



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 2010**



## **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 support 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.

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.

From 1991 to 2009 the Fund has provided a total of 7.7 million Swiss Francs to 234 projects from 108 countries, providing up to 40,000 Swiss Francs (about US\$38,000) per project. The Fund relies exclusively upon voluntary contributions. In recent years, many very worthwhile projects have not been supported due to insufficient funds. In 2009, this was 75% of all those evaluated as feasible. We hope to improve on this for 2010.

**40 projects favorably evaluated for funding in the 2010 SGF cycle are briefly described in the following pages.**

**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.**

Note: the amount requested from the SGF indicated for each of the project proposal includes a 10% fee for project administration by the Ramsar Secretariat.

For more information on the Fund, please visit [www.ramsar.org/SGF/](http://www.ramsar.org/SGF/)

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Albania and Montenegro



## Shkodra Lake, transboundary Ramsar Site Promoting environmental awareness and education

**Education, awareness and capacity building** Lake Shkodra/Skadar shared by Albania and Montenegro and designated as a Ramsar Site on both sides, is the biggest lake in the Balkans, and an area of exceptional biodiversity and social values. The aim of the project is to raise environmental awareness of the resident population regarding wetlands. An awareness campaign including an educational boat trip for 100 students, two “Cleaning Days” along the lake shores, painting of bank concrete walls with campaign slogans and images, publication and distribution of information materials, organization of a final workshop and capacity building on project management will be organized. These activities will usefully complement earlier projects and activities of the current GEF-funded bilateral project for the management of Lake Skadar.

*Proponent* | ALDA - Association of Local  
Democracy Agencies

*Total Budget*  
52,733.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



Anguilla



## A long-term programme for the wise use of Anguilla's wetlands Developing a platform for conservation

**Inventory, national plan, designation, training** Anguilla, located in the Caribbean Lesser Antilles, supports important biodiversity, mainly associated with a series of 25 salt ponds and 21 offshore cays. These sites are largely unprotected and threatened. Based on previous high quality but inconsistent pieces of work, a strong and long term programme of work on the wise use of wetlands will be built. The key objectives are to update the wetland inventory, to design a National Plan including the future designation of Anguilla's Ramsar Sites and the protection of sites under local law, to enhance local capacity, including government and statutory agencies, through training workshops and the development of a fundraising plan. Regional links with other Caribbean countries and territories implementing the Ramsar Convention will also be fostered.

*Proponent* | Anguilla National Trust

*Total Budget*  
59,550.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**30,688.- CHF**



Argentina



## Argentina's Wetland Inventory A tool for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention

**National inventory, multi-disciplinary** Responding to Argentina's need presented in its national report to COP10, this project aims to develop the First Stage of the Argentinian National Wetlands Inventory which entails the definition and characterization of the wetland regions and sub-regions in Argentina. It will build on the efforts of a multi-disciplinary group of professionals working on wetland management and research from different sectors of society: academia, NGOs and central government. The project has the financial support of Wetlands International Argentina and the Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development through a GEF funded project.

*Proponent* | Fundación Humedales  
Wetlands International Argentina

*Total Budget*  
179,628.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**42,939.- CHF**



Argentina



## Participatory management plan for the Jaaukanigas Ramsar Site Development of a multidisciplinary approach

**Wise use, participatory approach** The project aims at creating a management plan for the conservation and wise use of the Jaaukanigas Ramsar Site. Located in the middle Parana Catchment, this site is a complex floodplain with heterogeneous habitats, high productivity, and high adaptation of biotic communities to the alternating low and high water regimes. The lack of a management plan has exacerbated the main threats such as the change in land use and deviation of water for human activities. This project will provide the authorities with management tools and technical information on which to base conservation decisions. The management plan will be designed using a multidisciplinary methodology involving different academia, NGOs, local and central government stakeholders.

*Proponent* | Instituto Nacional de Limnología  
INALI

*Total Budget*  
92,750.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**42,900.- CHF**



Burundi



## Conserving the polluted Malagarazi Ramsar Site Towards a restoration plan

**Environmental assessment, transboundary cooperation** This project aims at measuring the impact and assessing the threats of a sugar factory on the ecological character of the adjacent transboundary Malagarazi wetlands, a nature reserve in Burundi and a Ramsar Site, downstream, in Tanzania. In collaboration with Tanzanian experts, a restoration plan will be designed, submitted to the government of Burundi for approval and implemented.

*Proponent* | Burundi Nature Action

*Total Budget*  
44,822.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,733.- CHF**



Cambodia



Funded under  
the SGF 2010 cycle

## Strengthening and expanding the Ramsar Sites network

**Designation, training, monitoring** Due to limited human capacity and financial resources, Cambodia has not been able to effectively manage existing Ramsar Sites and designate more sites. The project aims at strengthening management initiatives in the existing sites and designating a new Ramsar Site. The main activities include conducting management capacity needs assessments and organising training courses for management teams in at least two existing Ramsar Sites, developing a monitoring protocol for at least one Ramsar Site, organising internal meetings within the Ministry of Environment, Cabinet of the Council of Ministers to secure the endorsement of the designation of Preak Toal as a Ramsar Site.

*Proponent*

BirdLife International in Indochina  
Cambodia Programme

*Total Budget*  
45,491.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,960.- CHF**



Cambodia



## Wise use and conservation of the Ramsar Site in Stung Treng Providing alternative livelihoods to the local communities

**Capacity building, poverty reduction, training** The Ramsar Site in Stung Treng, north-eastern Cambodia, has critical ecological and economical importance as a spawning area for fish populating the whole of the Mekong river, with unique wetland biodiversity. This area is currently facing many threats such as overfishing, exacerbated by extreme poverty and a lack of understanding of wetland ecology and benefits. The project aims at ensuring the wise use of the site through the reduction of natural resource dependency by the provision of alternative livelihoods to the local communities, and by raising awareness about the importance of wetland conservation. Twelve community-based organisations will be developed and trained in governance issues, alternative livelihood methods and conservation and resources management, and further funding will be sourced to ensure the self-sustainability of alternative livelihoods. Project partners include WWF and the local government.

*Proponent* | Cambodian Rural Development Team

*Total Budget*  
86,538.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,997.- CHF**



Cape Verde



## Wise use of the Ramsar Site Curral Velho

**Management plan, awareness, livelihoods** A management plan already exists for this Ramsar Site but has not yet been implemented due to lack of funds. This project proposal aims at updating and implementing the management plan of Curral Velho Ramsar Site as well as raising awareness among the local community, private and public sectors regarding the wise use of the site. This project will also promote socio-economic development of the island through the implementation of eco-income generating activities such as bird and turtle watching.

*Proponent*

WWF Cap Vert  
C. Benchimol

*Total Budget*  
55,674.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,661.- CHF**



## Parque Andino Juncal Evaluation, restoration and protection plan for the Ramsar Site

**Management plan, training** The Juncal Andean Park is the only high-Andean Ramsar Site located in Chile's Central region. The site's Mediterranean shrubland ecosystem is considered unique in South America and an endangered ecosystem by the World Bank and WWF. The project aims at strengthening protection and restoration activities in the Juncal Andean Park Ramsar Site by delivering a strategic and business plan for the site, and training and equipping park rangers.

*Proponent* | Parque Andino Juncal

*Total Budget*  
72,875.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,803.- CHF**



Chile



## Maullín Basin, X region Wetlands inventory and environmental assessment

**GIS, remotely sensed data and field work** The Maullin region in Chile holds a fragile and underrepresented ecosystem which provides support to endangered and endemic species and constitutes a biological corridor between the Andean mountain range and the coast. Some of its main threats are the accelerated loss of forest, the contamination of the river by industrial fluids, and the solid waste on the catchment area. The project aims to identify and evaluate the wetlands in the Maullin Basin by using GIS tools, remotely sensed images, and field-work to identify the wetland boundaries and assess its flora, fauna and areas polluted by solid waste.

*Proponent* | Centro de Estudios de la  
Universidad de Santiago

*Total Budget*  
56,179.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,402.- CHF**



Colombia



## Tarapoto wetland, Colombian Amazonia Towards a new Wetland of International Importance

**Ramsar Site designation, participatory approach** The project aims at designating Lake Tarapoto as a Wetland of International Importance. Lake Tarapoto's designation would be important due to the under representation of the Amazonian wetlands ecosystem in the Ramsar List. The project's main results include documents describing the wetlands, the signature of agreements with local communities supporting the site designation, and the compilation of the Ramsar Information Sheet and map for this purpose.

*Proponent* | Fundación Omacha

*Total Budget*  
58,095.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,969.- CHF**



Georgia



## Improving Kolkheti Wetlands management Reconciling local communities with their National Park

**Education and public awareness** Lack of knowledge is recognized as a root cause of the antagonism between the National Park, also a Ramsar Site, and the local population. The project aims at raising awareness of people living around the park about the wetland and its wise use. As a contribution to the park management plan, seminars and workshops for the local public, business sector and authorities will be organized in 10 villages. Ramsar Clubs will be created in schools and various educational events (lessons, exhibitions, excursions etc.) organized. Information leaflets, posters and newsletters will be prepared and disseminated. The information campaign will also include World Wetlands Day celebrations and publications/ presentations in local media. In addition, a social survey will be performed and used as a basis for recommendations to the National Park administration.

*Proponent*

Greens Movement of Georgia  
Friends of the Earth Georgia

*Total Budget*  
43,828.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**42,368.- CHF**



Georgia



Funded by  
Norway

## Towards a better conservation of the Ramsar Site Ispani Mire Developing ecotourism and restoring the site

**Ecotourism, training, reforestation, awareness** In the region of Kolkheti Lowland, Ispani Mire Ramsar Site is an excellent example of peatland, a unique type of ecosystem very sensitive to a number of human activities developed in the surroundings. The project will raise awareness among local community about the importance of this wetland and promote its sustainable use through the development of ecotourism. Visitor infrastructure including footpaths and information boards will be improved and information leaflets published. Training on guiding in nature for the staff of the protected area and Department of Tourism of Ajara will be organized, and pilot excursions will be held. In addition, reforestation will be initiated to improve the protection of the site and to restore a plot of Colchis natural relict forest. An update of the site management plan will also be prepared.

*Proponent* | Society for Conservation of Wild Nature  
Tchaobi

*Total Budget*  
54,666.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



Ghana



## Barekese water catchment area Towards a second inland Ramsar Site

**Designation, participation, environmental assessment, public awareness** This artificial reservoir, threatened by the decrease in water quantity and quality, provides essential ecosystem services to the surrounding communities. As a first step towards wise management, the proposal seeks to designate this area as Ghana's second inland Ramsar Site through a participatory approach. Biological surveys will gather the necessary baseline information, and workshops with key stakeholders such as chiefs, traditional land owners, local administration will be organized to raise awareness, seek views and opinions and define the Ramsar boundaries.

*Proponent* | A ROCHA GHANA

*Total Budget*  
47,897.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,938.- CHF**



Guinea-Bissau



Funded under  
the SGF 2010 cycle

## Wise use of the Ramsar Site “Lagoa de Cufada” Towards a better management through poverty reduction and awareness

**Monitoring, training, sustainable fishing, ecotourism** The Nature Park Lagoa de Cufada is the sole Ramsar Site in Guinea-Bissau. The human and technical resources to address increasing pressures on this vast site (fishing, poaching, deforestation, agriculture...) are scarce. This project aims at (1) developing a monitoring plan and training for the staff of the nature park, (2) defining sustainable fishing rules in collaboration with the fisherfolk, (3) reducing poverty by developing ecotourism and teaching birdwatching, and monitoring of fishermen and park guards, (4) raising awareness of communities living in the area through the training of school teachers and journalists.

*Proponent*

Institut de la biodiversité et  
des aires protégées (IBAP)

*Total Budget*  
75,652.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**37,954.- CHF**



## Monitoring migratory birds in key wetland areas Contributing to site protection measures

**Monitoring programme, training, education and local awareness** In Sumatra and West Papua, due to poor knowledge of conservation priorities and migrant and wintering birds, there is low political and public awareness and support for migratory bird conservation, and sites are threatened by diverse human disturbances such as hunting and development pressures. The aims of this project are to (1) develop a bird inventory and monitoring programme at two Ramsar Sites, (2) build greater leadership by hands-on training of National Park staff and university students in bird identification, bird counts, and bird handling, (3) raise environmental awareness amongst local communities through education activities for children and parents, (4) contribute to site protection measures by providing bird monitoring data to policy makers on which to base their decisions.

*Proponent* | Wildlife Conservation Society  
Indonesia Program

*Total Budget*  
43,999.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,999.- CHF**



Kenya



## Community awareness to protect the Environment in Naivasha Towards a better environmental governance

**Public awareness, education and training** The main problems faced by Lake Naivasha are the lack of a legal framework and management, poor governance and enforcement of the environmental laws and policies, lack of participation of the local communities, and pollution and eutrophication of the lake. This project aims to raise awareness, to improve environmental governance and build technical capacity of the local community members thereby allowing them to fully participate in the wise use of the lake. Developing awareness material, organizing education activities, designing simple guidelines from key policies and legislation to be disseminated to local communities during workshops, training them on how to implement them are the main activities.

*Proponent* | Ujamaa Centre

*Total Budget*  
45,223.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**42,643.- CHF**



Kenya



## Conservation and wise use of wetland biodiversity in Kenya Towards an operational national wetland policy

**Legislative framework, management guidelines, public awareness and training** A national wetland policy has been drafted but not adopted yet by the government of Kenya. This project aims at promoting the adoption of the national wetland policy, and encouraging the inclusion of Ramsar articles in legislation. In line with this policy, wise use management guidelines will be developed, disseminated and applied to Ramsar Sites. Training and awareness raising activities, e.g. through a wetlands forum, will be undertaken.

*Proponent* | East African Wildlife Society

*Total Budget*  
49,674.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,977.- CHF**



Madagascar



## Wise use of lakes Kinkony and Ihotry Designation and management of two new Ramsar Sites

**Management plan, participatory approach, public awareness, ecosystem services** The aim of the project is to designate Lakes Kinkony and Ihotry as Ramsar Sites, to create and implement a sustainable management plan for the wise use of their resources, and to empower local communities. Awareness activities on the importance of the wetlands and the ecosystem services provided will also be implemented amongst the local community.

*Proponent* | Asity Madagascar  
V. Raminoarisoa

*Total Budget*  
45,149.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,664.- CHF**



Mexico



## Wetlands of the Southeast region of the Bala´an K´aax Strengthening management and conservation activities

**Alternative livelihoods, restoration, awareness** The project aims to develop training and awareness-raising sessions and restoration activities in the wetlands and five communities surrounding the Bala´an K´aax Ramsar Site. Through a community-developed action plan tackling common threats such as illegal hunting, deforestation and slash and burn farming techniques, and performing reforestation activities, the project aims to facilitate restoration of the wetland area while providing alternative sources of income to local communities.

*Proponent* | Desarrollos, Proyectos y Gestoria  
Ambienta S.A. de C.V. - CONANP

*Total Budget*  
151,873.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**36,661.- CHF**



Mexico



## Cabo Pulmo National Park Towards sustainable tourism for the Ramsar Site

**Ecotourism, public use programme, alternative livelihoods** The project will create a Public Use Programme to be developed in the Ramsar Site Parque Nacional Cabo Pulmo. Uncontrolled growth of tourist activities in the region imposing high pressure on coral reefs and other resources within the area has led to the need to create a public use plan which will regulate tourism activities and take into consideration the creation of alternative sources of income for the communities.

*Proponent* | Sociedad de Historia Natural Niparaja  
CONANP

*Total Budget*  
92,521.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**38,500.- CHF**



Mexico



## Invasive species diagnostic in five Ramsar Sites Towards a strategy

**Research, site management planning** The project will develop a strategy to manage the introduction of invasive species in five Ramsar Sites within the Chiapas State (Cabildo Amatal, Gancho Murillo, Humedales de Montaña La Kist, Humedales La Libertad and Sistema Lagunar Catazajá) by working with research groups, academia and other experts. The project will develop a list and a database of invasive species for each Ramsar Site, a map with the distribution of invasive species in each Ramsar Site, and ultimately will design a strategy for dealing with the most common invasive species in each site.

*Proponent* | Secretaria de Medio ambiente Vivienda  
e Historia Natural

*Total Budget*  
65,515.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**19,711.- CHF**



Mexico



## Sistema Ripario de la Cuenca y Estero de San José Ramsar Site Creation of a conservation and management programme

**Management plan** The construction of tourist facilities and the presence of invasive species are the main threats faced by the Ramsar Site Sistema Ripario de la Cuenca y Estero de San José del Cabo. To properly manage those threats, the project aims to elaborate a management plan for the conservation and wise use of this area. Located in the South California State, this site supports a great number of unique flora species which form important corridors and refuges for wildlife; this site also has high hydrological importance for the area.

*Proponent* | Los Caboscoast keeper, A.C.  
CONANP

*Total Budget*  
41,785.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**27,178.- CHF**



Mexico



## Cuencas y corales de la zona costera de Huatulco Ramsar Site Towards the wise use of the wetlands in the micro catchment del arroyo Cacaluta

**Climate change mitigation, site management, monitoring, awareness** The project seeks to develop, adopt and implement the Ramsar Convention tools on conservation and management of wetlands in the Ramsar Site Cuencas y Corales de la Zona Costera de Huatulco in order to contribute to the mitigation of climate change and the prevention of disasters and diseases. Some of the activities include the construction of soil retention mechanism, the implementation of a coral reef monitoring system, awareness raising on the Ramsar Site.

*Proponent* | Parque Nacional Huatulco

*Total Budget*  
68,577.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,342.- CHF**



Mexico



## Integrated management of the Babícora lagoon

**Water quality, sustainable management** Currently, the Ramsar Site Babícora lagoon faces contamination due to solid waste, and the lack of sewage facilities and forest conservation. The project seeks to improve the water quality in the site through the development of treatment facilities, a livestock and agricultural management programme in the lagoon's surrounding areas. This project will be developed in collaboration with local communities and municipalities surrounding the area.

*Proponent* | CONANP  
PRONATURA Noroeste

*Total Budget*  
58,150.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



Mexico



## Cañón de Fernández Ramsar Site

### Developing a Public Use Programme through sustainable governance

**Site management planning, empowering local communities** Due to the uncontrolled growth of tourist activities in the region, the Ramsar Site Parque Estatal Cañón de Fernandez has been suffering direct negative impacts on its natural resources, hence the need for a plan regulating the non-extractive activities in the park and its surroundings. The project will create a Public Use Programme to be implemented in the site. This programme should also include the strengthening of local communities in terms of leadership, conflict management, strategic planning, and decision-making.

*Proponent* | Pro-defensa del Nazas A.C.

*Total Budget*  
29,309.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**24,088.- CHF**



Mexico



## Ceuta Lagoon System, Sinaloa

### Restoration of the saline wetland and endangered flora assessment

**Research activities, database, protection measures** The project aims to restore and stimulate the wise use of the Ramsar Site Sistema Lagunar de Ceuta. This will be achieved through research activities on the reproductive populations of marine birds and the promotion of measures to increase their populations. It will also provide a database on the site's flora.

*Proponent* | Conservacion, Investigacion y servicios Ambientales

*Total Budget*  
67,249.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**38,834.- CHF**



Moldova



Funded by  
Norway

## Developing a national wetland policy and action plan

**Wetland information, legislation, participatory approach** BIOTICA Ecological Society, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and other stakeholders, will draft a national wetland policy and action plan based on the Ramsar Convention guidelines and preliminary legal analyses. In this context, criteria for identification of Wetlands of National Importance (WNI) will be adopted and applied nationally to identify potential WNI. Two national workshops will be organized to discuss the draft policy and provide methodological and advisory support on wetland management to key stakeholders. After consultation with the national Ramsar committee, relevant authorities and stakeholders, the final draft of the policy will be delivered to the Ministry of Environment for the official approval.

*Proponent* | BIOTICA Ecological Society  
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

*Total Budget*  
45,090.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,791.- CHF**



Moldova



## Wetlands conservation, Padurea Domneasca Nature Reserve Towards a transboundary Moldovan-Romanian protected wetland area

**Legal status, local awareness, ecotourism** The project aims at ensuring the preservation of eight particularly important wetlands within the Padurea Domneasca Nature Reserve which represents one of the most valuable and oldest floodplain forests in Europe. These wetlands were preserved despite large-scale wetland degradation caused by river regulation, and they still provide habitats for threatened species, nesting and stop-over sites for waterbirds. The project hopes to secure the status of Wetland Protected Area for the wetlands, which will allow steps to be taken towards their adequate management and restoration. Other activities will include raising awareness of local community and authorities about the importance of these wetlands, promoting ecotourism, and organizing an expert workshop on the establishment of a transboundary Moldovan-Romanian Wetland Protected Area.

*Proponent* | Ecological Movement of  
Moldova

*Total Budget*  
49,544.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



Nepal



Funded by Japan

## Community-based wetland conservation in Mai Pokhari

**Management plan, participatory approach, training** – The Mai Pokhari Ramsar Site, one of the prime religio-cultural sites of eastern Nepal, attracts thousands of pilgrims every year. Due to lack of knowledge and awareness about the value of wetlands, the absence of a management plan, and conflicts arising from multiple tenure systems, the site faces numerous threats such as the introduction of invasive species, encroachment into forest land, unplanned construction and settlement growth along the wetland trails. The project aims to maintain this natural wetland and its services using community-based wetland management, through strengthening the existing conservation units and building capacity of local communities in conservation. A management plan will be developed based on ecological surveys.

*Proponent* | The East Foundation

*Total Budget*  
38,512.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**38,512.- CHF**



Nepal



## Maipokari Ramsar Site

### Sustainable biodiversity conservation

**Management plan, capacity building and awareness** – The Mai Pokhari Ramsar Site provides crucial ecosystem services. The main objectives of the project are to develop greater awareness of the importance of wetlands and ecosystem services, to design a management plan, and improve the coordination among all Community Forest User Groups (CFUG)s in the site through workshops and awareness campaigns, training and capacity building on wetland management, and biodiversity inventories. Awareness materials (posters) will be produced and circulated amongst school children, visitors and general users.

Proponent | ECCA

Total Budget  
43,720.- CHF

Amount requested  
**42,602.- CHF**



Palau



## Ngardok Nature Reserve Increasing the wise use through restoration activities

**Restoration plan and public awareness** The Ramsar Site Ngardok Reserve, the largest freshwater lake in Micronesia is crucial as a source of water and home to endemic and threatened plants and animals. It faces human disturbances such as overharvesting and intrusions in the site due to lack of compliance with no take and no entry rules of the site. The project aims at implementing a restoration plan that will address human induced impacts at the site, increase awareness about the connectedness of human activities, biodiversity and wetlands, and decrease the incidence of resource use. A survey to identify the most sensitive areas, the installation of signs and marking of the site boundaries with native vegetation, and the production of awareness materials will be the main activities.

*Proponent* | Palau Conservation Society

*Total Budget*  
106,461.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



Panama



## Punta Patiño Ramsar Site, Darien Province

### Strengthening the community and conservation of the site

**Participative creation of a conservation network** This project aims to create a formal platform for the implementation of conservation strategies and community development within the Punta Patiño Ramsar Site. The platform will include community, private and public stakeholders who have a direct influence on the protected area. The creation of this group will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to be involved in the conservation of the site and will strengthen the community structures.

*Proponent* | National Association for the Conservation of Nature (ANCON)

*Total Budget*  
40,805.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**40,805.- CHF**



Rwanda



## Rugezi Marsh

### Promoting the wise use and conservation of the wetland and its biodiversity

**Poverty reduction, monitoring, capacity building** The project aims at developing a common understanding among stakeholders on the importance of Rugezi Marsh to facilitate the development of a management plan. Public awareness activities will be organized among local communities, government services and in schools to show wetlands benefits. Alternative livelihood options aimed at relieving pressure on the marsh will be promoted and key stakeholders trained in project management. A monitoring plan will be developed for threatened species such as the Grey Crowned Crane and local communities will be trained in data collection.

*Proponent* | Rwanda Environment  
Management Authority

*Total Budget*  
69,308.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,960.- CHF**



Serbia



## Tamis River backwaters Collecting information for a better management

**Wetland inventory and awareness** Along the Tamis river, a 359 km tributary of the Danube, a system of about 40 wetlands (backwaters) plays a crucial role for navigation and flooding regulation and would benefit from better management. Although local stakeholders are interested in its protection and sustainable use, the information available is not sufficient to improve the management of the system. In consultation with local stakeholders, these wetlands will be described and recommendations on their wise use will be produced. A GIS database will be created and made available to local stakeholders in all administrative units sharing the Tamis valley wetlands. The main conclusions and recommendations will be published as a brochure.

*Proponent* | Faculty of Applied Ecology  
Futura Milan Knezev

*Total Budget*  
38,564.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**36,242.- CHF**



South Africa



## Video documentary project for South African Ramsar Sites Towards a better recognition of ecosystems services provided by wetlands

**Communication and public awareness** This project seeks to address the lack of accessible knowledge of the essential services provided by wetlands. The main outputs will be edited video documentaries on each of seven prioritized Ramsar Sites in South Africa, with a visual description of the environmental services that each wetland provides, the challenges faced, interviews of key stakeholders, the status in terms of management plans, and a synthesis documentary of common findings and recommendations. Each documentary will be approximately 15 to 25 minutes in length and will be widely disseminated through DVDs and through the web.

*Proponent* | EcoDoc Africa  
Liane Greef

*Total Budget*  
70,000.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



The FYR of Macedonia



## Conservation of biodiversity in wetlands and paddy fields

**Wise use and public awareness** Rice production represents an important source of income and part of the cultural heritage of the Kocani region. The current practice of rice production has led to wetland degradation. The project will be implemented in Cesinovo-Oblesovo, a municipality covering about 45% of the country's rice fields. It will work towards the adoption of a local action plan for wetland protection with an emphasis on the introduction of sustainable rice production practices and provision of habitats for migratory birds. On 10 ha of selected paddy fields, models of sustainable rice production will be established and training will be organized for rice producers and stakeholders. To ensure support to these initiatives, an awareness-raising campaign will be conducted including publication of brochures, activities in schools, and the Stork Festival. The project will contribute to the preparation of the Municipality's Local Environmental Action Plan.

*Proponent* | Municipality of Cesinovo  
Oblesovo

*Total Budget*  
39,732.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**38,205.- CHF**



Uganda



## Mabamba Bay Ramsar Site Enhancing the ecological integrity

**Boundary extension, management plan, ecotourism and awareness** The Mabamba bay Ramsar Site is facing increasing pressures due to human activities such as increasing population, sand mining, flower farming, etc. Moreover the adjacent Makanaga Bay, of crucial ecological importance, is not yet included in the site. This project aims at raising awareness on the importance of wetlands around the lake and developing ecotourism as an alternative source of income, e.g. through the training of local communities to conduct birdwatching. The aim is also to update the existing wetland management plan through a participatory approach and the training of management committees. Finally, the Ramsar Site boundaries will be extended by including the Makanaga Bay.

*Proponent* | Nature Uganda  
The East Africa Natural History Society

*Total Budget*  
46,000.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



Ukraine



## Sasyk Ramsar Site

### Improving ecological conditions of headwaters

**Wetland restoration and local awareness** Sasyk Lake Ramsar Site, also a Biosphere Reserve, suffers from absence of water exchange with the Black Sea as a result of a dam built in 1978 and from various other anthropogenic pressures. The project aims to minimize pollution and unauthorized use of this area by the population of the four villages upstream of Sasyk Lake, as a complementary measure to the restoration of the connection between the lake and the sea supported in parallel by the government. The main activities include the preparation of documentation on the site, the demarcation of the water protection zone, and a survey of pollution sources and their possible eradication. An information campaign targeting the local community will include public meetings, consultations and trainings, cleaning of the coastal zone, educational events in schools, and distribution of information materials focusing on sustainable farming, sewage water treatment and waste management.

*Proponent*

Tatarburany regional  
environmental NGO  
"Vidrodzhennya"

*Total Budget*  
41,893.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**40,997.- CHF**



Ukraine



## Assessing management plans for Ramsar Sites, Polesie Region Towards a better management and communication

**Legislation and management guidelines** The project aims to assess, against Ramsar guidelines, the management structures and plans of four Ramsar Sites of the Polesie region: Shatsk Lakes, Perebrody Peatlands, Polissia Mires, and Desna River Floodplains. Based on the assessment results, the project will develop proposals for improving their management plans and for integrating new guidelines for management planning of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands in the current legislation. The project also aims to improve communication between management authorities, key stakeholders and local communities whose livelihoods depend on the wise use of wetlands. The whole project will contribute to implementation of the Ukrainian National Strategy for Wetlands and Action Plan adopted in 2003.

*Proponent* | Charitable Organisation  
InterEcoCenter

*Total Budget*  
44,000.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**