

Report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of the annual reports submitted by the Ramsar Regional Initiatives for 2020 in accordance with Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021*;
- ii. allocate funds from 2021 Ramsar core budget line D “Support Regional Initiatives” (Resolution XIII.2) to provide start-up funding to newly established Initiatives for their activities in 2021, as follows:
 - CHF 25,000 to the Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin;
 - CHF 25,000 to the Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin;
 - CHF 25,000 to the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia, and
 - CHF 25,000 to the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative;
- iii. instruct the Secretariat to finalize contractual funding agreements with designated Ramsar Regional Initiatives, to allow smooth progress in the implementation of their 2021 work plans;
- iv. review and approve the proposed new format for the report of Ramsar Regional Initiatives, contained in Annex 2 of document SC58 Doc.22.2 which was prepared by the Secretariat in response to Decision SC57-11, following the principles contained in paragraph 8 of Resolution XIII.9 and drawing from inputs from the Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives.
- v. consider the proposal of a new Ramsar Regional Initiative in the Southern African Development Community region within the framework of the Convention in line with paragraph 12 of Resolution XIII.9;
- vi. take note of and approve the review of Secretariat’s legal adviser of existing relevant Resolutions and decisions of Regional Initiatives in line with paragraph 30 of Resolution XIII. 9 and contained in document SC58 Doc.22.4;
- vii. consider the summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives operating during the period 2019-2021 in Annex 3, prepared by the Secretariat for submission to COP14 in line with paragraph 28 of Resolution XIII.9.

Background

1. At its seventh meeting (COP7, San Jose, 1999), in Resolution VII.19 on *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention*, the Conference of the Contracting

Parties recognized regional cooperation as an effective means to promote and better implement the objectives of the Convention. This initiated the establishment and development of a formally established regional cooperation mechanism, now referred to as a Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI).

2. At COP13 (Dubai, 2018), in paragraph 1 of Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021*, the Conference recalled that RRIs “which include regional centres for training and capacity building and regional networks to facilitate cooperation is intended as an operational means to provide effective support for improved implementation of the Convention in specific geographic regions, through voluntary international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern”.
3. Through paragraph 11 of Resolution XIII.9, the Contracting Parties endorsed the following 19 RRIs as operating in the framework of the Convention until COP14 (2021);
 - 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 (RCC-EA);
 - 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 (SenegalWet);
 - Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW);
 - Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin;
 - Caribbean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (CariWet);
 - Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs;
 - Regional Initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the Amazon River Basin;
 - East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP);
 - Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA);
 - Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI);
 - Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet);
 - Carpathian Wetland Ramsar Regional Initiative (CWI);
 - Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (NorBalWet); and
 - Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet).

Progress of the 19 Ramsar Regional Initiatives in 2020

4. At COP12 (Punta del Este, 2015), in paragraph 12 of Resolution XII.8 on *Regional Initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention*, the Contracting Parties requested “the Standing Committee to assess annually, based on the reports submitted, according to the format adopted through Standing Committee Decision SC41-21, the functioning of Ramsar Regional Initiatives in relation to the Operational Guidelines, the implementation of the Convention and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, seeking support from the CEPA Oversight Panel as required”.
5. At COP13 (Dubai, 2018), in paragraph 8 of Resolution XIII.9, Contracting Parties decided that RRIs, to maintain their formal recognition, RRIs have to be in line with the following principles:
 - a. RRIs must be endorsed by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, or intersessionally by the Standing Committee if they are new;

- b. RRIs must be subject to review by the Contracting Parties at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - c. RRIs must develop terms of reference, which cover their own 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;
 - d. RRIs must be financially accountable;
 - e. RRIs should undertake tasks related to the implementation of the Convention in their region and can speak in their own name only, using their own logo only;
 - f. RRIs must submit to the Secretariat, according to the format approved by the Standing Committee, an annual report of progress on their work and a financial summary at the end of each year, together with a work plan and budget for the following year; and
 - g. RRIs that have been established for fewer than six years and that want to apply for start-up financial support from the Ramsar Convention core budget must request it in their budget submitted for the following year.
6. The Secretariat maintains regular contact with the RRIs to ensure that their objectives and work programmes align with the Convention's Strategic Plan and the RRI Operational Guidelines.
 7. The coordinators of RRIs were requested to use the annual reporting format (Document SC41-13 Annex I, available from <https://www.ramsar.org/activity/ramsar-regional-initiatives>) and to send their report of progress of activities undertaken in 2020 and planned activities for 2021, including a financial overview, to the Secretariat by 31 January 2021. These reports are available here: https://www.ramsar.org/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Adocument&f%5B1%5D=field_tag_body_event%3A593&f%5B2%5D=field_sort_date%3A2021&sort=field_sort_date&order=desc&search_api_views_fulltext=
 8. The Secretariat sent reminders to the RRI Coordinators requesting them to submit annual reports and followed up bilaterally with each of them. Annual reports were received from eighteen RRIs by 12 March 2021. The Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands did not submit an annual report.
 9. The Secretariat reviewed the annual reports submitted by 18 RRIs and prepared a summary based on their ongoing activities and the principles for RRIs outlined in paragraph 8 of Resolution XIII.9. Annex 1 of the present document presents an overview of the reports submitted. According to the reports, the main activities conducted in 2020 include: WWD celebrations, capacity building, CEPA activities, e.g. developing or updating websites, producing promotional materials or organizing awareness-raising events, Ramsar Site management activities, e.g. developing plans, Site assessments, Ramsar Site designation or monitoring protocols, and fund raising, e.g. writing funding proposals or establishing sustainable financing platforms.
 10. Paragraph 8.d) of Resolution XIII.9 indicates that RRIs must be financially accountable. Based on the reports, some of the RRIs did not present any financial information. The financial information provided in the reports enables only a limited understanding of the effectiveness of an RRI's operation, and it is not clear in eight of the RRIs how funds spent on administrative and programmatic activities are used.
 11. Commonly recognized challenges identified from the reports were limited financial resources, and COVID-19 restrictions that resulted in delays or postponement in implementing activities and changes to work plans in 2020. Paragraph 25 of Resolution XIII.9 encourages the

Contracting Parties concerned with the challenge of limited financial resources to take the necessary steps to achieve financial sustainability, preferably through financial support from a variety of sources, and to establish mechanisms and procedures to ensure their sustainability beyond specific project periods and avoid RRIs becoming dependent on a single major donor. Following Resolution XIII.9 guidance, four RRIs developed and submitted funding proposals to multiple donors.

Allocation of Convention core budget funds for activities of new RRIs in 2021

12. In paragraph 14 of Resolution XIII.9, the Conference of the Parties notes “that Resolution XIII.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters* includes within the Convention core budget for 2019-2021 a budget line ‘Support to Ramsar Regional Initiatives’, to provide start-up support for the running costs of RRIs established for fewer than six years”.
13. Through paragraph 15 of Resolution XIII.9, Contracting Parties decided “that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to eligible RRIs for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 will be determined annually by the Standing Committee, based on the most recent annual reports and updated work plans to be submitted in accordance with the required format and timetable, and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance and Standing Committee”.
14. During SC58 virtual meetings, the Standing Committee approved the allocation of CHF 15,000 from an original proposal of CHF 25,000 to each of the four eligible Ramsar Regional Initiatives for their activities in 2020 from the core budget line D “Support to Regional Initiatives”, taking into account carry-overs from 2019 and the pandemic situation that is likely to lead to restrained activities during the remainder of 2020 (Decision SC58-28). Subsequently, on the recommendation of the Subgroup on Finance, the Standing Committee approved an additional CHF 10,000 through SC58 Intersessional Decision. However, the Amazon and SenegalWet Initiatives as part of their annual reports for 2020 requested the additional CHF 10,000 as shown in column “Requested 2021 contribution” in Table 1 below.
15. For 2021, the four RRIs eligible for support from the Secretariat submitted, as part of their financial reports and work plans for 2021, new requests for Convention core budget support as detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of expenditure in 2020 and funding of new Ramsar Regional Initiatives for 2021

Ramsar Regional Initiative	2020 expenditure (CHF)			2021 funding (CHF)		
	Ramsar Approved allocation for 2020 (CHF)	Reported expenditure in 2020 ¹ (CHF)	Balance carried forward 2020 ¹ (CHF)	Forecast / budgeted expenditure for activities in 2021	Requested 2021 contribution (CHF)	Secretariat’s proposed budget 2021 allocation (CHF)
Senegal Basin	15,000	23,051	205	50,000	35,000 ³	25,000
Amazon Basin	15,000	0	76,000 ²	35,000	35,000 ³	25,000
Central Asia	25,000	25,929	0	43,886	33,887	25,000
Indo-Burma	25,000	130,847	0	466,000	25,000	25,000
Total	80,000	179,827	76,205	594,886	128,887	100,000

¹ Including other resources (e.g. residuals from previous years and /or project funding)

² Funds committed at the end of 2020

³ Includes request of additional CHF 10,000 from 2020.

16. The Standing Committee is invited to decide how to allocate the amount available (CHF 100,000) in the Convention Core budget line D, "Support to Regional Initiatives". Proposed in table 1 above is an allocation of CHF 25,000 to each of the four eligible RRI for their activities in 2021 for consideration of the Standing Committee.

New reporting template and guidance

17. Following Decision SC57-11, through which the Standing Committee "requested the Secretariat to review the reporting format and process and to prepare the summary assessment requested in paragraph 28 of Resolution XIII.9", a new reporting template has been prepared by the Secretariat incorporating comments from the Working Group for RRI (received from five Contracting Parties and three RRI) and is included in document SC58 Doc.22.2 as Annex 2¹. The template was not discussed by Standing Committee at its 58th meeting and is carried forward to SC59 for consideration. The proposed template provides guidance on how to prepare the report to ensure greater consistency between RRI and ensure that the work of each RRI is in line with the principles in Resolution XIII.9, paragraph 8. This reporting format will enable the Secretariat to more effectively review and prepare a summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the RRI operating under the Convention.

Proposals for new RRI

18. Resolution XIII.9, paragraph 13, instructs the Secretariat to open a call for proposals for new RRI, to be endorsed by the Conference of the Parties at COP14 or by the Standing Committee at its meetings before COP14.
19. Decision SC58-23 of the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to open a call for proposals for new Ramsar Regional Initiatives no later than 31 July 2020 in line with paragraph 13 of Resolution XIII.9, and requested that the Secretariat choose a deadline.
20. The Secretariat sent out a diplomatic note (2020/8) inviting proposals for new Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2021-2024 on 30 July 2020. By the deadline of 31 December 2020, two proposals were received by the Secretariat: (1) Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative (SARRI) and (2) Equatorial Guinea Initiative.
21. The two proposals were evaluated by the Secretariat using criteria in the Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2013-2015 and [Resolution XIII.9](#). Based on the evaluation, only the Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative meets the requirements outlined in the Operational Guidelines 2013-2015 for Ramsar Regional Initiatives in the Convention on Wetlands framework. Annex 2 presents a summary of the evaluation of the two proposals.
22. The Secretariat requests that Standing Committee at its 59th meeting consider the Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative for endorsement as operating within the framework of the Convention.

Summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the RRI operating during the period 2019-2021

23. Resolution XIII.9, paragraph 28, instructs the Secretariat to prepare a summary assessment of the RRI operating during the period 2019-2021 for consideration by the Standing Committee

¹ See https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/sc58-22.2_secretariat_report_rris_e.pdf

and submission to COP14. In Annex 3 is the summary prepared by the Secretariat according to the principles for RRIs outlined in paragraph 8 of Resolution XIII.9 and the assessment prepared by the consultant as basis to draft the new Operational Guidelines for RRIs. The consultant's report can be consulted here: <https://www.ramsar.org/document/consultants-ramsar-regional-initiatives-rris-assessment-2016-2019>

24. Based on the above, the 19 ongoing Initiatives are mostly compliant with the seven principles adopted at COP13. Concerning the development of terms of reference, which cover their own rules of procedure, 17 RRIs have developed specific TORS. All 19 RRIs have established governance structures in the form of Coordination Committees, Steering Committees, Boards of Directors, or Management Boards that meets once every 12 to 18 months. Their membership, consists mainly of National Focal Points of the participating countries. The Secretariat of the Convention provides support to the implementation of the RRIs and acts as member of or observer to their governance structures.
25. In accordance with paragraph 25 of Resolution XIII.9, that encourages Parties faced with the challenge of limited financial resources to take the necessary steps to achieve financial sustainability, eight RRIs have a resource mobilization strategy and nine RRIs have undertaken fundraising activities. The consultant's assessment report found that in the 2016-2019 period, 11 RRIs mobilized funds totalling CHF 9,406,441.
26. Concerning Strategic Plans and work plans, 17 RRIs have reported that they have strategic plans or work plans which are aligned with one or more goals of the Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024. Key activities undertaken include: promoting adoption of national wetlands policies (Goal 3, Target 9); working to support Contracting Parties on the effective management and conservation of wetlands (Goal 2, Target 5); promoting wise use of wetlands through research and sustainable management including traditional knowledge (Goal 3, Targets 9 and 10); and promoting scientific and technical cooperation, exchange of knowledge and capacity building (Goal 4, Targets 14, 15, 16 and 19).
27. In terms of challenges, the lack of funding and engagement of Contracting Parties in the Regions have continued to be extremely important challenges since the assessment conducted in 2015. Other common limitations mentioned are weak human resources capacity of RRIs or National Focal Points, as well as COVID-19 restrictions in 2020.

Annex 1

Summary of RRIs Annual Report 2020 and principles from Resolution XIII.9

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2020 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2020 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA), 2009	5	Yes	Governing Council is the supreme policy-making body and responsible for all affairs. The RAMCEA Secretariat is responsible for day-to-day activities and report to the Governing Council.	Observer	RAMCEA Secretariat's responsibility. The Collaborative Management Board reviews annual reports and approves the budget and financial regulations. The Secretariat executes the budget.	110,000	29,300	Government of Uganda, UN Foundation	• Support to Parties on the wise use of wetlands based on lessons from projects was initiated.	COVID-19 restrictions, limited resources and inadequate support from states and international institutions to support the implementation of key activities
Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), 1999	30	Yes	Governance Body is the Board of Directors (responsible for all financial, administrative and operational decisions)	Permanent. Member of the Board of Directors	Responsibility of the Board to approve budget and oversee financial management	309,830	232,559	Panama Ministry of Environment, fundraising	• National field projects, webinars and online meetings: with national and international participation	No information

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	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Ramsar Regional Centre - Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA), 2002	15	Yes	Administrative bodies are the Collaborative Management Board and the RRC-CWA Secretariat. The Collaborative Management Board provides strategic guidance, approves programmes/activities, and approves budget and financial regulation.	Collaborative Management Board Member	Collaborative Management Board reviews annual reports and approves the budget and financial regulations.	335,000	25,000	Government of Iran (Department of Environment, Ministry of Energy), UNDP (National Wetland Conservation Plan of Iran)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional CEPA Action Plan was initiated. Discussion of bilateral agreements with JICA, improvement on CMB membership and related regulation. 	COVID-19 restrictions, financial difficulties.
Ramsar Regional Centre - East Asia (RRC-EA), 2009	18	Yes	The Steering Committee provides guidance in the development of policies and programmes. The Executive Director leads the day-to-day operations.	Steering Committee member	Reported to Steering Committee.	1,004,815	749,691	Ministry of Environment (Republic of Korea), Suncheon City, donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two guidebooks (1) Monitoring of Wetlands and (2) Management, Effectiveness Tracking Tool for Ramsar Sites, were drafted, The translation of RRC-EA Guidebook into various languages in eight countries, Supported countries and participation in the celebration of WWD The development of a Draft Resolution on Wetland Education and Wetland City Accreditation for COP14, Four RRC-EA Wetland Fund grants administered to countries 	COVID-19 restrictions

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2020 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2020 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pre-AWS 2021 Webinar was organized • The 11th RRC-EA Steering Committee meeting was organized 	
West African Coastal Zone Wetlands Network (WACOWet), 2009	13	Yes (draft)	The Supervisory Council is in charge of the overall supervision of the policies of the WACOWet Secretariat, and it monitors and reviews implementation of strategies, annual plan, risk management, and financial situation / management.	Observer	Financial & Accounting Procedure Manual (2013) captures the procedures of planning and budget, accounting policy, financial reports, accounting registers / documents.	00	00	Government of Senegal, fundraising (technical and financial partnership). African Voluntary Contributions	No activity	No information
Niger River Basin (NigerWet), 2006	9	Yes (draft)	The Supervisory Council is in charge of the overall supervision of the policies of the NigerWet Secretariat, and it monitors and reviews implementation of strategies, annual plan, risk management, and financial situation / management.	Observer	Financial & Accounting Manual (2013) captures the procedures of planning and budget, accounting policy, financial reports, accounting registers / documents.	No information	18,333	African Voluntary Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NigerWet internal rules and regulations drafted and legal status defined • The RIS of six Ramsar Sites of Guinea were updated 	No information
Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High	8	Yes	The Coordination Committee (National Focal Points from member countries) have annual	Provides support to the Coordination Committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee	No report submitted from 2020	No report submitted from 2020	No report submitted from 2020	No report submitted from 2020	No report submitted from 2020

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	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Andean Wetlands (HAW), 2005			meetings to follow up the implementation of the strategy and its action plan.		allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of the Coordination Committee).					
Initiatives for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin, 2009	5	Yes	The Coordination Committee (member countries) as a governance body reviews progress annually.	Provides support to the Coordination Committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee).	72,738	42,738	Wetlands for the future Fund (Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay)	Second phase of implementation of capacity building project in Paraguay and Bolivia.	No information
Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (CariWet), 2009	14 (11 from Contracting Parties, 3 from overseas territories)	Yes	The Regional Initiative Committee is coordinated by two member countries and includes all Contracting Parties members of the initiative, the Ramsar Secretariat, and the Caribbean sub-regional representatives at the Standing Committee (past, present, and future).	Regional Initiative Committee member providing support	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee)	In kind	In kind	Member countries	Meetings of the coordination committee and follow up to the priorities of the work plan in particular the IKI project.	No information

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2020 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2020 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs, 2009	14	Yes	The coordination committee of the Initiative is led by two member countries and includes all Contracting Parties with Secretariat's support.	Provides support to the regional committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee).	6,500	In kind	Coutry members	Meetings of the Coordination Committee and preparation of fundraising proposal on blue carbon.	No information
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, 2006	18	No (structural info. is available on their website)	The EAAFP Management Committee provides general policy, operational and financial direction to the EAAFP Secretariat. A meeting of the Partnership is held annually to oversee the implementation of the Partnership.	Partner	The EAAFP Finance Sub-Committee provides advice the Secretariat and Partners on the overall financial management. Reporting to the Meeting of Partners (MOP).	940,000 USD	661,711 USD	Incheon Metropolitan City government, EAAFP Partner voluntary contributions, fundraising	Provide advice and technical support to existing sites and the designation of new Flyway Network Site, Annual Small Grant program, resource mobilization	COVID-19 restrictions

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2020 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2020 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), 1991	27	Yes	The Initiative includes the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com); the MedWet Steering Group; the MedWet Scientific and Technical Network; the MedWet Secretariat. The MedWet/Com is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the initiatives, including approval of strategic documents, annual budget and audited financial reports.	Member of the Steering Group	The MedWet Secretariat administrates the approved budgets and submits the annual financial report to the MedWet Steering Group and the MedWet/Com.	431,533 EUR	309,081 EUR	MedWet country contributions, MAVA Foundation, European Union, OFB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop/training programme socio-economic valuation of ecosystem services • Establishment of Policy Task Force) • Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site Network (establishment of network of site managers) • Promotion of wise use of wetland (support for Ramsar cities accreditation, for update of national inventory) • Enhancing implementation of the Ramsar Convention (coordination and reinforcement of MedWet Scientific Technical Network) • Communication through publication of monthly newsletter, WWD, preparation of 3 years capacity building for fundraising). 	COVID-19 restrictions
Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI), 2006	7	Yes	The implementation body of CWI is a Board, which is composed of the focal	Provide inputs to the Board	Provided by the Board.	51,596 EUR	17,430.00 EUR	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wetlands and their services and benefits were promoted the work of the 	COVID-19 restrictions

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	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
			points from each member. The Board elects a chair to guide the proceedings and meet periodically.					Republic (SNC SR SK), Ministry of Environment (Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine), Danube Transnational Programme projects, CE Central parks project, BfN DE, CWI budget from Hungary) Wetlands International, DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology SK, Centre for Ecological Research HU, UNEP-GRID Warsaw PL, Masaryk University CZ, UNESCC).	<p>EUSTR Priority Areas using various forums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CWI participated at kick-off meeting of IDES •Two project proposals, including: the LIFE project within DANUBEPARKS was supported and the CARPWET project outline for EUKI funding in the Carpathian region was developed by CWI •A database of habitats and species and of cultural values within Centralparks was developed and lodged in the CARPWET project website •CWI website was updated •A training on wetlands restoration was initiated with the preparation of training materials with the Czech Ministry of Environment 	
Nordic-Baltic Wetlands	9	Yes	The Coordination Group is composed of the Ramsar National Focal Points from	Member of the Coordination Group	Host Country provides	No information	No information	Ministry of Environment (Finland)	•Activity plan was developed	COVID-19 restrictions

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	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Initiatives (NorBalWet), 2005			each participating county and it is the decision-making body.		administrative support				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Website contents was updated •WWD was celebrated, and communication materials developed for other awareness-raising events 	
Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet), 2007	7	Yes	The implementing bodies are: the Management Body, the Coordination Unit and the National Working Groups. The responsibilities of the Management Body include taking strategic decisions, and approving and monitoring annual work plans.	Member of Management Body	Provided by the Government of Ukraine (incomplete information)No detailed information	35,000	00	EU/UNDP Project “Improving Environmental Monitoring of the Black Sea: selected measures” (EMBLAS-Plus).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The 6th Meeting of the Management Body of BlackSeaWet was organized •A Facebook group was created •The WWD was celebrated, and additional awareness-raising materials developed •A joint database on the main characteristics of the wetlands of the region generated •Invasive alien species and pathways of their introduction and expansion in wetlands from the region was identified and prioritized •The drafting of a wetland restoration strategy/policy in the 	COVID-19 restrictions

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	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
									region, data on barriers was initiated •Restoration activities and conservation measures for waterfowl, limitation of the biogenic inflow and succession processes initiated for various wetlands including Ramsar Sites.	
Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin (SenegalWet), 2016	4	Yes (by-laws and internal regulations)	The governance bodies are: the Commission, the Governing Board, and the Secretariat of the Initiative. The Commission's responsibilities include making decision on directions of the Initiative, approving strategies, programme and work plan, and controlling financial resources.	No detailed information	Yes (by-laws and internal regulations)	76,000	33,256	Ramsar core budget and the Government of Senegal	•The Wetlands Charter of SenegalWet was developed •A study on conflicts in the use of wetlands and water resources was conducted	No information
Regional Initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the Amazon River Basin, 2016	7	Yes	The Initiatives is coordinated by the Coordination Committee, of which the members are the Ramsar National Focal Points.	The Ramsar Secretariat supports the governance body	Managed by the Ramsar Secretariat under decisions of the coordinator of the Initiative	58,420	58,420	Ramsar Convention's core budget	Meetings of the coordination committee, preparation of regional project for GEF7 and preparation of TORs for consultancy on strengthening of capacities on strategies of restoration and	COVID19 restrictions

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	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
									assessment of the effectiveness of wetland management.	
Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia Initiative (RRI-CA), 2016	4	No	The decision-making body is the Coordination Committee, which is composed of three key members and six alternatives members from member countries.	No information	Technical Secretary of the RRI-CA (based at CAREC)	35,929	25,929	Ramsar Convention's core budget and others.	Raising awareness, fundrasing, designation of sites and monitoring, support on the preparation of National Reports.	COVI-19 restrictions
Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI), 2016	5	Yes	The Steering Committee, which is composed of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities of member countries, provides oversight of the Initiative's operation.	Observer	Managed by IUCN Asia Regional Office.	133,000	130,847	BMU-IKI Mekong WET Project, Ramsar core budget	IBRRI Annual meeting and technical workshop, supporting the development of Ramsar site management plans and Ramsar Site designation.	COVID-19 restrictions.

Annex 2: Review of documentation submitted by the proposed new Regional Initiatives against requirements for Regional Initiatives outlined in Operational Guidelines' for Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2013-2015

(1) The Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative (SARRI)

A. Aim of Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative (SARRI)

- 1. RIs are an operational means to provide effective support for improved implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan and to raise the visibility of the Convention in the region**
 - SARRI will facilitate the Implementation of the Convention by tackling drivers of wetland loss and degradation, promote the management effectiveness of the Ramsar Sites network and ensure the use of wetland resources.
- 2. How the RI aligns its activities and operational targets with the objectives of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2016-2024**
 - SARRI proposes to support the sustainable management of all wetland ecosystems in the SADC region by focusing on all goals and targets 3,5,6,7,11,14,16 and 18 of the Convention's 2016-2024 Strategic Plan.
- 3. The geographical region and a list of the countries that will actively participate**
 - SARRI will be made up of countries from Southern Africa and Indian Ocean island states (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe), and all Contracting Parties to the Convention.
- 4. RIs list of Ramsar Administrative Authorities and all other participating stakeholders, such as Ministries other than those responsible for the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, intergovernmental bodies, Convention on Wetlands International Organization Partners (IOPs), local communities, NGOs, economic actors, etc. that the RIs will be engaging.**
 - SARRI proposes to work with Governments of the contracting parties, represented by the Ramsar Administrative Authorities, Intergovernmental bodies like the SADC and the transboundary river basin organizations (RBOs), International cooperating partners such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IOPs working in the region including IUCN, National and Local Civil Society Organisations with interests on wetlands, research institutions, and government agencies with research facilities that focus on water/wetland management, indigenous communities living in the Ramsar site areas, regional government authorities, private sector stakeholders, notably and the Ramsar Convention's Secretariat

B. Coordination Mechanisms

- 5. RI's plan to assure coordination between the Parties and other members of the RI. Coordinating functions assigned to Parties or participating institutions on a rotating basis, and modalities to be reflected in a regional agreement**
 - SARRI will be hosted by the Environment and Climate Change Unit within the Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana. A coordinator for the Initiative's programmes will be appointed on a rotational basis from each participating member state. In order to ensure coordination between the Secretariat, the contracting parties, and other participants, a governance framework will be established with the regional initiative secretariat at its centre (see section C for a detailed description of the framework).

6. **Plans to develop an own identity, a specific logo (to be used in combination with the Ramsar logo) to avoid any confusion between its role and those of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and the Secretariat and to establish and regularly update a website for the RI**
 - SARRI's identity as a Regional Initiative, distinct from the Ramsar Secretariat, will be emphasized through its mandate's visual identity and publication. SARRI will have its own logo and website as agreed by the membership. It will operate with substantial guidance from the SADC Secretariat to increase its reach and respond to regional priorities
7. **RI's plans to coordinate regional projects or programmes which are ongoing or developed under the Initiative, and note if professional staff will be involved in their implementation or supervision**
 - There are no regional projects at the moment at the regional initiative level. However, the Initiative will learn lessons from related projects at the SADC level. SADC will coordinate, monitor and report on all regional projects, and recruit professional staff will be required to provide expert support.

C. Governance Mechanisms

8. **RI's plan to establish in the region existing or planned mechanisms to provide governance, coordination and advice (committees, boards, etc.), and how all relevant Contracting Parties and other stakeholders will be able to provide guidance and insight**
 - SARRI will build on a bottom-up approach as a membership union amongst membership state. Country National Forums will be developed. The technical committee members will establish various technical task teams/working groups on specific issues identified by the membership. The SARRI will be led by a board, the Initiative's highest decision-making body. The day-to-day affairs of the Initiative will be run by a secretariat, made up of professional staff, hired and hosted at the SADC Secretariat. The host institution will provide an ex-officio member to the technical committee and a non-voting board member. An annual stakeholder forum will set the course for the Initiative's priorities and endorse committee and board members' nominations.
9. **Plans to develop, coordinate and run the RI. Advice and support expected from the Ramsar Secretariat, including the possible mobilization of additional resources**
 - The SARRI board comprises a representative from each member (national forum) and will have a fiduciary duty to report to the Convention's Secretariat.
10. **Does the RIs have or plan to have terms of reference, rules of procedure, structure, and membership, and /or other written regulations which the Initiative has established or is planning**
 - SARRI proposes to use a consultative process with contracting parties to establish (1) terms of reference as a governance framework and coordination mechanisms for the Initiative (2) The SARRI Strategic Action Plan 2022-2032, (3) SARRI Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy, and (3) the SARRI Workplan 2022-2032, which will set out priority projects and desired outcomes, the collaborative partners identified and resources needed.

D. Substantive Elements

11. **The RI's approach to create an enabling environment in the region, provide a framework for the development of collaborative networks, and seek collaboration with other intergovernmental or regional and international agencies, local NGOs, and partners, including Ramsar IOPs operating in the region**

- SARRI will provide a platform for discussion, recommendation, and prioritization of critical issues affecting wetlands. Through a direct link with SADC, it will promote a regional approach to addressing the identified challenges. Through its Secretariat, it will maintain relations with key partners like SADC Secretariat, River Basin Organisations (RBOs), international cooperating partners and other interested parties

12. Plan to make optimal use of the Ramsar tools and to consider strong scientific and technical backing provided by relevant institutions to become partners in the Initiative

- The poor accessibility to the Ramsar Convention's tools is the main obstacle for local stakeholders, both accessibility and language. SARRI would try to overcome these obstacles by disseminating the tools and coordinating the translation of the most relevant tools, particularly the guidelines and handbooks, into local languages. The Initiative would also promote the tools through increased training opportunities for stakeholders in the southern African region and platforms and websites.

13. Plans to raise the visibility of the Convention and awareness of Convention objectives, with specific activities to increase the visibility of the Convention and the general understanding of its objectives

- SARRI proposes to work with regional governing bodies for water and wetlands and national stakeholders at all levels to increase the visibility and awareness of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and its objectives.

E. Financial and Other Support

14. Plan by the RIs on expenditure and financial requirements for the period 2022-2024 and financial support providers. Including amounts that have been firmly pledged and the needs not yet covered. Also, describe planned expenditures and the sources and payments of secured income for the year 2022

- SARRI is proposing an operating budget for 2022-2024 of 1,850,000 USD to be covered by the participating countries' contributions, in-kind donations, grants from the Secretariat's core budget and planned fund-raising proposals.

15. If RI is requesting core funding, a plan on how the Initiative will generate its resources and become financially self-sufficient after the start-up phase and in the long term

- SARRI proposes to pursue the following actions to ensure financial self-sufficiency, post-start off, develop a resource mobilization strategy that will guide collaborations and joint resource mobilization with critical partners. Sustained membership contributions incentivized by notable progress in the operations of the Initiative and priority support from SADC through its regional initiatives and various fund-raising proposals

16. Operational readiness to receive and spend money, including Ramsar core budget support for the costs of activities occurring in 2022

- SARRI appears to be ready and will be using the SADC financial systems

17. Plan on how the RI will implement financial management to ensure transparency and accountability

- SARRI funds will be managed via the SADC Secretariat financial management system, which uses a secure electronic system for planning, payments and internal audit. Procurement procedures shall follow SADC and donor agency rules. Decisions on the Initiative's finances will be overseen by the board (financial reports annually).

18. Which bodies will provide political support in addition to those which have submitted a National Letter of Support

- SADC's support for the Initiative is confirmed. The approval of NEPAD, the implementing agency of the African Union, will be sought.

19. List of the letters of support received by national Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other partners

- received from Zambia, Eswatini, Seychelles, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa and Mauritius and in preparation by the other four Ramsar Parties.

(2) Equatorial Guinea Ramsar Regional Initiative

A. The aim of Equatorial Guinea Ramsar Regional Initiative

20. RIs as an operational means to provide effective support for improved implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan and to raise the visibility of the Convention in the region

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative will identify and assess new wetlands for designation as new Ramsar Sites, promote the wise use and mainstream wetlands into national/local policy or strategies and plans.

21. How the RI aligns its activities and operational targets with the objectives of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2016-2024

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative will work for the sustainable management of all wetland ecosystems in the country, their designation as Ramsar Sites, wise use and mainstreaming into policy by focusing on all goals of the Strategic Plan and targets 9,11,13 and 18.

22. The geographical region and a list of the countries that will actively participate

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative aims to undertake a technical study to understand the status of wetlands (mangroves, deltas, mires, lagoons, marshes, swamps, peat bogs, lakes) in the country.

23. RIs list of Ramsar Administrative Authorities and all other participating stakeholders, such as Ministries other than those responsible for the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, intergovernmental bodies, Convention on Wetlands International Organization Partners (IOPs), local communities, NGOs, economic actors, etc. that the RIs will be engaging.

- Various institutions are listed, including Ministry of the Interior and Local Administrations (MICAL), Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Budget, Local Authorities in the zones of influence, National Institute for Forest Development and Management of Protected Areas (INDEFOR-AP), National Institute for the Conservation of the Environment (INCOMA), WHO, UNDP, FAO, UNICEF NGOs: ANDEGE, ADELO, ECOGUINEA, TOMAGE, BBPP, WCS. These are all Equatorial Guinea based.

B. Coordination Mechanisms

24. RI's plan to assure coordination between the Parties and other members of the RI. Coordinating functions assigned to Parties or participating institutions on a rotating basis, and modalities to be reflected in a regional agreement

- Equatorial Guinea Initiative: The Ramsar Convention technical office will coordinate all activities within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment in Equatorial Guinea

25. Plans to develop an own identity, a specific logo (to be used in combination with the Ramsar logo) to avoid any confusion between its role and those of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and the Secretariat and to establish and regularly update a website for the RI

- Equatorial Guinea Initiative provides no concrete information

26. RI's plans to coordinate regional projects or programmes which are ongoing or developed under the Initiative, and note if professional staff will be involved in their implementation or supervision

- Equatorial Guinea Initiative provides no information

C. Governance Mechanisms

27. RI's plan to establish in the region existing or planned mechanisms to provide governance, coordination and advice (committees, boards, etc.), and how all relevant Contracting Parties and other stakeholders will be able to provide guidance and insight

- Staff of the Ramsar Convention technical office within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment in Equatorial Guinea will provide the required technology to guarantee good quality results.

28. Plans to develop, coordinate and run the RI. Advice and support expected from the Ramsar Secretariat, including the possible mobilization of additional resources

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative provides information

29. Does the RIs have or plan to have terms of reference, rules of procedure, structure, and membership, and /or other written regulations which the Initiative has established or is planning

- Equatorial Guinea Initiative provides no concrete information in the application

D. Substantive Elements

30. The RIs approach to create an enabling environment in the region, provide a framework for the development of collaborative networks, and seek collaboration with other intergovernmental or regional and international agencies, local NGOs, and partners, including Ramsar IOPs operating in the region

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative proposal does not consider other countries, and it is a one country initiative.

31. Plan to make optimal use of the Ramsar tools and to consider strong scientific and technical backing provided by relevant institutions to become partners in the Initiative

- Equatorial Guinea Initiative provides no specific information

32. Plans to raise the visibility of the Convention and awareness of Convention objectives, with specific activities to increase the visibility of the Convention and the general understanding of its objectives

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative plans to design information, education and awareness-raising campaign for students, the general public and local people at national educational centres on the importance and protection of wetlands and their biodiversity

E. Financial and Other Support

33. Plan by the RIs on expenditure and financial requirements for the period 2022-2024 and financial support providers. Including amounts that have been firmly pledged and the needs not yet covered. Also, describe planned expenditures and the sources and payments of secured income for the year 2022

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative states the amount of money, but the source of funds is not exact.

34. If RI is requesting core funding, a plan on how the Initiative will generate its resources and become financially self-sufficient after the start-up phase and in the long term

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative is dependent and requesting all funds from the Convention's core budget.

35. Operational readiness to receive and spend money, including Ramsar core budget support for the costs of activities occurring in 2022

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative proposes to use them is not clear if it is ready to receive and spend funds

36. Plan on how the RI will implement financial management to ensure transparency and accountability

- Equatorial Guinea Initiative provides no information on the subject matter.

37. Which bodies will provide political support in addition to those which have submitted a National Letter of Support

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative provides no information.

38. List of the letters of support received by national Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other partners

- The Equatorial Guinea Initiative submitted one letter received from the Focal Point, no other is expected.

Annex 3
Summary of RRIs assessment 2019-2021 on principles from Resolution XIII.9

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA), 2009	5	Yes	Governing Council is the supreme policy-making body and responsible for all affairs. The RAMCEA Secretariat is responsible for day-to-day activities and report to the Governing Council.	Observer	RAMCEA Secretariat's responsibility	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Five training events involving 166 participants	- Capacity building (wise use principles capacity needs assessment, establishment of roster for wetland experts) - Wetland assessment in Uganda - Enhancement of knowledge and awareness (update of RAMCEA website, distribution of Earth observation tool box, - Preparation of CEPA action plan - Resource mobilization (drafted resource mobilization strategy).	COVID-19 restrictions, limited resources and inadequate support from states and international institutions to support the implementation of key activities
Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), 1999	30	Yes	Governance Body is the Board of Directors (responsible for all financial, administrative and operational decisions)	Permanent Member of the Board of Directors	Responsibility of the Board to approve budget and oversight financial management	Work plan to be aligned with the Convention Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Five training events involving 85 participants	-National field projects, -Webinars and online meetings: with national and international participation	Lack of funding

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Ramsar Regional Centre - Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA), 2002	15	Yes	Administrative bodies are the Collaborative Management Board and the RRC-CWA Secretariat. The Collaborative Management Board provides strategic guidance, approves programmes/activities, and approves budget and financial regulation.	Collaborative Management Board Member	Collaborative Management Board reviews annual reports and approves the budget and financial regulations.	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Capacity building through the design and delivery of training events or workshops	- CEPA (WWD celebration), celebration - Ramsar Advisory Mission no. 88 (under progress of endorsement of the report) - Promotion of wise use of wetlands through research and sustainable management (organized workshop) - Expand collaboration and corporation with other organizations (UNDP, RRC-EA)	Financial difficulties, mainly caused by the Centre's legal status and identity and COVID-19 restrictions.
Ramsar Regional Centre - East Asia (RRC-EA), 2009	18	No (structural information is available on the website)	The Steering Committee provides guidance in the development of policies and programmes. The Executive Director leads the day-to-day operations.	Steering Committee member	Reported to Steering Committee	Annual work plan and follows the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Four training events	- Regional Training Workshop (wetland manager training, policy dialogue), - Development of training modules (rapid assessment) - Promotion of WWD - Networking with Wetland Link International Asia - Grant programme (4 projects approved for wise use of wetlands, 3 projects approved for WWD) - Meeting of the Independent Advisory Committee for Wetland City Accreditation	Lack of funding/lack of independence from Host institution

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
West African Coastal Zone Wetlands Network (WACOWet), 2009	13	Yes (draft)	The Supervisory Council is in charge of the overall supervision of the policies of the WACOWet Secretariat, and it monitors and reviews implementation of strategies, annual plan, risk management, and financial situation / management.	Observer	Financial & Accounting Procedure Manual (2013) captures the procedures of planning and budget, accounting policy, financial reports, accounting registers / documents.	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	No information	No information	- Partnership development with regional institution (Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine conservation) - Meeting of the governance board (12 countries participated)	Limited financial resources
Niger River Basin (NigerWet), 2006	9	Yes (draft)	The Supervisory Council is in charge of the overall supervision of the policies of the NigerWet Secretariat, and it monitors and reviews implementation of strategies, annual plan, risk management, and financial situation / management.	Observer	Financial & Accounting Manual (2013) captures the procedures of planning and budget, accounting policy, financial reports, accounting registers / documents.	Annual workplan	Fundraising	Two training events involving 115 participants	- NFPs received training on UNOPS project development - Collected data to update RIS (Niger and Guinea)	Lack of funding, Weak technical capacity
Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean	8	Yes	The Coordination Committee (National Focal Points from member countries) have annual meetings to follow up the implementation of the	Provides support to the Coordination Committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Capacity building through the design and delivery of training	- ERHAA annual regional meeting - Revision and adjustment of regional project proposals and for capacity building	No information

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Wetlands (HAW), 2005			strategy and its action plan.		administered by the Secretariat under decisions of the Coordination Committee).	Strategic Plan		events or workshops		
Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin, 2009	5	Yes	The Coordination Committee (member countries) as a governance body reviews progress annually.	Provides support to the Coordination Committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee).	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Training events involving 90 participants	Capacity building for wetland managers, policy makers and practitioners in the member countries.	No information
Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (CariWet), 2009	14 (11 from Contracting Parties, 3 from overseas territories)	Yes	The Regional Initiative Committee is coordinated by two member countries and includes all Contracting Parties members of the initiative, the Ramsar Secretariat, and the Caribbean sub-regional representatives at the Standing Committee (past, present, and future).	Regional Initiative Committee member providing support	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee)	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Capacity building through workshops	-IKI Project: Adjustments and designation of personnel and headquarters for the project	Weak engagement from some CPs::

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs, 2009	14	Yes	The coordination committee of the Initiative is led by two member countries and includes all Contracting Parties with Secretariat's support.	Provides support to the regional committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee)	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource Mobilization Strategy and fund raising	Capacity building through workshops	- Preparation of portfolio for regional projects in order to find funding sources - Annual meeting - Participation in Ocean Community on Mangroves in Montreal	Lack of funding
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, 2006	18	No (structural information is available on their website)	The EAAFP Management Committee provides general policy, operational and financial direction to the EAAFP Secretariat. A meeting of the Partnership is held annually to oversee the implementation of the Partnership.	Partner	Reporting to the Meeting of Partners (MOP), Financial officer position posted	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	8 training event involving 375 participants from 16 countries	- Development of Flyway Site Network (4 sites designated) - CEPA on migratory waterbirds and their habitats (newsletter, social media, WWD) - Research, monitoring, knowledge generation & capacity building (annual small grant program, 10th anniversary event) - Flyway-wide approaches to conservation (facilitator IUCN Yellow Sea working group) - Drafted a EAAFP Resourcing Plan	COVID-19 restrictions, Weak engagement of CPs

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), 1991	27	Yes	The Initiative includes the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com); the MedWet Steering Group; the MedWet Scientific and Technical Network; the MedWet Secretariat. The MedWet/Com is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the initiatives, including approval of strategic documents, annual budget and audited financial reports.	Member of the Steering Group	The MedWet Secretariat administrates the approved budgets and submits the annual financial report to the MedWet Steering Group and the MedWet/Com.	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan needs to be updated with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Capacity building through training and workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop/training programme socio-economic valuation of ecosystem services - Establishment of Policy Task Force) - Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site Network (establishment of network of site managers) - Promotion of wise use of wetland (support for Ramsar cities accreditation, for update of national inventory - Enhancing implementation of the Ramsar Convention (coordination and reinforcement of MedWet Scientific Technical Network - Communication through publication of monthly newsletter, WWD, preparation of 3 years capacity building for fundraising). 	COVID 19 restrictions
Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI), 2006	7	Yes	The implementation body of CWI is a Board, which is composed of the focal points from each member. The Board elects a chair to guide the proceedings and meet periodically.	Provide inputs to the Board	No detailed information	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's	Fundraising	Training event involving 11 regional participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainstreaming of wetlands (into sectoral policies, development of proposal for Climate Change) - River basin management (development of projects, facilitation of bilateral consultation) 	Lack of Funding, weak engagement of CPs

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
						Strategic Plan			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecological networks and management of sites (participation in projects related to wetland connectivity issues, designation of Ramsar Sites (7 Sites in Ukraine)) - Prevention of environmental damage (consultations with partners for building of dam on Basca Mare) - Wetlands conservation and restoration (participation in peatland workshop) - Climate change (participation in the meeting of the CC working group, discussion on priorities for projects) Research, monitoring and information system (participation in workshop on systematic exchange and science in decision making, participation in Centralparks project) - CEPA (updated website, promotion of CWI through mass media, presentation on CWI at the meeting of the Slovak Ramsar Committee, consultation on training programme with Czech Ministry of Environment) 	

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiatives (NorBalWet), 2005	9	Yes	The Coordination Group is composed of the Ramsar National Focal Points from each participating country and it is the decision-making body.	Member of the Coordination Group	Host Country provides administrative support	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Capacity building through workshops and training	- Coordination of meetings, - Update of website - Communications (public events)	Weak engagement of CPs, lack of common projects
Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet), 2007	7	Yes	The implementing bodies are: the Management Body, the Coordination Unit and the National Working Groups. The responsibilities of the Management Body include taking strategic decisions, and approving and monitoring annual work plans.	Member of Management Body	No detailed information	Annual work plan	No information	Capacity building through workshops and training	- Management and coordination of Unit of BlackSeaWet (6th meeting) - Public awareness raising (dissemination of information, organizing joint events on World Wetlands Day) - Exchange of information on assessment of ecosystem services, restoration of hydrological regime and ecological character of wetlands, invasive alien species - Elaboration and promotion of the project proposals	Lack of Funding, weak HR capacity of focal points or RRI

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin (SenegalWet), 2016	4	Yes (by-laws and internal regulations)	The governance bodies are: the Commission, the Governing Board, and the Secretariat of the Initiative. The Commission's responsibilities include making decision on directions of the initiatives, approving strategies, programme and work plan, and controlling financial resources.	No detailed information	Managed by Coordinator	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy	Capacity building through workshops and training	- Revitalization and planning meeting of SenegalWet in Nouakchott (July 2019) - Meeting of the governance board in Dakar (Nov 2019) - Training sessions for R-METT in Mali and Guinea - Training sessions on RSIS	Lack of funding Change of chair of the governing body and coordinator of this RRI.
Regional Initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the Amazon River Basin, 2016	7	Yes	The Initiatives is coordinated by the Coordination Committee, of which the members are the Ramsar National Focal Points.	The Ramsar Secretariat supports the governance body	Managed by the Ramsar Secretariat under decisions of the coordinator of the Initiative	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Capacity building through workshops	- Preparation for the 4th meeting of the Initiative - Preparation and finalization of the project proposal under the GEF-7 regional program for Sustainable Amazonian countries - Approval of logo	COVID 19 restrictions
Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia Initiative (RRI-CA), 2016	4	No	The decision-making body is the Coordination Committee, which is composed of three key members and six alternatives members from member countries.	No detailed information	Technical Secretary of the RRI-CA (based at CAREC)	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	4 training event involving 375 participants from 15 countries	- Build capacity of different members (wetland rapid assessment, initial engagement to potential member countries) - Promotion of RRI-CA and its goals and plans (producing calendar, WWD events) - Development of regional projects	Limited financial resources, COVID-19 restrictions

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI), 2016	5	No (structural information is available on the website)	The Steering Committee, which is composed of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities of member countries, provides oversight of the Initiative's operation.	Observer	Managed by IUCN Asia Regional Office / Senior Programme Officer for IUCN	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	10 training event involving 215 participants of which 95 technical and 120 local communities people	- IBRRI strategic plan was launched - Training activities (wetland policy dialogue, participatory assessment for the management effectiveness, citizen journalism training) - CEPA activities (provision of small grant to local governments, publication of web stories) and WWD event	COVID-19 restrictions