

Combined annual reporting and forward planning format

Annual Report for Year 2012 and Plan for Year 2013 (4 pages maximum)

1. Title of your Regional Initiative:

Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands - BlackSeaWet

2. Work and activities undertaken during 2012

Provide a simple summary on your work undertaken by listing your activities, the results achieved and your indicators of success according to the format below:

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Third Meeting of the Management Body	1.1 Assessment of the current activities and the progress of the BlackSeaWet Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Country Reports on the activities of National Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bulgaria; - Georgia; - Republic of Moldova; - Romania; - Turkey; - Ukraine. ➤ Report on funding opportunities of the Black Sea Economic Commission (BSEC); 	- 22 participants representing: Partners of BlacSeaWet Initiative: Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine and International organizations: Ramsar Secretariat, MedWet Secretariat and Wetlands International.
	1.2 Proposals for the next steps of the BlackSeaWet Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adoption of the activities for 2013: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elaborate the project proposal for the assessment of the impact of climate changes on the coastal wetlands of Turkey/Black and Azov Seas. Responsible for the activity: Mr. Şerif Hizli (Turkey). 2. Develop/continue the monitoring on birds for the Black Sea and Azov Sea. Responsible for the activity: Mr. Vasiliy Kostiuschin (Wetlands International /Ukraine) 3. International Conference on the development of sustainable hunting in Turkish Coastal Wetlands. Responsible for the activity: Mr. 	- Action plan for the 2013 period of activity of the BlackSeaWet Initiative.

		<p>Mustafa Akincioglu (Turkey).</p> <p>4. Elaboration and produce the public awareness materials for the BlackSeaWet Initiative. Responsible for the activity: Mrs. Aylin Hasan and Mrs. Neli Mutafova (Bulgaria).</p> <p>5. Up-date and activate the BlackSeaWet Initiative website. Responsible for the activity: Mrs. Camelia Căpriță (Romania).</p> <p>6. Proposals for the Itinerant Coordination Unit of the BlackSeaWet Initiative. Responsible for the activity: Country Working Groups Coordinators.</p> <p>7. Progress Report on the Project/Initiative implementation. Responsible for the activity: Dr. Grigore Baboianu (Romania).</p>	
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If felt useful, you may add narrative text to specify further your achievements, improvement of Ramsar implementation in the region, etc.

3. Financial report for Year 2012

Provide a summary of income and expenditures. If you use another currency than Swiss Franc (CHF), please provide an average exchange rate to allow conversion into CHF:

Planned Activities	Planned expenditures (CHF)	Actual expenditure (CHF)
1. Third Meeting of the Management Body	10,000.00	6,459.85
2. Participation of the representatives of BlackSeaWet Initiative (members of the Management Body) on the event dedicated to MedWet/ BlackSeaWet Initiatives during the Ramsar COP11 in Bucharest	10,000.00	-
3. Project proposal elaboration	20,000.00	-
4. Participation of the representatives of BlackSeaWet Initiative (members of the Management Body) on the MedWet Meeting	10,000.00	-
4. Coordination Unit activity	5,000.00	429.13

Total		6,888.98
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Sources of income	Income received	
Donor name	amount (currency):	-
Ramsar core budget (where applicable)	amount (currency):	10,470.82 CHF
Total		10,470.82 CHF

Financial balance at 31 December 2012:

- total unspent and uncommitted balance left to be carried over to 2013: 3,581.84 CHF and
- available for 2013 according with 2012 contract: 3,179.00 CHF

For those initiatives receiving funding from the Convention in 2012, please explain how this funding has been spent or committed, and compare this to the plan on which the funding request was based. Explain any significant scope or timetable changes:

The funds allocated from the **Convention in 2012, (3,179.00 CHF)** were not spent in 2012, being available for the activities planned to be achieved during the first half of 2013.

4. Work and activities planned for Year 2013

Provide a simple summary of your planned work, by listing your activities, their anticipated results and your indicators of success according to the format below:

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Elaborate the project proposal for the assessment of the impact of climate changes on the coastal wetlands of Turkey/Black and Azov Seas.	Identify the project partners Identify the potential donors Elaborate the project proposal Responsible for the activity: Mr. Şerif Hizli (Turkey).	Project proposal for the assessment of the impact of climate changes on the coastal wetlands of Turkey/Black and Azov Seas.	A draft project proposal will be circulated to all BlackSeaWet members by 1 st March 2013 for further comments and finalization.
2. Develop /continue the monitoring on birds for the Black Sea and Azov Sea.	Identify the partners Elaborate the monitoring program Implement the monitoring program Elaborate the report Responsible for the activity: Mr. Vasilij Kostiuschin (Wetlands International /Ukraine)	Report on the results of the birds monitoring for the Black Sea and Azov Sea	A draft project proposal will be circulated to all BlackSeaWet members by 1 st February 2013 for further comments and finalization
3. Participation on the Second conference on illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, which will take place on 29-30 May 2013 in Tunis.	Participation of 2 representatives of BlackSeaWet Initiative on the Conference Responsible for the activity: Mr. Mustafa Akincioglu (Turkey), Dr. Grigore Baboianu	Information/experience on the management of sustainable hunting in Turkish Coastal Wetlands and the Coastal Black Sea wetlands.	Support for the preparation of the International Conference on the development of sustainable hunting in Turkish Coastal Wetlands

	(Romania).		
4. Elaboration and produce the public awareness materials for the BlackSeaWet Initiative.	Responsible for the activity: Mrs. Aylin Hasan and Mrs. Neli Mutafova (Bulgaria).	Public awareness material for the BlackSeaWet Initiative	Drafts of proposed materials will be circulated to all BlackSeaWet members by 1 st May 2013.
5. Up-date and activate the BlackSeaWet Initiative website.	Up-date and activate the website of the BlackSeaWet Initiative Responsible for the activity: Mrs. Camelia Căpriță (Romania).	Additional data and information concerning the activities of the BlackSeaWet Initiative	She will contact all BlackSeaWet members urging them to regularly send/contribute their inputs
6. International Conference on the development of sustainable hunting in Turkish Coastal Wetlands.	Responsible for the activity: Mr. Mustafa Akincioglu (Turkey).		A first proposal, including proposed dates, will be circulated to all BlackSeaWet members by 1 st February 2013.
7. The Fourth Meeting of the Management Body	Report on the activity/results of the BlackSeaWet Initiative and the Management Body of the Initiative Proposal for the Action plan for 2014. Responsible for the activity: Dr. Grigore Baboianu (Romania).	Participation of the partners Presentation/approval of the Progress Report of the BlackSeaWet Initiative and the Action Plan for 2014	The 4th meeting of the BlackSeaWet Management Body will take place in Istanbul back-to-back with the thematic BlackSeaWet Conference on bird hunting.
8. Proposals for the Itinerant Coordination Unit of the BlackSeaWet Initiative	Responsible for the activity: Country Working Groups Coordinators.	The Romanian Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration Authority agreed to provide the services needed to coordinate the BlackSeaWet Initiative until another partner would be willing to take over this role.	Detailed proposals will be submitted in written to the next meeting of the BlackSeaWet Management Body by interested hosting institutions.
9. Progress Report on the Project /Initiative implementation	Elaborate the Progress Report of BSW Initiative Responsible for the activity: Dr. Grigore Baboianu (Romania) with the contribution of the National Working Groups coordinators.	The specific activities performed by the National Working Groups for the management of Black Sea coastal wetlands	The Report will be presented during the Fourth Meeting of the BlackSeaWet Initiative
10. Coordination	Expenditure direct		

Unit activity	related with the functioning of the initiative website, the functioning of the bank account, etc. Responsible for the activity: Dr. Grigore Baboianu (Romania)		
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For those initiatives requesting funding from the Convention for 2013, please provide a financial summary of your 2013 plan. If you use another currency than Swiss Franc (CHF), please provide an average exchange rate to allow conversion into CHF:

Activities	Forecast/budgeted expenditures real expenditures
Participation on the Second Conference on illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, which will take place on 29-30 May 2013 in Tunis (Activity 3)	3,500.00
International Conference on the development of sustainable hunting in Turkish Coastal Wetlands (Activity 6)	
The Fourth Meeting of the Management Body (Activity 7)	15,000.00
Coordination Unit activity (Activity 10)	1,500.00
Total	20,000.00

Financial balance for 2013 activities:

- Total proposed expenditure for 2013:	+ 20,000.00 CHF
- Total unspent and uncommitted balance left to be carried over to 2013:	- 3,581.00 CHF
- Available for 2013 according with 2012 contract:	- 3,179.00 CHF
Balance	- 13,240.00 CHF

Sources of Income	Forecast/budgeted amount of income
Donor name	-
Request from Ramsar core budget	13,240.00 CHF
Total	13,240.00 CHF

**Questionnaire for Regional Initiatives
which apply for endorsement by Standing Committee to be recognized as “operating in the
framework of the Ramsar Convention 2013-2015”**

Please send the completely filled questionnaire back to the Ramsar Secretariat - together with your progress report for 2012 and work and financial plan for 2013 (in the format above), the latest by **31 January 2013**. The Secretariat needs your information in order to prepare the document in time for the 46th meeting of Standing Committee.

This questionnaire responds to Res.XI.5 paragraph 11 that...

“INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to revise the guidelines on Regional Initiatives in such a manner that a precise evaluation of their activities and their administrative and financial management and long-term sustainability is possible and to use these new guidelines to determine the level of support (financial or otherwise) in the coming triennium;”

The Questionnaire also follows up on COP11 DOC.13 on “Progress and issues concerning Regional Initiatives operating within the framework of the Convention”, using the structure of the existing Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives, as in this document.

Please do answer the 20 questions below by providing factual details in the form of **key words** or **short bullet point texts** referring to **facts** and **figures**.

It should not take you more than 15 to 20 minutes to fill in these few, but crucial questions. Many thanks for your cooperation and dedication.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The aim of your Regional Initiative (current points 1-4 of the Operational Guidelines)

1. Did your initiative receive written support from all of the Contracting Parties concerned by the regional scope of your initiative?

Yes No*

* Not all the partners sent a written support concerned the BlackSeaWet Regional Initiative.

2. Please list all countries (Contracting Parties and Non-CPs) to be covered by the geographical scope of your initiative, and specify those countries who have not yet provided written support:

Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine

Please specify those countries that have not provided written support yet, but are nevertheless participating in the activities of your initiative:

Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey

3. Has your initiative made optimal use of the Ramsar tools (e.g. Handbooks and Technical Reports, please list the tools used:

The activity of the BlackSeaWet Initiative is based on several pragmatic documents issued/approved by Ramsar Convention:

- Regional initiatives 2009-2012 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention (Res. X6);

- Regional initiatives 2013-2015 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention (res. XI5);
- Ramsar Handbooks, 4th edition;
- Ramsar Convention Manual, 6th ed.;
- Guidance for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands (Res. VIII30).

4. Are the strategic and operational targets of your initiatives fully aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan, please explain how this is done:

The overall aim of Ramsar Regional Initiative Black Sea Coastal Wetlands – BlackSeaWet is to catalyze the conservation and sustainable development of Black Sea coastal wetlands. Wetland wise use and conservation has been initiated in the region for many years through various unrelated regional and national activities. The BlackSeaWet Regional Initiative is planned to stimulate and coordinate cooperation around coastal wetlands issues in the region, acting as a means to address regional issues, share knowledge and expertise to address shared issues amongst different countries and stakeholders in the region and stimulate the development of capacity to address them. The issues require a multi-stakeholder approach that engages with government, civil society and increasingly the private sector. The Regional Initiative is planned to undertake to bring these parties together.

The BlackSeaWet Initiative will strongly promote the goals of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-15.

Of the five main goals, the Initiative is focused to contribute to the realization of 1-4 (the fifth not being relevant in the region as all countries are already Contracting Parties):

Wise use (Goal 1) - Promotion of the wise use of coastal wetlands is a key focus of BlackSeaWet Initiative;

Wetlands of International Importance (Goal 2) - Many of the major Black Sea coastal wetland are listed as Ramsar sites);

International cooperation (Goal 3) - International cooperation is a crucial part of BlackSeaWet Initiative;

Institutional capacity and effectiveness (Goal 4) - BlackSeaWet Initiative is planned to contribute on building the regional capacity to implement the Convention focusing on enhanced CEPA activities to catalyze implementation of wise use.

Coordination between Regional Initiatives and the Secretariat (current points 5-10 of the Op. Guid.)

5. Do you consider the frequency and nature of your contacts with the Convention Secretariat to be optimal? If not, please indicate if Secretariat assistance should be increased (in which way) or decreased (by lowering which support?):

The contacts with the Convention Secretariat is very good, acting close with the **Management Body** and the **Coordination Unit** with the financial support and participation on the BlackSeaWet Initiative Meetings;

Having in view the existing situation in the region (countries member EU and countries non-member EU), the lack of experience of partners on promoting the management of coastal wetlands, communication, regional cooperation it is necessary the continuation of the financial support for the next triennium, in view to support the participation of the partners on meetings, workshops, working groups to improve the development of the cooperation between the partners.

Governance of the initiatives (current points 11-13 of the OG)

6. Does your initiative have a written set of operational procedures established in an equitable and transparent way (terms of reference, rules of procedure, etc.), please list them:

- Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black Sea Coastal Wetlands – BlackSeaWet, Terms of Reference;
- Working plans for 2010, 2011, 2012.

7. Has a governance body been established, when, and how often has it met, please its name, membership and meeting dates:

BSW Regional Initiative has been established the **Management Body** (formed from two representatives from each country – partner: the representative of the ministry - national authority for environmental protection and the representative of a representative NGO), the **National Working Group** (formed, on voluntary basis, from representatives of NGOs and experts in coastal wetlands management). The Management Body is assisted by an Implementation Unit based in Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority in Romania.
The Management Body is planned to have periodic (but not less than 1 per year) meetings.

8. Are minutes of each meeting recorded, how are they available (publicly, restricted), please provide details:

Each meeting of the Management Body is recorded in a Meeting Minute, publicly available on the request and are posted on BSW Initiative website.

Substantive elements of the initiatives (current points 14-20 of the Operational Guidelines)

9. Does the work of your initiative raise the visibility of the Ramsar Convention and the general awareness of Ramsar objectives in your region, please provide further information:

The activities developed in within the BlackSeaWet Initiative (monitoring of the waterfowl migratory birds, reports, involvement of the local organisation, cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organisations) are contributing in raising the visibility of the Ramsar Convention in the region.

10. Has your initiative established its own independence and identity? How are you describing your initiative as an operational means to support the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in your region? How do you avoid confusion between the roles of your initiative and the roles of the national Ramsar authorities and the Ramsar Secretariat at international level? Please provide details:

The regional initiatives are completing the main role of the Ramsar Convention through their specific approach of the wetlands of the coastal area. The regional initiative are focused more in the regional cooperation based on the common issues specific to coastal wetlands: monitoring of migratory birds, contribution on the health protection of the seas, conservation of the nature habitats and natural resources.

11. What did you undertake to prevent that your initiative is perceived as a regional office for the Convention:

The status of the **Coordination Unit** is established to work in the close cooperation with the representatives of partners.

12. Does your initiative have its own logo, do you use it together with the Ramsar Convention logo, thanks for attaching your logo, if you have one:

Yes, the BlackSeaWet Initiative has its own logo and it is used together with Ramsar Convention logo as it is shown:



Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands - BlackSeaWet

www.blackseawet.org



13. Does your initiative have a specific website, please give its URL:

The BlackSeaWet Initiative has the specific website which under the construction:
www.blackseawet.org

Financial and other support, reporting and evaluation (current points 21-29 of the Op. Guide.)

14. Does your initiative have a host country that provides in-kind and/or financial support to a coordinating unit, secretariat, training centre, etc.? What is the host country amount of financial annual support, and the percentage of this of the overall budget:

For the present Romania (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Climate Changes/ Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority) is hosting the Coordination Unit of the BlackSeaWet Initiative that provides the in-kind support.

15. What is the in-kind and financial support provided by the other countries concerned, please list countries and amounts of annual support:

As there are no exact figures available about the in-kind and financial support provided by other countries concerned, it can be estimated that in each country partner there are people involved from the national authorities for the environmental protection that provide the basic information on the activities performed in each country dedicated to the initiative (in-kind contribution).
The support of the Wetlands International contributed on the development of the regional initiative. In 2012, the national authority for environmental protection in Turkey supported the organisation of the Third Meeting of the BlackSeaWet Initiative providing meeting rooms, accommodation, meals for the participants and expressed the disponibility to support activities from the activities planned for 2013.

16. Does your initiative have its own bank account and separate accounting procedures, please provide details:

The BlckSeaWet Initiative has its own bank account working separate that the financial activity of the hosting institution (Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority)
Name of the bank: REIFFEISEN BANK, Tulcea Branch
Address: 19 Grivitei Street, TULCEA, Romania
Nr. of bank account: RO83RZBR0000060011937174

17. Are you conducting your own fundraising efforts, please list your activities:

No any successful activities for fundraising efforts achieved yet.

18. What attempts have you made to generate your own income, with what result? Are you financially self-sufficient, or by when are you planning to be so, please provide keywords and dates:

No relevant attempts to generate the own income for the regional initiative have made yet.

Administrative matters

19. Who is the coordinator/coordinating body (unit, secretariat) that operates on a daily level to coordinate and lead the activities of the initiative, name and address:

The daily coordination and lead of the activity of the BlackSeaWet Initiative is provided by the **Coordination Unit**, based in:
Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority,
34A Portului street, B.O. 32, TULCEA, Romania, Code: 820243,
Tel: +4 0240 518945
Fax: +4 0240 518975
e-mail: arbdd@ddbra.ro, gbaboianu@ddbra.ro, ccaprita@ddbra.ro

20. Do you have a hosting agreement with a private/public institution, with a governmental agency or Ministry, please provide name and address and a copy of any written agreement:

The activity of the **Coordination Unit** of the BlackSeaWet Initiative is hosted by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, a public institution coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes.

Dr. Grigore BABOIANU
Chairman of the Management Body
Tulcea, 31th of January 2013