



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

Working for Wetlands - the Ramsar Small Grants Fund

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



Project portfolio 2007



Working for Wetlands...

The Small Grants Fund for wetland conservation and wise use - SGF

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

From 1991 to 2006 the Fund has provided a total of 7 millions Swiss Francs to 212 projects from 103 countries, providing up to 40,000 Swiss francs (about US\$32,000) per project. Over this same period, 448 feasible projects were not supported due to lack of funds. The Fund relies exclusively upon the voluntary contributions from government agencies and national and international NGOs.

Projects may be proposed and implemented by any agency, NGO or individual. Each year a rigorous evaluation procedure is carried out by the Ramsar Secretariat to assess the project proposals according to the strength of the project design and proposal presentation, their relevance to the objectives of the Fund, and the capacity of the proponents to complete the project successfully. For more information on the Fund, please visit http://www.ramsar.org/sgf/key_sgf_index.htm. The portfolio contains 14 projects favorably evaluated for funding plus 2 additional projects of good quality that were submitted to the Secretariat, but were not fully in line with the SGF operational rules: one project proposal from Romania (this country is no longer eligible for SGF funding, as it figures no longer on the OECD DAC list), and another good quality proposal from Argentina that did not receive the endorsement by the Ramsar national authority in time for SGF submission (as required by the rules).

16 projects favorably evaluated for funding in the 2007 SGF cycle are briefly described in the following pages.

No funds are currently available for these projects.

**We strongly encourage you to provide financial support to these projects.
If you are able to help, please contact Ms Alexia Dufour
at the Ramsar Secretariat**

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Costa Rica



Conservation of the Jabiru stork through the protection of wetlands

Conservation of an endangered species The project aims at the conservation of the populations of *Jabiru mycteria*, the tallest flying wetland bird in Latin America. This large stork is an endangered species in Mesoamerica. The main objective is to create strategic alliances to conserve the key wetlands for this species and others in Costa Rica (the area includes three Ramsar sites).

Project proposer

Comisión Nacional para la Conservación y Protección del Jabirú

Total Budget
433,948.- CHF

Amount requested
40,000.- CHF



Egypt



Ashtoum El Gamil wetland protected area Improving the public awareness programme

Communication, education and public awareness This project will be based in the Ashtoum El Gamil protected area with emphasis on Manzala Lake in the Nile delta. It aims at improving on the existing public awareness programme, educating the local community, disseminating information material on the area and examining the possibility of recognising the area as a Ramsar site.

Project proposer | Northern Protectorates Nature Conservation Sector
Medhat M. Rabie

Total Budget
39,913.- CHF

Amount requested
39,913.- CHF



Fiji



Upper Navua Conservation Area (UNCA) Improving the management of Fiji's first Ramsar site

Management plan, multilateral consensus, bridge building The general objective of this project is to improve long-term sustainable management practices to better support wise use, eco-tourism and local poverty reduction, and to protect the biodiversity and ecological character of the site. Accidental or illegal logging is the main threat on the Upper Navua Conservation Area. This project thus aims at reaching a consensus between the different stakeholders (e.g., Forestry department, logging contractors, local landowners...) on logging regulation near the Ramsar site through facilitated workshops and awareness programmes. This also includes the physical demarcation of the UNCA boundary. The project plans to improve the current management plan in collaboration with stakeholders and to establish the building plans of a bridge allowing safe access to the site, thus securing incomes from ecotourism.

<i>Project proposer</i>	Principal environment Officer Department of Environment Manasa Sovaki
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Total Budget
73,094.- CHF

Amount requested
40,000.- CHF



India



Restoration and wise use of East Kolkata Wetlands for sustaining livelihood and environment

Ecological and economic assessment, public awareness, participatory approach East Kolkata Wetlands, the only Ramsar site of West Bengal in India, are heavily threatened by human activities, mainly urban encroachment and waste disposal. The goal of the project is to undertake ecological and economic assessments of the site through habitat evaluation surveys and sociometric analyses. The project also aims at developing awareness, particularly among women, through community participation, training and capacity building, and at developing ecotourism and sustainable local practices. Finally the project plans to disseminate the findings to the stakeholders through seminars, press release, report publication and a website.

*Project
proposer*

South Asian Forum for Environment
Dr Dipayan Dey

Total Budget
43,358.- CHF

Amount requested
39,994.- CHF



Kenya



Ensuring the future of the antelope Sitatunga Kingwal Swamp

Monitoring of the Sitatunga population, proposition of mitigation measures, public awareness The project aims at carrying out a study of the causes of decrease in the population of Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii*) in the Kingwal swamp in Kenya, leading to the proposal of mitigation measures. The changes in the population trend for this species and in the characteristics of its habitat (water levels and other habitat quality parameters) will be studied. The population's willingness towards conservation will be determined by administering questionnaires and interviews. Information on conservation will be disseminated using an extension program which targets households, work places and schools.

Project proposer | National Museums of Kenya
Francis Ndiritu Muchemi

Total Budget
24,211.- CHF

Amount requested
20,000.- CHF



Mauritius



Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary Community empowerment for the wise use of this marine wetland

Communication, education and public awareness The project seeks to preserve the ecological character of Mauritius's sole Ramsar site (RTREBS) by increasing awareness and capacity building of the local population and encouraging cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority, other ministries (Ministry of Environment) and the local population. The main activities include learning workshops, the preparation and implementation of an adaptation strategy plan (site inventory, wise use framework and management plan) and setting up a permanent follow-up team in the community, including the Ramsar Administrative Authority.

*Project
proposer*

Environmental Protection & Conservation
Organisation- EPCO
Kheswar Beeharry Panray

Total Budget
20,000.- CHF

Amount requested
20,000.- CHF



Mexico



Nitrogen fixing and denitrification in mangroves as success indicators of the rehabilitation of mangroves in dry zones

Restoration of mangroves Mangroves play a crucial role in nutrient retention and in the mitigation of eutrophication of coastal zones. However, excessive nutrient supplies alter the nitrogen cycle and endanger this precious ecosystem service. This project aims at improving our understanding of nitrogen fixing and denitrification, key processes in the regulation of the nitrogen cycle in mangroves. The activity of bacteria involved in these processes will be studied in different mangroves (disturbed, reforested and undisturbed), which will contribute to assessing and improving reforestation practices.

*Project
proposer*

Instituto de Ecología

Total Budget
55,195.- CHF

Amount requested
34,984- CHF



Montenegro



Skadar Lake Transboundary Ramsar site Inventory database

Wetland inventory and transboundary cooperation The overall objective of the project is to improve the management and protection of Skadar Lake, following the designation of the lake as a transboundary Ramsar site (Montenegro and Albania), through the preparation of an inventory database. Although the Montenegrin side of the lake was proclaimed a Ramsar site in 1995, no data have been systematically collected and stored in the form of an inventory. The Albanian side of the lake was designated as a Ramsar site in February 2006, including the downstream Buna river.

*Project
proposer*

Regional Environmental Centre for Central
and Eastern Europe - REC
Snezana Dragojevic

Total Budget
40,070.- CHF

Amount requested
40,070.- CHF



Mozambique



Marromeu Wetland Towards sustainable management

Inventory, participatory approach, public awareness This project aims at promoting the wise use of the Marromeu wetland reserve, Mozambique's only Ramsar site, through site inventory, encouraging community and private sector participation in management activities and promoting alternative livelihood activities to reduce the pressure on wetland resources. The latter will be done in collaboration with local communities (through the creation of a community-based management committee for natural resources management), adapting their existing activities. There will also be workshops to educate the local communities on the values and services of the wetland and workshops bringing together local communities, the private sector and the government.

*Project
proposer*

Grupo de Trabalho Ambiental – GTA
Dr Antonio Mubango Hogueane and
Sidónia Muhorro

Total Budget
44,600.- CHF

Amount requested
40,000.- CHF



Ghodaghodi Lake

Towards sustainable livelihood and biodiversity conservation

Communication, education, public awareness, and fish pond The Ghodaghodi Lake, a Ramsar site of west Nepal, is affected by human pressure, eutrophication, and illegal forest product extraction. The aim of this project is to establish fish farms to decrease overfishing and generate alternative income for local communities. The objective is also to involve local communities in farms building, fish farms exploitation and management. Increasing public awareness, for example, through schools teaching program, and environmental monitoring of the site (e.g., water quality) are also planned.

Project proposer | Rural Development Society (RuDS-Nepal)
Dr Mohan Devkota

Total Budget
50,877.- CHF

Amount requested
39,912.- CHF



Mangroves of Tumbes

Updated information for a sustainable management

Environmental monitoring The Tumbes mangroves are being polluted by human activities: wastewater disposal, large-scale use of agrochemicals in the agricultural surroundings, overexploitation of water resources, changes in the land use (especially in the reactivation of lobster breeding pools and wood extraction for construction). The wetland is also affected by natural hazards, such as El Niño, which destroyed many mangrove forests because of excess of sedimentation. The project aims to contribute to the generation of up-to-date information of the changes in main environmental indicators of the wetland Manglar de Tumbes (between 1992 and 2006), in order to establish new policies and strategies of sustainable management and conservation.

Project proposer | Asociación para la investigación y el desarrollo integral AIDER

Total Budget
45,256.- CHF

Amount requested
39,969.- CHF



Philippines



Beyond participation planning of Lake Taal Securing stakeholder commitment for management plan implementation

Participatory approach, public awareness, site designation Lake Taal basin (65,000 ha) is listed among the high importance ecosystems in the Philippine Priority Setting for Biodiversity Conservation. The project aims at encouraging the different stakeholders, governmental or non-governmental, to work together for the management, conservation and wise use of the lake Taal and to use this area as a pilot site to demonstrate multi-stakeholder management. This includes the involvement of local communities (16 towns, 187 villages) and fisherfolk. The objective is also to raise public awareness and to include Lake Taal in the Ramsar List. The project consists mainly in workshops and meetings.

*Project
proposer* | Tanggol Kalikasan
Maria Paz G. Luna

Total Budget
86,451.- CHF

Amount requested
40,000.- CHF



Romania



RAM-ASSESS 2010

Assessing management plans for Ramsar sites in Romania

Wetlands management plan According to the Romanian National Strategy for Wetlands and Action Plan, actions have to be taken as National Objectives to improve the wetland protection policy and legislation and to take necessary in-situ and ex-situ conservation actions. The project aims at assessing the management structures, plans and institutions of the Romanian Ramsar sites against the background of the Ramsar principles and the Ramsar guidelines. This shall lead to a process of discussion and to the generation of recommendations for substantial improvements of the management of Romanian Ramsar sites.

Project proposer | ECO Environmental Consulting Cluj-Napoca
Cristian-Remus Papp

Total Budget
41,784.- CHF

Amount requested
38,767.- CHF



South Africa



The Orange River Mouth Ramsar site Environmental awareness for its rehabilitation

Communication, education and public awareness The project seeks to create awareness on the values and functions of the Orange River Mouth (including Ramsar sites in both Namibia and South Africa, the latter of which is listed on the Montreux Record) through educating local communities, especially youth, improving the implementing capacity of decision-makers and promoting transboundary cooperation in the management of the wetlands resources. The main activities include production and dissemination of awareness raising materials like posters, as well as information boards to be displayed in schools and at the site. The introduction of wetland and sustainable development education in local schools, as well as organising field trips to the project site, would be a strategic activity.

Project proposer | International Knowledge Management
Dr Francois Odendaal

Total Budget
20,000.- CHF

Amount requested
20,000.- CHF



Tanzania



Ngono rural community Towards an integrated environmental and pollution management

Communication, education and public awareness This project aims at poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation through increasing community awareness of conservation issues, training farmers, NGOs, CBOs and the private sector in wetland management issues and proper agricultural practices and conducting evaluation studies on the wetland benefits. The project covers three zones (Muleba, Kibanga and Birabo wards), with about 300 beneficiaries.

Project proposer | Actngono
Bataringaya.k Richard

Total Budget
48,399.- CHF

Amount requested
29,721.- CHF