are related to the efficient and cost-effective operation of the MedWet Secretariat with the ultimate objective to assist in the achievement of the Initiative's mission, i.e. the sustainable use and conservation of wetlands in the Mediterranean region through synergies and collaboration, within the framework of the Ramsar Convention.

Att. Attach your work plan for 2008:

The Workplan 2008 was submitted to the Steering Group and is currently undergoing re-adjustment.

8. Raising awareness of Ramsar objectives

8.1 Describe briefly your activities in the fields of communication, education, and participatory processes with relevant stakeholders:

MedWet provides a regular flow of all important and useful information related to the work of the Initiative mainly through the MedWet website. Continuous effort to improve the website has resulted in an increase in the levels of visits in 2007 compared to 2006, with an average level of visits/month over 5000 according to website statistic data. Information related to MedWet activities is also promoted through the websites of the MedWet Technical and Scientific Team. Furthermore, the MedWet Secretariat produces a bi-monthly newsletter in English and French and disseminates it to a list of over 700 recipients.

In 2007 MedWet took significant steps to integrate CEPA into the planning, development and implementation of projects: the MedWet Secretariat undertook CEPA activity related to four projects: MedWet CODDE, Water Dialogues in the MENA Region, TwinMed and LIFE-NAWN. Main tasks undertaken included the design, development and maintenance of website content, dissemination of information via the Newsletter and on the Ramsar Website.

To foster awareness about the value of wetlands the Initiative organized over 20 events, which were hosted in countries around the Mediterranean for World Wetlands Day (of which three coordinated by the Secretariat in Athens). In August 2007, an event co-organized by the Secretariat on water and wetlands was hosted in the island of Aegina, Greece, while in October a Med Coast Day event was launched in Athens (in partnership with the Barcelona Convention).

Throughout 2007 MedWet continued to produce CEPA tools and materials to support awareness raising for the value of wetlands. To this end the Secretariat collaborated with the Ecofilms Festival in June 2007 for the nomination of best film on water and wetlands.

Finally a number of pilot activities were launched to explore new means of enhancing the work of CEPA. The Secretariat launched in spring 2007 a proposal for the dissemination of films on water in partnership with actors from a number of sectors. This has met with considerable success as a number of CEPA events are now in the pipeline for 2008. Finally, with the help of competent national expertise and adequate institutional partners, MedWet is promoting and implementing in Morocco and Jordan, through participatory techniques, Dialogues on water governance in agriculture and the interaction with wetlands.

8.2 Describe briefly the increased support for Ramsar objectives resulting from these activities. (This information may be used by Ramsar's CEPA Oversight Panel, according to Standing Committee Decision 35-14)

MedWet assists towards integrating CEPA processes into all levels of policy development planning and implementation of the Convention by adhering to the CEPA Strategy developed in close collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat. Hence MedWet helps to achieve one of the main objectives of the Programme of the Convention regarding CEPA. (Op Obj 1.13)

With the dissemination of films on water in the Mediterranean in 2007, MedWet also helped demonstrate that CEPA processes are effective in achieving Ramsar's wetland wise use objectives in the Mediterranean basin. (Op Obj 1.2.1). By collaborating with the Barcelona Convention (UNEP MAP) (e.g. Med Coast Day in October 2007) MedWet helps to encourage synergy and provide cohesive frameworks to support and catalyse CEPA for the wise use of wetlands (Op Obj 2.1) MedWet helped in the transfer and sharing of CEPA information through its website by posting information on new publications, events and training opportunities. (Op Obj 2.2).

MedWet also helped support the Ramsar objective of producing, disseminating and sharing resource materials for CEPA by undertaking the production of CEPA tools in relation to specific projects (e.g. maintenance/development of websites for MedWet CODDE project, Water Dialogues in the MENA Region, TwinMed and LIFE NAWN) and additional materials for communications including leaflet, CD-ROM as well as brochures for different events.

Capacity building: In 2007 MedWet undertook the project Twinning of MedWet with SPNL and RSCN for capacity building -Twin Med aiming to build capacity of Mediterranean NGOs in Lebanon and Jordan for the wise use of wetlands. Also, in 2007, MedWet contributed to fostering sustained national campaigns, programmes and projects to raise community awareness by undertaking awareness raising projects around World Wetlands Day.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

9. Who provides political and financial support?

9.1 List all your sources and the amounts of financial support for the triennium 2006-2008:

COP9 adopted Resolution IX.7 on "Regional initiatives in the framework of the Ramsar Convention". Its Annex II specifies the financial support to the MedWet Initiative for the triennium 2006-2008 (annexed also to this document as Annex II).

The financial support for MedWet is composed of *annual* a) Ramsar core budget allocations, b) Secretariat host country (Greece) contributions, and c) contributions by all MedWet member

³ Operational objectives mentioned above refer to the Ramsar Convention's Programme on CEPA 2003-2008 – Resolution VIII.31 of the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

countries. In addition, d) specific cost-recoveries, essentially for MedWet Secretariat staff time, were made through project incomes during 2006 and 2007 as follows (in Euros):

Project name	2006	2007
CODDE	175.773 EUR	179.509 EUR
INWENT	18.040 EUR	6.000 EUR
TWINMED	-	10.385 EUR
GWP-MED	6.472 EUR	6.942 EUR
TOTAL	200.285 EUR	202.836 EUR

9.2 List your sources and amounts of financial support for the year 2007:

Cf. Annex II and the table above.

9.3 List concisely (according to main budget lines) your expenditures for 2007. (If final figures are not yet available when writing your report, indicate an overall expenditure forecast and provide brief information about its likely accuracy):

The table below provides provisional figures for 2007 expenditures.

Standard Secretariat expenditures in EUR	
STAFF COSTS	166.306
EXPERTS& CONSULTANTS	17.185
TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS	3.501
OFFICE COSTS	796
OUTREACH/CEP	1.672
MISCELLANEOUS	2.591
Non-recurrent expenditures	
COMMITTED FUNDS 2006	35.806
TEERING GROUP MEETINGS	309
MedWet/Com8 MEETING JUNE 2007	29.599
INTERVIEWS FOR COORDINATOR SELECTION	2.507
Projects	
COSTS OF PROJECTS ON CORE BUDGET	15.131
Grand TOTAL 2007	275.408

10. Financial planning

10.1 Summarize your funding needs (according to the main budget lines used above) for 2008:

MedWet Secretariat forecast Budget for 2008:

Standard Secretariat expenditures in EUR	
STAFF COSTS	255.471
EXPERTS& CONSULTANTS ⁴	26.354
TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS	11.610
OFFICE COSTS	6.200
OUTREACH/CEP	10.430
MISCELLANEOUS	9.300
Non-recurrent expenditures	
STEERING GROUP MEETINGS	5.000
COP10, MedWet/Com9 MEETINGS	15.400
CREATION OF RESERVE FUND	32.457

⁴ Costs for transformation of Association into International Organisation structure not included.

Projects	
COSTS OF PROJECTS ON CORE BUDGET	<i>no final information available at present</i>
Grand TOTAL 2008	372.222

10.2 *List the secured funding for your initiative for 2008 (specifying the sources):*

Ramsar contribution	6,600 EUR
Host country	170,000 EUR
MedWet country contributions	93,735 EUR
Bank interest less tax	140 EUR
Total	271,737 EUR

11. Request for Ramsar core budget support

11.1 *Specify your funding request from the Ramsar core budget for 2008:*

In accordance with COP9 Resolution IX.7, Annex II, the contribution from the Ramsar core budget for 2008 will be 10,849 CHF.

GOVERNANCE OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

12. Governance mechanisms in place

12.1 *Describe the governance and advisory mechanisms and structures (e.g. committees) established to provide guidance and insight to your initiative:*

MedWet/Com is a forum for collaboration on wetland issues in the Mediterranean and acts as an advisor to the Convention in this region (Ramsar COP7 Resolution VII.22, paragraph 3). It is the decision-making body within the framework of the **MedWet Initiative**, and it has been entrusted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention to implement the Ramsar strategy and activities with relevance to the Mediterranean Region and its specificities. In 2007, the 8th meeting of the MedWet/Com approved a new MedWet governance structure, which was conceived in order to improve the operation of the Initiative and the functions of its implementing bodies. The new developments include: the approval by MedWet/Com of the full composition of the **Steering Group** (5 members); approval of the modifications of the bylaws of the MedWet Secretariat Association and of the new synthesis of its **Governing Board** (5 members); the assignment of specific strategic tasks (e.g. elaboration of 25 year Vision and Strategic Work Plan 2009-2011; launching of the process for the transformation of the MedWet Association into an international organization structure; establishment of a new transparent accounting management system for the finances of the Initiative) to the relevant implementing bodies of the Initiative (Steering Group, Scientific & Technical Team, Secretariat).

Att. Attach terms of references, rules of procedures, or operational guidelines, where existing:

MedWet Terms of Reference are attached in Annex X.

13. Coordination with the Ramsar Secretariat

13.1 *Specify the operational arrangements between the governance structures of your initiative and the Ramsar Secretariat:*

The Ramsar Convention has been one of the key founders of MedWet and a member of the MedWet/Com, which is co-chaired by the Ramsar Secretary General. The Ramsar Secretariat is also a permanent observer in the MedWet Steering Group and a member of the Governing Board. In addition, it should be noted that MedWet has been officially recognised as a Ramsar

regional initiative by decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and its Secretariat maintains strong links with the Ramsar Secretariat.

13.2 List the full name, telephone and e-mail contact of the main focal point of your initiative:

Dr Dionyssia Hatzilacou, Interim Coordinator (from 16 June 2007 to 31 January 2008)

Mr Adnan Budieri, MedWet Coordinator (starting 1 February 2008)

Tel: +30-210-8089270, hatzilacou@medwet.org

Annex I

Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet)

Terms of reference

(as adopted by MedWet/Com8)

1. Introduction

This document sets out the Terms of Reference and organization of the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) in order to define and facilitate collaboration between its members and the operations of the Initiative.

The MedWet Initiative was established to support the Mediterranean region in its implementation of conservation and wise use of wetlands within the framework the Ramsar Convention and decisions of the Convention's Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) and its Standing Committee.

The MedWet Initiative is a long term collaborative effort between Mediterranean countries and entities, the Ramsar Convention, the European Commission, international organisations, the Ramsar International Organisation Partners (IOPs), other international NGOs and wetland centres.

The MedWet Initiative is an endogenous mechanism based on voluntary participation, mutual trust and mutual benefit.

The legitimacy and legal authority of the MedWet Initiative are provided by the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), on the basis of Resolutions VII.22 and VIII.30 and Decisions SC19-19 and SC25-31 of the Ramsar Standing Committee.

The MedWet Initiative has to foster synergies with all institutions dealing with conservation and wise use of wetland in the Mediterranean basin.

2. Mission and Objectives of the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative

Mission

To ensure and support the effective conservation of wetlands and the wise use of their resources, values and services, through local, national, regional and international collaboration and implementation of activities in the Mediterranean region, within the framework of the Ramsar Convention.

Objectives

- a. To promote and participate in the implementation of the Ramsar objectives and initiatives in the Mediterranean region.
- b. To develop and reinforce capacities in areas where these are lacking, and especially to develop and ensure adaptive management of Ramsar sites and cooperation between their management bodies.
- c. To transfer and exchange knowledge and expertise to key conservation actors in order to reinforce Mediterranean wetland management.
- d. To coordinate with other international initiatives in the region, and globally.

3. The partners and implementing bodies of the MedWet Initiative, and their responsibilities

The MedWet Initiative is a partnership of:

- i. Governments of countries and entities bordering on the Mediterranean Sea and other countries in its immediate proximity, including Bulgaria, Jordan, Portugal, Serbia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- ii. Mediterranean wetland centres approved by the MedWet/Com as forming the MedWet Scientific and Technical Team;
- iii. other entities with an interest in the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands;
- iv. intergovernmental organisations with activities related to or concerned about Mediterranean wetlands;
- v. other international organisations with activities related to Mediterranean wetlands; and
- vi. federations or networks of national NGOs, or individual NGOs, from countries mentioned above (maximum of one per country), with a proven record of activities related to wetland conservation and wise use.

The implementing bodies of the MedWet Initiative are:

- i. the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com);
- ii. the MedWet Steering Group;
- iii. the MedWet Secretariat
- iv. the MedWet Scientific and Technical Team; and
- v. *ad hoc* working groups, including networks.

International Organizations, NGOs and some Mediterranean Wetland Centres are independent institutions.

The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention and the Chair of the MedWet Steering Group co-chair the meetings of MedWet/Com. The MedWet Secretariat reports on MedWet Initiative implementation to the MedWet/Com and Ramsar Standing Committee.

The Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com)

The MedWet/Com is a forum for collaboration on wetland issues in the Mediterranean and acts as an advisor to the Convention in this region (Ramsar COP7 Resolution VII.22, paragraph 3). It is the decision-making body within the framework of the MedWet Initiative, and operates within the framework of the Ramsar Convention.

Other organisations and individuals may participate in MedWet/Com meetings and other activities as observers by invitation and admission by decision of the MedWet/Com.

Responsibilities of the MedWet/Com

The MedWet/Com has been entrusted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention to implement the Ramsar strategy and activities with relevance to the Mediterranean Region and its specificities.

The MedWet/Com Rules of Procedure were approved, with amendments, by the 5th meeting of the MedWet/Com. The Rules of Procedure, as further amended to harmonise the modified terminology of these Terms of Reference, are attached as Annex 2 of this document.

The responsibilities of the MedWet/Com in overseeing the implementation of the MedWet Initiative and its other bodies are, *inter alia*, to:

- i. approve new members in the MedWet Initiative;
- ii. appoint the membership of the MedWet Steering Group;
- iii. approve the Initiative's Strategic Priorities and Multi-Year Work Plan;
- iv. monitor the implementation and results of the MedWet Multi-Year Work Plan, including through analysis of the six-monthly reports provided by the MedWet Secretariat;
- v. consider reports and recommendations from the MedWet Steering Group, and adopt decisions on any action needed, as appropriate;
- vi. consider and approve the financial budget and annual audited financial accounts of the MedWet Secretariat; and
- vii. approve the establishment of temporary *ad hoc* working groups and their dissolution.

The MedWet Steering Group

The MedWet Steering Group is the body that operates between MedWet/Com meetings with the responsibility (on behalf of the MedWet/Com) to make operational decisions and resolve problems identified during the implementation of the MedWet/Com decisions. The Steering Group is appointed by, and reports to, the MedWet/Com.

The MedWet Steering Group is composed of:

- i. three country representatives (one MedWet/Com country from each Ramsar region - Africa, Asia, Europe);
- ii. one Ramsar International Organisation Partner (IOP) representative;
- iii. one Mediterranean Wetland Centres representative; and
- iv. the MedWet Secretariat Coordinator (*ex officio* non-voting).

Each Steering Group member shall serve for a three-year period. The MedWet Steering Group is chaired for the three-year period by one of the country representatives in rotation. The Mediterranean Wetland Centres representative and the IOP representative will also serve on a rotational basis, by agreement between the Centres and the IOPs respectively. Countries willing to serve on the Steering Group should be proposed by their regional group of MedWet/Com members. The membership of the MedWet Steering Group for each three-year period will be approved by the MedWet/Com.

The host country of the MedWet Secretariat and the Ramsar Secretariat are permanent observers of the Steering Group. The Steering Group may invite the participation of other MedWet members as observers, as necessary.

The MedWet Secretariat provides the secretariat to the Steering Group.

The Steering Group meets periodically face-to-face, but will operate largely through email and teleconference processes. The necessary budget provisions to cover travel and subsistence costs of those members of the Steering Group eligible for such support, are included in the MedWet Secretariat budget.

Responsibilities of the MedWet Steering Group

The responsibilities of the MedWet Steering Group are to:

- i. take operational decisions between two MedWet/Com meetings;
- ii. prepare, with the assistance of the MedWet Secretariat and MedWet Scientific and Technical Team, the draft MedWet Multi-Year Work Plan in line with the MedWet

- Strategic Priorities and other documents to be submitted to the MedWet/Com for adoption;
- iii. monitor and approve the annual reports and audited accounts provided by the MedWet Secretariat;
 - iv. approve the yearly work plans and budget of the MedWet Secretariat, based on the Multi-Year Work Plan adopted by MedWet/Com;
 - v. advise the MedWet/Com and MedWet Coordinator on ways and means of ensuring the capacity for the delivery of the responsibilities and work required of the MedWet Secretariat;
 - vi. guide and supervise arrangements for the next meeting of MedWet/Com, as well as the technical session associated with it;
 - vii. participate in the selection process for the MedWet Coordinator;
 - viii. present to MedWet/Com at its regular meetings a summary report on the progress of the work carried out during the past period;
 - ix. keep the members of the MedWet/Com informed intersessionally, through the MedWet Secretariat, of progress, activities and any issues arising in the implementation of the Initiative; and
 - x. undertake additional responsibilities as requested and approved by the MedWet/Com.

The MedWet Steering Group undertakes responsibilities that include those of the former MedWet “Advisory Board”, and has superseded that body.

The MedWet Secretariat

The MedWet Secretariat has been established by decision of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention to serve the public interest and in particular to coordinate and facilitate the work of the MedWet Initiative in carrying out its mission. It operates under the authority and supervision of the MedWet/Com, MedWet Steering Group, and the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention.

The MedWet Secretariat was legally established in Kifissia (Athens, Greece) in 2002, as an “Association of a non-trading, non profit-making partnership” with an international remit. This is considered to be a temporary solution, until a fully international structure can be established in line with the legal structure needed for the Ramsar Secretariat. To assure that the MedWet Secretariat operates according to the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures adopted by MedWet/Com, a **governing board** for this Association was established in 2007. The MedWet Steering Group and the Ramsar Secretariat constitute together the majority of the members of this governing board. The governing board of the MedWet Association employs the MedWet Coordinator, based on the Terms of Reference listed below.

The MedWet Secretariat consists of the MedWet Coordinator and other Secretariat staff, according to the programme needs and available resources.

The MedWet Coordinator is appointed by decision of the Ramsar Secretary General with the participation of the MedWet Steering Group and in full consultation with the MedWet/Com. Other MedWet Secretariat staff are appointed by the MedWet Secretariat Coordinator in consultation with the Secretary General and the Chair of the MedWet Steering Group.

The MedWet Coordinator has the overall responsibility for the effective functioning of the MedWet Secretariat.

Responsibilities of the MedWet Secretariat

The responsibilities of the MedWet Secretariat are to:

- i. Facilitate collaboration among MedWet members and projects and proactively seek to use the Centres' expertise and resources in order to catalyse the development of projects and programmes;
- ii. act as the secretariat for the MedWet/Com, MedWet Steering Group and the MedWet Scientific and Technical Team;
- iii. assist MedWet States and national entities in the implementation of the Multi-Year Work Plan, including *inter alia* drafting projects, facilitating services and operational contacts and relations with funding institutions in order to mobilise resources for the implementation of the MedWet Strategic Priorities and Work Plan;
- iv. propose to the MedWet/Com for approval and manage an indicator system for monitoring the implementation of the MedWet Multi-Year Work Plan and the results achieved;
- v. identify and actively promote the involvement of Mediterranean stakeholders in the implementation of the MedWet Multi-Year Work Plan;
- vi. organise meetings of the MedWet/Com, Steering Group and Scientific and Technical Team;
- vii. administer the budget of MedWet/Com and the MedWet Secretariat, and prepare audited annual financial reports for Steering Group approval and Multi-Year budget and financial reports for MedWet/Com approval at each MedWet/Com meeting;
- viii. prepare and submit six-monthly implementation reports, through the MedWet Secretariat governing board, to the Steering Group;
- ix. assure dissemination of information related to projects (activities, results, plans and programmes, funding opportunities etc.);
- x. synergise the efforts of the Centres and the IOPs in their promotion of the Initiative;
- xi. identify opportunities to foster cooperation among and between MedWet/Com members, Ramsar site managers, NGOs, and other regional initiatives and institutions, and disseminate them at the appropriate level in a timely manner; and
- xii. undertake other actions as allocated by the MedWet/Com and the MedWet Steering Group.

Responsibilities for the MedWet Coordinator

The main responsibilities of the MedWet coordinator are the following:

- to serve the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee and the Steering Group as its executive secretary and to make sure that its decisions are promptly and faithfully carried out;
- to catalyse activities in favour of the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands, within the framework of approved work plans, involving in their execution, in an equitable manner, the members of MedWet/Com;
- to guide the MedWet Secretariat and to ensure that it operates efficiently. In particular, to select, train and supervise the Secretariat staff and guide their work, including individual annual performance appraisal reports to be submitted to the governing board of the Association;
- to manage prudently the finances of the MedWet Secretariat, limiting expenses to the income possibilities, and guaranteeing a balanced budget, with proper accounting and allowance for contingencies;
- to draft the MedWet Secretariat annual work plans and submit them for approval to the Steering Group;

- to report fully and accurately on progress of work and the financial situation on a six-monthly basis through the governing board to the Steering Group; and
- to represent the MedWet Initiative in national, regional or international fora in consultation with the Chair of the Steering Group.

The performance of the MedWet coordinator is evaluated on an annual basis by a three member panel, consisting of the chair of the Steering Group, one representative of the Ramsar Secretariat (appointed by the Secretary General) and a member of the governing board of the MedWet Secretariat Association. Her/his tenure is for a three-year period, which can be renewed, at the proposal of the Steering Group, by decision of the Ramsar Secretary General in consultation with MedWet/Com.

MedWet Scientific and Technical Team

The MedWet Scientific and Technical Team is the group of Mediterranean Wetland Centres approved by the MedWet/Com as the appropriate bodies for supporting implementation of the scientific and technical aspects of Multi-year Work Plan of the MedWet Initiative.

The Ramsar Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs) may join the Team and participate according to the expertise they can mobilise for the implementation of the MedWet Work Plan.

The MedWet Secretariat participates *ex officio* and provides the Secretariat to the MedWet Scientific and Technical Team.

The responsibilities of the *MedWet Scientific and Technical Team* are to:

- i. Provide the core technical and scientific input to the MedWet Initiative and contribute to the application of policies; the implementation of activities; building of technical capacity including *inter alia* the transfer of knowledge and expertise; and the development of projects in the Mediterranean region;
- ii. Contribute to the drafting of the MedWet Strategic Priorities and Multi-year Work Plan;
- iii. Promote activities and projects based on the MedWet Multi-year Work Plan; and
- iv. Provide scientific and technical peer review and quality control of the Initiative's scientific and technical work.

MedWet *ad hoc* working groups, including networks

MedWet's *ad hoc* working groups are thematic working groups comprising individuals and organisations, established in order to address priority technical, scientific or organisational/institutional needs of the MedWet Initiative's Multi-Year Work Plan.

MedWet *ad hoc* working groups consist of experts from MedWet/Com members and may invite the participation of external experts as necessary. The participation of the members is to be provided *pro bono*.

The working groups are established by decision of the MedWet/Com, and have a temporary character. They are dissolved by decision of the MedWet/Com once their objectives have been delivered.

The work of the *ad hoc* working groups is facilitated by the MedWet Secretariat. They report to MedWet/Com, through the MedWet Secretariat and MedWet Steering Group.

4. Use of the MedWet Initiative name and logo

The name and logo of the MedWet Initiative are legally protected.

The MedWet Initiative name and logo can, and should, be used by any MedWet/Com member for activities implemented within the framework of MedWet Initiative, complying with standards developed by the Scientific and Technical Team and approved by MedWet/Com.

Any other organisation or individual wishing to use the logo should obtain approval from the MedWet/Com, or under its delegated responsibility, the chair of the MedWet Steering Group.

Annex II (and Annex II of Resolution IX.7)

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

INCOME (in Swiss Francs)

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

Notes on Income

- 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.
- Contribution from the Ramsar core budget for the triennium 2006-2008 (budget line – Support to Regional Initiatives).
- Additional annual contributions from the Contracting Parties participating in MedWet earmarked to cover costs of the MedWet Coordination Unit (see Table 1 for the list of contributions for 2006). These figures assume that 100% of contributions will be made by these countries.
- 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.

Table 1: Additional country contributions earmarked for MedWet Coordination Unit costs (in Swiss Francs)

Name of Country	UN %	Ramsar %	2006	2007	2008
			corrected for minimum CHF 550	corrected for minimum CHF 550	corrected for minimum CHF 550
Albania	0.0050	0.0314	550	550	550
Algeria	0.0760	0.4777	672	685	681
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0.0030	0.0189	550	550	550
Bulgaria	0.0170	0.1068	550	550	550
Croatia	0.0370	0.2325	550	550	550
Cyprus	0.0390	0.2451	550	550	550
Egypt	0.1200	0.7542	1,061	1,081	1,075
France	6.0300	37.8993	53,308	54,332	53,997
Greece	0.5300	3.3311	4,685	4,775	4,746
Israel	0.4670	2.9352	4,128	4,208	4,182
Italy	4.8850	30.7028	43,185	44,015	43,744
Jordan	0.0110	0.0691	550	550	550
Lebanon	0.0240	0.1508	550	550	550
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.1320	0.8296	1,167	1,189	1,182
Malta	0.0140	0.0880	550	550	550
Monaco	0.0030	0.0189	550	550	550
Morocco	0.0470	0.2954	550	550	550
Portugal	0.4700	2.9540	4,155	4,235	4,209
Serbia & Montenegro	0.0190	0.1194	550	550	550
Slovenia	0.0820	0.5154	725	739	734
Spain	2.5200	15.8385	22,278	22,706	22,566
Syrian Arab Republic	0.0380	0.2388	550	550	550
FYR Macedonia	0.0060	0.0377	550	550	550
Tunisia	0.0320	0.2011	550	550	550
Turkey	0.3720	2.3381	3,289	3,352	3,331
TOTALS		100	146,353	149,019	148,150

Note. This table is calculated using the UN scale of contributions for 2006. The calculations for 2007 and 2008 are indicative only: the exact figures will be calculated on the basis of the UN scale for each year, when it is known. The minimum contribution is set to 550 Swiss Francs.

D) Pacific Islands Initiative

AIM OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

1. Implementation of the Ramsar approach

1.2 Describe briefly how your initiative is promoting the objectives of the Convention and how it is implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan through cooperation in your region:

The Pacific Islands Initiative was endorsed at Ramsar COP9 in 2005. The Initiative has been promoting the objectives of the convention and its current Strategic Plan through the following:

- Enhancing the conservation and wise use of the wetlands of the Pacific, especially its coral reefs, mangroves and small and unique freshwater wetlands
- Promoting the wise use principles of the Ramsar Convention, including through Ramsar listing, as appropriate, of internationally significant wetlands within SPREP member countries
- Facilitating/enhancing the protection, management and wise use of wetlands of international and national significance in SPREP signatory member countries and more broadly across the region
- Integrating the protection and wise use of wetlands principles in key regional and national strategies, such as National Sustainable Development strategies, the Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Strategy, and the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation for the Pacific Islands region.

Substantive elements of the regional initiative

2. Complete regional adherence and bottom-up approach

2.3 Describe briefly if your initiative is based on a bottom-up approach:

The activities under the Initiative are progressed through working closely with the Governments of participating Pacific Island Countries, which are the primary focal points for the Initiative in-country. At the national level, the Initiative supports National Ramsar Committees in contracting parties, which have broad stakeholder representation. In most Pacific Island parties, related national committees such as NBSAP steering committees are also addressing wetlands issues. The Initiative has continued to support contracting parties as well as to urge the participation of non-contracting parties in regional activities such as training, information sharing on Ramsar wise use principles, WWD, wetland management and assistance with accession to the Convention when appropriate. At the regional level, the Initiative is continuing to facilitate the engagement/representation/input from those bodies, as relevant, and existing regional frameworks such as the action strategy for nature conservation and forging regional partnerships.

2.4 List the countries in the region, which your initiative covers:

The Pacific Islands Wetland initiative covers all 5 Pacific Island Ramsar contracting parties (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa), Australia and New Zealand and non-parties Kiribati and Nauru that are nearing accession. Countries and Territories that are involved in the initiative to a lesser extent are the Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa and Tonga.

2.3 Specify those countries in your region who do not participate in the initiative (if so):

Those Pacific Island Countries and Territories that are not yet involved in the initiative are the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI), Guam, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Niue, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, French Polynesia and New Caledonia.

3. Active involvement of all relevant stakeholders

3.3 List the participants in your initiative and their affiliation:

- Ramsar International Organization Partners: IUCN Oceania, Wetlands International Oceania, WWF South Pacific Programme
- Academic Institutions: University of Tasmania, University of the South Pacific
- Ramsar Administrative Authorities: Australia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa
- Regional NGOs: Foundation of the peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI)
- National NGOs: Conservation Society of Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia), Palau Conservation Society, Live and Learn Fiji, WWF PNG

3.4 Indicate if only Ramsar administrative authorities at national level, or also other relevant stakeholders (including ministries, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia and economic actors) are actively involved:

It is mostly the Ramsar Administrative Authorities in each party that are actively involved. Other key stakeholders are engaged through their participation in national wetland steering committees/National Ramsar Committees.

4. Development of collaboration based on commonly agreed terms

4.2 Describe briefly how your regional network or centre is operating:

The Initiative builds on existing networks involving Administrative Authorities and relevant stakeholders in the region and those existing mechanisms within SPREP such as:

- The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network,
- The Locally Managed Marine Area network,
- The Council of the Regional Organization of the Pacific (CROP) (ie Marine Sector Working Group)
- The Roundtable on the Action Strategy for Mainstreaming nature conservation
- SPREP focal points for wetland-related issues in the ODTs, national focal points and the International Waters Programme national focal points

The work of the Pacific Island Wetlands Initiative is guided primarily by the following:

- Pacific Island wetland conservation priorities as reflected in National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans (NBSAPs), national biodiversity policies etc...
- Ramsar-SPREP Memorandum of Cooperation (2006)
- Regional Wetlands Action Plan for Pacific Island Countries

Att. Attach the terms of reference (or other agreements) elaborated to guide its activities as separate documents:
not provided

5. Involvement of other regional partners

5.3 List relevant intergovernmental or international organisations operating in your region:

IUCN Oceania, Birdlife International, Wetlands International Oceania, Conservation, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, International, Wildlife Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy, WWF South Pacific, Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC),

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), UNDP, FAO, UNESCO.

5.4 *List those of them with whom you established common activities:*

IUCN Oceania, SOPAC, Wetlands International Oceania

5.3 *List your activities in common:*

- Development of a regional mangrove initiative and seeking of donor support (with IUCN Oceania)
- Mangrove monitoring for the Pacific Islands (with University of Tasmania)
- Strengthening the sharing of marine biodiversity information within the Pacific Islands region (with SOPAC)
- Planning for marine habitat mapping needs in the Pacific Islands region (with SOPAC)
- Joint assistance for Ramsar site nominations (with Wetlands International Oceania and IUCN Oceania)
- Update of Part of the Oceania Wetlands Directory 1993 (with University of Tasmania, IUCN Oceania and Wetlands International Oceania)

6. Scientific and technical backing

6.1 *List the scientific and technical partners that provide a solid backing to your initiative:*

Wetlands International Oceania, IUCN Oceania, University of Tasmania, Blue Ocean Institute

7. Targets of the initiative and their links with Ramsar

7.3 *List your initiative's strategic and operational targets for the period 2006-2008:*

- Raise the profile of, and commitment to, wetland conservation and management in government decision-making in Oceania, especially in Pacific Island Parties.
- Strengthen the knowledge base of the status of wetlands and their ecosystem services in Oceania, especially Pacific Island Parties, to guide decision-making.
- Empower local communities to use scientific and traditional knowledge systems for local-level management of wetlands.
- Promote greater recognition for the policy and institutional frameworks for biodiversity and natural resource management (including wetlands).

7.4 *Specify the relations of your targets with the objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan:*

The targets of the Initiative are based on priorities for wetland conservation agreed to by Pacific Island Ramsar Parties and aim to implement the objectives of the Strategic Plan.

Att. Attach your work plan for 2008:

The Work Plan 2008 and the funding needs are provided in Annex 1.

8. Raising awareness of Ramsar objectives

8.2 *Describe briefly your activities in the fields of communication, education, and participatory processes with relevant stakeholders:*

- Assistance provided to planning and execution of national celebratory activities for World Wetlands Day 2006 and 2007 in all five PIC contracting parties. Assisted both Ramsar Administrative Authorities and active local NGOs with planning of activities.
- Facilitated wetland practitioner country exchanges between five Pacific Island countries

- Specific in-country assistance – printing and distribution of mangrove awareness booklet for Samoa; launching and promotion of Samoa educational mangrove kit for schools.
- Running of a community based protected areas workshop for the Marshall Islands.
- Assisted with the organization, and took part in mangrove replanting activities for Samoa in collaboration with the UNDP as part of World Environment Day celebrations 2007 (June 5).

8.2 Describe briefly the increased support for Ramsar objectives resulting from these activities. (This information may be used by Ramsar's CEPA Oversight Panel, according to Standing Committee Decision 35-14):

- Growing community interest in the nomination of further Ramsar sites
- Strengthened community awareness and appreciation of the value of wetlands and the need for their wise use
- Sharing of wetland management experiences and participatory learning and action at the community level
- Increasing inclusion of wetlands in national planning and development processes

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

9. Who provides political and financial support?

9.3 List all your sources and the amounts of financial support for the triennium 2006-2008:

• Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	15,000 USD
• UNEP Regional Seas Programme (for specific activities)	3,500 USD
• Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council	1,100 USD
• Australian Government (through DEWR) for Oceania regional meeting in 2008 prior to COP10	26,038 USD
• NZAID (for specific activities)	5,333 USD
• Ramsar Core budget (as approved by SC-35)	40,438 CHF

9.4 List your sources and amounts of financial support for the year 2007:

• Ramsar Core budget (as approved by SC-35)	40,438 CHF
• NZAID (for specific activities)	9,098 USD

9.3 List concisely (according to main budget lines) your expenditures for 2007. (If final figures are not yet available when writing your report, indicate an overall expenditure forecast and provide brief information about its likely accuracy):

At the time of writing, final figures are not yet available for funds received as approved by SC-35 (CHF 40,438).

The amount allocated for the Regional Wetland Managers Workshop (CHF 19,556) remains unexpended (see Annex 2 for details).

The amount for the Oceania wetlands Directory update (CHF 20,881) has already been committed for this activity with approx. 40% of the total already expended.

10. Financial planning

10.2 Summarize your funding needs (according to the main budget lines used above) for 2008:

Please refer to Annex 1

10.2 *List the secured funding for your initiative for 2008 (specifying the sources):*

Australia provided AUD 30,000 for the Oceania regional preparatory meeting prior to COP10 in early 2008.

11. Request for Ramsar core budget support**11.1** *Specify your funding request from the Ramsar core budget for 2008:*

- Total funding requested is CHF 118, 276 (refer to Annex 1 for details)
- Please refer to Annex 2 for requested carry forward of funds for Ramsar site managers workshop originally scheduled for November 2007.

GOVERNANCE OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE**12. Governance mechanisms in place****12.2** *Describe the governance and advisory mechanisms and structures (e.g. committees) established to provide guidance and insight to your initiative:*

The following provide the main guiding mechanism for the initiative:

- Feedback and joint planning with regional partners (including the Ramsar Secretariat) and national Ramsar Administrative Authorities, through their national Ramsar/wetlands committees
- The Annual SPREP Meeting of Officials

Att. *Attach terms of references, rules of procedures, or operational guidelines, where existing:*

not provided

13. Coordination with the Ramsar Secretariat**13.2** Specify the operational arrangements between the governance structures of your initiative and the Ramsar Secretariat:

National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees in each of the PIC Parties is chaired by the National Ramsar Administrative Authorities whom provide feedback to the Initiative through the Associate Ramsar Officer based at SPREP.

13.2 *List the full name, telephone and e-mail contact of the main focal point of your initiative:*

Vainuupo JUNGBLUT (Mr.), Associate Ramsar Officer
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), PO Box 240
Apia, Samoa, Ph: (+685) 21929 ext. 282, Fax: (+685) 20231, vainuupoj@sprep.org

Annex 1

Work Plan & funding requested for 2008 from Ramsar core budget

Components	Verifiable indicator(s)	Timeframe	Activity	Estimated Cost (USD)
Improved Ramsar site management	Immediate management priorities/threats addressed and arrangements for monitoring agreed.	March – August 2008	Implement immediate priorities of management plans for the existing Ramsar sites in the Pacific Islands region	50,000
CEPA support for the 2008 year of the coral reef campaign	Increase in community support for the ongoing protection of their coral reef (and associated) ecosystems.	March - July 2008	Carry out awareness activities aimed at strengthening Pacific Island community awareness and appreciation of the values, services and functions of coral reefs and the need for their ongoing protection.	15,000
<i>Regional Preparations for Ramsar COP10</i>	Common critical issues and concerns identified for wetland conservation and deliberated upon by Oceania CPs and positions raised at Ramsar COP10 in 2008.	March 2008	Plan and implement a Ramsar COP10 regional preparatory meeting for Oceania contracting parties	15,000
<i>Training for PIC CPs in use of the regional mangrove monitoring manual⁵</i>	PIC CPs trained to use manual and national monitoring activities initiated	July 2008	Plan and carry out a workshop to train PIC CPs in the practical use of the mangrove-monitoring manual.	15,000
SPREP Programme support charge (10%)				9,500
Total forecasted request to Ramsar Core budget for 2008 (USD)				104,500
			<i>Total in CHF⁶</i>	118,276

⁵ The draft manual was developed by Dr. Joanna Ellison of the University of Tasmania with the assistance of the Associate Ramsar Officer.

⁶ Based on the exchange rate of 12 December 2007

Annex 2

Request for carry forward of funding for activities under the Pacific Islands Wetlands Initiative

Funding for two activities was approved at the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee in February 2007: 1) Oceania regional Wetlands/Ramsar Site Managers Workshop, and 2) update of part of the Oceania Wetlands Directory (1993).

Status of Activity 1: This was originally scheduled to commence from the second week of November 2007 as a back-to-back arrangement with a regional workshop on Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) for Pacific Island Countries. However, the SEA workshop was cancelled at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances and therefore the complementary funding from the back-to-back arrangement was pulled. Initial efforts to secure additional funding to make up the shortfall needed have not been successful.

Status of Activity 2: Project preparations and start-up commenced from mid September 2007. Although originally scheduled to start from July, four main delays were encountered:

1. Gaining agreement on scope of the update exercise - desktop exercise vs in-country visits? Online version, hard copy or both? Web hosting? Links to other online resources/databases including Google Earth.
2. Finalising the terms of reference for the consultancy with regional partners (IUCN Oceania, University of Tasmania & Wetlands International Oceania) took longer than expected.
3. Engagement of the Associate Ramsar Officer in coordination of activities of the Eighth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation & Protected Areas in Papua New Guinea (22-26 October). SPREP and the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation organize this conference every five years and is the premier gathering for nature conservation practitioners from around the region.
4. Revision of the scale of the project – It was agreed (with regional partners) that the funds received for this activity were not sufficient to update the information for all Pacific Island Countries. Therefore, it was decided that it would be cost effective to conduct this activity as a pilot update for 4 Pacific Island Countries, the results of which, would be used to leverage further financial assistance towards a full update of the Directory.

The consultants for the directory update have been recruited and an inception meeting carried out to discuss the deliverables. An official letter has been sent out to participating Pacific Island Ramsar Parties (Fiji, Samoa, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia) seeking local coordinators and contacts with whom the consultants would work together to gather information (including maps). The consultants have also drafted a questionnaire, which has been sent out to countries and have begun the design of the database to house the updated directory information received.

Proposal

In light of the above, the kind consideration of SC-36 is sought in approving the carry forward of the amount allocated for activity 1 (CHF 19,556), for execution within the first six months of 2008. If this carry forward is approved, these funds will be used to leverage the shortfall required for conducting the workshop (USD 47,317). Further fundraising efforts are being carried out to make up the shortfall.

E) CREHO (Panama)**AIM OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE****1. Implementation of the Ramsar approach**

1.1 Describe briefly how your initiative is promoting the objectives of the Convention and how it is implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan through cooperation in your region:

The Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) promotes the Convention objectives 1, 2 and 3 in general and, specifically, the execution of some actions under the Ramsar's Strategic Plan and its Operational Objectives 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 12, 14, 18 and 20.

CREHO works through capacity building, knowledge and information exchange, and cooperation to:

- Strengthen the technical capabilities of the Ramsar Convention focal points and other key actors in the Americas
- Increase awareness about the importance of wetlands and the Ramsar Convention
- Encourage and promote the exchange of knowledge and information about wetlands
- Mobilize and promote actions for the conservation and wise use of wetlands
- Implement strategic measures in the wetlands.

The main topics on which CREHO is working during the 2006-2008 period are based on Ramsar's resolutions, technical guidelines and handbooks on wise use of wetlands, national wetlands policies, laws & institutions, wetlands CEPA; wetlands inventory, impact assessment, & managing wetlands. It has developed two training courses - Wetlands Management, and Environmental Impact Assessment & Environmental Evaluation Assessment - and it is starting to facilitate capacity building processes for national wetlands committees and other key actors.

SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE**2. Complete regional adherence and bottom-up approach**

2.1 Describe briefly if your initiative is based on a bottom-up approach:

At the 20th meeting of the Standing Committee (1997), the proposal was presented to create the Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere. Subsequently, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), formed by the Ministers for the Environment of Central America, in its XXIV regular session (Belize, 1998) endorsed the creation of the Centre. This proposal was also endorsed by the governments of the region at the first Pan-American meeting (1998), and then endorsed by the COP7 (1999, Resolution VII.26). The importance and contribution of CREHO was expressed by the Americas Contracting Parties during the III (2004) and IV (2007) Pan-American Ramsar meetings, as well as in the last COP9 (2005).

Based on this background, CREHO's work has been based on a needs assessment carried out by consulting Ramsar focal points and other key actors. On the basis of the findings, the Center produced the Regional Assessment of Capacity Building Needs (2005), the Strategic Plan for Capacity Building for Wetlands Integrated Management in the Western Hemisphere (2005) and the Regional Wetlands Training Program for the Western Hemisphere (2005), plus an analysis of key players (2006). On the basis of an analysis of the current implementation state of the Ramsar

Convention in the region, and within the institutional framework of the focal points, CREHO defined the key elements of its actions on an integrated context which include:

- ✓ Three lines of action: training, research and cooperation
- ✓ Eighteen thematic lines for capacity building, grouped into three priority segments directed to key groups both in the governmental sector and the civil society
- ✓ Three areas of direct incidence: wetlands national policies, national wetlands committees and integrated management of wetlands of international importance
- ✓ Priority geographic areas to develop specific activities in order to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands
- ✓ Support to regional initiatives being developed, with emphasis in capacity building (Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands, Central American Policy for Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands, Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative - WHMSI, Americas Water Birds Conservation Council)
- ✓ Synergies and alliances with key players (Ramsar Convention partner organizations, regional offices of other environmental agreements, other specialized organizations with presence in wetlands in the region)

2.2 *List the countries in the region which your initiative covers:*

All 29 Ramsar Contracting Parties in the regions of North America and the Neotropics.

2.3 *Specify those countries in your region who do not participate in the initiative (if so):*

Six non-Contracting Parties in the Neotropics region are not participating in the initiative (Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

3. **Active involvement of all relevant stakeholders**

3.1 *List the participants in your initiative and their affiliation:*

CREHO is focused on the full participation of all Ramsar Convention parties in the Western Hemisphere, as well as other key actors. It has a governing body integrated by representatives of the Ramsar focal points, the Ramsar Secretariat and the civil society.

On the other hand, CREHO's direct beneficiaries are professionals or technicians from the Americas region working in governmental institutions related to wetlands issues, non-governmental organizations working on wetlands -mainly Ramsar sites, private sector developing initiatives or using wetlands resources, independent professionals linked to decision-making processes regarding wetlands ecosystems, people responsible for policy development, site managers (protected areas, private reserves or properties located in wetlands).

3.2 *Indicate if only Ramsar administrative authorities at the national level, or also other relevant stakeholders (including ministries, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia and economic actors) are actively involved:*

CREHO involves mainly Ramsar focal points, but it is generating and/or facilitating alliances or work relations with different key wetland actors in the region, as well as promoting their involvement in activities performed by the Center. Some examples are Ramsar Partner Organizations, other international NGOs, local NGOs, intergovernmental bodies, other governmental authorities related to wetlands, donors (bilateral organizations, foundations), academia, media sector; it has also started initial approaches with the private sector.

4. **Development of collaboration based on commonly agreed terms**

4.1 Describe briefly how your regional network or centre is operating:

Activities carried out by CREHO include the procurement of space for establishing a network for knowledge and information exchange, such as case studies, technology, and research, among others. An informal network is still incipient, but it is increasing its mobility around the participants on CREHO's training courses. This network is operating on an electronic format through e-mails, and the idea for the coming years is to make it more active by using tools developed on CREHO Website (fora, chats, and bulletin, news, among other). Infowetland, a periodical bulletin developed by CREHO, is helping as well as a tool to stimulate exchange through this informal network. The vision with this network is to have, at the end, people trained on technical Ramsar tools exchanging their experiences, providing support and establishing alliances between them, and promoting in their own action the Ramsar Convention implementation.

Att. Attach the terms of reference (or other agreements) elaborated to guide its activities as separate documents:

The Strategic Outline is attached in Annex 1.

5. Involvement of other regional partners

5.1 List relevant intergovernmental or international organizations operating in your region:

CREHO recognizes the existence of other programs and actions in the region working on wetlands and with good expertise on specific issues. In that sense, CREHO involves those related with its activities based on specific opportunities to collaborate; some examples are: UICN, Wetlands International, Birdlife International, WWF, Ducks Unlimited, United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), Smithsonian Research Institute (STRI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Conservation International (CI), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and other multilateral environmental agreements, Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), Americas Waterbird Council, Western Hemisphere Shorebirds Reserve Network (WHSRN), Environmental and Development Central American Commission (CCAD), among others.

5.2 List those of them with whom you established common activities:

UICN, Wetlands International, Birdlife International, WWF, Ducks Unlimited, United Nations Environmental Program, Smithsonian Research Institute, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), Americas Waterbird Council.

5.3 List your activities in common:

CREHO invited Ramsar organization partners to participate as speakers in the training courses developed by the Center; on the other hand, CREHO was invited to participate in courses or events organized by those organizations.

With WHMSI, CREHO is developing the WHMSI website; CREHO has also offered its services to support WHMSI with its expertise in training sessions when they start to work under this initiative.

CREHO is a member of the Americas Waterbird Council.

CREHO & UICN have signed an agreement for the establishment of the Wetlands Documentary Center in CREHO, based on a Center donated by UICN-ORMA.

CREHO & Wetlands International developed a concept project together, and are seeking together for founding. Additionally, the initial presence of WI in the Neotropics will be established on CREHO facilities.

CREHO & Birdlife International have been working on a common project. Right now both of them are seeking founding (to Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act) to implement the project in the region.

CREHO & CMS developed a training course for decision makers.

6. Scientific and technical backing

6.1 List the scientific and technical partners that provide a solid backing to your initiative:

CREHO has the support of the Smithsonian Research Institute which is currently a member of the Board of Directors. Additionally, at the latest Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the establishment of a Scientific Advisory Committee, and requested the development of the terms of reference for this purpose, which are now under their review.

7. Targets of the initiative and their links with Ramsar

7.1 List your initiative's strategic and operational targets for the period 2006-2008:

For the first triennium (2006-2008) CREHO has a Work Plan which has been more than 60% implemented. This Work Plan was presented to the Board of Directors in 2005 and approved in 2006. It is currently under review, including the Center's Strategic Plan. This review is being led by a sub-group integrated by Board Members. Priorities are identified annually and implemented according to available resources. Depending on resources available, main targets for 2008 are:

- Implement the fundraising strategy
- Organize two workshops
- Strengthen the Center's capacity building services (includes National Wetlands Committees when resources are available, training and communication services like Website, Infowetland, and others specified in CREHO Communication Strategy).
- Continue supporting on going regional initiatives, actions and networks
- Finish on going projects.

7.2 Specify the relations of your targets with the objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan:

General Objective 1: The wise use of all wetlands. This Objective is related to CREHO through the training courses developed by the Center which are based on the Wise Use concept, stimulating the participants to develop, adopt and use the necessary and appropriate instruments and measures to ensure the wise use of all wetlands within their territories scope area.

General Objective 3: To promote international cooperation. This objective is related to the activities promoting the further development of regional wetland sustainable use initiatives (i.e., High Andean Wetlands Strategy, Central America Wetlands Policy); promoting the sharing of expertise and information, particularly through enhanced training opportunities, twinning and site networks, and Internet-based resource kits and knowledge and information sharing.

General Objective 4: Implementation capacity. This includes providing effective mechanisms for training and capacity-building to equip Contracting Parties to implement the Convention. This objective is related to the mechanism of training provided by CREHO (two main courses:

wetlands management plans and EIA & EAE for wetlands management). In addition, it includes the needs assessments; a general assessment was done on 2005, and specific assessments are in progress for the High Andean Wetlands Strategy. Relating to capacity building is the support to National Wetlands Committee, i.e., the Panamanian Committee, among others, which depends on the availability of resources.

Att. Attach your work plan for 2008:

The Work Plan is attached in Annex 2.

8. Raising awareness of Ramsar objectives

8.1 Describe briefly your activities in the fields of communication, education, and participatory processes with relevant stakeholders:

Regarding communications, CREHO has made available to the public information concerning activities being developed in the region using tools such as:

- CREHO Web page (www.creho.org), which includes interactive tools such as fora and diffusion sites where Contracting Parties and other interested actors have a place to promote their activities and let their wetlands be known.
- Quarterly electronic bulletin INFOWETLAND, written in Spanish and English, with a current circulation of some 500 different subscribers in different regions of the world, a number which is increasing because the bulletin has proved to be an accepted and effective tool.
- Support is being provided to CeCOP (the Ramsar Convention Communication, Education and Awareness Program) by searching and spreading information about actions being implemented within the program framework and by promoting CeCOP as a conservation tool in all technical workshops implemented by CREHO.
- Wetlands Documentation Center established in 2006 as a specialized library open to the public at large.
- Communications strategy was developed and will be implemented for the next period based on resources available.

Regarding education, keeping in mind that training is a type of education, the Center is implementing its Training Program via specialized training courses on wetlands issues, as mentioned in different parts of this report, as well as attending and giving lectures in public fora, and symposiums, among others.

Regarding participatory processes, CREHO mobilizes and promotes actions for the conservation and wise use of wetlands – by facilitating, participating in and supporting wetlands conservation processes and actions, as well as by supporting governmental officials and other key players from the civil society, community-based organizations and community leaders, through technical assistance, specific advisory services, development of materials and others. One example is the recent installation of the Panamanian National Wetlands Committee, after a year of facilitation provided by CREHO, via an Administrative Resolution of the National Environmental Authority (ANAM). At the regional level, CREHO actively participates in processes related to the Strategy for the High Andean Wetlands, the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative and the Americas Water Birds Conservation Council.

8.2 Describe briefly the increased support for Ramsar objectives resulting from these activities. (This information may be used by Ramsar's CEPA Oversight Panel, according to Standing Committee Decision 35-14):

CREHO supports the Operational Objective 9.1, promoting the CEPA program to all CREHO beneficiaries. In addition, it has developed electronic communication tools to promote the

communication, exchange of ideas, and sharing of knowledge among the actors in wetland management, in particular of Ramsar sites.

Additionally, CREHO is designing a concept project to establish new facilities directed to develop a educational wetland centre that supports regional training activities as well as public awareness at local level.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

9. Who provides political and financial support?

9.1 List all your sources and the amounts of financial support for the triennium 2006-2008:

CREHO INCOMES IN KIND AND CASH 2006-2008 (in US Dollars)

SOURCE	2006		2007 (1)		2008 (2)	
	CASH	KIND	CASH	KIND	CASH	KIND
ANAM	84,000	12,430	40,536		40,536	
AVINA	3,500		17,250		17,250	
CEPA	1,490					
CMS			35,800			
Cía. Minera Quebrada Blanca	3,820					
Collahuasi		1,300				
Directivos		6,400				
Ecuador		1,200				
Gobierno de Noruega	7,766					
Lecturers		2,800				
MAP		738				
National workshops		4,500				
PNUMA		1,380				
Ramsar	63,424		62,300		64,000	
USFWS	39,149		135,815			
Voluntarios PNUMA		1,025				
Voluntiers		100				
Services			17,700		400	
TOTAL	203,149	31,873	309,401		122,186	-

(1) Total incomes in services and in kind are still calculated for this period.

(2) Additional incomes in kind and cash will depend on fundraising for this period. Estimates are not included.

9.2 List your sources and amounts of financial support for the year 2007:

Cf. the table above.

9.3 List concisely (according to main budget lines) your expenditures for 2007. (If final figures are not yet available when writing your report, indicate an overall expenditure forecast and provide brief information about its likely accuracy):

Final figures for this 2007 are not yet available. Approximately expenditures (in cash and kind) as follows:

Approximative total:	170,000 USD
Personnel:	50,000 USD
Subcontracts:	5,000 USD
Travel:	3,800 USD
Capital goods:	4,000 USD
Perishable goods:	3,500 USD
Administration, control & evaluation:	5,000 USD
Courses:	80,000 USD
Other projects expenses:	20,000 USD

10. Financial planning*10.1 Summarize your funding needs (according to the main budget lines used above) for 2008:*

Total needed:	343,777 USD
Personnel:	97,862 USD
Subcontracts:	12,750 USD
Travel:	11,879 USD
Capital goods:	3,893 USD
Perishable goods:	6,050 USD
Administration, control & evaluation	39,343 USD
Courses:	117,000 USD
Other projects	55,000 USD

10.2 List the secured funding for your initiative for 2008 (specifying the sources):

Sources: Panama National Environmental Authority, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Ramsar Convention (2008 requested), CREHO funds, Avina Foundation.

Personnel:	97,862 USD
Subcontracts:	5,750 USD
Travel:	7,379 USD
Capital goods:	3,893 USD
Perishable goods:	6,050 USD
Administration, control & evaluation:	34,343 USD
Courses:	35,741 USD
Other projects	17,250 USD

11. Request for Ramsar core budget support*11.1 Specify your funding request from the Ramsar core budget for 2008:*

Total:	80,000 CHF (approx. 72,500 USD)
Personnel:	30,000 CHF
Subcontracts:	5,000 CHF
Travel:	5,000 CHF
Capital goods:	5,000 CHF
Administration, control & evaluation:	5,000 CHF
Courses:	30,000 CHF

GOVERNANCE OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE**12. Governance mechanisms in place***12.1 Describe the governance and advisory mechanisms and structures (e.g. committees) established to provide guidance and insight to your initiative:*

The Center's governance body is the Board of Directors, which is a decision making and strategic body, integrated by representatives of the Americas at the Standing Committee, a representative of the Ramsar Conventions Organization Partners, a representative from world-level Research Centers related to wetlands, a representative of the Panamanian Ramsar focal Point and a representative from the Ramsar Secretariat.

Att. Attach terms of references, rules of procedures, or operational guidelines, where existing:

The Internal Regulations are attached in Annex 3.

13. Coordination with the Ramsar Secretariat*13.1 Specify the operational arrangements between the governance structures of your initiative and the Ramsar Secretariat:*

The Government of Panama and the Ramsar Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Centre during the 29th meeting of the Standing Committee held in Gland, Switzerland, in February 2003. The Centre started activities in January 2004. CREHO's establishment agreement has defined as the mechanism for coordination with the Convention Secretariat. Based on it, the Convention Secretariat has a permanent seat on CREHO's Board of Directors.

13.2 List the full name, telephone and e-mail contact of the main focal point of your initiative:

Directora CREHO, Rosa Montanez, rmontanez@creho.org, +507 317 12 42

Annex 1**The Center's Strategic Outline**

The Center's Strategic Outline is shown next; it was produced on the basis of the objectives established in the Agreement that creates the Center. From this outline, four action lines (or pillars) are derived, on which the Annual Workplan is designed: research (SO1), training (SO2), cooperation (SO3), and operations (SO4).

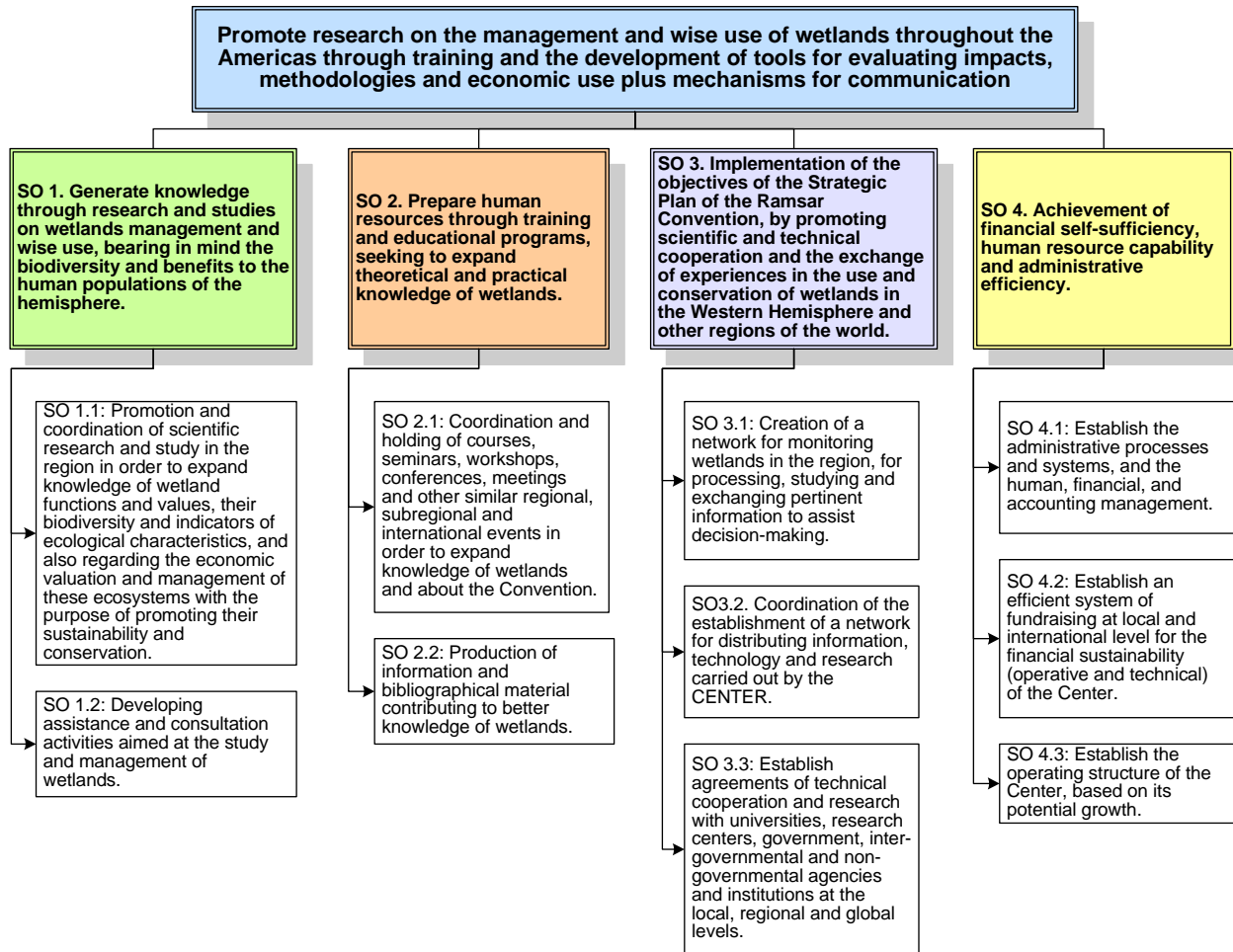
Vision

The loss of wetlands has ceased in the Western Hemisphere. Wetlands are conserved and rehabilitated through integral management practices that guarantee its wise use and enjoyment based on the Ramsar Convention's guidelines.

Mission

CREHO contributes to the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Western Hemisphere, sources of life for human populations and biodiversity, through the strengthening of capacities based on the technical implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



Annex 2

Workplan 2006-2008

1. Action line - research {OE 1 and SO 1.1 and 1.2}

1.1. Program conception and design

- To produce a map of players showing current initiatives regarding wetlands (research, training, networks, data bases, geographic information systems, etc.) and action areas, in order to identify thematic and geographic voids and overlapping activities and to generate a reference bank for future CREHO projects or to establish strategic alliances.
- To identify and establish thematic and geographic priorities in order to promote research associated to wetlands in the Western Hemisphere.
- To design projects for fundraising to support the establishment of a CREHO / Wetlands of the Americas database, including a database of specialists, institutes and contacts; as much as possible, the starting point will be existent databases; if not possible, a survey will be applied to start gathering information in a more structured way.
- To produce at least three (3) project profiles and budgets to raise the resources necessary to implement actions in the thematic action line.

1.2. Establishment of a Scientific Advisory Committee⁷

- To establish functioning guidelines for this committee within the framework of CREHO's training program.
- To formally install the Scientific Advisory Committee and to produce the workplan and follow-up plan of the committee.

2. Action line – training {OE 2 and SO 2.1, 2.2}

2.1. Training needs assessment

- To design training needs assessment for North America in consultation with the respective focal points.
- To carry out a sub-regional training needs assessment within the framework of the High Andean Wetlands Strategy.
- To carry out an institutional needs assessment of the newly created Autoridad de Recursos Acuáticos (Aquatic Resources Authority) in Panama.

2.2. Project design

- To design projects for fundraising within the framework of the Central American Policy for the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands and the High Andean Wetlands Strategy.
- To design projects for fundraising using as a reference the Strengthening Needs Assessment, the Strengthening Plan and the Training Plan, complementing these with the map of key players (point 1.1).

2.3. Implementation of specific activities

- To identify complementary resources for the Caribbean training course.
- To carry out the wetlands management course for the Caribbean.
- To design proposals and identify resources for the Ramsar/CMS workshop.

⁷ This committee will support the training action line; it is viewed as an advisor in technical issues

- To participate in an initiative in the Caribbean sub-region.

2.4. Production of information, bibliographic and other materials

- To carry out awareness-raising and promotion activities regarding wetlands, the Ramsar Convention and CREHO (i.e, celebrate World Wetlands Day, participate in conferences and/or expositions).
- To gather information for an specialized wetlands glossary (English / Spanish).
- To start the design and production of a technical publication.

3. Action line - cooperation {OE 3 and SO 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3}

3.1. Strategic alliances

- To provide continuity to Cooperation Agreements signed with City of Knowledge, CATHALAC (Center for Water and Humid Tropic for Latin America and Caribbean), IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature).
- To formalize a working mechanism with Ramsar's Advisory Committee for Capacity Building.
- To establish a formal working mechanism with RIZA.
- To identify and establish a working mechanism with a recognized university or one with incidence in the topic of wetlands in each sub-region.
- To define a working mechanism and action plan to support CEPA.
- To follow-up on the links established with FUNGAP, Wetland Network CYTED, WetLink, MAP, TNC Training Network.

3.2. Creation of a wetlands information system

- To establish criteria for a wetlands geographic information system for the region, administered by the Center, in order to support national and regional wetlands initiatives, such as the High Andean Wetlands Strategy and the Central American Policy for the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands.
- To design project profiles for fundraising.
- To follow-up on the Wetlands Documentation Center and find the resources needed to put key information on line in order to provide services at the regional level.
- To follow-up on communications with Ramsar focal points and other contacts to consult with them and exchange information, among other things.

3.3. Participation and facilitation of initiatives associated to the wetlands

- To participate in events, processes, projects and/or other types of initiatives related to CREHO's objectives, such as WHMSI (Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative) and the High Andean Wetlands Strategy.
- To facilitate the establishment and strengthening of Panama's Wetlands National Committee and the production of the National Policy on Wetlands.

4. Action line - operations {OE 4 and SO 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3}

4.1. Establishment of the office

- To complete the establishment of CREHO's offices.
- To hire the institutional development officer and the technical officer and a part-time assistant to provide administrative support and help with communications and the documentation center.

- To keep spreading CREHO's mission using available events and instances, such as regional meetings, the Mesoamerican Congress on Protected Areas, meetings of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), National Wetlands Committees, meetings of the Standing Committee, meetings of sub-regional initiatives in the Caribbean, South America and North America.

4.2. Follow-up of systems and processes

- To carry out CREHO's annual evaluation using the Institutional Development Framework and comparing its results with the 2004 baseline.
- To follow-up and update the Center's strategic (cyclic) strategic plan.
- To follow-up day-to-day operations such as accounting, financing, administration, according to a monthly table.
- To review and update operational handbooks.

4.3. Fundraising

- To produce a diversified fundraising plan.
- To implement the fundraising plan with at least one proposal delivered per month.
- To follow-up on current donors: ANAM, USFWS, Ramsar.
- To follow-up on potential donors: GEF, Avina, CIDA, European countries (Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland), GTZ, among others (see monthly table)

4.4. CREHO's positioning

- To produce CREHO's communication strategy.
- To put on line and periodically review the Web page.
- To produce the electronic bulletin - *Infobumedal*.

4.5. Strengthening of the Board of Directors

- To promote the participation in the Board of Directors – workshop for the Board of Directors.
- To organize the Board of Directors' annual meeting.

Annex 3

Board of Directors' Internal Regulations

Foreword

The Board of Directors' Internal Regulations is a document intended to guide the Board's functioning and to complement the Framework Agreement for the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere, which was subscribed in Gland, Switzerland, on February 28th, 2003, between the government of the Republic of Panama and the Secretariat of The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat.

The Center is a regional international organization with its own legal personality and patrimony geared to fulfilling its general goal of "promote research in the management and wise use of wetlands throughout the Americas through training and the development of tools for evaluating impacts, methodologies and economic valuation, plus the establishment of communications means". Its highest governance body is the Board of Directors.

It is important to point out that these regulations are part of a series of documents for the management of the organization that include:

- Institutional development framework
- Strategic and annual plan
- Institutional profile
- Management handbook
- Financial handbook
- Board of Directors' Internal regulations and election by-laws

The purpose of these tools is to guide the organization and its personnel through internal and external communication processes, in decision-making, in the identification of priorities and in the identification of specific situations with their respective solutions. Due to the complexity of human relationships and organizational development processes, none of these documents intends to be restrictive; thus, those situations that are not contemplated in these regulations will be settled according to universally accepted ethical and moral principles.

In this sense, in case of doubts regarding the content of this document, it must firstly be taken in its literal sense. If voids are found or more than one interpretation is possible, the interpretation more closely related to the spirit of the letter will prevail. However, if doubts persist, they should be cleared by the Board of Directors' Executive Committee⁸ or by the person designated by it; the amendments will be incorporated according to Article 5.

1. GOVERNANCE BODIES AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

The Center's administrative bodies are the Board of Directors and the Executive Direction, the Board of Directors being the highest governing body on which the final responsibility for critical decisions concerning the Center rests.

Board Membership

According to Article V of the Framework Convention, the Board of Directors will be made up of the following *ad-honorem* members:

1. One representative from the Panamanian government, who will preside it.
2. One representative from the Ramsar Convention Contracting Parties belonging to the Western Hemisphere.
3. One representative from the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.
4. One representative from the International Organizations Associated to the Ramsar Convention.
5. One representative from world-level Research Centers related to the issue.
6. Additional members determined by the Board of Directors.

Appointment and permanency of members

⁸ The Executive Committee (EC) is an instance proposed to act in situations which do not require to be considered by the entire Board of Directors, with the purpose to speed up the Center's internal operational procedures and to act as an immediate sounding board for the Executive Director. Members for the Executive Committee have been identified as the President of the Board of Directors, the Secretariat representative and the STRI representative. This identification is based upon their proximity, which can help speed up the consultation process, especially concerning pressing issues.

The spaces for participation assigned to the Panamanian Government and the Secretariat in the Board of Directors are permanent and the appointment of their representatives will be the competence of those organisms.

The spaces for participation in the Board of Directors assigned to the Ramsar Convention Contracting Parties belonging to the Western Hemisphere will rotate and their appointment will be made by the governments through elections carried out in the context of the Conferences of the Parties. The representatives of the Parts in the region at the Board of Directors will be the same representatives at the Permanent Committee, and will be elected during the Conference of the Parties every three years.

The representation from the donor agencies will also be rotating. The election of the donor agency / country to the Board will be based upon the criteria of effective and substantive contributions made in the previous three-year period. The President of the Board, through consultations with the Secretariat and the Executive Direction, will recommend the donor, and the presidency will submit its recommendation to the Board for its approval. The President of the Board will formally invite the Ramsar representative from the country (Administrative Authority) or the Director of the selected agency to become a member of the Board. The designated agency will provide the Presidency of the Board (with a copy to the Center's Director) the name and other data regarding the person that will be its representative.

The Board of Directors will decide, by a majority, who should be the representative from the Research Centers, on the basis of the regional experience a particular center has and its possible active contribution to the Hemispheric center's performance.

To determine which will be the organization associated to Ramsar to become part of the Board of Directors every three years, the Presidency of the Board of Directors will inquire about the interest of the organizations associated to Ramsar y will select the representative of those that comply with the following requirements:

1. There is interest, formally expressed to the Presidency of the Board within the period allotted for such an expression of interest, period that will be determined through consultations between the Presidency of the Board and the organizations associated to Ramsar
2. The organization has effectively and actively shown its support to CREHO during the three years prior to its postulation
3. The organization associated to Ramsar is known and has had an effective presence in the region during the three years prior to its postulation
4. The partner organization is planning concrete actions in the region for the three-year period as member of CREHO's Board of Directors, in collaboration with CREHO in areas of common interest
5. The partner organization is able to cover its expenses to participate in the annual meetings of CREHO's Board of Directors
6. The partner organization is willing to proactively and effectively participate in the development and strengthening of CREHO
7. The organization invited to be part of the Board of Directors will name a representative with the power to make decisions; this representative must be interested in the issues being addressed by CREHO as well as at least a seven-year experience at the regional level

This position will rotate every three years; the change will take place the year after the celebration of a Conference of the Parts, to ensure a gradual change of the members of the Board.

Board Functions

According to Article VII of the Framework Agreement, the general Board functions are:

1. To approve the Center's programs and activities.
2. To approve the Center's budget.
3. To review annual reports submitted by the Center's Executive Director and to provide the Executive Director with all the guidelines deemed necessary.
4. To approve the Center's financial and personnel regulations.
5. To meet in an ordinary session once a year; to meet in extraordinary sessions called by the President, when asked by a simple majority members of the Board of Directors.
6. To establish its own internal regulations and its election by-laws.
7. To design and to establish the terms of reference to appoint the Center's Executive Director through an open contest.
8. To support the Executive Director in fundraising activities for the Center.
9. To provide follow-up to the Center's strategic planning.
10. To watch over the Center's financial strength.
11. To mediate among contending committees and any other internal problem involving the Executive Director.

Presidency of the Board of Directors

According to Article VI of the Framework Agreement, the representative from the Panamanian Government in the Board of Directors will be the General Administrator of the Environmental National Authority (Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente-ANAM), in its capacity as the Convention's Administrative Authority. This representative will preside the Board of Directors.

Functions of the Board President

1. With respect to meetings: to open and close meetings, to facilitate discussions, to ensure compliance with rules, to put motions to the vote and to announce decisions taken, to decide the content of the order of the day in accordance with the rules, to control the proceedings and to maintain order.
2. With respect to CREHO's administration: to provide follow-up to actions implemented by the Center, its strategic as well as operational and financial planning.
3. With respect to CREHO's legal issues: to represent the Center in the signing of agreements, pacts and contracts or to design the Center's Executive Director as its representative.
4. With respect to inter-institutional coordination: to support the Center's Executive Director in order to speed up actions related to ANAM.

2. ROTATION OF MEMBERS IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members to the Board of Directors will be selected for a three-year period, with the exception of the representative from the Panamanian Government and the Convention Secretariat, whose places in the Board are permanent.

3. SESSIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following are basic procedures to carry out meetings of the Board of Directors.

Ordinary sessions

The Board of Directors will meet in ordinary session once a year.

Extraordinary sessions

The President will convene to extraordinary sessions when at least the majority of the Board members ask for them. The notice of the meeting will be provided by the Center's Executive Director with at least two (2) months anticipation.

If the need arises to make an urgent decision to address a situation that could not follow the procedures established for an extraordinary session, such a decision will be made through communications via e-mail and teleconferences arranged by the Executive Direction.

Quorum

Quorum will be established with a simple majority of the Board members.

Reporter

In each session of the Board of Directors, a reporter will be chosen to register the debates and the agreements in the necessary minutes.

Participation of third parties in Board of Directors' meetings

The participation of third parties will only be possible after a request is made with due anticipation and is previously included in the meeting's agenda.

Participation of observers

Observers could be invited to participate in a meeting if approved by a simple majority of the Board members when the convening is being done.

Financing agencies, international organizations, inter-governmental organizations wishing to be observers at Board meetings will submit their request to the Center's Director, who will ask Board members for their opinion on the issue. The Board reserves its right to accept or not these requests, on the basis of the following criteria:

- If the organization carries out activities in the area of training, research or the like associated to the Center's goals and activities.
- If the organization is co-sponsoring some project with the Center.
- If the organization substantially contributes to the Center's functioning.
- Any other cause that will justify its participation as judged by Board members.

Order of the day

1. The provisional order of the day for the Board meeting will be prepared by the Center's Director, who will submit all proposals deemed useful with respect to the Center's administration, in consultation with the members of the Board.
2. The provisional agenda will be communicated to the members of the Board at least one month before the meeting. Members of the Board will have three weeks to send their comments and suggestions to be incorporated into the agenda.
3. The agenda will undergo its final review at the start of the session for its final approval.

Adoption of the agenda

At the beginning of each session, the Board of Directors will adopt the agenda for that session, by a simple majority of the members present and with the right to vote.

Amendments, suppressions and additions

During a session, the Board of Directors can modify the order of the issues included in the agenda, adding or suppressing issues by a simple majority of the members present and with the right to vote.

Participation

Members of the Board of Directors can participate, verbally or in writing, in the meetings; the Center's Executive Director can participate in the meetings but has no right to vote. In the case of observers, invitees or others, they will be able to participate with the authorization of the President and will have no right to vote.

Order of the interventions

The President will call the people in the order in which they had expressed their interest to participate.

Time for the interventions

The time allotted for the interventions will be determined by the President or the Board in accordance with the agenda and the way the session is taking place.

Matter of order

During discussions, a member of the Board or the Center's Executive Director can call for a matter of order on any issue or any moment; the point will be immediately decided by the President. Any member of the Board can appeal the President's decision, which will only be changed by a decision by a majority of the members present at the session.

Suspension, postponement, closing

Any member of the Board can, at any moment, propose the suspension, postponement or closing of a meeting, session or debate. Such a motion must be immediately submitted for voting by the plenary and will be decided by a simple majority of members present. The order of priority of such motions will be as follows:

- Suspension of meeting.

- Postponement of debate about point being discussed.
- Closing of debate about point being discussed.

The decision taken must be sustained, as well as its follow-up, and be written into the minutes of the meeting.

4. VOTING

The following are key elements of the voting process.

General principles

- Each and every member of the Board has the right to vote.
- Decisions will be taken by consensus as much as possible.
- When consensus is not possible, the differing proposals will be submitted to a vote and decisions will be taken by simple majority of the members present with the right to vote.
- Voting will take place by a rising of hands, except in the cases when a member of the Board asks for the vote to be made by calling by a list.
- Every proposal submitted by members of the Board to be considered during ordinary or extraordinary sessions, either by consensus or by vote, will have to be included in the minutes of the session, with the number of votes for or against received, or the abstentions.

Vote on amendments

- When an amendment is attached to a proposal, the amendment will be voted first.
- When two or more amendments are attached to a proposal, the Board will first vote on the last amendment submitted to its consideration by the President. The process will continue until each amendment is submitted to a vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the proposed amendment will be put to a vote. If the amendment is not adopted, the proposal will be submitted to a vote in its original form. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds, suppress or review part of that proposal.

Tie in a vote

A proposal will be considered as rejected if it obtains the same number of votes against and in favor.

Special procedures

To adopt an important and exceptionally urgent measure, the approval of the Board of Directors will be required. While the Board is not in session, the President may, in writing and through the Executive Direction, consult with other members. The proposed measure will be adopted if approved by two thirds of the members.

5. FINAL DISPOSITIONS

Amendments

Procedure rules may be amended, with the exception of those cases when they include resolutions / dispositions of the Center's Framework Agreement by a decision from two thirds of the members of the Board.

Conflict resolution

In case of conflicts between the text and the spirit of the resolutions from the Center's Framework Agreement and any norm established in these regulations, the Framework Agreement resolutions will prevail.

F) Ramsar Centre, Iran

AIM OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

1. Implementation of the Ramsar approach

1.1 Describe briefly how your initiative is promoting the objectives of the Convention and how it is implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan through cooperation in your region:

The special needs of the countries in the region in terms of training and research to meet the major challenges, including drought and other natural disasters, which have caused serious adverse impacts on wetlands and their dependent species, including water birds, as acknowledged in Resolution VIII.35, is recognized and establishing mechanisms for cooperation and coordination will play a significant role in assisting Contracting Parties in West and Central Asia to fulfill the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 of the Convention. The RRC-CWA will enhance the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the region through training, research, advocacy and public awareness programmes. Working to support the implementation activities of contracting parties for the effective management and conservation of wetlands, the objectives of the Center are to:

- Build human capacity and engage in outreach
- Promote scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of knowledge, including traditional knowledge,
- Promote wise use of wetlands through research and sustainable management
- Encourage accession of non contacting parties in the region.

SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

2. Complete regional adherence and bottom-up approach

2.1 Describe briefly if your initiative is based on a bottom-up approach:

Adoption of Center TOR: The Terms of reference of Center was revised and adopted during the Meeting for Preparation and Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Regional Training and Research Center for Central and West Asia which was held on 27-28 February 2005 in coastal city of Ramsar in the Islamic Republic of Iran. At this meeting Secretary General of the convention and several other internationally known experts and scientists participated, the Terms of Reference of the Ramsar Regional Center for Central and West Asia were finalized and the responsibility was given to the interim secretariat of the Center to follow up the legalization and establishment processes.

Developing Center Strategy: To enable to the Regional Centre to move forward and meet the training and research needs of the region it was agreed that a Strategy and Action Plan for the Centre was required. To launch the activities of center, and based on Ramsar secretariat suggestion, Islamic republic of Iran decided to develop the draft strategy of center with the help of international consultant. Therefore to finalize the draft strategy and development of regional inputs for the Ramsar Regional Center meeting intended for Developing strategy, the international consultant prepare the Needs Analysis Questionnaire. Center strategy is based on the Terms of Reference developed for the Centre and initial draft strategies produced by the Interim Secretary and the Department of Environment, Iran, together with inputs from a needs analysis questionnaire circulated to stakeholders in the region, a workshop attended by the managers of Ramsar Wetlands in Iran and discussions with key international stakeholders. As far has possible the Strategy is a reflection of the needs of the Region. The Center strategy was approved by

Representatives of Ramsar Secretariat, Governments of I.R. Iran, Tajikistan, Kirgystan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmeinistan, Armenia, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen and Iraq at a Meeting of contracting and non contracting parties held in Bandar Abbas, Islamic Republic of Iran, 5th and 6th February 2007

Collaborative Management Board Meeting: The Center made up of the following bodies: the Collaborative Management Board and the Secretariat. First Collaborative Management Board Meeting 31 May 2007 held in Center office in Ramsar city. Representatives of Government of I.R. Iran, Ramsar Senior Advisor for Asia Pacific, Islamic Republic of Azarbaijan, UNESCO, Mazandaran Province and Coordinator of Ramsar Regional Center were participate in this meeting and Strategy, Budget and Work plan of this center was finalized by Meeting. Also First Executive Director of the center elected by the member of CMB in this one-day meeting. Yemen (As representative of west Asian countries) and one of the IOPs was supposed to attend to this meeting but unfortunately they couldn't manage to participate in CMB meeting.

2.2 List the countries in the region which your initiative covers:

The following 12 Contracting Parties: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, I.R Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Syria, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, United Arab Emirates.

Plus the following seven non-Contracting Parties: Yemen, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan.

2.3 Specify those countries in your region who do not participate in the initiative (if so):

No response from was so far received from Kuwait, Oman and Qatar.

3. Active involvement of all relevant stakeholders

3.1 List the participants in your initiative and their affiliation:

The Centre will work to meet the wetland training and research needs of the Ramsar Convention in the Central and West Asia Region as defined by the Ramsar Secretariat. The Centre will also seek to work with other contracting and non contracting parties in all activities and in particular to learn from the countries with special experience in wetland conservation and wise use.

3.2 Indicate if only Ramsar administrative authorities at national level, or also other relevant stakeholders (including ministries, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia and economic actors) are actively involved:

The main target groups for the Centre are those people and organisations that -

- work in wetland management and conservation at all levels, and especially those connected with Ramsar designated wetlands
- Through their direct or indirect use of wetland resources and have an impact on the overall integrity of wetlands.

The specific target groups are listed below. The Centre will work at the international, regional and national levels but will focus on actions that have a regional scale impact and in particular will work with people that can have a significant impact on the management and wise use of wetlands in their countries.

Key Target Groups and Stakeholders at international and regional levels:

- International Organisations
- Regional Organisations
- Scientific/Academic communities
- Conservation Groups/Organisations/ Societies
- Concerned Governments
- Donors
- Media
- NGOs
- Regional Projects

at national level:

- National Government Agencies and Ministries and especially Ramsar Focal points.
- Policy Makers
- Media
- Universities
- Research Institutions
- NGO Focal Points and NGOs generally
- Potential Donors

at wetland site level:

- Local Government (Relevant Agencies)
- Wetland Managers and Staff
- Local Religious Leaders
- Municipalities
- Media
- Education Authorities
- Schools (Teachers and Students)
- Businesses
- Agricultural (Farmers and Cooperatives)
- Fisheries (Individuals and Cooperatives)
- Hunters and Hunting organisations
- General Public
- Tourists
- NGOs
- Community Based Organisation
- Law Enforcement Agencies

Since center started its work recently, National focal point of Ramsar was involved in its activities and unfortunately other stockholders are not founded yet. There are a lot of potential active stakeholders in this region which we hope center will involve them in its future activities.

4. Development of collaboration based on commonly agreed terms

4.1 *Describe briefly how your regional network or centre is operating:*

The terms of reference for the Center fully describe its operation.

Att. Attach the terms of reference (or other agreements) elaborated to guide its activities as separate documents:

The Terms of Reference are attached in Annex 1.

5. Involvement of other regional partners

5.1 List relevant intergovernmental or international organizations operating in your region:

WWF, Birdlife International, IUCN-West and Central Asia Office, UNDP/GEF project (Kazakhstan ,Turkmenistan and Iran), JICA Office, Iran, British Council

5.2 *List those of them with whom you established common activities:*

5.3 *List your activities in common:*

IUCN-West and Central Asia Office: two bodies agreed to establish network on training programs and public awareness activities

Bird Life International-West Asia: work on Wings over Wetlands (WOW) project and also agreed establishment of network on training programs, also center agreed to host one of the Board meeting of this project

UNDP/GEF project Iran: there are two projects on wetlands: “Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Water birds in Asia” and “conservation of Iranian wetlands”, The Parties cooperate in the sphere of wetland ecosystem and biological diversity conservation as well as their training activities on the basis of reciprocity.

UNDP/ GEF Kazakhstan: working to develop training workshop on Wetlands Inventory for Central Asia in Russian Language

UNDP/GEF Turkmenistan: working on Building capacity on water bird Census

British Council Iran: Support several training workshop and meeting of Center

6. Scientific and technical backing

6.1 *List the scientific and technical partners that provide a solid backing to your initiative:*

Due to subject of training programs, potential scientific and technical partners will be chosen.

7. Targets of the initiative and their links with Ramsar

7.1 *List your initiative’s strategic and operational targets for the period 2006-2008:*

7.2 *Specify the relations of your targets with the objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan:*

The general targets of the Centre are capacity building, networking and communication, public awareness and education, study and research. These four general targets are reflected in six specific targets. These targets have been developed as a result extensive discussion and each is based on clearly identified rationale. The specific objectives of the Centre shall be to -

1. Ensure that the major stakeholders involved in wetland management have the knowledge, skills and ability needed to effectively conserve wetlands and promote their wise use.
2. Enhance communication, cooperation and networking to allow the effective dissemination of knowledge and information and sharing of experience.
3. Improve the conservation and wise use of wetlands through facilitation and promotion of appropriate research programmes.
4. Raise the awareness of key stakeholders about the importance of conservation and wise use of wetlands and promote public participation in wetland management.
5. Encourage the accession of non contracting parties of the region to the Ramsar Convention.

6. Develop the structures and capacities to build an active, robust and viable Centre.

Att. Attach your work plan for 2008:

2008-2009 Targets, Action Plan and Budget are attached in Annex 2.

8. Raising awareness of Ramsar objectives

8.1 Describe briefly your activities in the fields of communication, education, and participatory processes with relevant stakeholders:

8.2 Describe briefly the increased support for Ramsar objectives resulting from these activities. (This information may be used by Ramsar's CEPA Oversight Panel, according to Standing Committee Decision 35-14):

According to the Regional Strengthening Needs Assessment, there is little knowledge about wetland management and the Ramsar Convention among the population that is not directly involved on these issues, a lack that affects wetland conservation in the region. Participants in the assessment suggested diverse activities of communication, promotion and outreach to raise public awareness. Environmental education pertaining wetlands and their conservation was identified among the main priorities. To fill this gap, the Plan will include the CEPA as one of its strengthening tools as it has proven effective in European and English speaking countries. CEPA was conceived as a supporting, advisory and exchange tool for teachers and other professionals dedicated to environmental awareness and education activities who often find themselves isolated in their educational institutions and daily tasks, leaving them with little time to establish contacts with their peers elsewhere and share knowledge and experiences to deliver solutions. During the implementation of the Plan, RRC-CWA will adapt CEPA to conditions in the Western and Central Asia both in terms of language and culture, so that its content, tools and materials are adopted both locally and regionally.

Local communities in general (landowners, indigenous peoples, rural communities, media staff, community-based organizations), government institutions (focal points, environmental and education agencies, Ramsar site managers, wetland committees, local government authorities, environmental planners, educators, diplomatic representations), international organizations (regional organizations, bilateral and multilateral); business sector, organizations and entrepreneurs, civil society organizations (civil organization networks and alliances, libraries, educators, NGOs, research centers), etc.

Arabic and Russian are two main languages in this region so providing RRC-CWA websites and other environmental education materials and tools for CEPA's activities in three main languages, Arabic, Russian and English is the most important activities that this center has planning for. Through the Internet, e-list (mailing list) and other direct contacts, RRC-CWA will identify new materials in the region that will be made available through RRC-CWA website, including a brief description of all materials so that interested individuals and institutions may have easier access.

RRC-CWA will also take advantage of regional meetings, events and other activities. RRC-CWA will conduct training activities to encourage information exchange at the regional level, including training workshops, fora, seminars and conferences in which government authorities and NGO will play a major role.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

9. Who provides political and financial support?

9.1 List all your sources and the amounts of financial support for the triennium 2006-2008:

9.2 List your sources and amounts of financial support for the year 2007:

2006: Government of Islamic Republic of Iran: 104,600 CHF
 Ramsar Secretariat: 20,000 CHF
 Kingdom of Norway: 9,720 CHF
 British Council: 10,000 CHF

2007: Government of Islamic Republic of Iran: 109,000 CHF
 Ramsar Secretariat: 47,000 CHF
 British Council: 10,000 CHF

2008: Government of Islamic Republic of Iran: 130,000 CHF
 Ramsar Secretariat: 80,000 CHF
 British Council: not allocated yet

9.3 *List concisely (according to main budget lines) your expenditures for 2007. (If final figures are not yet available when writing your report, indicate an overall expenditure forecast and provide brief information about its likely accuracy):*

		in million Iranian Rials (m IRR)
Staff & unning costs 2006	1147 m IRR	
Staff & running costs Jan-June 2007	224 m IRR	
Staff & running costs Jul-Dec 2007	264 m IRR (not paid yet)	
25% overhead charge CEO	409 m IRR	
Total 2006-2007	2044 m IRR	241,423 CHF exchange rate: 8446.49 IRR/CHF

10. Financial planning

10.1 *Summarize your funding needs (according to the main budget lines used above) for 2008:*

Itemized budget estimations for 2008-2009 are provided in Annex 2, adding up to 299,000 Euros (roughly 474,900 CHF) for both years together.

10.2 *List the secured funding for your initiative for 2008 (specifying the sources):*

For 2008, the estimated expenses correspond to 240,000 CHF. To this, the Government of Iran is contributing the equivalent of 130,000 CHF, and other resources 30,000 CHF, leaving 80,000 CHF hopefully to be covered by the Ramsar core budget contribution.

11. Request for Ramsar core budget support

11.1 *Specify your funding request from the Ramsar core budget for 2008:*

A contribution of 80,000 CHF is requested from the Ramsar core budget.

GOVERNANCE OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

12. Governance mechanisms in place

12.1 *Describe the governance and advisory mechanisms and structures (e.g. committees) established to provide guidance and insight to your initiative:*

The Center will be made up of the Collaborative Management Board, and the Secretariat. Details are provided in the Terms of Reference attached in Annex 1.

Att. Attach terms of references, rules of procedures, or operational guidelines, where existing:

Terms of Reference of the Center are attached in Annex 1.

13. Coordination with the Ramsar Secretariat*13.1 Specify the operational arrangements between the governance structures of your initiative and the Ramsar Secretariat:*

The Secretariat of Ramsar Convention will contribute to the work of the Center as it is authorized to do so including:

- the provision of technical and administrative assistance for the organization of the Center;
- the provision of assistance for developing contacts with donors and for preparing projects for submission to donors;
- the provision of technical and financial assistance, resources permitting, for the preparation and publication of documents concerning the Center and its objectives, as well as information produced by the Center;
- the provision of assistance of any other type identified by the signatories to this Convention.

13.2 List the full name, telephone and e-mail contact of the main focal point of your initiative:

Ms Yasaman Rajabkhah, Executive Director, Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research West and Central Asia, Tel: 0098 21 88 24 16 59, Fax:0098 21 88 24 16 59, Cell phone: 0098 9123782268, e-mail: yasaman_rajabkhah@yahoo.com

Annex 1

**Terms of Reference of Ramsar Regional Center for Central
and Western Asia in Iran**

Web site - www.ramsarcenter-cwa.org

Creation

The 8th Conference of Parties to Ramsar Convention held in Valencia, Spain from 18 to 26 November 2002 agreed to create a Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia in Ramsar city, in Islamic Republic of Iran, by adopting Resolution VIII.41.

Overall Goal

The RRC-CWA will enhance the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the region through training, research, advocacy and public awareness programmes.

Objectives

Working to support the implementation activities of contracting parties for the effective management and conservation of wetlands, the objectives of the Center are to –

- Build human capacity and engage in outreach
- Promote scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of knowledge, including traditional knowledge,
- Promote wise use of wetlands through research and sustainable management
- Encourage accession of non contacting parties in the region.

Functions of the Center

In fulfilling the objectives, the Center will -

1. Coordinate and hold courses, seminars, workshops, conferences, meetings at national, regional and international levels in order to expand the knowledge of wetlands and about the Convention;
2. Coordinate the establishment of a network to collect and disseminate information;
3. Promote and coordinate scientific research and study in the region in order to expand knowledge of wetland functions and values, their biodiversity and indicators of ecological characteristics, and also regarding the economic valuation and management of the ecosystems with the purpose of prompting their sustainability and conservation, including through nomination of wetlands of international importance.
4. Enter into agreements for technical cooperation, technology transfer and research with universities, research centers, government and non-government agencies and other Wetland Centers at local, regional and global level.
5. Produce of information and bibliographical material where possible in a range of languages contributing to better knowledge of wetlands through printed and electronic means.
6. Develop assistance and consultation activities aimed at the study and management of the wetlands;
7. Facilitate a harmonized approach to scientific monitoring on wetlands and their components in the region, for processing, studying and exchanging relevant information to assist decision-making processes.
8. Encourage the countries in the region to establish wetland education centers.

Administrative bodies of the Center:

The Center will be made up of the following bodies:

- A. The Collaborative Management Board
- B. The Secretariat

The Collaborative Management Board is formed initially of the following members will administer the Center.

- A representative of the Iranian Government, who will act as the chair. The representative of the government on the Management Board will be the Head of the Department of the Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, or whoever he/she designates for the purpose;
 - One representative from the West Asia contracting parties and one representative from the Central Asia contracting parties selected by the sub regional countries on a rotating basis.
 - One representative of the Ramsar Secretariat;
 - One representative from UNESCO through the National Commission of UNESCO
 - One representative from the UNEP or UNDP country office.
 - One representative of DoE Mazandaran.
 - Executive Director of the Centre as ex-officio member who will also serve as a secretary to the Board.
 - Observers
 - Ramsar IOP's,
 - Donor countries and funding organisations
 - Other interested countries

- One representative of Institutions
- One representative of NGOs

Functions of the Collaborative Management Board:

The Management Board will have the following functions:

1. Strategic Guidance for the Center, based on the ToR;
2. Approval of the programs and activities of the Center;
3. Approval of the Center's budget;
4. Review of the biannual reports submitted by the Executive Director of the Center and provision of any guidelines considered necessary;
5. Approval of the financial regulations of the Center;
6. Meeting in biannual regular sessions and in special sessions called by the Chair or at the request of at least half of the members of the Management Board;
7. Establishment of its own Rules of procedures;
8. Decide on policy related matters concerning human resources

Executive Management:

An Executive Management Team will be formed by an Executive Director and the personnel required for carrying out the functions of the Center.

Designation of the Executive Director:

The Executive Director will be designated by the Management Board through selection, the form of which will be decided at its first meeting.

Functions of the Executive Director:

The Executive Director will be legal representative of the Center and will carry out the following functions:

1. Preparation and submission for consideration of the Management Board of the biannual work plan of the Center with the corresponding budget;
2. Representation of the Center in activities as required and in any required legal capacity;
3. Planning, management, organization, monitoring and evaluation of all the activities of the Center.
4. Adoption of the mechanism required to inform the general public and the national, regional and international scientific communities about the activities carried out;
5. Administration of the budget of the Center;
6. Cooperation with Ramsar Secretariat on technical activities;
7. preparation and submission of a biannual report to the Ramsar Secretariat no later than first December;
8. Informing the Administrative Authorities of relevant Parties of the Ramsar Convention in the Region about programs and activities carried out by the Center every year or at the request of the Administrative Authorities;
9. Other functions as determined by the Management Board.

Financial Arrangements:

- A trust fund will be established to meet the expenditures of the Center. The Management Board decides about the budget lines and the expenditure biannually;
- The Center may receive grants, donations, bequests and legacies made by interested persons or legal entities, national or foreign, public or private sectors and NGOs on voluntary basis.

Legal status, privileges and immunities of the Center, its officials, technical experts or experts:

- Within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Center will be granted the legal status required to carry out its functions;
- The Center, its officials, technicians and experts will be granted the same privileges and immunities granted in the Islamic Republic of Iran to the officials of the international organizations;
- No privileges and immunities will be granted to officials, technicians and experts who are citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Contribution of the Government of the I.R. Iran

- The government assumes the obligation of carrying out the steps required to obtain premises appropriate to the Center's activities;
- The government shall commit itself to contribute as much as possible to the budget of the Center.

Contribution of the Ramsar Secretariat:

- The Secretariat of Ramsar Convention will contribute to the work of the Center as it is authorized to do so including:
- The provision of technical and administrative assistance for the organization of the CENTER;
- The provision of assistance for developing contacts with donors and for preparing projects for submission to donors;
- The provision of technical and financial assistance, resources permitting, for the preparation and publication of documents concerning the CENTER and its objectives, as well as information produced by the CENTER;
- The provision of assistance of any other type identified by the signatories to this Convention.

These Terms of Reference were adopted by the "Meeting for Preparation and Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research in Central and Western Asia" held in Ramsar City, Iran, on the 27th and 28th of February 2005.

Annex 2

2008-2009 Targets and Action Plan for the Centre

The table below lists the actions that are recommended related in the first two years after the approval of the Centre Strategy. These actions were confirmed by the Collaborative Management Board and the Executive Director of the Centre

1. Ensure that key stakeholders involved in wetland management have the knowledge, skills and ability needed to effectively conserve wetlands and promote their wise use.

Target	Action
1.1 To develop regional training programmes to build the capacity of leading national wetland trainers and training organizations. Estimated Budget: 20,000 EUR	Review the needs analysis undertaken as part of this strategy development process, expand this and then identify the highest priorities for training Start the process of developing and offer at least Three workshops for three sub regions as the response to highest priority.
1.1 To work with the Contracting Parties to create a system of support and follow up to enable each Contracting Party in the region to deliver regular training programmes for wetland managers through a process of continuous professional development. Estimated Budget: 5,000 EUR (local cost)	Review the wetland training provision and assess capacity in each Contracting party Identify the key individuals and organizations that might act as leading trainers and training organizations
1.3 To promote access to training programmes outside the region	To set up a system to regularly gather information from International organisations , regional and national bodies about training opportunities and to post these on the Centre web site regularly. To evaluate the potential of international organisations and others to provide capacity building.

Estimated Budget: 25,000 EUR

2. Enhance communication, cooperation and networking to allow the effective dissemination of knowledge and information and sharing of experience

Target	Action towards the target in Year One
2.1 To develop a mechanism for the dissemination of information to all key wetland managers in the region.	To develop a web based mechanism for networking with the Ramsar Focal Points in Ministries and NGOs.
2.2 To maintain the website www.ramsarcenter-cwa.org – and to ensure that it has regular and up to date news posted, and that it holds relevant regional documents. Estimated budget:2000	To post news once a week To review and list documents that need to be on the site Create direct links to key from the Centre site
2.3 To create relevant data bases to support wetland managers, including a data base of sources technical support available in and for the Region.	To create a list of technical sources of support To create a data base of current international wetland projects in the region.
2.4 To produce and circulate a regular newsletter available in printed form and on line. Estimated budget:2000	To produce four online and/or Printed newsletters
2.5 To facilitate the translation of key documents related to wetland management into appropriate languages through establishing a Regional Committee for Translation of key Ramsar technical guidelines and manuals. Estimated budget:6000	To establish an E Regional Committee for the Translation To identify one key document for translation – probably the Ramsar Convention Handbook, and start the process of translation

Estimated Budget: 10,000 EUR

3. Improve the conservation and wise use of wetlands through facilitation and promotion of appropriate research programmes

Target	Action towards the target in Year One
3.1 To create a bibliography of research information on wetland conservation and wise use in the region.	To start the process of creating a bibliography and record of research in the region
3.2 To establish a Regional Wetlands Scientific Expert Group, and from this create a Wetland Scientific Community that can identify research priorities for the Region, locate individuals and institutions to conduct such research, and then to facilitate research funding applications. Estimated budget: 25,000 EUR	To create a Regional Wetlands Scientific Expert Group To hold the first meeting of this group to identify research priorities To make one funding application
3.3 To encourage Contracting parties to ensure that information on Ramsar Sites is up to date.	To work with the Ramsar Secretariat to assess the state of the information about the Ramsar sites and then to work with the Ramsar Focal point to encourage information to be kept up to date

Estimated Budget: 25,000 EUR

4. Raise the awareness of key stakeholders about the importance of effective conservation and wise use of wetlands and promote public participation in wetland management.

Target	Action towards the target in Year One
4.1 To establish a regional Wetland CEPA Expert Group and develop a regional CEPA programme.	To establish a CEPA Expert Group – this could be an E group of experts around the region and internationally. CEPA staff requirement To begin the process of writing the CEPA Regional programme.
4.2 To provide guidance and advise on the regional CEPA program implementations to the countries in the region through assisting contracting parties to prepare and implement public environmental awareness and wetland education plans, especially for the communities that live adjacent to wetlands. Estimated budget:25,000 EUR	To plan and hold a workshop for the Ramsar Focal points from the Contracting Parties on the development of CEPA plans. To support the development of at least two CEPA plans by Contracting Parties
4.3 To encourage the countries in the region to establish wetland educations centres and to provide technical support the establishment of at least three new centres in the region.	No specific action
4.4 To support demonstration public awareness campaigns in at least one contracting party that can be useful as a model campaign	Through discussion with the CEPA Expert Group, identify good practice in terms of CEPA in the region and publish this on the Centre Web Site. Through the CEPA Expert Group identify one funding opportunity and
4.5 To work with at least one contracting party and to develop a model for public participation in decision making and then to disseminate this.	Through discussion with the CEPA Expert Group, identify good practice in terms of public participation in the region and publish this on the Centre Web Site Through discussion with the CEPA Expert Group at the CEPA Plan workshop, identify one Contracting Party where the situation is appropriate to develop a pilot public participation project
4.5 To reproduce the Ramsar CEPA Handbook in an accessible format for Wetland Managers in the Region. Estimated budget:2000 EUR	Through discussion with the CEPA Expert Group agree to translate the CEPA Handbook into one regional language.

Estimated Budget: 27,000 EUR

5. Encourage the accession of non contracting parties of the region to the Ramsar Convention.

Target	Action towards the target in Year One
5.1 To build up partnerships with each non contracting party in the region, through holding both formal and informal discussions with key stakeholders, jointly conduct CEPA programs, and other appropriate activities. Estimated budget:5,000 EUR	To visit or meet at least two non contracting parties to hold informal discussions
5.2 Work with the Ramsar Secretariat, national Departments or Ministries of Environment and other appropriate bodies to promote wetland conservation and Ramsar Convention accession. Estimated budget:3,000 EUR	To plan to hold a Ramsar Workshop in at least one non contracting party – identify through consultation which country would be most appropriate.
5.3 To produce information materials on the advantages of accession to the Ramsar Convention.	To produce a short information bulletin about the importance of the Ramsar Convention and put this on the web site and to circulate this stakeholders in each non-contracting party

Estimated Budget: 8,000 EUR

6. Develop the structures and capacities to build an active, robust and viable Centre.

Target	Action towards the target in Year One
6.1 To confirm the establishment of the Collaborative Management Board and ensure that it meets regularly to make decisions according to its terms of reference Estimated budget:20,000 EUR	Confirm the member of the Collaborative Management Board In consultation, devise a schedule of meetings for each year Confirm the Strategy and Work Plan Confirm the Budget
6.2 To ensure an appropriate and flexible staffing structure for the Centre to ensure that the Centre targets are met. Estimated budget:74,000 EUR	Executive Director CEPA officer One Assistant
6.3 To work with the Ramsar Secretariat to ensure support for the core costs of the Centre. .	To meet with Contracting Parties as appropriate (with the support of the Ramsar secretariat) to encourage financial support for the Centre.
6.4 To establish the Trust Fund required by the Centre's Terms of Reference.	To establish the Trust Fund
6.5 To work towards gaining funding for both core costs and project costs from businesses and foundations	With the Collaborative Management Board, plan the establishment of a Supporters scheme to be launched in Year Two
6.6 To develop appropriate management and operational systems that will allow the Centre to function effectively. Estimated budget:10000	To develop management and operational systems including clarification of the management relationship between the key stakeholders in the Centre
6.7 To produce progress reports and an Annual Report of the Centre circulated to the Contracting parties of the Region Estimated budget:10,000 EUR	To produce progress Reports and Annual Reports
6.8 To review the work of the Centre through requesting feedback on the web, and develop a mechanism for the review of the Strategy.	To develop a feedback mechanism on the web site and include this feedback into the Annual Reports.

Estimated Budget: 114,000 EUR

Total Estimated Budget: 209,000 EUR