

**Combined annual reporting and forward planning format  
for Ramsar Regional Initiatives (Annex I of DOC. SC41-13)**

Annual Summary Report for Year 2012 and Plan for Year 2013

(4 pages maximum)

**1. Title of your Regional Initiative: The Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia**

**2. Work and activities undertaken during Year 2012**

Objectives	Activities	Results/Outputs	Indicators
1 CEPA	Youth Model Ramsar Convention 2012 in Changwon, ROK	170 High School Students 2 day conference – debating and accepting resolutions on Wetlands	Increased awareness of issues – students more capable of communicating thoughts – publication of a book
	Documentary Film Screening “The Great Flight” (Side Event, Ramsar COP11, Romania)	- “The Great Flight” was screened at the plenary hall of the Ramsar COP11 - Message of the film, “Why we should conserve wetland?” was successfully delivered.	- About 200 participants attended the side event - A set of DVD was distributed to all participants.
	Training Workshop for Wetland Managers (Regional Level, Republic of Korea)	- Shared information and ideas on wetland management - Training sessions on three subjects, which are Ramsar CEPA, Monitoring and Data Management and Vulnerability Assessment, were conducted.	- 30 wetland managers from 13 countries attended the workshop - All shared information and presentations will be published in December.
	Training Workshop for Wetland Managers (Local Level, Thailand)	- Shared information and ideas on wetland management with local language - Created communication channel between ONEP and local wetland managers	- About 40 wetland managers in Thailand attended the workshop and shared experiences and ideas to improve the wetland management.
	CBD COP11 Exhibition Booth	- Distribute all publications of the RRC-EA, and explained the importance of wetlands to the visitors at the exhibition site	- About 4,000 people visited the exhibition booth - 5 publications from previous RRC-EA activities were distributed in CBD COP11 in Hyderabad, India
2. Networking	Knowledge Café (WCC, Jeju)	- Presentations and discussions on urban wetland, ecosystem recovery in tidal flat and Impact of Climate Change on Wetland were conducted	- 200 participants attended 15 discussion groups in the Knowledge Café.
	Changwon Declaration Network Meeting (Side Event, Ramsar COP11, Romania)	- Results of the Changwon Declaration Network meeting from 2009-2011 was published and distributed at the side event. - Experts and Representatives from CPs participated as a panel for discussion on further implementation of the Changwon Declaration	- 60-70 participants attended the side event and shared their ideas for further implementation of the Changwon Declaration.
	STRP Focal Point Workshop for East Asia (Changwon)	- Presentation on overall structure and role of the STRP was provided by Ms. Rebecca D’Cruz - Discussion on how to improve communication and cooperation among the Ramsar STRP NFPs was conducted. - The result of the workshop will be reported to secretariat by the vice chair of the STRP	- 14 participants from 8 countries attended the workshop. - Decided to organize bigger scale STRP NFP workshop for Asia in 2013.
3. Grant Program	Lao PDR (Piloting Peatland Restoration in Beung Kiat)	- Assessment of economic and ecological value of peat land to	- Final Report will be submitted in February 2013

	Ngong Ramsar Site and Boundary Demarcation in Xe Champone Ramsar Site in Lao PDR)	Beung Kiat Ngong has been conducted - A study on the land allocation process, including hydrology of the wetland and village boundary has been conducted	
	Nepal (Reconnaissance Study of Tilicho Lake for Ecological Conservation and Livelihood Promotion)	- Tilicho Watershed Management Plan has been established based on a series of researches such as integrated wetland assessment, wetland resource dependency, livelihood analysis etc.	- Final Report will be submitted in February 2013
	Philippines (Lake Mainit Migratory Birds Conservation Project)	- Profiling of the Lake Mainit was conducted - Consultation/meetings were carried out with concerned stakeholders and individuals - Map preparation of the Bird Sanctuary is on-going	- Final Report will be submitted in February 2013
	Vietnam (Raising public awareness on the Ramsar Convention and improving management capacity of wetland, coastal wetland in Con Dao district, Baria-Vungtau province, Viet Nam)	- Public Awareness on the Ramsar Convention and wetlands has been raised through training, workshop, media, brochures, posters etc. - Monitoring program for coral reef, sea grass and mangrove forest has been conducted	- Final Report will be submitted in February 2013
4. Miscellaneous	Wetland Inventory – Philippines	- Postponed to be conducted in 2013	- Postponed to be conducted in 2013

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 the CHF**: as of January of 30, 2013

1.00 USD = 0.93 CHF

Activity	Planned Expenditures	Actual Expenditures
	Amount (USD)	Amount (USD)
1. Youth Model Ramsar Convention 2012	8,000	8,000
2. Documentary Film Screening (Side Event, Ramsar COP11)	10,000	10,000
3. Training Workshop for Wetland Managers (Regional Level)	80,000	80,000
4. Training Workshop for Wetland Managers (National Level, Thailand)	40,000	40,000
5. CBD COP11 Exhibition Booth	-	-
6. Knowledge Café (WCC, Jeju)	8,000	8,000
7. Changwon Declaration Network Meeting (Side Event, Ramsar COP11)	22,000	22,000
8. STRP Focal Point Workshop	30,000	30,000
9. Wetland fund (4 projects)	40,000	40,000
10. Wetland Inventory (Philippines)	15,000	-
11. Operational budget	180,000	180,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>433,000</b>	<b>418,000</b>

Sources of Income	Income received (USD)
Donor name	Amount
Korean Ministry of the Environment	150,000
Gyeongnam Provincial Government	268,000
Ramsar Core Budget (where applicable)	Amount (NA)
<b>Total</b>	<b>418,000</b>

**Financial balance on 31 December 2010:** Expenditures were equal to income leaving no residual balance.

#### 4. Work and activities planned for Year 2013

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
CEPA	Youth Model Ramsar Convention 2013 (Changwon, ROK)	Increased awareness – Education – Communication regarding wetland conservation	Resolutions will be drafted and adopted by students
	Wetland Managers training (National Level)	Increased interaction among wetland managers (National level) – increases in knowledge base	Publication of a book – increased action on part of wetland managers
	Wetland Managers Training (Regional Level)	Increased interaction among wetland managers (Regional level) – increases in knowledge base	Publication of a book – increased action on part of wetland managers
Network	Changwon Declaration Network Meeting (Changwon)	Collect best practices for implementation of Changwon Declaration Increase the awareness on Changwon Declaration in other sectors	Publish a book – provide impact statement for Ramsar COP11
	STRP NFP Workshop for Asia	Improved communication among the STRP NFPs and participation to the Ramsar	Not available at present
Grant Program	RRC-EA Wetland Fund #1	Not available at present	Activity Report
	RRC-EA Wetland Fund #2	Not available at present	Activity Report
	RRC-EA Wetland Fund #3	Not available at present	Activity Report
	RRC-EA Wetland Fund #4	Not available at present	Activity Report
Miscellaneous	Wetland Inventory – Philippines	Provide essential information on wetlands for effective management	Activity Report

#### 5. Financial plan for the year 2013

Provide a summary of expected income and budgeted/planned expenditures. If you use another currency than Swiss Franc (CHF), please provide an average **exchange rate to the CHF**:

1.00 USD = 0.92 CHF

Activity	Planned Expenditures	Actual Expenditures
	Amount (USD)	Amount (USD)
1. Youth Model Ramsar Convention 2013 (Changwon,ROK)	5,000	Not available at present
2. Wetland Managers training (National Level)	30,000	Not available at present
3. Wetland Managers Training (Regional Level)	50,000	Not available at present
4. Changwon Declaration Network Meeting	70,000	Not available at present
5. STRP NFP Workshop for Asia		
6. RRC-EA Wetland Fund	40,000	Not available at present
7. Wetland Inventory-Philippines	10,000	Not available at present
8. Operation Budget	180,000	Not available at present
<b>Total</b>	<b>385,000</b>	<b>Not available at present</b>

Sources of Income	Income received (USD)
Donor name	Amount
Korean Ministry of the Environment	150,000
Gyeongnam Provincial Government	235,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>385,000</b>

**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 46<sup>th</sup> 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

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:

The geographical range of the Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia hereafter the RRC-EA covers the following countries;

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

However, of these countries, none has provided written support and they do participate in the activities provided by our initiative as indicated by the following list:

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam

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

Of the Ramsar Tools available, the RRC-EA has used the CEPA toolkit at the CEPA NFP Workshop for East and Southeast Asia.

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 strategic and operational targets of the RRC-EA are aligned with the Conventions strategic plan in several ways.

First, the RRC-EA Training & Information Sharing Workshop (Regional & Local) this specifically deals with four of the conventions strategic targets

- Strategy 1.10 Private Sector  
The YOUNGONE Corp. began to be involved in the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the RRC-EA's local language training program in Bangladesh (2011) and it is conducting wetland restoration and researches on ecological characters in the its own land.
- Strategy 2.5 Ramsar site management effectiveness  
The RRC-EA has organized the Training Workshop for Wetland Managers. All participants shared their experiences and information to improve the management of the wetlands that they were managing including Ramsar Site.
- Strategy 3.4 Sharing information and expertise  
Since 2009, the RRC-EA's Training & Information Sharing Workshop has been organized for the information sharing among the wetland managers in East and Southeast Asia.
- Strategy 4.1 CEPA  
Through the Training & Information Sharing Workshop, RRC-EA provided educational opportunities for the wetland managers in the region to build their capacities in managing wetlands.

Second, the RRC-EA Wetland Fund that relates to the Conventions strategic targets in six specific manners;

- Strategy 1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services  
The RRC-EA Wetland Fund financially supported research on socio-economic values of wetlands and projects for poverty eradication.
- Strategy 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands  
RRC-EA Wetland Fund financially supported scientific research and projects to improve the wetland management.
- Strategy 2.1 Ramsar site designation  
RRC-EA Wetland Fund financially supported research on ecological character and mapping projects for Ramsar site designation.
- Strategy 2.4 Ramsar site ecological character  
Research essential for the conservation of ecological characters at Ramsar sites were financially supported by RRC-EA Wetland Fund.
- Strategy 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands  
Research on wetlands not designated as Ramsar sites to improve their management were financially supported by RRC-EA Wetland Fund.
- Strategy 3.3 International assistance  
RRC-EA Wetland Fund itself is a funding programme to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

2009 (2): Mongolia, and North Korea 2010 (3): China, Mongolia, and Vietnam 2011 (4): Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines 2012: Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, and Vietnam
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Third, the Changwon Declaration Network Meeting covers two aspects of the Conventions targets

- Strategy 1.5 Recognition of role of the Convention & Strategy 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs

The RRC-EA has organized the Changwon Declaration Network Meeting to disseminate the Resolution X.3 Changwon Declaration and promote its implementation. Contracting Parties, IOPs and other related international organization were attended the meeting and shared their ideas to stimulate the implementation of the Changwon Declaration. The profile of the Convention was raised with this activity

Fourth, the CEPA NFP Workshop for East and Southeast Asia facilitated by the RRC-EA covers two strategic targets

- Strategy 3.4 Sharing information and expertise & Strategy 4.1 CEPA

RRC-EA organized the CEPA NFP Workshop for East Asia with the Ramsar Secretariat. All CEPA NFPs in the region shared their ideas and experiences to improve communication among them and implementation of the Convention, especially CEPA programme and learnt the role of CEPA NFP and CEPA planning through the lecture of CEPA officer and CEPA expert.

- Strategy 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness

By organizing the CEPA NFP Workshop, the effectiveness of CEPA programme has been improved.

Finally, the STRP NFP Workshop for East and Southeast Asia as facilitated by the RRC-EA also covers two strategic targets

- Strategy 3.4 Sharing information and expertise

The STRP NFP Workshop in 2012 was organized with the support of STRP. The STRP NFPs attended the workshop shared their ideas and expertise to improve the STRP NFP system in the region. The RRC-EA's efforts to improve

- Strategy 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness

By organizing the STRP NFP Workshop, the effectiveness of STRP NFP system has been improved.

### **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 coordination between the Convention secretariat and the RRC-EA is Optimal

### **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:

The RRC-EA follows a terms of reference, which is endorsed by the RRC-EA Steering committee; however, these are viewed as guidelines for the operation of the centre and not a principal regulation for the operation of the RRC-EA. In reality, the RRC-EA is viewed as an ancillary organization for the Gyeongnam Ramsar Environmental Foundation (hereafter GREF) in that funding and oversight of the RRC-EA is the responsibility of the GREF CEO. This leaves the RRC-EA without legal status or individual operational functions; to wit, the centre follows the GREF's guidelines and operational goals. While nearly all aspects of the day-to-day functioning of the centre are under the control of GREF-CEO, some aspects of the RRC-EA's sustainable projects do remain under centre

control, i.e. Wetland Fund, Youth Model Ramsar Convention, Asian Wetland Managers training program. While the centre does not have a designated director, an honorary director (Dr Gea Jae Joo of Pusan National University) oversees coordination and management of long-term operational goals for the centre.

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

The RRC-EA Steering Committee is the RRC-EA governance body  
The Steering Committee meets once a year normally in November, and is comprised of representatives from Contracting Parties in East and Southeast Asia, the Ramsar Secretariat, the host national government, the host sub-national government and the RRC-EA representative.

Currently the Steering committee members are:  
Representatives from the Contracting parties of: China, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia  
Ramsar Secretariat: Senior Advisor for Asia & Oceania  
Host national government: Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea  
Host sub-national government: Gyeongnam Province, Republic of Korea  
Representative of RRC-EA: Honorary Director

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

The minutes of the Steering Committee are distributed during the steering Committee meeting, and signed off by committee members, who are then provided with copies of the Minutes following the meetings. The minutes have a restricted availability to the steering committee members and whomever they choose to share them with; however, they are not distributed openly, nor are they made available on the RRC-EA 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:

All the RRC-EA's activities are focused on the implementation of the Convention and raising visibility of the Convention as described in question four above regarding the Convention's Strategic Plan.

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 RRC-EA was supposed to be established as an independent organization with a certain amount of time to prepare for its independence. However, in the process of establishment, not enough time was allowed and it was created as a part of GREF. All decisions regarding RRC-EA operations including activities to support the implementation of the Ramsar Convention can only be made by the GREF CEO. If the CEO does not understand the target of the work, mission and vision of the RRC-EA, the activities have to be stopped and this happens quite frequently.

To avoid confusion between the roles of RRC-EA and the roles of the national Ramsar authority, the RRC-EA only supports the work of national Ramsar authority based on a request from the authority or through discussion with the authority and the Ramsar Secretariat.

To avoid confusion between the role of RRC-EA and the role of the Ramsar Secretariat, the RRC-EA reports its' planned activities in the annual report and during the year and the steering committee meeting asks for advice from the Ramsar Secretariat before conducting any activities.

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

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:

The RRC-EA has its own logo and does not use it with the Convention's logo in all documents and activities.





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

The RRC-EA has its own website but the website is not currently functional.

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

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:

The RRC-EA is hosted by the Republic of Korea and financially supported by the host country and the Gyeongnam provincial government. The amount of financial annual support is about 400,000 USD. 40% comes from the national government and 60 % from the provincial government and the support from these 2 governments provide 100% of the overall budget.

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

Of the countries listed in question 2, no country provides financial support for the RRC-EA.

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

In Korea, for an agency to have its own bank account, it is necessary to have separate legal status. As stated earlier, due to the nature of the RRC-EA being under the collective of the GREF, it lacks any separate legal status. The result is that the RRC-EA lacks the ability to have its own bank account. As a result, because there is no bank account, all accounting is overseen, and in effect managed by the GREF and its CEO. Thus as an effect of not having its own legal status, the RRC-EA is currently unable to enact any accounting for its activities, nor is it in charge of the monies that it disperses to other agencies for the Wetland Fund.

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

In addition, because of the lack of legal status, the RRC-EA cannot raise funds within Korea, for any activities, regardless of how valuable or effective these activities may be in developing wetland conservation/protection within the region.

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:

In 2011, The YOUNGONE Corp., a Korean Company, came to an agreement to support financially the RRC-EA's local language training programme by acting through the GREF. However, it was not possible to turn this into a long-term sponsorship with YOUNGONE, because of the RRC-EA's legal status issue. However, if the centre, had legal status, this would allow the centre to obtain external funding sources, which would in turn reduce the financial expenditures required from the National and provincial governments.

## **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:

Name: Suh, Seung Oh

Address: 641-996, #303, Changwon Exhibition Convention Center, 362 (Daewon-dong), Wonidaero, Uichang-Gu, Changwon, Gyeongnam, Republic of Korea

- 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 RRC-EA does not have any hosting agreement with any private/public institutions, governmental agencies or Ministries. The RRC-EA was established based on the proposal submitted to the SC40.