

*1. Aim of the regional initiative***Proposal submitted by: SUDAN**

NileWet is a regional initiative for the Nile Basin.

Its aim is to promote, and to contribute to the implementation, in the Nile Basin, of the three pillars of the Ramsar Convention, ie: 1) Wetlands of International Importance, 2) Wise Use of Wetlands, 4) International Cooperation.

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:

- under Ramsar Pillar Nr 3, basin-wide international cooperation will be development, between all 9 Countries of the Nile Basin, Particularly in the framework of the Nile Basin Initiative and with support from the Ramsar Secretariat, Ramsar IOPs, (Particularly WWF, Wetlands International, Foundation) and institutions.
- 9 of the NBI member States are Ramsar Contracting Parties and 1 (**Ethiopia**) is in the process of Joining the Convention on Wetlands .
- under Ramsar Pillar Nr 1, large-scale designation of Ramsar Sites have been achieved and/ or under way since 2000 in the 9 Ramsar Countries concerned by NileWet.
- under Ramsar Pillar Nr 2, field implementation of Wise Use of Wetlands measures have been achieved or under way and/ or planned in all 9 member States of the , mainly- but not exclusively- as part of the 9 shared projects of the Nile Basin Initiative.

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:

- in cooperation with Nile Basin initiative (NBI), a bottom-up approach will be implemented (mainly since 2000) by the 10 member States of the NBI.

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

Countries involved: Burundi, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

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

Eritrea

3. Active involvement of all relevant stakeholders

3.1 List the participants in your initiative and their affiliation:

Nile-basin countries- government counterparts

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

In addition to Ramsar Administrative Authorities in the 9 Ramsar CPs of the Nile Basin (usually under Ministries responsible for Environment and Water Resources) and

Wetlands Administrative contact people in the 1 yet non-Cps, the NileWet regional initiative entails the participation of :-

Ministries/ Authorities responsible for Water Resources

Ministries/ Authorities responsible for Environment

4. Development of collaboration based on commonly agreed terms

4.1 Describe briefly how your regional network or centre is operating (attach the terms of reference (or other agreements) elaborated to guide its activities as separate documents where they exist):

Nile-basin Initiative agreement signed by countries involved

5. Involvement of other regional partners

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

- International NGOs including WWF, Wetlands International, IUCN, etc.
- National NGOs such as Sudan National Discourse Forum (SNDF) and Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society (SECS) .
- ANBO (African Network of Basin Organizations).
- AMCOW (African Ministerial Conference on Environment).
- IGAD (Particularly under chapters on Water and on Environment of the NEPAD).
- etc.

5.2 List those with which you have established common activities:

- the NileWet representing 10 Countries sharing the Nile Basin), and its regular Council of Ministers Session, and Summits of Heads of States and Governments.
- common activities and collaboration already exist between the Nile Basin countries - in the framework of the GEF-... Project " 9 shared Projects of Nile Basin Initiative
- the Steering Committee of the 9 shared Projects of Nile Basin Initiative
- Sudan National Discourse Forum (SNDF) and
- Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society (SECS) .

5.3 List your activities in common:

Many activities in the fields of communication, and participatory processes, e.g small-grants – trans-boundary projects for development of local communities- poverty alleviation, watershed management, management of wetlands, education and training workshops,... etc

6. Scientific and technical backing

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

- The Nile Basin Initiative has already provided, and will continue to provide scientific and technical backing to the NileWet regional initiative.
- Additional scientific and technical backing is already available, and will be further developed through national and regional data base of different national universities and research centers and Wetlands International Database on Water Birds. - etc.

7. Targets of the initiative and their links with Ramsar

7.1 List your initiative's strategic and operational targets for the period 2009-2011:

- NileWet is going to contribute to all five General Objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008:
- General Objective 1 : the Wise Use of Wetlands (proper utilization of resources, protection and management of biodiversity via regional workgroups and projects)

- General Objective 2 : Wetlands of International Importance .(revising the lists and add more)
- General Objective 3 : International Cooperation (with different partners via regional projects)
- General Objective 4 : Implementation capacity (training and institutional capacities)
- General Objective 5 : Membership , (the initiative will help the one(Ethiopia) remaining Nile Basin Country still to join Convention on Wetlands)

7.2 Specify the relations of these targets to the objectives of the draft Ramsar Strategic Plan (attach your work plan for 2009-2011, or for 2009, where it exists):

- NileWet is going to contribute to selected Actions listed under most of the Operation Objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003- 2008, particularly:
- Operation Objective 1 : Inventory and Assessment
- Operation Objective 2 : Policies and Legislation, including Impact Assessment and Valuation.
- Operation Objective 3 : Integration of Wetland Wise Use into Sustainable Development.
- Operation Objective 4 : Restoration and Rehabilitation
- Operation Objective 5 : Invasive Alien Species.

8. Raising awareness of Ramsar objectives

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

- Training and awareness raising projects(many in 5 countries)
- working groups activities
- small-grants projects(at national and regional trans-boundary level)

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):

- Designation of more Ramsar Sites by Nile Basin Countries,
- Accession process to the Convention on Wetlands by Ethiopia
- Integration of Wetland Wise Use into Sustainable Development.
- Restoration and Rehabilitation of wetlands

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

9. Who provides political and financial support?

- * Political support from Nile-basin regular Council of Ministers Session, and Summits of Heads of States and Governments.
- * Available financial support, as initiative fund could originate from Nile-basin 9-projects:
- * Expected from WWF, through technical + funding support to large –scale designation of Ramsar Sites by Nile Basin Countries, and accession process to the Convention on Wetlands by Ethiopia

9.1 List all your sources and the amounts of financial support for the triennium 2009-2011. Specify the amounts which are already confirmed:

9.2 List your sources and amounts of financial support for the year 2009. Specify the amounts which are already confirmed:

The NileWet regional initiative can rely upon secured start-up funding for

ongoing and for various planned activities and projects (as part of various projects already under way and /or planned in the Nile Basin).

9.3 List concisely, according to main budget lines, your expenditures planned for 2009:

10. Financial planning

10.1 Summarize your remaining funding needs for 2009 that are not yet covered by confirmed donations, according to the main budget lines used above:

Funds for preparation of National wetland policies

10.2 Provide information about your fundraising plan to cover such outstanding needs:

Proposals of Regional projects to be submitted to governments , partners and donors.

11. Request for Ramsar core budget support

11.1. If you request a financial contribution from the Ramsar core budget, specify the amount for 2009, and for the triennium 2009-2011:

While COP10 endorsement of NileWet will be sought in November 2008 in Republic of South Korea, no funding will be sought from the Ramsar Secretariat to support this regional initiative for the 2008-2009 , but for 2009 2011 triennium funds are needed for further implementation and progress.

GOVERNANCE OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

12. Governance mechanisms in place

12.1 Describe the governance and advisory mechanisms and structures (e.g., committees) in place or to be established to provide guidance and insight to your initiative (attach terms of references, rules of procedures, or operational guidelines, where such exist):

- National Wetland Units under relevant institutes and ministries
- National Ramsar committees
- Working groups and experts fora for different issues and aspects

13. Coordination with the Ramsar Secretariat

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

- the Headquarters of the NileBasin Commission in Khartoum, is the host of the Nilewet regional initiative.
- the Ramsar Administrative Authority will play a key coordination role for the NileWet including office space and facilities (electricity, telephone, water internet, etc.) as well as support staff
- Progress and further development of the Nilewet regional initiative will be coordinated, monitored and planned in particular: in conjunction with regular, Yearly meeting of the Nile basin Council of Ministers.
- in conjunction with (irregular) Summits of the Heads of States and Governments of the Nile Basin .
- in conjunction with future Ramsar Africa Regional Preparatory meetings for Ramsar COPs – beyond COP10.
- at any other Workshop, Meeting or Conference which might be relevant for further progressing the NileWet. regional initiative.
- beyond the expected endorsement of NileWet. as a regional Ramsar

Initiative for the Nile Basin, a mechanism will be explored and established, by which the Ramsar Standing Committee will be able to receive, through the Ramsar Bureau, reports on the activities of NileWet..

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

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