

**DOC. SC46-11**

# Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2013-2015



*ambitions & objectives*



# Operational Guidelines (Annex 1)



## *The aim of regional initiatives ...*

- to **improve** the **implementation** of Ramsar objectives (*regionally, nationally, locally*)
- to provide **lasting**, structural and operational **support**
- to provide **training** and increase implementation **capacity**
- to facilitate **exchange** of expertise and knowledge, also with **third parties**
- to **coordinate** technical, scientific and monitoring work
- to provide a **framework** for consultation, planning and cooperation
- to facilitate the implementation of **all** Ramsar approaches

# Operational Guidelines (Annex 1)



## *Regional initiatives are not ...*

taking up the role of the Ramsar Secretariat,  
duplicating efforts of the Secretariat,  
serving as a regional office of the Convention,  
acting on behalf of the Convention, or in its name.

Regional initiatives provide added value to increase the capacity  
for better implementation of Ramsar on the ground.

# Operational Guidelines (Annex 1)



## *Coordination between regional initiatives and the Secretariat ...*

The **Secretariat** does not *develop, coordinate or run* regional initiatives, it *advises, assists and makes sure* that regional initiatives implement Ramsar objectives and apply Ramsar guidelines.

The **regional initiatives** *raise the visibility* of the Convention and the general awareness of *Ramsar objectives*, they present themselves with their own identity (*own logo in combination with the Ramsar logo*) in order to avoid confusion between the national Administrative Authorities and the Secretariat.



# Operational Guidelines (Annex 1)



*Regional initiatives need governance structures ...*



**governance bodies** that are *independent* and work in a *transparent* way, based on commonly *agreed*, *written* terms of reference, rules of procedure, or operational guidance.

# Operational Guidelines (Annex 1)



## *Regional initiatives need financial and political support ...*

from Parties and institutions within the region,  
where a coordinating office is established, a *hosting agreement* assures independent and efficient operation, accounting and fundraising.

## *Regional initiatives need to report on progress with work ...*

on an annual basis,  
including reports on financial status and planned activities,  
in order to obtain the *Ramsar* endorsement and *quality label*.

# Standing Committee **action** requested



1) To **review** and **adopt** the revised

Operational Guidelines 2013-2015 for Regional Initiatives  
in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands

Attached in Annex 1 to DOC. SC46-11

# active Ramsar regional initiatives



## *4 regional centres for training and capacity building in:*

**East Africa** (*established in* Kampala)  
**the Western Hemisphere** (Panama)  
**Central and West Asia** (Ramsar)  
**East Asia** (Changwon)

## *11 networks for regional cooperation:*

*along the* **West African** coast  
*in the* **Niger** river basin  
*in the* **High Andean** region  
*in the* **La Plata** river basin  
*in the* **Caribbean**  
*on* **American mangroves and reefs**  
*along the* **East Asian-Australasian Flyway**  
*in the* **Mediterranean**  
*in the* **Carpathian** region  
*in the* **Nordic-Baltic** region  
*along the* **Black and Azov Sea** coasts

DOC. SC46-11 paragraph 6

progress reports 2012 ,  
work and finance plans 2013  
available on [ramsar.org](http://ramsar.org)



# are they fulfilling the Operational Guidelines?



the 2009-2012 Guidelines : yes

**COP11** instructed the Standing Committee to revise these guidelines: in order that a precise evaluation of the ***activities, administrative and financial*** management and ***long-term sustainability*** of the regional initiatives is possible.

The *questionnaire* sent out to all initiatives in January 2013 covered the issues addressed in Resolution XI.5 and in the review of regional initiatives submitted to COP11 ...

The analysis of the responses highlights a number of shortcomings, summarized in **paragraphs 7 – 14 in DOC. SC46-11**

# shortcomings identified



Each initiative needs to make better use of, and increase references to, **Ramsar operational tools** (*i.a.* Handbooks, Technical Reports, Briefing Notes).

All initiatives need to include into their work programme references to the ongoing work of the **STRP** and cooperate with, and seek active input by national STRP and **CEPA** focal points.

Specific initiatives still lack **formal support** and participation by **all** countries concerned, as well as by scientific experts, NGOs and other relevant **stakeholders**.

Several initiatives still need to establish their own **identity** and regular means of **communication** and **promotion**.

Several initiatives are still too dependent on **single country funds**, or have not yet established **own accounting procedures**.

Most initiatives are encouraged to develop and establish **hosting agreements** in view of their long-term survival and independent operations.

# Standing Committee actions requested



2) To **endorse** the listed 15 initiatives

as fully meeting the 2009-2012 Operational Guidelines and operating in the framework of the Convention **during 2013**.

3) To **request** the initiatives concerned

to report on the **solutions** of the issues listed in paragraphs 7-14 of DOC. SC46-11 in their annual report to be submitted in time for SC47, in early 2014. The **endorsement** of initiatives fully meeting the **2013-2015 Operational Guidelines** will depend on satisfactory reporting in time for SC47.

# Ramsar core budget financial support



COP11 established **Ramsar core budget line** (D) for support to regional initiatives (160,000 CHF for 2013), *and ruled that*

such support will only be provided **for one period** between two meetings of COP, *centres* can obtain support for a period of **up to six years in total**, *networks* may receive **phasing out funds** during three years after receiving financial support during an initial triennium.

Financial support from the Convention's core budget will only be provided as a start-up funding.

After that period, initiatives need to be self-sustaining (Operational Guidelines).

# initiatives eligible for core budget funding



Res. XI.5 paragraphs 15-17

One centre having received financial support during 4 years,  
*eligible for only 2 more years: East Africa (RAMCEA).*

Six networks having received financial support during 2009-2012,  
now at the beginning of a *phasing out period* until COP12:

**La Plata** river basin

**Niger** river basin

**Caribbean**

**American mangroves and reefs**

**Carpathian (CWI)**

**Black and Azov Sea** coast (BlackSeaWet)

## Not eligible

5 initiatives having received Ramsar core budget funds for *two periods* between COPs:  
Mediterranean (MedWet), Western Hemisphere centre (CREHO), Central and West Asia  
centre (RRC-CWA), High Andean network, West African coast network (WacoWet).

# Table 2 on page 7 of DOC. SC46-11



## financial overview and proposed Ramsar core budget funding for 2013

Table 2  
0.9 CHF/USD  
1.2 CHF/EUR

	total Ramsar funding in the past (up to and including 2011)	2012 allocation disbursed (not yet disbursed)	real expenditure in 2012	left-over available at the beginning of 2013	planned expenditure for 2013	additional request to Ramsar for activities in 2013	proposed allocation by Standing Committee for 2013
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
<i>regional centres for:</i>							
East Africa (Kampala)	151,357	<sup>1</sup> (25,000)	35,500	15,000	177,500	35,000	35,000
Western Hemisphere (Panama)	207,286	<sup>1</sup> (16,000)	52,200	56,116	208,800	<sup>2</sup> not eligible	
Central and West Asia (Ramsar)	285,000	<i>nil</i>	332,573	18,000	729,000	<sup>2</sup> not eligible	
East Asia (Changwon)	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>	376,200	<i>nil</i>	346,500	<i>nil</i>	
<i>regional networks for:</i>							
West African coast	157,700	<sup>1</sup> (10,000)	10,157	5,000	58,500	<sup>2</sup> not eligible	
Niger river basin	20,000	<sup>1</sup> (10,000)	10,095	?	35,500	30,000	30,000
High Andean	133,000	10,000	29,297	<i>nil</i>	44,000	<sup>2</sup> not eligible	
La Plata river basin	20,000	14,000	15,260	7,978	31,700	16,700	16,700
Caribbean	28,800	<sup>1</sup> (15,000)	7,000	42,362	140,000	15,000	15,000
American mangroves and reefs	82,000	<sup>1</sup> (20,000)	12,000	45,757	191,000	20,000	20,000
East Asian-Australasian Flyway	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>	445,590	253,170	591,660	<i>nil</i>	
Mediterranean	310,930	<i>nil</i>	185,748	<i>nil</i>	132,000	<sup>2</sup> not eligible	
Carpathian	104,000	16,560	74,758	22,501	118,080	13,019	13,019
Nordic-Baltic	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>	21,600	?	11,760	<i>nil</i>	
Black and Azov Sea coast	83,080	<sup>1</sup> (3,179)	6,889	45,149	20,000	<i>nil</i>	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,868,867</b>	<b>139,739</b>	<b>1,614,867</b>	<b>511,026</b>	<b>2,836,000</b>	<b>129,719</b>	<b>129,719</b>

# Standing Committee action requested



4) To **allocate** from Ramsar core budget line D 129,719 CHF to the following six initiatives, as requested for their activities in 2013:

East African centre	35,000 CHF
Niger river basin network	30,000 CHF
La Plata river basin network	16,700 CHF
Caribbean network	15,000 CHF
American mangroves and reefs network	20,000 CHF
Carpathian Wetland Initiative	13,019 CHF