



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 2009



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 2008 the Fund has provided a total of 7.5 millions Swiss Francs to 227 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 2008, this was 40% of all those evaluated as feasible. We hope to improve on this for 2009.

28 projects favorably evaluated for funding in the 2009 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 <http://www.ramsar.org>

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Antigua and Barbuda



Reintroducing the Caribbean Flamingo, Codrington Lagoon A feasibility study in the national park

Restoration, feral livestock The Caribbean Flamingo disappeared from Barbuda in the 18th century due to overhunting and disturbance. The main objective of the project is to determine the feasibility of its reintroduction to the Ramsar site Codrington Lagoon National Park. The main activity is a baseline study and assessment of the ecological needs and requirements of the species. In addition, the project will also focus on feral livestock and other introduced mammals on the island: populations size and distribution will be assessed in order to provide practical solutions for reducing their potentially negative impacts on Flamingo reintroduction. The project will be carried out by "Environment Tourism Consulting" and overseen by the Ramsar Focal Points.

Proponent | Environment Tourism Consulting
Lucia Mings

Total Budget
111'698.- CHF

Amount requested
39'540.- CHF



Belize



Improving water quality management in a Ramsar site Developing a monitoring plan for Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary

Water quality monitoring, training Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary (CTWS) is one of the two Ramsar sites in Belize and it is currently co-managed by the Belize Audubon Society (BAS). Current increases in flood frequency and intensity and an increase in agricultural activity upstream are significant threats to the water quality of CTWS. However, there is no systematic water quality monitoring, mainly due to resource limitations. BAS propose to develop and actively use a scientific based water quality monitoring plan and protocol at CTWS. Activities include the acquisition of equipment to monitor water quality, organization of workshops and seminars to train the CTWS staff, elaboration of a staff manual and the production of a year end report on water quality.

Proponent

Belize Audubon Society
Anna Hoare

Total Budget
41,918.- CHF

Amount requested
37,181- CHF



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Bird watching as a response to poaching Nature Park Hutovo Blato, Ramsar site

Local awareness and training, ecotourism The project aims at developing birdwatching in the Ramsar site/ Nature Park Hutovo Blato as an alternative activity providing additional income to the park and to local people. The aim is also to raise awareness among local stakeholders particularly bird hunters and to reduce poaching in the park. Birdwatching routes will be identified, guide with maps will be published and trails will be constructed. Training on organization of birdwatching tours will be offered to the park rangers and local people. To promote the birdwatching, leaflets and posters will be published and information campaign in local media will be organized. The project is part of a broader set of activities within the Park aimed at developing sustainable tourism in the area.

Proponent | Nature Park Hutovo Blato
Nikola Zovko

Total Budget
52,181.- CHF

Amount requested
43,492.- CHF



Brazil



Funded under Wet-lands for the Future

Strengthening the National Wetland Committee Towards a consolidated national policy

Institutional support The Brazilian National Wetlands Committee (NWC) is a multi-sector group including members from the civil society, governmental agencies and the private sector. It aims to support the Ramsar Administrative Authority with the implementation of the Convention. Although it was established in 2005, its effectiveness is constrained by restricted time availability of the Ramsar National Focal Point (NFP) and NWC members. A consultant will be hired to work in collaboration with the NFP and consolidate the NWC. He/she will also organize Committee's meetings, prepare documents on policy making and propose technical panels. This strengthened NWC will increase coordination among the different sectors and ministries and increase awareness for conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Proponent | Division for Aquatic Biodiversity and Fisheries
Resources, Ministry of the Environment
Maria Carolina Hazin

Total Budget
141'271.- CHF

Amount requested
44'000.- CHF



Burkina Faso



Restoring ecosystem services of Hawaldiel pond Towards flood control

Poverty reduction, awareness programme, restoration The aim of this project is to reduce the risk associated with flooding in Dori through the improvement of management practices of the Hawaldiel flood plain. The project will thereby contribute to poverty reduction by allowing socio-economic activities to continue in tandem with the natural equilibrium of the region. This is to be achieved through improving the current capacity of the Hawaldiel flood plain, restoration of the banks and encouraging the local community to implement the proposed management actions, including halting the dumping of animal corpses into the water and encouragement of alternative livelihood options. This project will be carried out principally by the Mairie de Dori and the Management Committee of the flood plain. Various other government ministries are to be involved as well as local NGOs.

Proponent | Mairie de Dori
Hama Arba Diallo

Total Budget
921,563.- CHF

Amount requested
44,000.- CHF



Invasive species in pristine riparian wetlands, Patagonia New strategies for management

Research project, vegetation model Central Chilean Patagonia supports a wide variety of large, unmodified river corridors. However, these riparian wetlands are threatened by invasive species at an early or intermediate stage of distribution. This project will assess the types and distribution of invasive species and threatened wetlands, develop a riparian vegetation model and identify wetlands and habitats potentially at risk for spread of invasive species. These results will allow the development of management strategies to control the spread of invasive species and maintain the ecological character of these ecosystems.

Proponent | Universidad de Concepción
Claudio Meier

Total Budget
44,415.- CHF

Amount requested
43,836.- CHF



Congo



National inventory of wetlands Supporting the National Wetland Policy

Capacity building, identification of new Ramsar sites Collecting additional information on wetlands in Congo is crucial for the Direction Générale de l'Environnement, the administrative authority, to develop a national strategy in terms of wetlands management and restoration. This project aims to carry out a national wetland inventory to determine the number, the size, the type and values of wetlands in Congo. The information collected will be used in the elaboration of management plans as well as to finalise the National Wetland Policy which has been in preparation since 2005 (SGA). The information collected will also be used to identify new wetlands for designation as Ramsar sites of international importance.

Proponent

Direction Générale de l'Environnement
Gilbert Madouka

Total Budget
80,600.- CHF

Amount requested
32,203.- CHF



Georgia



Improving Kolkheti Wetlands management Reconciling local communities with their National Park

Education and public awareness The aim of the project is to raise awareness among people living around Kolkheti National Park (Wetlands of Central Kolkheti Ramsar site) about natural values of the wetland area and how to use it wisely. The lack of knowledge is recognized as the main source of antagonism between the National Park and local population. Seminars for local public, the private sector and authorities will be organized in selected villages. In schools Ramsar Clubs will be established and various educational events will be organized for children, while teachers will be offered methodological support. Information leaflets and posters will be prepared and distributed. The World Wetland Day will be celebrated with the participation of the national park administration and the local community.

Proponent | Greens Movement of Georgia/
Friends of the Earth Georgia
Marina Jordania

Total Budget
47,128.- CHF

Amount requested
43,679.- CHF



Honduras



Conservation of the Ramsar site, el Sur de Honduras Raising awareness and participation among local communities

Communication, public awareness The Ramsar site was designated 10 years ago. However, there is little public awareness about its environmental, social and economic importance. The project seeks to develop a Communication Education Participation and Awareness (CEPA) programme in the area. In addition, the project will also support the strengthening of local community organizations that are responsible for the conservation and management of natural resources in the area.

Proponent | Comité para la Defensa y Desarrollo de
la Fauna y Flora del Golfo de Fonseca
Alcides Rodríguez

Total Budget
52,531.- CHF

Amount requested
43,624.- CHF



Wise use and conservation of the Godavari River From survey to strategy building

Adaptation plan, climate change, biodiversity, livelihoods, ecotourism The Godavari River is subject to a range of increasing threats, including development projects for irrigation. There is no strategy for how the river is to be managed as a whole. The project is to develop a comprehensive strategy for the conservation and wise use of the river, to include detailed information on the values of the wetlands and recommendations for adaptation to climate change. The process to develop the plan will include a high level of participation from local stakeholders, leading to increased awareness of the value of the river and the need for sustainable management.

Proponent | WWF-India, Andhra Pradesh State Office
Farida Tampal, State Director

Total Budget
42,791.- CHF

Amount requested
42,791.- CHF



Jordan



Designation of Aqaba Birds Observatory Designing a management plan for wise use

Management, training, inventory Aqaba Bird Observatory is an important site for birds. The site is in a prime industrial and tourist area, and is subject to further pressures of housing development, airport expansion and water uncertainties. The proposal seeks to improve knowledge of the site, develop a plan of management, to establish monitoring programs, to prepare a Ramsar Information Sheet for the site in consultation with stakeholders, and designate the site as Jordan's second site on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Proponent | Jordan Society for Sustainable Development

Total Budget | *Amount requested*
158,986.- CHF | **40,552.- CHF**



Kenya



Capacity building for local communities in Lake Naivasha Towards sustainable management

Participation, poverty reduction, public awareness Due to a large increase in population over the last thirty years there has been severe degradation of the environment around Lake Naivasha. This project aims to raise awareness and build technical capacity of the local community members thereby allowing them to fully participate in the wise management of the lake. Developing awareness material, organizing education activities in schools, designing simple guidelines from key policies and legislation to be disseminated to local communities during workshops, developing alternative livelihoods through a participatory approach and training local communities on how to implement them are the main activities. The Lake Naivasha Management Plan will also be updated. The project will involve Government Agencies, Community-based Organizations and NGOs.

Proponent | Lake Naivasha Riparian Association
Anderson Koyo

Total Budget
54,275.- CHF

Amount requested
44,000.- CHF



Mali



Conservation and wise use of the Niger Delta Raising awareness within local communities

Communication, public awareness, reforestation The Niger Delta is facing threats from increasing siltation from clearing of land leading to high levels of erosion and affecting the ecological functions. This project aims to designate new Ramsar sites, revise the national legislation on resource management, carry out activities to raise awareness of the values of the Niger Delta in Mali amongst the local community members and the wider Malian population, raise awareness and train individuals on the importance of conducting Environmental Impact Assessment. The reforestation of 15ha of land in the Diaka region will be used as a pilot/demonstration project before extending the scope of this project to other regions. This will be carried out by the project proponent, an NGO in collaboration with the Ramsar Administrative Authority

Proponent | N'Gouro SANOGO

Total Budget
73,512.- CHF

Amount requested
43,384.- CHF



Mexico



Sistema lagunar de Alvarado Towards a restoration plan for the Ramsar site

Mangrove, survey, restoration, communication Habitat loss and degradation is a major problem in the Ramsar site "Sistema lagunar de Alvarado", which covers 18000 Ha of mangrove. Restoration measures are urgently needed. As a first step, the project will classify and map habitats based on biological, physical and social factors. This habitat zoning will identify areas where restoration effort should be focused. Restoration efforts have been undertaken by several local NGOs and community groups in Mexico during the last years. However, the results and learned lessons (theory and practice) are scattered and difficult to access. The project seeks to compile the information in a restoration manual and disseminate the results in the media and workshops.

Proponent | Pronatura México A.C.-Región Veracruz
Aníbal F. Ramírez Soto

Total Budget
83,016.- CHF

Amount requested
44,000.- CHF



Mongolia



Lake Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur Ramsar site Community based wetland ecosystem management

Participation, monitoring, awareness, ecotourism, management plan Lake Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur Ramsar wetlands are subject to a range of threats, including over-fishing, water pollution due to tourism, decrease of lake size due to climate and human factors, ineffective enforcement of conservation legislation and pastureland degradation. The project aims to improve cooperation between local communities, the government and NGOs to reduce negative impacts and improve the management of the lake. Activities include the establishment of a consultative council, development of a management programme, grant development and eco-tourism controls, monitoring and inventory, public survey, handbook and television promotions.

Proponent | Development and Environment Centre
Prof. Adyasuren

Total Budget
27,783.- CHF

Amount requested
27,500- CHF



Morocco



National wetlands inventory Towards a sustainable monitoring of wetlands

Inventory, training, communication Morocco proposes to carry out a wetland inventory so as to update knowledge and information held at present in order to determine the effect of drought conditions that has occurred over the last thirty years. The aim of this project is (1) to contribute to better knowledge of the eco-systems in the Mediterranean region, (2) to serve as complete information base for those responsible for the management of the wetlands in Morocco, (3) to raise awareness amongst the private sector of the values of wetlands and the resources they provide and (4) to train those working in this specific field on what is required in order to successfully conduct a wetland inventory. This project will involve both field and desk studies conducted by GREPOM and the Morocco Administrative Authority.

Proponent | Groupe de Recherche pour la
protection des Oiseaux au Maroc
Mahamed Dakki

Total Budget
103,714.- CHF

Amount requested
44,000.- CHF



Nepal



Education initiative for the conservation of Himalayan wetlands Wetland center and capacity building

Communication, education, monitoring Wetlands in Nepal are subject to a variety of threats, including those from the local community. The proposal seeks to set up a wetlands resource centre with research facilities for water and biodiversity, in particular to monitor nearby Ramsar sites. It also includes the development of training and education material for local stakeholders, schools and government. It includes the publication of a wetlands journal in Nepali and television awareness reports. The proponents will seek to partner with Government Ministries and environmental NGOs, such as ICIMOD, WWF, IUCN etc.

Proponent | National Lake Conservation
Development Committee
Kapil Shah

Total Budget
71,060.- CHF

Amount requested
43,973.- CHF



Nepal



Rara Lake, a high altitude Ramsar site Promoting effective management and wise use

Management plan, community awareness, training Rara Lake Ramsar Wetland is the largest lake in Nepal, and is of high ecological importance. It faces threats of overgrazing, illegal fishing, over-exploitation and increasing sedimentation. The project will conduct a rapid assessment of the values of the wetland, consult with stakeholders and prepare a Ramsar site management plan. It will also develop awareness raising materials and conduct training events.

Proponent | WWF Nepal

Total Budget
44,000.- CHF

Amount requested
44,000.- CHF



Nicaragua



Restoration of the Ramsar site Estero Real Conservation of natural resources and alternative livelihoods

Mangrove, reforestation, participation The mangrove forests of this Ramsar site are currently disappearing and threatened by intense collection of firewood. The project aims at restoring the diminished area through the reforestation of 40 Ha of mangrove. In addition, the project will train the local communities in eco-friendly income-generating activities and include three capacity building workshops to share good practices on wetland management. The project will be carried out by a local university in collaboration with the Ramsar Administrative Authority.

Proponent | CIDEA
Carlos Rivas Leclair

Total Budget
91,830.- CHF

Amount requested
43,942.- CHF



A national wetland database for Peru Implementation and data collection

Data compilation Peru is a mega diverse country with a large variety of wetlands, such as mangroves, salt pans, peatlands, palm swamps, glaciers, etc. Although some studies about its ecology, land use and threats have been carried out, the information is currently scattered in private libraries and technical reports. This situation hinders the wetland management and inter-institutional cooperation.

The project seeks to compile this information in a free-access online database. They will contact all institutions working on wetlands, collect information about physical and biological attributes, land use and tenure, and enter the information in the database. The project will be executed by a local NGO, in coordination with the Ramsar Focal Point.

Proponent | Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento
en Humedales
Florencia Trama

Total Budget
72,862.- CHF

Amount requested
19,724.- CHF



Serbia



Restoring the Valjevac pasture, Zasavica special nature reserve Towards better conditions for the colony of herons

Implementing a management plan and stakeholders awareness The project aims at conserving and restoring a wetland on the river bank in Zasavica Ramsar site/ Nature Reserve as part of a broader rehabilitation plan for the reserve. 12 ha of the wetland will be surrounded by a canal and a fence to exclude disturbance from people and grazing cattle. This will improve conditions for a number of nesting waterbirds, and hopefully will lead to the return of a heron colony that existed here in the past. In addition, favorable conditions for several amphibian species will be created. A bird watching tower will be built near the restored area. Leaflets will be published and a local event will be organized to inform local community about restoration measures.

Proponent | Pokret gorana Sremske Mitrovice
Slobodan Simic

Total Budget
45,575.- CHF

Amount requested
41,886.- CHF



Serbia



Mitigating effects of climate change and disturbances Restoring the water regime in Slano Kopovo

Mitigation, restoration, ecological character The aim of the project is to prepare an integrated plan for managing underground and surface waters in Slano Kopovo Ramsar site/ Nature Reserve. This is the first stage of a larger project aimed at restoring the water regime of two lakes that suffer from water deficit resulting from successive dry years and human activities. In cooperation with Natural Mathematics University Novi Sad, indicators of the ecological character of wetlands will be selected and hydrological, biological and meteorological data will be collected and analyzed. Based on those results, further restoration measures such as the construction of a canal to return water to the lakes will be prepared. Main results will be presented in a published report and during the final conference.

Proponent | Special Nature Reserve Slano Kopovo
Hunting Association
Milan Knezev

Total Budget | *Amount requested*
300,000.- CHF | **43,923.- CHF**



Turkey



Preserving wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness Developing a national action plan

Workshop, participatory approach The aim of this project is to develop a Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Action Plan for Turkey in line with the newly developed National Wetland Strategy 2009-2015 and to increase awareness among wetland actors (including wetland managers and users) on wetland values, their wise use and participatory management. Previous CEPA activities undertaken in Turkey in 2003-2008 will be revised, the National Wetland Strategy will be presented to wetland actors and a comprehensive Ramsar CEPA Action Plan (2009-2015) will be developed. 3 workshops will be organized. Publications will include "Turkey and CEPA for wetlands" evaluation report, "CEPA needs of Ramsar sites" report and a booklet presenting the developed CEPA Action Plan.

Proponent | WWF-Turkey
Buket Bahar Divrak
Galena İş

Total Budget
50,123.- CHF

Amount requested
44,000.- CHF



Uruguay



Bañados del Este y Franja Costera Implementation of the National Strategy

Funded under
the Danone-Evian
Fund for Water

Removing a Ramsar site from the Montreux Record The project aims to remove the Ramsar site Bañados del Este y Franja Costera from the Montreux Record of sites requiring urgent conservation action (included in 1990). This is to be accomplished through an assessment of the current conditions and those that put the site in the Montreux Record, a project on hydrological regulation in the site, and the designation of new Ramsar sites to compensate for the damages caused in Bañados del Este y Franja Costera.

Proponent | Dirección General de Recursos Naturales
Renovables – MGAP
Ing. Agr. Dra. Angelita Gómez

Total Budget
46,916.- CHF

Amount requested
38,456.- CHF



Uzbekistan



Funded by
Sweden

Tudakul and Kuyumazar water reservoirs Designation of new Ramsar sites

Designation, awareness, monitoring, participatory approach Tudakul and Kuyumazar reservoirs are under threat from water extraction and unsustainable hunting and fishing. The project proposes activities to improve knowledge of the wetlands, consult with stakeholders and decision makers including holding a workshop, and prepare information materials such as handbooks for hunters and fishers, a bird check-list and an educational film. At the end of the project, Tudakul and Kuyumazar reservoirs will be nominated for inclusion to the Ramsar List.

Proponent | State Inspection for Protection of Flora and Fauna, State Committee for Nature Protection

Total Budget
74,737.- CHF

Amount requested
43,897.- CHF



Viet Nam



Funded by Japan

Wise use and biodiversity conservation of Ba Be Lake Capacity building of a management cooperative

Participatory approach, management plan, fishing, training Ba Be is the largest natural lake in Vietnam, and an important fishery. Unsustainable fishery practices threaten the wise use of the lake. The project will develop a report on fish diversity, current fishing practices and provide a scientific basis for defining fishing quotas. It will establish a monitoring program, implement training courses on fish identification and good fishing practices, develop a Ba Be Lake Conservation Action Plan, and awareness raising materials.

Proponent | Ba Be National Park Management Board
Nong The Dzien

Total Budget
40,700.- CHF

Amount requested
39,600.- CHF



Viet Nam



Funded by
Sweden

Expanding Vietnam's network of Ramsar sites

Designation, inventory, participatory approach Vietnam has two Ramsar wetlands. This project seeks to designate at least two further sites to the Ramsar List. The project will focus on 4 priority sites, developing assessment report on each wetland including GIS maps and conducting rapid field assessments. Following consultation with local stakeholders, Ramsar Information Sheets for two of these wetlands will be prepared and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat.

Proponent | Vietnam Environment Administration
Dr Cuong

Total Budget
50,950.- CHF

Amount requested
40,920.- CHF



Viet Nam



Community-based cultural values preservation Towards conservation plans for coastal wetlands in Thien Hai and Quang Trach

Awareness, cultural values, training, ecotourism In Vietnam, wetlands are associated with local peoples' livelihoods, and cannot be separated from cultural heritage. The project proposes a comprehensive research report on the cultural values of chosen wetlands, awareness raising documents, community based cultural-preservation plans developed for appropriate sites, the rebuilding of a whale worship temple, training of local tour guides and farmers.

Proponent | Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Vietnam National University
Dr Le Dien Duc

Total Budget
46,598.- CHF

Amount requested
44,000.- CHF