Annex

Proposal for consideration by the Ramsar Standing Committee and COP9 for a regional initiative in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands

Explanatory notes. The attached form contains the elements of the Guidance for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands (Annexe to Resolution VIII.30)

In the Table below, Contracting Parties are invited to provide a summary of the approach of any regional initiative they are considering proposing for acceptance and/or financial support under the Convention.

The completed form should be sent by 30 April 2005, in electronic format, to the Secretariat (cop9@ramsar.org). All completed proposals will be consolidated for consideration at Standing Committee 31.

Any initiative considering a request to COP9 for financial support through the establishment of core budget lines for the 2006-2008 triennium should also provide the Standing Committee with additional budgetary information indicating the amount sought from core, and the amounts (in Swiss franc (CHF) equivalent) available or pledged from other sources.

Name of proposed regional initiative:

Countries involved:

Proposal submitted by (name(s) of Contracting Parties):

Name, organization and e-mail address of contact person:

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<th>COP8 Resolution VIII.30 Guidance</th>
<th>Proposed regional initiative</th>
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<td><strong>AIM</strong></td>
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<td>1. The overall aim of regional initiatives should be to <strong>promote the objectives of the Convention</strong> in general and to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan in particular, through regional and subregional cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern.</td>
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<td><strong>SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS</strong></td>
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<td>2. Regional and subregional initiatives should be based on a <strong>bottom-up approach</strong>. As a matter of priority, the involvement of as many as possible Contracting Parties of the region or subregion(s) covered by the new initiative should be sought from the start.</td>
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3. Each initiative should entail the participation, from the start, **not only of the Administrative Authorities** responsible for the application of the Convention in the Contracting Parties involved, **but also of all other relevant stakeholders** with an interest in and directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues, **including the ministries responsible for the environment and water issues**, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia, and economic actors.

4. A regional initiative should base its operation on the development of **networks of collaboration** established upon clearly defined terms of reference, thus creating an enabling environment for the involvement of all stakeholders at all levels.

5. At an early stage, a regional initiative should **seek collaboration with other intergovernmental or international partners operating in its region**, by establishing complementary and non-duplicative activities.

6. The operation of a regional initiative should be **based upon strong scientific and technical backing**, provided by relevant institutions which should be recognized as partners in the initiative.

7. The strategic and operational targets of a regional initiative should be **fully aligned with the Strategic Plan of the Convention** by means of policy and site technical work and activities.

**FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT**

8. A regional initiative requires **both political and financial support from Contracting Parties and other partners from the region**. A substantial support from the host country is especially important if a regional office is to be established.

9. The launching of a regional or subregional initiative should rely upon secured start-up funding for planned activities and projects.
10. Financial support from the Convention’s core budget, should the Conference of the Parties so decide, will be provided for a predetermined period of time – in principle not more than three years. After such a period, the support should be phased out. A regional initiative should generate its own resources and should become financially self-sufficient in the long term. When deciding financial support from the Convention’s core budget, geographically equitable distribution should be taken into account.

### GOVERNANCE

| 11. Regional initiatives should establish their own advisory mechanisms, involving all the stakeholders, in order to provide guidance and insight. The Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee shall receive, through the Ramsar Bureau, reports on their activities and shall oversee their general policies relating to the implementation of the Convention. |
| 12. Specific arrangements as to the coordination between a regional initiative and the Convention should be worked out by the Ramsar Bureau under the guidance of the Standing Committee, and such arrangements should ultimately be approved by the Conference of the Parties. |

Please send this completed form to the Ramsar Secretariat (cop9@ramsar.org) by e-mail by 30 April 2005