



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Investing in Wetlands

Proposals for funding through the Ramsar Small Grants Fund



Project portfolio 2014



Investing in Wetlands

Wetlands are among the world's most productive environments. They are cradles of biological diversity, providing the water and primary productivity upon which countless species of plants and animals, including humans, depend for survival. The wise use of wetlands is essential to ensure that they continue to support biodiversity and human well-being. The Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention, provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the promotion and wise use of wetlands.

The Ramsar Small Grants Fund

The Parties to the Convention established the Small Grants Fund (SGF) in 1990 to help developing countries support the conservation and wise use of wetland resources, and the sustainable development of communities which depend on them and care for them. Since then, the Fund has provided over eight million Swiss Francs to over 240 projects from 110 countries. More information on the Fund can be found at www.ramsar.org/SGF/.

The Fund provides up to 40,000 Swiss Francs per project; often the support is matched by funds from other sources. Any group or individual may apply as long as they are

based in a developing country and the duration of the project does not exceed one year. The Secretariat provides technical support and administrative oversight to ensure that activities are implemented and the project's objectives are achieved. A 10% administrative fee for this support is included in the amount requested for each project.

Fund a project

In this portfolio are summaries of 20 projects which the Secretariat has carefully assessed from over 100 submitted. They cover 16 countries and all of the world's regions, and they promote the wise use of a wide range of freshwater and coastal wetlands, through activities ranging from site designation, management planning and wetland restoration to capacity building and poverty reduction. Four projects – one each in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Neotropics – have been highlighted as “star projects”, but all 20 strongly support the effective implementation of the Convention and the wise use of wetlands.

If you are interested in supporting one of these projects, or would just like to learn more about them, contact Ms Alexia Dufour at the Ramsar Secretariat. We welcome donations received throughout the year.

Cover photo: Isla Escudo de Veraguas, Panama. © Ariel Blanco B., March 2013

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A long-term programme for the wise use of Anguilla's wetlands

Developing a platform for conservation

Anguilla, located in the Caribbean Lesser Antilles, supports important biodiversity, notably through a series of 25 salt ponds and 21 offshore cays. These sites are largely unprotected and threatened. Existing research will be drawn together to form a strong long-term programme for the wise use of these wetlands. The key objectives are to update the wetland inventory, to draw up a national plan including the future designation of Anguilla's Ramsar Sites and the protection of sites under local law, to enhance local capacity through training workshops, and to develop a fundraising plan. Regional links with other Caribbean Parties to the Ramsar Convention will also be fostered.

Proposing agency Anguilla National Trust

Keywords Inventory, national plan, designation, training

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 30,668
CHF 59,550

Anguilla





Participatory Management Plan for the Jaaukanigas Ramsar Site

Development of a multidisciplinary approach

The project involves the creation of a management plan for the conservation and wise use of the Jaaukanigas Ramsar Site. Located in the middle Parana Catchment, the Site is a complex floodplain with heterogeneous habitats, high productivity, and high adaptation of biotic communities to the alternating low and high water regimes. The Site is threatened by changes in land use and deviation of water for human activities. This project will provide the authorities with management tools and technical information on which to base conservation decisions. The management plan will be designed using a multidisciplinary methodology involving researchers, NGOs, and local and central government stakeholders.

Proposing agency Instituto Nacional de Limnología (INALI)

Keywords Wise use, participatory approach

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 42,900
CHF 92,750

Argentina





Burundi



Conserving the polluted Malagarazi Ramsar Site

Towards a restoration plan

This project is intended to measure the impact and assess the threats which a sugar factory presents to the ecological character of the adjacent transboundary Malagarazi wetlands, a nature reserve in Burundi and a downstream Ramsar Site in Tanzania. In collaboration with Tanzanian experts, a restoration plan will be prepared, submitted to the government of Burundi for approval, and implemented.

Proposing agency Burundi Nature Action

Keywords Environmental assessment, transboundary cooperation

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 43,733
CHF 44,822





Wise use and conservation of the Stoeng Treng Ramsar Site

Providing alternative livelihoods to the local communities

The Ramsar Site near Stoeng Treng, north-eastern Cambodia, is of critical ecological and economical importance as a spawning area for fish populating the whole of the Mekong River and as a site of unique wetland biodiversity. The area is currently facing many threats, including over-fishing related to extreme poverty and a lack of understanding of wetland ecology and benefits. The aim of the project is to ensure the wise use of the Site, by providing alternative livelihoods to the local communities to reduce their dependence on natural resources, and by raising their awareness of the importance of wetland conservation. Project partners include WWF and the local government.

Proposing agency Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT)

Keywords Capacity building, poverty reduction, training

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 43,997
CHF 86,538

Cambodia





Parque Andino Juncal

Evaluation, restoration and protection plan for the Ramsar Site

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

Proposing agency Parque Andino Juncal

Keywords Management plan, training

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 43,803
CHF 72,875

Chile





Delta Estuarino del Río Magdalena Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta Ramsar Site

Promoting conservation through relational art

The project seeks to implement education, communication and participation processes to promote the conservation and wise use of the Sistema Delta Estuarino del Río Magdalena, Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta. It will create a platform for political, environmental and cultural exchanges of information on initiatives for the area. It will also organize activities such as workshops to highlight the cultural and natural importance of the wetland and to gather and document traditional knowledge, and create radio clips and other materials to spread environmental knowledge.

Proposing agency Unidad de Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia

Keywords Participatory approach, awareness raising

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 43,917
CHF 55,933

Colombia





Guatemala



Laguna del Tigre Ramsar Site

Updated information for a better recognition of ecosystem services

The project seeks to strengthen the conservation activities for the Parque Nacional Laguna del Tigre. The current ecological character of the park will be evaluated using satellite imagery and secondary information and then priority areas for restoration will be identified. Parallel awareness-raising activities, and an education campaign on the importance of the site, will be implemented.

Proposing agency Wildlife Conservation Society

Keywords Restoration, public awareness

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 44,000
CHF 164,706





Indonesia



Monitoring migratory birds in key wetland areas

Contributing to site protection measures

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

Proposing agency Wildlife Conservation Society – Indonesia Program

Keywords Monitoring programme, training, education and local awareness

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 43,999
CHF 39,999





Iraq



Hawizeh Marsh Ramsar Site

Promoting involvement of local communities

The Hawizeh Marsh Ramsar Site forms part of the globally important Mesopotamian Marshes, which were partly drained in the 1900s. There is a lack of stakeholder involvement, and information on changing local conditions is not often readily available to the National Ramsar Committee. The main objective of the project is to increase the involvement and awareness of communities within and around the Hawizeh Marsh and to submit a Ramsar Information Sheet for this site with updated information. Activities will include a socio-economic survey, the preparation of education material and workshops, and the implementation of a Local Stakeholder Advisory Group in collaboration with the Ramsar National Committee.

Proposing agency Nature Iraq – Chibaish Office

Keywords Participatory approach, public awareness

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 43,964
CHF 57,890





★ STAR PROJECT ★

Kenya



Conservation of wetland biodiversity in Kenya

Towards an operational national wetland policy

The Government of Kenya has drafted but not yet adopted a national wetland policy. This project aims to promote its adoption and encourage the inclusion of Ramsar articles in legislation. In line with this policy, wise use management guidelines will be developed, disseminated and applied to Ramsar Sites. Training and awareness-raising activities will be undertaken, for example through a wetlands forum.

Proposing agency East African Wildlife Society

Keywords Legislative framework, management guidelines, public awareness and training

Amount requested	CHF 43,977
Total project budget	CHF 49,674





Wetlands of the south-east region of the Bala'an K'aax

Strengthening management and conservation activities

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

Proposing agency CONANP/ Desarrollos, Proyectos y Gestoria Ambiental S.A. de C.V.

Keywords Alternative livelihoods, restoration, public awareness

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 36,661
CHF 151,873

Mexico





Sistema Ripario de la Cuenca y Estero de San José Ramsar Site

Creation of a conservation and management programme

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

Proposing agency Los Caboscoast keeper, A.C. /CONANP

Keywords Management plan

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 27,178
CHF 41,785

Mexico





Cuencas y Corales de la Zona Costera de Huatulco Ramsar Site

Towards the wise use of the wetlands in the micro catchment area “del arroyo Cacaluta”

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

Proposing agency Parque Nacional Huatulco

Keywords Climate change mitigation, site management, monitoring, public awareness

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 43,342
CHF 68,577

Mexico





Mexico



Integrated Management of the Babícora Lagoon

Improving the Site's water quality

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

Proposing agency Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP)/ PRONATURA Noroeste

Keywords Water quality, sustainable management

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 44,000
CHF 58,150





Mexico



Sistema Lagunar de Ceuta Ramsar Site

Restoration of the saline wetland and endangered plant species assessment

The project aims to restore and stimulate the wise use of the Sistema Lagunar de Ceuta in Sinaloa State. This will be achieved through research on the reproductive populations of marine birds and the promotion of measures to increase their populations. It will also provide a database on the site's plant species.

Proposing agency Conservacion, Investigacion y servicios Ambientales

Keywords Research activities, database, protection measures

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 38,834
CHF 67,249





Mai Pokhari Ramsar Site

Sustainable biodiversity conservation

The Mai Pokhari Ramsar Site provides crucial ecosystem services. The main objectives of the project are to develop greater awareness of the importance of wetlands and ecosystem services, to design a management plan, and improve the coordination between the Site's Community Forest User Groups through workshops and awareness-raising campaigns, capacity building on wetland management, and biodiversity inventories. Posters and other materials will be produced and circulated to school children and visitors.

Proposing agency ECCA

Keywords Management plan, capacity building, public awareness

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 42,602
CHF 43,720

Nepal





★ STAR PROJECT ★

Punta Patiño Ramsar Site

Community strengthening and site conservation

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

Proposing agency National Association for the Conservation of Nature (ANCON)

Keywords Participative creation of a conservation network

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 40,805
CHF 39,019

Panama





South Africa



Video documentary project for South African Ramsar Sites

Towards a better recognition of ecosystem services provided by wetlands

This project is designed to address the lack of accessible information on the essential services provided by wetlands. The main outputs will be documentary films on each of seven prioritized Ramsar Sites in South Africa, with stakeholder interviewees describing the environmental services that each wetland provides, the threats they face and the management plans in place. An additional documentary will bring together common findings and make recommendations. The documentaries, each between 15 and 25 minutes long, will be widely disseminated through DVDs and online.

Proposing agency EcoDoc Africa

Keywords Public awareness

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 44,000
CHF 70,000





Ukraine



Assessing management plans for Ramsar Sites, Polesie Region

Towards better management and communication

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

Proposing agency Charitable Organisation InterEcoCenter

Keywords Legislation and management guidelines

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 44,000
CHF 43,883





Bañados del Este y Franja Costera Ramsar Site

Building a wise use plan

The project aims to develop a participatory wise use plan for the Laguna de Castillos, located in the Bañados del Este y Franja Costera Ramsar Site. It will also identify three areas for the pilot implementation of the plan. As part of the plan's implementation, the experiences of local bodies will be reviewed and published. Booklets summarizing the project's results will also be produced and disseminated locally, regionally and nationally.

Proposing agency Fundacion Vida Silvestre

Keywords Management plan, participatory approach, communication

Amount requested
Total project budget

CHF 43,962
CHF 65,437

Uruguay

