



## **Working for Wetlands - the Ramsar Small Grants Fund**

*A funding mechanism supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands globally*



**Project portfolio 2011**

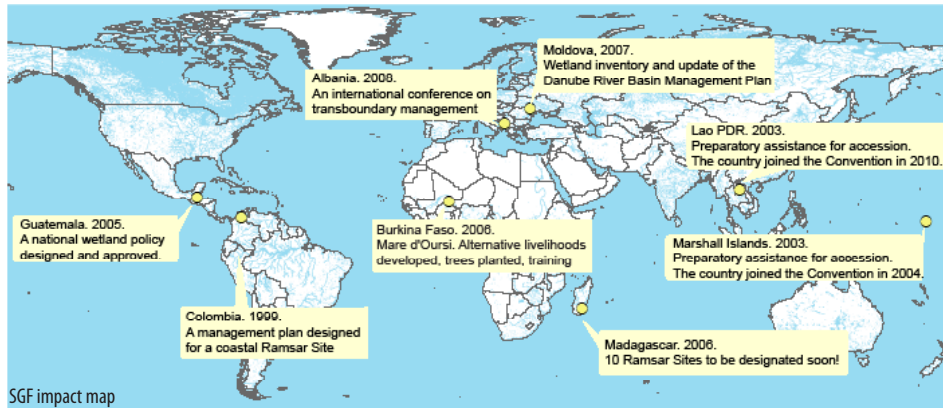
# Working for Wetlands...

## *The Small Grants Fund for wetland conservation and wise use - SGF*



The Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF) is a mechanism to assist developing countries and those with economies in transition in implementing the Convention and to support the conservation and wise use of wetland resources, with a strong human and social dimension.

From 1991 to 2010 the Fund has provided a total of 7.8 million Swiss Francs to 237 projects from 109 countries, providing up to 40,000 Swiss Francs per project. Some achievements of funded projects are presented on the map below. The Fund relies exclusively upon voluntary contributions and support for projects is accepted year-round. In recent years, many very worthwhile projects have not been supported due to insufficient funds.



**Would you like to fund one of these projects and to give it a chance to be implemented? Have a look at the 15 projects favorably evaluated for funding in the following pages!**

For more information, please contact Ms Alexia Dufour at the Ramsar Secretariat.

Projects may be proposed and implemented by any agency, NGO or individual. Each year a rigorous evaluation procedure is carried out by the Ramsar Secretariat to assess the project proposals according to the strength of the project design and proposal presentation, their relevance to the objectives of the Fund, and the capacity of the proponents to complete the project successfully.

For more information on the Fund, please visit [www.ramsar.org/SGF/](http://www.ramsar.org/SGF/)

Note: the amount requested from the SGF indicated for each of the project proposal includes a 10% fee for project administration by the Ramsar Secretariat.

**Ramsar Convention Secretariat**  
28 rue Mauverney  
1196 - Gland, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 22 999 0121  
Fax: +41 22 999 0169  
[dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org)



Belarus



## Toward international recognition of Buh River Valley Developing an integrated approach for conservation

**Ramsar site designation, management plan, awareness** Western Buh River, one of Europe's biggest remaining intact river, located at the Polish and Ukrainian border has a high conservation value and is partly covered by protection at national and international levels. However it lacks an integrated conservation approach for the entire valley. The project aims to (1) designate the valley as a Ramsar Site and an Important Bird Area, (2) establish a caretaker's network responsible for the monitoring of the site during and after the completion of the project, (3) develop and implement an integrated management approach by preparing a management plan and (4) initiate collaboration with Polish and Ukrainian partners to establish a functional transboundary Ramsar Site.

*Proponent* | APB - BirdLife Belarus

*Total Budget*  
47,344.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,735.- CHF**



Belize



## Reducing deforestation in the Sarstoon Temash National Park, Ramsar Site

### Promotion of indigenous leadership and community involvement in Belize and Guatemala

**Monitoring, poverty reduction, capacity building** The project aims to reduce the illegal extraction of natural resources while creating alternative livelihoods for the indigenous communities in the Sarstoon Temash National Park, Ramsar Site located on the border between Belize and Guatemala. The project will strengthen monitoring activities within the park by hiring local community members. It will further promote the exchange of experiences on community-based sustainable livelihoods and raise awareness among indigenous organizations in order to strengthen community involvement and leadership in natural resources management.

*Proponent* | Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous  
Management (SATIIM)

*Total Budget*  
59,641.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**42,150.- CHF**



Bhutan



## A first step towards implementation of the Convention Building capacity & developing a management plan for the designated Ramsar Site

**Management plan, capacity building** Bhutan is in the process of accession to the Convention and hopes to join by the end of 2011. The Department of Forests and Park Services aims to survey the different wetlands proposed for designation as Ramsar Site, to collect RIS information and to carry out stakeholder consultations at one site. The project will develop a management plan for the selected site based on participatory approach and will train the wetland managers through workshops and field visits.

*Proponent* | Department of Forests and Park Services  
Watershed Management Division

*Total Budget*  
39,310.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**24,698.- CHF**



Colombia



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

### A communication, education and participation strategy based on relational art

**Participatory approach, awareness raising** 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 spots and other materials to disseminate common environmental knowledge.

*Proponent*

Unidad de Parques Nacionales Naturales  
de Colombia

*Total Budget*  
55,933.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,917.- CHF**



Ecuador



## Ñucanchi Turupampa wetland complex Ramsar Site

### A pilot site to implement environmental flows

**Hydrology, ecological assessment, communication** Ecuador adopted environmental water flows as a requirement for any development of water use projects. Applying this principle would require the development of a national implementation plan based on field experience. To develop such a plan, the Ñucanchi Turupampa wetland complex has been chosen as a pilot site. The project seeks to apply the environmental flows regime in this Ramsar Site through the definition of an implementation methodology, the measurement of the impact of the new water regime on the hydrology and aquatic fauna of the site. It will include capacity building activities on field monitoring. The project will also establish a diffusion mechanism for the national wetlands inventory for Ecuador. The project will be carried out by an NGO in close collaboration with the public entity for water and sanitation in Quito.

*Proponent* | Fundación EcoCiencia

*Total Budget*  
84,915.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



Ghana



## Enhancing the Conservation of Owabi Ramsar Site Toward better management of natural resources

**Poverty reduction, management plan** The project seeks to address the socio-economic need of fringed communities of Owabi wetland and to ensure the sustainability of the site through promotion of ecotourism and mitigation of pollution of the lake. The project will develop an integrated resource management plan for the Owabi wildlife sanctuary, identify and optimize the exploitation of non timber forest products, identify and train farmers in appropriate farming systems to reduce chemical pollution and siltation of the lake, promote ecotourism. Activities will include training of communities members on alternative livelihood activities to avoid over dependence on wetland resources and education of school children and youth groups on proper farming methods. Sign posts directing tourists to the site will be placed at vantage positions and dustbins will be provided.

*Proponent* | Forestry Commission of Ghana

*Total Budget*  
46,127.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,602.- CHF**



Guatemala



## Laguna del Tigre Ramsar Site

### Updated information for a better recognition of ecosystem services

**Restoration, awareness raising** The project seeks to strengthen the conservation activities for the Parque Nacional Laguna del Tigre. The current ecological state of the park will be evaluated using satellite imagery and secondary information and then areas for restoration will be identified and prioritized. These activities will be done in parallel to awareness raising actions aimed at relevant actors, and the implementation of an education campaign on the importance of the site for decision makers and general public.

*Proponent* | Wildlife Conservation Society

*Total Budget*  
164,706.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



Iraq



## Hawizeh Marsh Ramsar Site Promoting involvement of local communities

**Participatory approach, awareness** The Hawizeh Marsh Ramsar Site forms part of the globally important Mesopotamian Marshes that was partially drained in the 1900s by the previous regimes. 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 stakeholder involvement and awareness 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, workshops and the implementation of a Local Stakeholder Advisory Group in collaboration with Ramsar National Committee.

*Proponent* | Nature Iraq – Chibaish Office

*Total Budget*  
57,890.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,964.- CHF**



Lao People's Democratic Republic



## Developing tools for implementing the Convention Toward strengthened institutional & technical capacities at national & local levels

**Capacity building, information system** Lao PDR joined the Ramsar Convention in 2010 and the Government is now planning to undertake various projects as part of their national implementation of the Convention. Through this project, IUCN Lao PDR plans to work with the Department of Environment, the Ramsar Administrative Authority, and local authorities to strengthen their institutional and technical capacity. The aim is to implement Ramsar guidelines at the two Ramsar Sites and to better manage wetlands in the country as a whole. This will be achieved through workshops and training sessions at the national and local levels, translation of relevant Ramsar handbooks, awareness raising and designing a knowledge-based information system.

*Proponent* | IUCN Lao PDR

*Total Budget*  
87,892.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,805.- CHF**



Niger



## Wise use of the peripheral area of Parc W, transboundary Ramsar Site Restoring wetlands and conserving crocodilians

**Poverty reduction, restoration, awareness** Over-farming and desertification have led to the degradation of these Sahelian wetlands, a dramatic decrease of crocodilians population and food insecurity. The project seeks to conserve crocodilians, to restore their habitat, to develop alternative livelihoods in order to decrease the pressure on wetlands and to raise awareness on wetlands ecosystem services among local communities. Two income-generating activities will be developed: ecotourism and fish farming. Activities will also include the creation of a centre to raise crocodiles which will then be reintroduced in situ, monitoring of crocodilians population and training sessions on monitoring, aquaculture, ecotourism, restoration.

*Proponent* | Bouzou Ali  
Biodiversité et Appui aux Initiatives Locales (BAIL)

*Total Budget*  
80,000.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**38,500.- CHF**



Palau



## Ngardok Nature Reserve Ramsar Site Toward better management of site frequentation

**Restoration, awareness** Lake Ngardok Ramsar Site is the largest freshwater lake in Micronesia. It is crucial as a source of water, and supports endemic and threatened plants and animals. However, it is affected by human disturbances such as overharvesting and intrusions in the site. The project aims to implement a restoration plan that will address human induced impacts at the site, increase awareness about the connectedness of human activities, biodiversity and wetlands, and decrease the incidence of resources use. The project will also complete a visitor center, repair an existing trail, install benches and signage, and mark the reserve boundaries.

*Proponent* | Palau Conservation Society

*Total Budget*  
82,097.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**42,773.- CHF**



Peru



## Trujillo Provincial Wetlands

### Toward better knowledge and management of wetlands

**Wetland inventory and assessment, capacity building** The lack of knowledge on the position, benefits and values of wetlands in the Trujillo Province is one of the main causes for their deterioration. The project aims to develop and strengthen wetland management in the Trujillo province by creating a diagnostic on the current situation of its wetlands, developing land use and management maps, and highlighting the importance of wetlands ecosystem services in the province through scientific, cultural and educational activities and dissemination of awareness raising materials.

*Proponent* | Servicio De Gestion Ambiental De Trujillo  
SEGAT

*Total Budget*  
47,818.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44'000.- CHF**



Uganda



## Strengthening community climate change resilience in Mabamba Bay Ramsar Site

### Alternative livelihoods and wise use

**Alternative livelihoods, ecotourism, awareness** Traditional extractive economic activities such as sand mining, timber cutting and burning of papyrus vegetation are threatening this wetland located at the border of the Lake Victoria. The project aims to raise awareness among local communities on wetlands ecosystems services, their importance in climate change adaptation and their sustainable management. The aim is also to design appropriate actions for adaptation and to develop alternative sources of income. Activities will include training sessions on sustainable wetland management, sustainable land use management and farm planning, production of drought resistant and early maturing food crops. It will also support ecotourism activities.

*Proponent* | Environmental Alert

*Total Budget*  
62,392.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**44,000.- CHF**



Uganda



## Lake George catchment area

### Developing new sources of income for a better conservation of wetlands

**Poverty reduction, conservation plan, awareness** Low public awareness of wetland values and biodiversity conservation, high livelihood vulnerability and dependence on wetlands resources are the main threats faced by this Ramsar Site. The overall objective of the project is to alleviate poverty around the Kanyabikere wetland and to improve community-based natural resource management in Lake George catchment area. Activities will include awareness raising actions, design of a conservation and sustainable use plan for the wetland and field visits to identify viable alternative income generating activities among the local communities surrounding the wetland. Small enterprises will be built to develop the identified alternative sources of income and will be supported through microcredit institutions.

*Proponent* | Joint Effort to Save the Environment

*Total Budget*  
51,175.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**40,424.- CHF**



Uruguay



## Bañados del Este y Franja Costera Ramsar Site Building a wise use plan

**Management plan, participatory approach, communication** The project aims to develop a participatory wise use plan for the Laguna de Castillos, located in the Ramsar Site Bañados del Este y Franja Costera. It will further identify three areas for the pilot implementation of the plan. As part of the plan's implementation, the project will seek to generate agreements with local institutions in order to disseminate and exchange their experience and lessons learnt. Booklets summarizing the project's results will also be produced and disseminated at the local, regional and national level.

*Proponent* | Fundacion Vida Silvestre

*Total Budget*  
65,437.- CHF

*Amount requested*  
**43,962.- CHF**