

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands Actions for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China and Geneva, Switzerland, 5-13 November 2022**

Ramsar COP14 Doc.18.9 Rev.2

Draft Resolution 18.9.Part A

Draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives

1. RECALLING that Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) under the Ramsar Convention, which include regional **centers** for training and capacity building and regional networks to facilitate cooperation, are intended as an operational means to provide effective support for improved implementation of the Convention and its strategic plan in specific geographic regions, through voluntary international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern;
2. RECALLING that the Conference of the Contracting Parties has recognized the importance of RRIs in promoting the objectives of the Convention.
3. ALSO RECALLING that at its 13th meeting (COP13), the Conference of the Parties instructed the Secretariat’s legal advisor to conduct a review of relevant Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions, identifying those that were inconsistent with Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021* and relevant Decisions, and propose which should be repealed;
4. FURTHER RECALLING that at COP13, the Conference of the Parties through Resolution XIII.9 re-established the Ramsar Regional Initiative Working Group and instructed it to draft new operational guidelines for RRIs, as well as a draft resolution on RRIs which *inter alia* incorporated the aforementioned list of Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions to be repealed, and that both were endorsed by SC59;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

8. EXPRESSES its gratitude to the Ramsar Regional Initiative Working Group for their work on drafting new operational guidelines for RRIs;
9. ADOPTS the *Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives* contained in Annex 1 of this Resolution to support the implementation of the Convention, which shall serve as a reference to assess the operation of Regional Initiatives and their success. These *Operational Guidelines* supersede the operational guidelines adopted in 2016 through Decision SC52-16 and contained in document SC52-22;
10. REAFFIRMS the effectiveness of regional cooperation through networks and centers, grouped under the term RRIs, in supporting improved implementation of the Convention on Wetlands and its Strategic Plan and Resolutions;

11. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, working with partner organisations, to establish RRIs in parts of the world where no such exist yet and would be an opportunity to increase implementation of the Convention;
- 11bis. REQUESTS the Secretariat, working with IOPs, to identify opportunities for promoting RRI establishment in parts of the world where no such RRIs currently exist and where there is currently limited wetland management capacity, and to report back after each COP.
12. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to invite e.g. regional intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations, organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities, and transboundary river and groundwater basin organizations, to participate in or collaborate with RRIs;
13. RECOGNIZES the potential cooperation within the framework of RRIs in wetlands ecosystems or watersheds shared by Contracting Parties that allows a comprehensive vision of the territory, favouring dialogue, coordination and cooperation between the parties involved;
15. DECIDES that all RRIs shall comply with the following criteria based on Resolution XIII.9 to be formally recognized as an RRI under the Convention:
 - a. Develop written terms of reference which are consistent with relevant Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee. These terms of reference cover their own rules of procedure, structure, governance and membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation as advisory in the RRI;
 - b. The governance and financial structures and activities of RRIs are transparent, accountable, compliant with relevant laws and consistent with relevant Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee;
 - c. Undertake tasks related to the implementation of the Convention and its strategic plan in their region and can speak in their own name only, using their own logo, to avoid any confusion between RRIs, Ramsar Administrative Authorities at the national level and the Secretariat at the international level;
 - d. New RRIs submit to the Standing Committee through the Secretariat, according to the format in Annex 2 of this resolution, *Template for proposed new regional initiatives*, to be endorsed either by the Standing Committee, or the Conference of Parties;
 - e. RRIs submit a brief annual report to the Standing Committee through the Secretariat on their progress and operations, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines, according to the format in Annex 3 of this Resolution approved by the Standing Committee.
16. **DECIDES** The RRIs that satisfy the *Operational Guidelines* are endorsed by the COP or the Standing Committee as operating within the framework of the Convention for the period between two meetings of the COP, and receive the status of a Ramsar Regional Initiative or, if existing, will have their status confirmed.
18. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to provide the Conference of the Parties and Standing Committee a summary of the information obtained from the annual reports so as to assist these bodies for their reviews on RRIs and decisions regarding funding;
23. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to remind RRIs that do not submit their annual report to submit relevant reports.

- 23bis. FURTHER REQUESTS the Standing Committee to consider the withdrawal of endorsement of RRIs that do not fulfill the criteria in para. 15.
26. NOTES that RRIs that have been endorsed as operating within the framework of the Convention are eligible for start-up financial support from the Ramsar Convention core budget and RECOMMENDS that the startup financial support is to be provided up to six years, according to decisions on the budgetary matters.
29. DECIDES that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to eligible RRIs will be determined annually by the Standing Committee, based on the information submitted by RRIs to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 15 (e), and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance to the Standing Committee;
30. DECIDES that the RRI requesting for core funds by Ramsar Regional Initiatives should include a rationale about how the RRI supports Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and its Resolutions and guidance, according to the format in Annex 2 of this Resolution.
31. URGES RRIs that receive financial support from the core budget to consider using part of this support to achieve financial sustainability funding through financial support from other sources, including donors that are willing to support RRIs through specific projects and cooperation programmes particularly during the last years in which they qualify for such support;
33. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and potential donors to consider giving financial support to RRIs or their specific activities;
34. INVITES the Convention's International Organization Partners and other stakeholders to partner with and support RRIs in their undertakings, including in particular through capacity building and fundraising efforts;
36. REAFFIRMS the decision taken by the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties that "request the Secretariat, within its existing legal framework and mandate, to assist Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in the administration of non-core funded projects, including, but not limited to, successful fundraising for RRIs; and FURTHER INSTRUCTS Secretariat staff in positions identified in Annex 4 as supported with core funds not to be involved in the day-to-day administration of non-core funded projects, these being the responsibility of any Secretariat staff in positions supported with non-core funds for that specific purpose";
- 36bis. REQUESTS the Secretariat to focus its advice to RRIs on how to reinforce their capacity and effectiveness, including in relation to the alignment of RRIs with the Convention's Strategic Plan and CEPA Programme.
37. ENCOURAGES RRIs to develop proposals for strengthening their capacities, in particular in cooperation with other RRIs on specific geographical and thematic issues and, INVITES RRIs to maintain active and regular contact with the Secretariat.
40. FURTHER REQUESTS that the Secretariat continues to publish on the Convention's website information provided by the RRIs, including on-going projects and reports on their successes, work plans and other relevant information on RRIs as appropriate;

44. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to open ~~calls the call~~ for proposals for new RRI, to be endorsed by the Conference of the Parties or intersessionally by the Standing Committee. The submission of relevant information for consideration by the Standing Committee or the COP shall be according to the template in Annex 2 to the Operational Guidelines.
45. ENCOURAGE the Standing Committee to examine the possibility of recommending amendments of major nature to COPs based on the report from the Secretariat.

Annex 1

Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention

1. Regional Initiatives (RRIs) under the Convention on Wetlands are intended as operational means to provide effective support for an improved implementation of the objectives of the Convention its Strategic Plan.
2. The Operational Guidelines (OG) are an effort to ensure that the RRIs are actively supporting Contracting Parties with a common interest in a particular area, region or ecosystem, to protect wetlands into the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands framework.
3. Furthermore, the new Operational Guidelines are intended to make clear that neither the Contracting Parties nor the RRIs they are involved in can speak on the behalf of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; they can represent themselves only. This will help reduce risks for the Convention in every aspect of the operations of the RRIs.
4. The RRIs have various types of governance and coordination approaches, as well as operational and financial management practices. RRIs can be a regional centre or a network, or a mixture of both, can be cooperation networks not having a legal status or be established organisations of their own with their own legal status, and can have different kinds of governance and coordination approaches.
5. The Operational Guidelines aim at ensuring that the Contracting Parties at COP provide greater recognition and a stronger formal endorsement to those well performing RRIs. This type of recognition will facilitate their efforts in resource mobilization and obtaining more support from third parties, including donors willing to fund regional projects for improved implementation of the Convention in the various regions. Additionally, it is as important that the COP is made aware of challenges faced by some RRIs.
6. The Operational Guidelines should be considered as a guide for the sustainability of RRIs, allowing them to ensure their long-term effectiveness.
7. Those proposing new regional initiatives are to apply to the Standing Committee or the COP through the Secretariat to become an RRI. The application will include the information following the template in Annex 2 of this Resolution.
9. RRIs complying with all requirements should receive a certificate for the endorsed period by the COP or the Standing Committee.

Chapter 1: The aim and scope of Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs)

10. Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) shall support the operational implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in the geographical area they are covering. RRIs improve implementation of the Convention through international cooperation within the region on wetland-related issues of common concern, involving relevant stakeholders.
11. RRIs could either be physically established centres that have a regional training or capacity building programme, regional cooperation networks with no physical centre, or a combination of both.

12. Geographical regions to be covered by RRIs are defined according to the wetland-related needs of the relevant actors in their region. RRIs are intended to provide lasting structural and operational support to facilitate and improve the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the region concerned.

Chapter 2: Governance and functioning of the RRIs

13. Contracting Parties have the main responsibility to create, manage, develop, supervise and coordinate the functioning of the RRI and establish their coordinating unit. ~~This~~ these responsibility may be delegated through any appropriate arrangement.
14. All Contracting Parties that are members of a given RRI are encouraged to participate in the activities carried out during the year, according to the established workplan. When this is not the case, the coordination body of the RRI will lead a process to promote the active participation of the Contracting Parties.
15. RRIs establish their own governance and advisory mechanisms in order to provide leadership, coordination, guidance and accountability in a transparent and equitable manner. This requires the establishment of a governing body made up of the participating Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders, and a coordination body. The institutional **arrangements** ~~arrangement~~ of each RRI are defined in its operative rules and should encourage the active participation of all Contracting Parties members of the initiative.
16. The governing body meets regularly, guides, defines mandates, rules and principles of procedure, decides on how different work task for the activities of the RRI are to be distributed, monitors its activities work programme and its resources, and provides all its members with relevant information. The operational procedures are made available to the public for example at the individual RRI website or RRI webpage on the Convention's website.
17. All Contracting Parties who are members of an RRI are encouraged to contribute to the RRI, either by financial and/or in-kind resources for each triennium as appropriate.
18. RRIs may request advice from the Secretariat in order to strengthen their capacity and effectiveness, including for the mobilization of additional resources. The COP shall be informed about the support activities during the triennium.
19. RRIs are encouraged to use the best tools such as the existing Convention documents, in particular the technical annexes of the resolutions, manuals, guidelines, methods, etc. . They are encouraged to cooperate with Ramsar national focal points for the Convention, including those for CEPA and STRP.
20. The Secretariat of the Convention and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) may be invited to assist in the review of training modules developed by RRIs to ensure quality and that contents are aligned with approved global tools and are well adapted to regional contexts. The RRIs can also seek assistance from wetland experts, as well as wetland practitioners, for the review of training modules and related publications. On other capacity building activities, details about the number of individuals or organisations that benefitted from the undertaken activities, and results of any evaluations undertaken will be included in the annual reports, to be able to assess impact.

21. RRIs are encouraged to work in synergy with other initiatives including programmes of other international agreements such as CBD, CCD, CMS, UNFCCC, CITES.

Chapter 3: Status of the RRIs

~~22. On-going RRIs are endorsed by the COP. New RRIs are endorsed at the COP or intersessionally by the Standing Committee, provided that their establishment is justified as a response to the needs of the regions and that they comply with existing resolutions and decisions on RRIs according to the format of Annex 2.~~

22. On-going RRIs are endorsed by the COP.

23. New RRIs are endorsed at the COP or intersessionally by the Standing Committee, provided that their establishment is justified as a response to the needs of the regions and that they comply with existing resolutions and decisions on RRIs according to the format of Annex 2.

24. RRIs are a part of the implementation mechanism of the Ramsar Convention. They are not to be considered as regional offices of the Convention or as spokespersons or representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention.

24bis. The RRIs are encouraged to establish their own identity, which specifies their independence, their status and role. They apply relevant provisions of national legislation and, if needed, seek to obtain a formal recognition in their host country.

25. RRIs can only act by mandate of their constituents. They do not form part of any national or local authority or organisation that may provide them with support or hosting arrangements.

26. RRIs are requested to adopt their own logo and are encouraged to have a website. RRIs can use the convention logo in combination with their own logo. They have to apply convention rules on the convention logo.

Chapter 4: Participation in RRIs

28. RRIs are encouraged to establish a coordination body The Coordination body is encouraged to organize periodic meetings, ensuring timely planning and full involvement of Contracting Party members.

29. The Coordination body is encouraged to organize meetings for the purpose of exchanging experiences, which involve relevant stakeholders, such as Ministries, Governmental Organizations, International Organization Partners (IOPs) to the Convention on Wetlands, other non-governmental organizations and civil society, universities, local communities and the private sector, as well as CEPA and STRP national focal points of the Convention.

30. Effective partnerships with Convention IOPs and other relevant regional or global organisations should be promoted. The Coordination body should shall develop an annual workplan and its strategic plan in consultation with relevant partners.

Chapter 5: Relation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and the RRIs

31. Effective and frequent communication between the RRIs and the Secretariat is important.

Chapter 6: The role of the RRI to implement the Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan

34. The **workplan work programme** of each RRI is aligned with the approved Strategic Plan of the Convention.
36. RRIs that implement their workplan ineffectively in a given triennium might not be endorsed as RRIs in the succeeding triennium by the COP.
37. RRIs are encouraged to include specific activities related to CEPA in the annual work programme and/or projects. RRIs are invited to engage CEPA experts for advice and make use of existing material from other RRIs.

Chapter 7: Financing of the RRIs

38. RRIs have their own systems for accounting and presenting reports, overseen by their governing bodies, unless they are part of one or several of the Contracting Parties' accounting and reporting systems.
39. All participating Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide assistances to RRIs, and donors are encouraged to provide funds for their activities, for example through financing provided by specific projects or programmes.
40. The financial section of the annual report includes information on: number of Contracting Parties contributing in-kind or financial resources to the implementation of the initiative; number of other partners contributing to the initiative; expenditures against individual activities and results; as well as the amounts of the financial contributions.
41. RRIs take the necessary measures to establish financial sustainability with resources allowing for the development of their activities over the long term.
42. If lacking reliable resources, RRIs are encouraged to prepare a resource mobilization strategy to facilitate the implementation of their annual workplans. RRIs can request support to the Ramsar Secretariat to help their effort to find external financial resources.
43. The RRIs, receiving core budget from the Convention on Wetlands, are requested to submit a financial report to the Standing Committee as part of the annual report.
44. Each COP establishes a core budget line to support new RRIs over the coming triennium. The Standing Committee allocates these funds annually, in response to specific requests, to new RRIs that fulfil the Operational Guidelines.
45. RRIs are expected to be financially self-sufficient after having received financial assistance provided from the core budget of the Convention. RRIs may support the Contracting Parties in the development of project proposals in line with their respective workplan and the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

Chapter 8: Reporting and evaluation of the RRIs

47. RRI are requested to submit to the Standing Committee through the Secretariat annual financial and progress report regarding the workplan implementation according to the format in Annex 3.
48. RRI shall submit their annual report in accordance with the deadline that the Secretariat has provided.
49. The annual report and workplan shall be approved by the governing body of the RRI, prior to submission to the Secretariat.

Annex 2 to the draft resolution

Template for proposed new Ramsar Regional Initiatives regional initiatives

1. Name of RRI.
2. Contracting Parties who are members of the initiative shall provide a letter of commitment before every COP, indicating their financial contribution to the initiative, as well as designating the official in the Government that will be the focal point for it during the following triennium.
3. Description of expected coordination body and potential host.
4. Type of RRI: Regional Centre or Regional network, or a combination thereof, with a brief description.
5. Objectives of the RRI and rationale about how the RRI supports Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and its resolutions and guidance.
6. Describe the main objective to be reached with this RRI indicating the geographical area, region and/or ecosystems to be covered.
7. Please clearly identify the Goals and Targets of the Convention's Strategic Plan that will be supported through the RRI.
8. Please include names of relevant IOPs and other NGOs that would like to participate in the initiative.
9. Please name other potentially relevant partners and describe how they have participated in the preparation of the workplan and what role you expect them to assume if the RRI is endorsed.
10. Potential sources of funding for the RRI.
11. A Workplan and budget for the following three years (CHF/year) – according to Annex 3.
12. Confirm whether you plan to open an independent Bank account for the initiative.

Annex 3
Reporting format for Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Template, Annual report and workplan

(Please do not change the format)

Annual report for year XXXX and workplan for year XXXX

(6 pages maximum)

Submission deadline: XX XXXX

NOTE – to complete this template, please refer to the attached explanation

1. General information

- a. Name of Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI):
- b. Have the terms of reference (TORs) or equivalent documents been updated? Yes / No
(If yes, please provide the web link to the PDF version for the updated document(s).)

NOTE: Following [Resolution XIII.9 paragraph 8](#), TORs or equivalent documents must be developed, which contain rules of procedure, structure, governance and membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation in the RRI, and which should be consistent with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties.

- c. Is the RRI eligible for core funding from the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands?
Yes / No

2. Work and activities undertaken during year XXXX

Provide a summary of the work undertaken by listing in the table below the Initiative’s activities, the results achieved, verifiable indicators, sources of information to verify achievements, and relevant Goals in the Ramsar Strategic Plan to analyse tasks in relation to the implementation of the Convention ([Resolution XIII.9, Paragraphs 8, e](#)).

Objectives	Activities	Results/ outcomes	Verifiable indicators	Means of verification / source of information	Relevant Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals
1. Objective one	1.1 Activity undertaken	Completed / Not Completed Outcomes:			
	1.2 Activity undertaken	Completed / Not Completed Outcomes:			
2. Objective two					

3. Key achievements / results during year XXXX

- a. Please describe briefly the two or three main achievements / results during year XXXX (max. 200 words).

- b. For those RRI receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX , if there were changes to the work plan for year XXXX, including postponement or delay, please indicate the reasons (max. 200 words).

- c. Please describe briefly the two or three main challenges and lessons learned and planned measures to overcome or apply those (max. 200 words).

4. Financial report for year XXXX

Provide financial information on income and expenditure. If a currency other than Swiss francs (CHF) is used, please write each income or expenditure in the currency used and use the current exchange rate to convert the total sum to CHF.

For those RRI receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget for year XXXX: _____ (CHF) (as submitted in last year's plan)

Details of sources of income and amounts:

Sources of income	Income received
Ramsar core budget	amount
Other sources (please be specific, such as donor's name, project name)	amount
Total (CHF)	(Total amount should be in CHF)

Detailed expenditure:

Budget Items	Planned expenditure	Actual expenditure	Sources of income
1.1 activity			
1.2 activity			
Administration			
Total (CHF)	(Total amount should be in CHF)	(Total amount should be in CHF)	

Certified by (person in charge of financial management) on (date)

Financial balance at 31 December XXXX:

Total amount of unspent and/or uncommitted balance to be carried over to YYYY (the coming year), or deficit: _____ (CHF)

(Please remove either unspent and/or uncommitted balance or deficit as applicable)

- a. If there is an unspent and/or uncommitted balance, please explain how it will be used for the coming year.
- b. Please explain how the funding has been spent or committed, and compare this to the plan on which the funding request was based. Explain any significant changes in scope or timetable.

For those RRIs not receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget for year XXXX: _____ (CHF) (as submitted in last year's plan)

Details of sources of income and amounts:

Sources of income *	Income received
Name of income sources	amount
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF

Detailed expenditure:

Budget Items	Planned expenditure	Actual expenditure (CHF)
1.1 activity		
1.2 activity		
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF	Total amount should be in CHF

Certified by (person in charge of financial management) on (date)

Total amount of unspent and/or uncommitted balance to be carried over to YYYY (the coming year), or deficit: _____ (CHF)

(Please remove either unspent and/or uncommitted balance or deficit as applicable)

**If the RRI cannot disclose financial details, please share the audit reports or financial reports which were submitted to the governance bodies with the Secretariat. Please note that the Secretariat needs to provide such information to the Standing Committee and the Conference of Contracting Parties to ensure the recognized RRI's financial accountability, in accordance with [Resolution XIII.9 paragraph 8.d](#).*

5. Work and activities planned for (coming year YYYY)

Provide a summary of the work planned by listing the Initiative's activities, the results expected, verifiable indicators, sources of information to verify the achievement, and relevant strategic goals according to the format below:

Objectives	Activities	Expected results/ outcomes	Verifiable indicators	Means of verification / source of information	Relevant Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals (link)
1. Objective one	1.1 Activity planned				
	1.2 Activity planned				
2. Objective two					

6. Financial plan for year XXXX

Provide financial information on forecasted/budgeted expenditure and income. If a currency other than Swiss francs (CHF) is used, please write each income or expenditure in the currency used and use the current exchange rate to convert the total sum to CHF.

For those RRIs receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the tables below.

Total planned budget: _____ (CHF)

Details of planned income sources and amount:

Sources of income	Forecast / budgeted income
Ramsar core budget	amount (currency)
Other sources (please be specific if possible, such as donor's name, project name)	amount (currency)
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF

Details of planned expenditure:

Activities	Planned expenditure	Sources of Income
1.1 activity	amount (currency)	

1.2 activity		
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF	

This report is certified by (Responsible person for your RRI) on (date)

For those RRIs not receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget: _____ (CHF)

Details of planned income sources and amount:

Sources of income	Forecast / budgeted income
Name of income sources	amount (currency)
Total	Total amount should be in CHF

Details of planned expenditure:

Activities	Planned expenditure	Sources of income *
1.1 activity	amount (currency)	Name of sources
1.2 activity		
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF	

This report is certified by (Responsible person for your RRI) on (date)

Explanatory notes

1. Terms of reference of RRIs

Following Resolution XIII.9 paragraph 8, RRIs must develop terms of reference, which cover their own rules of procedure, structure, governance, membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation in the RRI, and which should be consistent with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of Parties (Resolution XIII.9). Equivalent documents must cover the same items.

2. Eligible for core funding from the Secretariat

Following the Operational Guidelines, financial assistance to an RRI from the core budget is provided for a limited period of time, in principle only for a period corresponding to Resolution XIII. 9 paragraph 8.g).

3. Items in activity tables

To fill out the table for undertaken activities and planned activities, please make sure that "Objectives", "Activities", "Results/outcomes", "Verifiable indicators" and "Means of verification / source of information" are consistent with the submitted plan for the year.

- Objectives: Please indicate a specific statement narrating a desired accomplishment or outcome (e.g. to improve capacity of the RRI members in the management of wetlands).
- Results/outcomes: Please indicate whether planned activities are completed or not. If you organized a workshop/seminar/training course, please specify the number of attendees including gender information (e.g. XX trainings were organized, XX people attended (XX women, XX men)). This information will enable assessment of achievements and results.
- Verifiable indicators: Indicators are to measure progress and achievement. Please include indicators to verify to what extent progress is being made towards results/outcomes and how those results/outcomes are achieved (e.g. the number of training courses, the number of publications).
- Means of verification / source of information: Please add means of verification, which show how the information about the indicator can be obtained (e.g. training reports, modules).
- Relevance to the Ramsar Strategic Plan: Please indicate which of the goals of the Ramsar Strategic Plan each of the objectives most contributes to.

Draft Resolution DR 18.9.Part B

RAMSAR REGIONAL INITIATIVES – List of the RRI's endorsed as operating in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands for the intersessional period of COP14-COP15

1. DECIDES the endorsement of this list; and
2. DECIDES that this list is to be valid until replaced by a new one for the COP15-COP16 period at COP15.

RRI's endorsed for the intersessional period of COP14-COP15 are:

Four regional Ramsar centers for training and capacity building:

- Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA)
- Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO)
- Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA)
- Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RRC-EA); and

Sixteen Ramsar networks for regional cooperation:

- Ramsar Regional Initiative for West African Coastal Zone Wetlands (WaCoWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Niger River Basin (NigerWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin
- Caribbean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (CariWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin
- East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia
- Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative
- Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet)
- Carpathian Wetland Ramsar Regional Initiative (CWI)
- Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (NorBalWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet)
- The Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative

3. RECOGNIZES that MedWet is financially independent of the Convention and has its own provisional budget for the next triennium, which is annexed to the present Resolution for information purposes in response to a request by MedWet without establishing a precedent for RRI's;

Annex 1
MedWet budget for the 2023-2025 triennium

Table 1. Budget for the operations of the MedWet Initiative for 2023-2025 (MedWet/COM15, 6 Nov 2022)

Budget line	2023	2024	2025
EXPENDITURE			
MANAGEMENT			
Coordinator	57.600,00	57.600,00	57.600,00
STAFF COSTS			
Administrative & financial officer	52.500,00	53.300,00	54.100,00
EXPERTS & CONSULTANTS			
Communication team	30.000,00	30.000,00	30.000,00
Policy & Advocacy expert	30.000,00	30.000,00	30.000,00
STN Coordinator	25.000,00	25.000,00	25.000,00
Ramsar Site Managers Network Facilitator	15.000,00	15.000,00	15.000,00
Restoration expert	15.000,00	15.000,00	15.000,00
Others	30.000,00	25.000,00	45.000,00
OFFICIAL TRAVEL			
MedWet Secretariat	6.000,00	8.000,00	6.000,00
MedWet/Com and MedWet/SG	5.000,00	10.000,00	5.000,00
COMMUNICATION SERVICES			
Web sites and dissemination	6.400,00	6.400,00	9.500,00
Communication tools	2.000,00	4.000,00	5.777,00
OFB grants	9.500,00	9.500,00	9.500,00
OFFICE COST			
Office management	14.000,00	14.000,00	14.000,00
VARIOUS			
Miscellaneous expenses	8.677,00	9.077,00	6.000,00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	306.677,00	311.877,00	327.477,00
INCOME			
Medwet country contributions	110.000,00	110.000,00	110.000,00
OFB	50.000,00	40.000,00	40.000,00
UE REST-COAST	31.677,00	38.877,00	42.477,00
UE RESTORE4C	90.000,00	90.000,00	90.000,00
RESCOM	25.000,00	25.000,00	25.000,00
Fondation Prince Albert / TDV		8.000,00	20.000,00
Funding from other donors			
TOTAL INCOME	306.677,00	311.877,00	327.477,00

Table 2. MedWet members' contributions

Member	UN 2022 All Countries	UN 2022 Med Countries	Euro	Percentage
Albania	0,01	0,06	1.000,00	0,62%
Algeria	0,11	0,87	1.283,62	0,80%
Andorra	0,01	0,04	1.000,00	0,62%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0,01	0,10	1.000,00	0,62%
Bulgaria	0,06	0,45	1.000,00	0,62%
Croatia	0,09	0,73	1.071,65	0,67%
Cyprus	0,04	0,29	1.000,00	0,62%
Egypt	0,14	1,11	1.636,91	1,02%
France	4,32	34,57	51.500,00	32,06%
North Macedonia	0,01	0,06	1.000,00	0,62%
Greece	0,33	2,60	3.827,31	2,38%
Israel	0,56	4,49	6.606,52	4,11%
Italy	3,19	25,53	37.554,72	23,38%
Jordan	0,02	0,18	1.000,00	0,62%
Lebanon	0,04	0,29	1.000,00	0,62%
Libya	0,02	0,14	1.000,00	0,62%
Malta	0,02	0,15	1.000,00	0,62%
Monaco	0,01	0,09	1.000,00	0,62%
Montenegro	0,00	0,03	1.000,00	0,62%
Morocco	0,06	0,44	1.000,00	0,62%
Portugal	0,35	2,83	4.157,05	2,59%
Serbia	0,03	0,26	1.000,00	0,62%
Slovenia	0,08	0,63	930,33	0,58%
Spain	2,13	17,08	25.130,69	15,64%
Syrian Arab Republic	0,01	0,07	1.000,00	0,62%
Tunisia	0,02	0,15	1.000,00	0,62%
Turkey	0,85	6,76	9.951,00	6,19%
Tour du Valat			500,00	0,31%
WWF			500,00	0,31%

Note. Annual contributions from the countries participating in the MedWet Initiative are calculated using the UN Scale of Assessment 2022. When the UN Scale of Assessment will be updated through adoption by the UN General Assembly, the countries contributions will be modified accordingly. France confirmed its current contribution of 51,500 instead of 50,850 euro.