

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

26th Meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland, 3- 7 December 2001

DOC. SC26-11

Agenda item 14.3 (i)

Small Grants Fund: approval of project proposals for 2001

Action requested: The Standing Committee is requested to receive the report of the Subgroup on Finance relating to this item and make decisions as appropriate.

Income and funds available for allocation

1. In an effort to raise funds for the 2001 round of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF), the Bureau wrote in July 2001 to all Ramsar Contracting Parties that are donor countries (as it did in 1998, 1999 and 2000) soliciting their support. The contributions and pledges received up to 15 September 2001 are shown in Annex 1, which indicates that the funds available for allocation to SGF projects in 2001 amounts to SFR 324,171.
2. In addition, WWF International have confirmed that they will fund the 2001 proposal from Algeria (SGF/01/DZA/1) through the support provided to Ramsar Contracting Parties from their Living Waters Campaign, and are also considering funding for the 2001 proposal from Mongolia (SGF/01/MNG/1). Furthermore, Wetlands International has pledged to fund three 2001 proposals, from Belarus (SGF/01/BLR/1), Bulgaria (SGF/01/BLG/1), and the Slovak Republic (SGF/01/SVK/1), through its Netherlands DGIS framework agreement supporting wetlands wise use and conservation. At the Standing Committee meeting, an update will be given on this matter.

Project allocations

3. Following the established procedure, the Bureau reviews and ranks the SGF projects using the approved form for SFG project evaluations. This review is then communicated to the Subgroup on Finance, which meets on the day preceding the Standing Committee meeting to consider the Bureau's advice. In accordance with Decision SC20.31 of the 20th Meeting of the Standing Committee, the Bureau's recommendations have been provided to the Regional Representatives in the Standing Committee from regions from which project proposals have been received, for their consideration and comment. This was done on 14 September 2001 with a deadline for comment by 30 September 2001. No comments have been received.
4. For the 2001 SGF cycle, 49 proposals (10 from Africa, nine from Asia, 19 from Europe, 10 from the Neotropics, and one from Oceania) were considered as administratively complete, including the endorsement of the Ramsar Administrative Authority in each country, and underwent review by the Bureau using the approved SGF Project Proposal Assessment Form. The form has been designed to provide both structure and objectivity

to the way that the Bureau undertakes its assessment and preparation of recommendations for funding.

5. Through Standing Committee Decision SC25-24 a modification was introduced for the 2001 SGF cycle so as to include a score in the Bureau assessment of eligible projects for the technical quality of the project proposal. This additional element of assessment has proved a helpful addition to the assessment process, and the scores and ranking provided in Annex 2 fully incorporate this revised assessment procedure.
6. It should be noted that in order to seek equity of allocations among the Ramsar regions, the Bureau has prepared its advice on a region by region basis and used this to formulate its overall recommendation by placing the top projects from each region into the first priority (Category A1) for immediate funding.
7. On the basis of the Bureau's assessment, as shown in list of projects by region in Annex 2, the projects have been divided into five categories – A1 and A2; B; C; and D as follows:
 - (A1) Projects that are technically sound and of highest priority for funding with the funds on hand. This includes eight projects (two projects each from Africa, Europe, and the Neotropics, and one each from Asia and Oceania) with a total project cost of SFR 297,780.
 - (A2) Projects recommended for funding (in priority order based on the assessment score received by each project) if additional resources should become available for the 2001 SGF cycle. A further SFR 518,010 is required to fully fund all 13 of the A2 projects.
 - (B) Projects that are technically sound and are of medium priority for funding from the SGF.
 - (C) Projects that are technically sound but of lower priority for funding from the SGF.
 - (D) Projects that, on the basis of the information provided, are not considered technically sound or feasible.
8. The Subgroup on Finance may wish to note that one country (Guatemala) has one project proposal rated A1 and another rated A2, and two countries (Colombia and Congo) each have two project proposals rated A2. The Subgroup may wish to consider whether to recommend that, should additional funds become available, only one project per Contracting Party should be funded from the A1/A2 list, so as to ensure maximum spread of benefit to the Parties from the allocation of available funding.
9. Concerning pending reports from previous SGF funded projects, the Bureau has been reminding the relevant Contracting Parties of this obligation at regular intervals. The project assessment made by the Bureau on a region by region basis (Annex 2) shows those Parties for which reports remain outstanding as of 14 September 2001. One of the recommended A1 rated projects (Papua New Guinea) is from a country with an outstanding report from a previous project (with its final report due in October 2001). One country (Romania) with a project in the A2 rated list has previous SGF project reports outstanding.

DOC.SC26-11 Annex 1

SMALL GRANTS FUND - FUNDS AVAILABLE**SGF funds available for allocation in 2001**

(in Swiss francs, at 31.09.2001)

CONFIRMED FUNDS

Surplus from previous year carried forward 24,286.00

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE 2001 SGF CYCLE:

Austria, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Mgmt & Fisheries 12,000.00

United Kingdom, DEFRA 49,590.00

United States, Department of State 126,275.00

Minus 10% administration fee (18,787.00)**TOTAL CONFIRMED FUNDS 193,365.00*****PLEDGED CONTRIBUTIONS:***

Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 100,075.00

Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment 45,264.00

Minus 10% administration fee (14,533.00)

TOTAL PLEDGED 130,806.00**GRAND TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION SFR 324,171.00****AMOUNT REQUIRED TO FUND THE PROJECTS IN
CATEGORY A1 SFR 337,780.00****SEPARATE PROJECT FUNDING RECEIVED**

Belgium, Wallonne Region (for Black Storks) 20,000.00

Pledged – projects to be taken over:

WWF International (for Algerian project) 40,000.00

DGIS / Wetlands International – (for Bulgarian project) 40,000.00

DGIS / Wetlands International – (for Belarus project) 39,550.00

DGIS / Wetlands International – (for Slovak Republic project) 34,429.00

Annex 2

Bureau assessment of SGF projects and recommendations for funding

Category A1 projects, recommended for immediate funding	page 5
Category A2 projects, recommended for funding should additional funds for the 2001 SGF cycle become available	page 6
List of projects submitted by countries in Africa	page 9
List of projects submitted by countries in Asia	page 12
List of projects submitted by countries in Europe	page 15
List of projects submitted by countries in the Neotropics	page 18
List of projects submitted by countries in Oceania	page 20

SC26-11 - Annex 2

SGF 2001 – Category A1 projects, recommended for immediate funding, listed by Ramsar regions

Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Assessment score	Comments
Africa				
Tanzania SGF/01/TZA/1	Capacity building in the Tanzanian Ramsar Authority: Wetland Unit, Wildlife Division	37,885	59	Capacity-building. A well-presented proposal that seeks to redress the key current capacity constraint of the Ramsar Administrative Authority through the appointment and training of two staff, who will contribute to a larger current project for Ramsar implementation, funded by DANIDA and Tanzania, that is developing national wetland policy, wetland inventory proposals, review of legislation and encouraging local community participation, and Ramsar site designation.
Morocco SGF/01/MAR/1	Inventory of Morocco's wetlands for Ramsar site designation and management	40,000	53	Wetlands Inventory. High-quality proposal, with clear objectives and outputs and a good description of activities and the methods to achieve outputs, on a priority Convention activity which will facilitate further Ramsar site designations in the country.
Asia				
Mongolia SGF/01/MNG/1	Preparation for designation new Ramsar sites	25,000	46	Ramsar site designation/management planning. A revised proposal first submitted to SGF2000. Will prepare designations for six Ramsar sites, a management plan, including impact assessment, for one site and assist in the establishment of a national Ramsar Centre. Some budgetary details need to be clarified, but an important project to increase Ramsar capacity in the country. Under consideration by WWF for funding through the Living Waters Campaign.
Europe				
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of SGF/01/YUG/1	Rehabilitation and Restoration of wet meadows at Lake Ludas (Ramsar site)	39,928	54	Restoration/Management/Pubic Awareness. Project aims at restoration and further maintenance of 50 ha of wetlands in Lake Ludas RS area, actively involving local people and NGOs. It will also establish basis for eco-tourism and education (tourist paths and birdwatching facilities). Management plan for site will be elaborated.
Lithuania/ Belarus / Russia SGF/01/LTU-BLR-RUS/1	Inventory of Important transfrontier wetlands in Belarus, Kaliningrad district of Russia and Lithuania - Part II	39,764	50	Wetland Inventory. 11 transboundary wetlands (7 shared by Lithuania and Belarus; 4 shared by Lithuania and Kaliningrad region) will be inventoried and mapped. General management plans will be prepared for the sites, results will be published, with co-funding for the project from OMPO.
Neotropics				
Guatemala SGF/01/GTM/2	Economic valuation of Ramsar site Laguna del Tigre (Ramsar Site)	36,153	60	Economic valuation. Ramsar Site economic evaluation that includes determining the cost of petroleum exploration/extraction in the site. Excellent pilot project for other sites where oil related activities are occurring. Funds requested are only 16% of total project.

El Salvador SGF/01/ESL/1	Restoration of natural habitat of Cerron Grande Embankment for conservation and rational use in El Salvador (Potential Ramsar site)	40,000	58	Wetland restoration. Communal organisation with the support of AA and other organisations to implement restoration and sustainable use of El Salvador's largest freshwater body. Reforestation, improved fishing techniques and practices, education and preparation of a Management Plan draft. Technical quality of proposal excellent, objectives important.
Oceania				
Papua New Guinea (PNG) SGF/01/PNG/1	Development and Maintenance of a PNG Wetland Database and Education and Awareness on the Importance of Wetlands	39,050	47	Inventory/Wetland Strategy/Education & Public Awareness. Project will compile an updated inventory of important wetlands, as the basis for developing a strategy for future Ramsar site designations, and undertake local community EPA on priority sites. The lack of an inventory as the basis for prioritising designation and management actions has been identified during previous SGF project as a key impediment to progressing designations and management, and this project will facilitate landowner consultations critical for ensuring site safeguard in key sites identified by the inventory. Papua New Guinea has an SGF1999 project due for completion by October 2001.
TOTAL		297,780		

Category A2 projects, recommended for funding should additional funds become available for the SGF 2001 cycle, listed in order of priority for funding based on assessment score

Priority for funding	Assessment score	Country / Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Comments
1	57	Colombia SGF/01/COL/2	Participatory design of a conservation and sustainable use program for mangroves in Colombia. (Formulación concertada del programa para la conservación y uso sostenible de los manglares en Colombia)	39,777	Wise use/participatory management. Administrative Authority will organise a series of 12 workshops to develop a national mangrove conservation programme. Important participatory management of mangroves with key stakeholders (local communities, NGOs, Gov. agencies & AA). Colombia has a SGF 2000 project awaiting completion.
2	57	Guatemala SGF/01/GTM/1	Characterisation of hunting activities and abundance of endangered wetland related species in Punta de Manabique Wetland, Izabal, Guatemala (Ramsar Site)	39,922	Management planning. ONG, who co-manage this Ramsar Site, will characterise hunting activities to provide information for the determination of sustainable hunting practices, a Management Plan and re-enforcing the hunting law. Several endangered species listed in CITES are believed to be hunted in this site. Previous co-operation with implementing organisation has been very productive. Note. Guatemala also has a category A1 ranked project.
3	54	Mexico	Delimitation of central area of the Dzilam State	39,903	Management planning. Establishing in the field the borders of the Ramsar

		SGF/01/MEX/1	Reserve (Ramsar Site)		site to prevent the ongoing threats of grazing fields' expansion and fires occurring in buffer zones. Part of a larger conservation plan.
4	51	Togo SGF/01/TGO/1	Communities' participation in the identification and the implementation of measures for a sustainable management of the faune reserve of Togodo Ramsar site	39,950	Local community participation: Good proposal, with clear description of objectives, outputs, activities and budget, forming part of a larger project to increase local community participation in Ramsar site management.
5	48	Colombia SGF/01/COL/1	Birds as indicators of the environmental changes in the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta wetland (<i>Las aves como indicadores de los cambios ambientales en el humedal Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta</i>)	40,000	Assessment/monitoring. Aims to use waterfowl as wetland health indicators. There is, however, discussion of the validity of using waterfowl as environmental health indicators since they tend to adjust or move to better conditions. The link between the IDB project on plant and fisheries management in the Swamp with the proposed bird study is not clear. Note. Columbia also has a higher ranked category A2 project. Colombia has a SGF 2000 project awaiting completion.
6	47	Congo SGF/01/COG/1	Inventory and evaluation of wetlands in Congo	39,508	Wetland inventory and Ramsar site designation: A much improved proposal to that previously was submitted in 1999 and 2000, for a priority Convention activity of national inventory that will form the basis for identification and designation of further Ramsar sites.
7	46	Belarus SGF/01/BLR/1	First stage of national wetland inventory in the Republic of Belarus	39,550	Wetland Inventory. Project has been improved since its initial submission for SGF2000 and foresees inventory of major wetlands in country, identification of 20 new Ramsar sites, development of wetland database, as well as elaboration of an Action Plan for wetlands. Project being considered for funding under Wetlands International's DGIS framework agreement.
7	46	Malawi SGF/01/MWI/1	Promoting community-based natural wetlands management with emphasis on wildlife management as a means of wise use of the Lower Shire wetlands	39,900	Management Planning, Local Community Participation. A project with clear objectives, expected outputs and activities including development of incentives measures for community-based management, research and education.
9	45	Armenia SGF/01/ARM/1	Regional Seminar "Current issues of conservation and wise use of wetlands and wetland biodiversity in the European New Independent States"	40,000	Training. Based on experience from previous training courses, will provide training for 40 wetland specialists in 6 NIS countries, from both GOs and NGOs, with exchange of experience.
10	44	Croatia SGF/01/HRV/1	Development of Croatian Wetland Inventory	40,000	Wetland Inventory. Project has been improved initial since submission for SGF2000. Project will undertake inventory of Croatian wetlands, designation of new Ramsar sites, identification of threats and restoration needs for wetlands. Wetlands will be mapped and integrated into the physical planning process on all levels and results will be published.

10	44	Syria SGF/01/SYR/1	Strengthening the Participation of the Local Community in the Management of Al Jaboul Lake Ramsar site	40,000	Participatory management/Training/Public awareness. A well-presented project with clear objectives, outputs and activities. Will increase management capacity, including through training courses, at Syria's first Ramsar site, and encourage local community participation in the site's management, and produce awareness materials.
12	43	Congo SGF/01/COG/2	Management Plan development for Lac Télé/Likouala-aux-Herbes Community Reserve project	40,000	Management Planning, Local Community Participation. The project will promote direct local community participation in the conservation of biological resources through the development of a management plan for this Ramsar site. The process would involve government officials in recognition of the need for development of national policies and legislation that support local conservation and wise use interests. Note. Congo also has a higher ranked A2 project.
13	41	Romania/ Moldova / Ukraine SGF/01/ROM/1	An Integrated Trilateral Management Plan (Romania-Republic of Moldova-Ukraine) for the Lower Danube Euroregion	39,500	Strategy/Management. Project proposes to elaborate a common management plan for 3 Danube Delta RS (Moldova, Ukraine, Romania) and raise public awareness on wetland values. Romania has two pending SGF projects awaiting completion.
TOTAL				518,010	

**SGF 2001 - Projects submitted by the countries in Africa,
in order of priority for funding**

Country/ Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Passed Assessment stage 1	Assessment stage 2	Funding category	Priority for funding	Comments
Tanzania SGF/01/TZA/1	Capacity building in the Tanzanian Ramsar Authority: Wetland Unit, Wildlife Division	37,885	Yes	59	A	1	Capacity-building. A well-presented proposal that seeks to redress the key current capacity constraint of the Ramsar Administrative Authority through the appointment and training of two staff, who will contribute to a larger current project for Ramsar implementation, funded by DANIDA and Tanzania, that is developing national wetland policy, wetland inventory proposals, review of legislation and encouraging local community participation, and Ramsar site designation.)
Morocco SGF/01/MAR/1	Inventory of Morocco's wetlands for Ramsar site designation and management	40,000	Yes	53	A	2	Wetlands Inventory. High-quality proposal, with clear objectives and outputs and a good description of activities and the methods to achieve outputs, on a priority Convention activity which will facilitate further Ramsar site designations in the country.
Togo SGF/01/TGO/1	Communities' participation in the identification and the implementation of measures for a sustainable management of the faune reserve of Togodo Ramsar site	39,950	Yes	51	A	3	Local community participation: Good proposal, with clear description of objectives, outputs, activities and budget, forming part of a larger project to increase local community participation in Ramsar site management.
Congo SGF/01/COG/1	Inventory and evaluation of wetlands in Congo	39,508	Yes	47	A	4	Wetland inventory and Ramsar site designation: A much improved proposal to that previously was submitted in 1999 and 2000, for a priority Convention activity of national inventory that will form the basis for identification and designation of further Ramsar sites.

Malawi SGF/01/MWI/1	Promoting community-based natural wetlands management with emphasis on wildlife management as a means of wise use of the Lower Shire wetlands	39,900	Yes	46	A	4	Management Planning, Local Community Participation. A project with clear objectives, expected outputs and activities including development of incentives measures for community-based management, research and education.
Congo SGF/01/COG/2	Management Plan development for Lac Télé/Likouala-aux-Herbes Community Reserve project	40,000	Yes	43	A	6	Management Planning, Local Community Participation Participatory. The project will promote direct local community participation in the conservation of biological resources through the development of a management plan for this Ramsar site. The process would involve government officials in recognition of the need for development of national policies and legislation that support local conservation and wise use interests.
Mauritania SGF/01/MRT/1	Inventory of wetlands in Eastern Mauritania so as to prepare a fact list and to designate additional Ramsar sites	39,995	Yes	40	B	7	Wetland inventory. Project on a priority Convention activity, but budgetary information and technical quality of proposal methodology not clearly stated. Mauritania has a pending 1997 SGF project.
Gambia SGF/01/GMB/1	Boundary survey and demarcation of The Gambia's Ramsar sites	40,000	Yes	40	B	7	Management Planning. Survey and physical demarcation of perimeter boundaries of one Ramsar site and 2 potential Ramsar sites; the project is part of a longer term process funded by GEF but the promoter did not mention the activities of the overall proposal to be submitted to GEF Secretariat so as to show how the SGF project complements the long term project.
Guinea-Bissau SGF/01/GNB/1	Bioecological and ecological study for a better utilization of some fish and terrestrial animal species in the socio-economic life of the Cufada (Ramsar site) local communities	40,390	Yes	39	B	9	Monitoring, Economic evaluation. The concept is interesting and the objectives exciting and challenging, but the project is over-ambitious for the requested SGF budget (sole funding for this project) and so completion of the planned activities and achieving the expected outputs is unlikely.

Mauritania SGF/01/MRT/2	Wetlands inventory and improvement of institutional capacities	40,000	Yes	32	C	10	Wetlands inventory. A second, more general inventory project from Mauritania. and technical proposal quality, and particularly budgetary information, weak. Project seeking in excess of SGF CHF 40,000 maximum. Mauritania has a pending 1997 SGF project.
Algeria SGF/01/DZA/1	Designation 10 sites in the Ramsar list by the end of 2002	40,000	No				Ramsar site designation. Project will be funded by WWF Living Waters Campaign. The project aims to sensitize local authorities on the importance of wetlands, to inventory wetlands that satisfy Ramsar criteria and to designate 10 Ramsar sites (in follow-up to the 10 Ramsar sites designated in February 2001). Algeria has a pending 1996 SGF project.
Congo SGF/01/COG/3	(no title)		No				Only electronic version has been received, with proposal not following SGF Operational Guidelines format.
Mali SGF/01/MLI/1	Establishing and organizing wetland management committees for Ramsar sites	40,000	No				No Administrative Authority endorsement. Mali has a pending 1996 SGF project.
Niger SGF/01/NER	Mise à jour de la banque des données sur les zones humides du Niger et leur inscription comme site Ramsar	25,000	No				Submission after the deadline, no Administrative Authority endorsement and with proposal not following SGF Operational Guidelines format.
Sierra Leone SGF/01/SLE/1	National wetland inventory for Sierra Leone		No				No Administrative Authority endorsement and with proposal not following SGF Operational Guidelines format.

SGF 2001 - Projects submitted by the countries in Asia,
in order of priority for funding

Country/ Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Passed Assessment stage 1	Assessment stage 2	Funding category	Priority for funding	Comments
Mongolia SGF/01/MNG/1	Preparation for designation new Ramsar sites	25,000	Yes	46	A	1	Ramsar site designation/management planning. A revised proposal first submitted to SGF2000. Will prepare designations for six Ramsar sites, a management plan, including impact assessment, for one site and assist in the establishment of a national Ramsar Centre. Some budgetary details need to be clarified, but an important project to increase Ramsar capacity in the country. Under consideration by WWF for funding through the Living Water Campaign.
Syria SGF/01/SYR/1	Strengthening the Participation of the Local Community in the Management of Al Jaboul Lake Ramsar site	40,000	Yes	44	A	2	Participatory management/Training/Public awareness. A well-presented project with clear objectives, outputs and activities. Will increase management capacity, including through training courses, at Syria's first Ramsar site, and encourage local community participation in the site's management, and produce awareness materials.
Thailand SGF/01/THA/1	Enhancement of Public Education and Awareness on Sam Roi Yod Wetlands	40,000	Yes	36	B	3	Public education/Awareness. Project aims to develop pilot programme of EPA for primarily schools at Ramsar site where local opposition to designation expected. Output will be designed for transfer for EPA activities on other Ramsar sites, as part of national implementation of the Convention's Outreach Programme. Justification of focus on school EPA, rather than more broadly on local community awareness not wholly clear given the issues described for the pilot site.

Bangladesh SGF/01/BGD/1	Training on Conservation of Wetland in Bangladesh (Second Phase)	40,000	Yes	35	B	4	<p>Training. Project is proposed as a follow-up phase to a SGF 1996 project, for which the final report is yet to be completed. Activities proposed are clear but mechanisms and limited timeframe for delivery appear less realistic, and some budgetary costs not well justified. Difficult to assess validity of proposal activities until current SGF training project reports.</p> <p>Bangladesh has an SGF1996 project pending.</p>
Cambodia SGF/01/KHM/1	Sustainable Use of Wetland Resources - Stung Treng Ramsar site management	40,000	Yes	35	B	4	<p>Capacity building/Ramsar site Management. Overall aims of project are wide-ranging, including local awareness raising, and production of materials, preparation of local management plans, and field office construction, but most activity focussed on data collection and collation, and likely to be overambitious for time and funds available. Budgetary itemisation and justifications not clear.</p> <p>Cambodia has an SGF2000 project to be completed.</p>
China SGF/01/CHN/1	Study of China wetland native Dawn Redwoods (<i>Metasequoia grylptostroboides</i>) to formulate the Action Plan	40,000	Yes	34	B	6	<p>Management planning/Restoration. Part of a larger Yangtze River restoration project, this element would develop a conservation action plan for the much degraded Dawn Redwood ecosystem, in non-Ramsar site areas, so focussing on broader wetland wise use, involving largely data collection and limited public awareness activities. Budgetary justification is limited and any follow-up plan implementation is not clear.</p> <p>China has an SGF1999 project awaiting completion.</p>

<p>Sri Lanka SGF/01/LKA/1</p>	<p>Madu Ganga wetland Environmental Education & Visitor Centre</p>	<p>40,000</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Education & Public awareness. Proposes development of a visitor centre as a basis for awareness-raising in local communities in a coastal wetland not currently a Ramsar site. Activities proposed do not clearly establish how overall objectives will be achieved, and issues to address unclear, with heavy emphasis on centre for research and tourism rather than local community awareness. Budget justification, including major cost of subcontracts, not clear.</p> <p>Sri Lanka has an SGF1997 project awaiting completion.</p>
<p>Nepal SGF/01/NPL/1</p>	<p>Conservation and Sustainable Use of Ghodaghodital (lake); a proposed Ramsar Site in far western</p>	<p>40,000</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Management planning/tourism. Proposal is designed to chiefly address pollution and eutrophication problems and to develop ecotourism facilities in proposed Ramsar site.. Management planning context is not clear, likelihood of success of management actions uncertain, and ecotourism-related activities not clearly justified.</p> <p>Nepal has an SGF1999 project awaiting completion.</p>
<p>Korea (Republic of) SGF/01/KOR/1</p>	<p>Preservation and Wise Use of Kanghwa Tidal Wetlands</p>	<p>40,000</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Management/incentive measures. Proposed socio-economic valuation of intertidal wetland potential Ramsar site, as a basis for identifying incentive measures to strengthen future safeguard of the area. Although this is a potentially important project since Korea's tidal wetlands are under great threat of reclamation, the project proposal contains only very limited information about activities and how their methodology will deliver outputs and objectives, and how the outputs will contribute to implementation of an eco-park for the area currently under development.</p>
<p>India SGF/01/IND/1</p>	<p>Training Workshop on Wetland Management</p>	<p>40,000</p>	<p>No</p>				<p>Training. Proposal is for a training workshop for Ramsar site managers from India and neighbouring countries, with aim of increasing capacity and preparing action plans for site management, with workshop to be organised by WWF-India.</p> <p>Although the proposal is well-prepared and of potential importance, no Administrative Authority endorsement has been received.</p>

**SGF 2001 - Projects submitted by the countries in Europe,
in order of priority for funding**

Country/ Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Passed Assessment stage 1	Assessment stage 2	Funding category	Priority for funding	Comments
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of SGF/01/YUG/1	Rehabilitation and Restoration of wet meadows at Lake Ludas (Ramsar site)	39,928	Yes	54	A	1	Restoration/Management/Pubic Awareness. Project aims at restoration and further maintenance of 50 ha of wetlands in Lake Ludas RS area, actively involving local people and NGOs. It will also establish basis for eco-tourism and education (tourist paths and birdwatching facilities). Management plan for site will be elaborated.
Lithuania/ Belarus / Russia SGF/01/LTU- BLR-RUS/1	Inventory of Important transfrontier wetlands in Belarus, Kaliningrad district of Russia and Lithuania - Part II	39,764	Yes	50	A	2	Wetland Inventory. 11 transboundary wetlands (7 shared by Lithuania and Belarus; 4 shared by Lithuania and Kaliningrad region) will be inventoried and mapped. General management plans will be prepared for the sites, results will be published, with co-funding for the project from OMPO.
Belarus SGF/01/BLR/1	First stage of national wetland inventory in the Republic of Belarus	39,550	Yes	46	A	3	Wetland Inventory. Project has been improved since its initial submission for SGF2000 and foresees inventory of major wetlands in country, identification of 20 new Ramsar sites, development of wetland database, as well as elaboration of an Action Plan for wetlands. Project being considered for funding under Wetlands International's DGIS framework agreement.
Armenia SGF/01/ARM/1	Regional Seminar "Current issues of conservation and wise use of wetlands and wetland biodiversity in the European New Independent States"	40,000	Yes	45	A	4	Training. Based on experience from previous training courses, will provide training for 40 wetland specialists in 6 NIS countries, from both GOs and NGOs, with exchange of experience.
Croatia SGF/01/HRV/1	Development of Croatian Wetland Inventory	40,000	Yes	44	A	5	Wetland Inventory. Project has been improved initial submission for SGF2000. Project will undertake inventory of Croatian wetlands, designation of new Ramsar sites, identification of threats and restoration needs for wetlands. Wetlands will be mapped and integrated into the physical planning process on all levels and results will be published.

Romania/ Moldova / Ukraine SGF/01/ROM/1	An Integrated Trilateral Management Plan (Romania-Republic of Moldova-Ukraine) for the Lower Danube Euroregion	39,500	Yes	41	A	6	Strategy/Management. Project proposes to elaborate a common management plan for 3 Danube Delta RS (Moldova, Ukraine, Romania) and raise public awareness on wetland values. Romania has two pending SGF projects awaiting completion.
Georgia SGF/01/GEO/1	Involving local people in protection of Kolkhety Ramsar site.	39,145	Yes	40	B	7	Public Awareness/Education. Project has been improved since its initial submission for SGF2000. A local NGO proposes to undertake various CEPA activities, to raise public awareness on wetlands and the Ramsar Convention, with work based in a Ramsar site.
Estonia SGF/01/EST/2	Creating multitemporal GIS-based datasets for selected Ramsar sites in Estonia	39,408	Yes	38	B	8	Wetland inventory/ assessment. 3 Ramsar sites will be chosen as pilot sites for creating GIS datasets in order to allow the assessment of ecological change. A Web site will be created to offer educational and public outreach and share the results with other Baltic countries.
Bulgaria SGF/01/BLG/1	Inventory of Bulgarian Wetlands	40,000	Yes	36	B	9	Wetland Inventory. Project foresees data collection for all major components in wetlands, development of a database (using MedWet methodology) and publishing the results. It also plans to identify and designate Ramsar sites.
Poland SGF/01/POL/1	Expansion of Biebrza National Park's (Ramsar site) Boundaries	35,029	Yes	32	B	10	Inventory. Project foresees the field work to inventory flora and fauna in Biebrza NP, with analysis of data and preparation of digital maps, as part of a much larger project.
Slovak Republic SGF/01/SVK/1	Wetland Awareness and Education in the Turiec Wetlands Ramsar site	34,429	Yes	32	B	10	Education & Public Awareness. Project aims at elaboration of different tools for education and raising public awareness in the Turiec Wetlands Ramsar site, including information panels, a wetland information center, indoor and outdoor educational programmes and a cycling route. Project being considered for funding under Wetlands International's DGIS framework agreement.
Turkey SGF/01/TUR/1	Developing local initiatives in Turkish wetlands	39,871	Yes	32	B	10	Wise use/Education. Project will be carried out in two Ramsar sites and will encourage local people to use their skills and knowledge to deal with problems in wetlands at local level, as well as share their experience with inhabitants of other wetlands.
Russia SGF/01/RUS/1	Elaboration and implementation of regional state policy in conservation and rational use of wetland biological resources	35,700	Yes	31	B	13	Wetland Policy. Project plans to use the Tobol-Ishim forest steppe Ramsar site as model for elaborating and implementing regional state policy in conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Lithuania SGF/01/LTU/1	Development of visitor information system for Ramsar sites and other 5 big wetlands of Lithuania	13,342	Yes	31	B	13	Awareness/Education. Project focuses on creating and maintaining the information stands in both Ramsar sites and other important wetlands in Lithuania, as well as printing informative leaflets about wetlands, values and threats. Project proposal is of excellent technical quality, but scores low on other eligibility criteria.
Moldova SGF/01/MDA/1	Wetland Restoration targets in Moldovan part of the Danube river basin	39,480	Yes	30	C	15	Restoration. Project will identify the strategy and action plan for restoration and management of two rivers in the Danube river basin.
Romania SGF/01/ROM/5	Integrated Management Plan for the Techirghiol Lake Conservation and Wise Use	35,000	Yes	19	C	16	Inventory/Management. Project aims at gathering the biological and human use information about Lake Techirghiol as basis to elaboration of Integrated Management. Romania has two pending SGF projects awaiting completion.
Romania SGF/01/ROM/4	Rehabilitation of Corbii Ciungi Zoological Reservation	39,731	Yes	19	C	17	Inventory/Education. Project aims to undertake an inventory of the Corbii Ciungi wetland in order to rehabilitate it, and designate as a Ramsar site. Borders of wetland will be marked, and leaflets and posters produced to advertise the site. Romania has two pending SGF projects awaiting completion.
Romania SGF/01/ROM/3	Conservation and Ecological Rehabilitation of Comana Wetland	39,000	Yes	8	C	18	Wetland protection/Education. Project aims to declare Comana wetland as a Ramsar site and to provide it with national protection status, as well as educate the local population. Romania has two pending SGF projects awaiting completion.
Romania SGF/01/ROM/2	The protection and conservation of biodiversity from wetland Iezer Calarasi	40,000	No		-	-	Wetland management. An identical proposal first submitted to SGF2000 now resubmitted with no improvements, despite Bureau advice on elements that needed revision. Approach proposed for development of management plan does not indicate full understanding of the appropriate Convention process.

**SGF 2001 - Projects submitted by the countries in Neotropics,
in order of priority for funding**

Country/ Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Passed Assessment stage 1	Assessment stage 2	Funding category	Priority for funding	Comments
Guatemala SGF/01/GTM/2	Economic valuation of Ramsar site Laguna del Tigre (Ramsar Site)	36,153	yes	60	A	1	Economic valuation. Ramsar Site economic evaluation that includes determining the cost of petroleum exploration/extraction in the site. Excellent pilot project for other sites where oil related activities are occurring. Funds requested are only 16% of total project.
El Salvador SGF/01/ESL/1	Restoration of natural habitat of Cerron Grande Embankment for conservation and rational use in El Salvador (Potential Ramsar site)	40,000	yes	58	A	2	Wetland restoration. Communal organisation with the support of AA and other organisations to implement restoration and sustainable use of El Salvador's largest freshwater body. Reforestation, improved fishing techniques and practices, education and preparation of a Management Plan draft. Technical quality of proposal excellent, objectives important objectives.
Colombia GF/01/COL/2	Participatory design of a conservation and sustainable use program for mangroves in Colombia. (Formulación concertada del programa para la conservación y uso sostenible de los manglares en Colombia)	39,777	yes	57	A	3	Wise use/participatory management. Administrative Authority will organise a series of 12 workshops to develop a national mangrove conservation programme. Important participatory management of mangroves with key stakeholders (local communities, NGOs, Gov. agencies & AA).
Guatemala SGF/01/GTM/1	Characterisation of hunting activities and abundance of endangered wetland related species in Punta de Manabique Wetland, Izabal, Guatemala (Ramsar Site)	39,922	yes	57	A	3	Management planning. ONG, who co-manage this Ramsar Site, will characterise hunting activities to provide information for the determination of sustainable hunting practices, a Management Plan and re-enforcing the hunting law. Several endangered species listed in CITES are believed to be hunted in this site. Previous co-operation with implementing organisation has been very productive.

Mexico SGF/01/MEX/1	Delimitation of central area of the Dzilam State Reserve (Ramsar Site)	39,903	yes	54	A	5	Management planning. Establishing on the field the borders of the Ramsar site to prevent the ongoing threats of grazing fields' expansion and fires occurring in buffer zones. Part of a larger conservation plan.
Colombia SGF/01/COL/1	Birds as indicators of the environmental changes in the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta wetland (<i>Las aves como indicadores de los cambios ambientales en el humedal Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta</i>)	40,000	yes	48	A	6	Assessment/monitoring. Aims to use waterfowl as wetland health indicators. There is, however, discussion of the validity of using waterfowl as environmental health indicators since they tend to adjust or move to better conditions. The link between the IDB project on plant and fisheries management in the Swamp with the proposed bird study is not clear.
Peru SGF/01/PER/1	Restoration of degraded areas because of shrimp activity in the Los Manglares de Tumbes National Sanctuary (Ramsar Site) (<i>Restauración de áreas degradadas por la actividad langostinera, en el Santuario Nacional Los Manglares de Tumbes</i>)	39,385	no				Restoration. Late submission of project. Restoration of 20 ha of mangroves and capacity building on the topic for 20% of the local population. Project objective is right and much needed, but proposal leaves many unanswered questions about budget, land tenancy, and follow-up issues.
Peru SGF/01/PER/2	Formation of communal environmental promoters in the Junin National Reserve. (Ramsar site) (<i>Formación de promotores ambientales comunales de la Reserva Nacional de Junín</i>)	40,000	no				Training/ capacity building. Training of local environmental promoters of this Ramsar Site. Workshop, guideline modules, meetings and committee formation. The objectives of this project fit better the WWF initiative, as it is a capacity building project.
Peru SGF/01/PER/3	Environmental education program at the Mejias Lagoons National Sanctuary; School education and communal participation. (Ramsar site) (<i>Programa de educación ambiental del Santuario Nacional Lagunas de Mejía: Investigación escolar y participación comunitaria</i>)	28,844	no				Education/public awareness. Training and education of users of this Ramsar site. Also reforestation activities and didactic materials. The objectives of this project fit better the WWF initiative, as it is a capacity building project.
Chile SGF/01/CHI/1	Establishment of an environmental monitoring system associated with an Integrated Management Plan, Conservation and Rescue of the natural ecosystems of the Aconcagua river estuary (<i>Establecimiento de un Sistema de Monitoreo ambiental asociado a un Plan Integrado de Manejo, Conservación y Rescate de los Ecosistemas Naturales del Estuario del río Aconcagua</i>)	40,000	no				NGO aims to have this estuary designated as a protected area so they can implement a management plan that includes monitoring, workshops, priv/pub participation, and touristic project design. Excellent project, but it is over-ambitious considering the budget and timeframe of SGF projects.

Ecuador SGF/01/ECU/1	Restoration and sustainable management of mangroves in Ecuador (<i>Restauración y Manejo Sustentable de los Manglares en el Ecuador</i>)	30,600	no				Restoration/management. No AA endorsement. University department wants "seed funds" to request from the government the custody of 800 ha of mangroves (500 damaged) so they can carry out restoration and rational use activities.
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SGF 2001 - Project submitted by the countries in Oceania

Country/ Project code	Project Title	Amount requested (SFr)	Passed Assessment stage 1	Assessment stage 2	Funding category	Priority for funding	Comments
Papua New Guinea (PNG) SGF/01/PNG/1	Development and Maintenance of a PNG Wetland Database and Education and Awareness on the Importance of Wetlands	39,050	Yes	47	A	1	Inventory/Wetland Strategy/Education & Public Awareness. Project will compile an updated inventory of important wetlands, as the basis for developing a strategy for future Ramsar site designations, and undertake local community EPA on priority sites. The lack of an inventory as basis for prioritising designation and management actions has been identified during previous SGF project as a key impediment to progressing designations and management, and this project will facilitate landowner consultations critical for ensuring site safeguard in key sites identified by the inventory. Papua New Guinea has an SGF1999 project due for completion by October 2001.