



# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF RRI-CA ACTIVITIES (2021-2024)

**Approved** by the decision of the Regional Coordinating Committee of the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia  
**Effective from July 23, 2021**



## Introductory information

**"Ramsar Convention"** is a convention on wetlands of international importance, primarily as waterfowl habitat.

**Ramsar's Mission:** To conserve and wise use all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution to achieving sustainable development worldwide. In order to achieve this Mission, it is essential that the vital ecosystem functions and ecosystem services provided to humans and nature are fully valued, conserved, restored and wisely used.

**Priority areas of the** convention until 2024<sup>1</sup> :

1. Preventing, halting and reversing wetland loss and degradation
2. Recommendations and guidelines based on evidence-based evidence for practitioners and policymakers
3. Climate change and wetlands
4. Information on ecosystem functions and ecosystem services provided to humans and nature
5. Informing about ecosystem functions and ecosystem services to humans and nature
6. Improved interaction at territorial, urban, river basin, national, regional levels
7. Implementation of the Convention
8. Designation of wetlands as Ramsar sites and transboundary Ramsar sites, based on national inventories
9. Wise use of wetlands
10. Invasive alien species
11. Strengthen and support the full and effective participation and collective action of stakeholders, including local communities
12. Synergy (cooperation and facilitation of data exchange)
13. Funding for the management of wetlands
14. A river basin scale perspective

**The Regional Ramsar Initiative** aims to support initiatives in Ramsar countries to fulfill national commitments to wetland conservation and contribute to the effective implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 - 2024 at national and regional levels.

Taking into account the priorities of the Ramsar Convention, the Regional Ramsar Initiative, **RRI-CA**'s achievements over the past five years (2016 - 2020), in the next 5 years (2021-2024), the **RRI-CA CC** will continue its activities to develop the conditions necessary for sustainable use of wetlands in CA through work in the following priority areas:

### **No. 1 Strengthening wetlands management in CA (priority of convention No. 1, 2, 8, 9)**

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th\\_strategic\\_plan\\_2016\\_2024\\_ru\\_0.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_ru_0.pdf)

1. Support to regional Ramsar countries in preparation of Ramsar Information Sheet for nomination of new territories, preparation of reports, inventory and monitoring of Ramsar wetlands (based on GIS-technologies and cartographic methods).
2. Based on inventory and monitoring of Ramsar wetlands, revise nomination forms for listed sites. Establish and develop management plans for wetlands, including those located in transboundary basins.
3. Bring the prepared nominations for wetlands in CA to the results:
  - a. Kazakhstan: Karakol wetland
  - b. Kyrgyzstan: "Karakol, Left Bank of the Chu River (Alamedin and Ak-Suu interfluve)", and "Toktogul Reservoir".
  - c. Turkmenistan: "Altyn Asyr", "Turkmen Ailagy", "Zeyit-Kelif", "Sarykamysh".
  - d. Uzbekistan: Zhyldyrbas, Sudochie
4. Include CA wetland protection issues in national policies, action plans and budgets.
5. Based on the inputs gathered at the cross-border wetlands, compile a list of necessary joint actions and lead resource mobilization on them.
6. Continue development of methodological base on sustainable use of wetlands: GIS-maps of CA wetlands, translation and adaptation of guidelines from Ramsar Convention toolkit, guidelines on ecosystem services assessment, on wetlands restoration, etc.

## **No. 2 Informing and lobbying (priority of convention Nos. 4, 5, 6)**

1. Based on the findings of the assessments, prepare articles and presentations for parliamentarians, the academic community and the general public on the following topics: Role of RRI-CA in the countries of the region in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, management of WBU and Ramsar existing and potential sites.
2. Joining working groups at the level of parliaments and ministries to promote wetlands issues in relevant decisions and legislation of the countries of the region
3. TV appearances, media articles, website, World Wetlands Day media events.
4. Strengthen awareness raising through the website and social media of RRI-CA and its partners.

## **No. 3 Resource mobilization (priority of convention Nos. 13, 3, 6, 9, 11, 14)**

1. Search for regional and national funding sources and negotiations for implementation of the Ramsar Convention strategy in Central Asia and for conducting case studies and implementation of the RRI-CA action plan. Necessary on structure of biodiversity and ecosystem services of wetlands (on international standards on systematization of information and data), continuation of works on study and analysis of waterfowl resources, on urban wetlands in CA (list, status) and other necessary studies.
2. Writing joint applications, e.g. to the Darwin Initiative Foundation, NEF and other international foundations
3. Support the preparation of the Regional Program for coordination of wetland monitoring and data sharing

## **No. 4 RRI-CA amplification**

4. Collect and structure overlapping challenges and priorities for conservation of wetlands: inventory and monitoring, wetland management plans (development and implementation), expansion of the list of Ramsar Sites, necessary legislative support, Funding, Availability of unified methodologies, tools necessary for planning, assessment of wetlands.
5. Conduct a self-assessment of RRI-CA: effectiveness, sustainability of results, recognition in countries
6. Updating the Terms of Reference and RRI-CA governing documents (roles, tasks and responsibilities, work rules and updates)
7. New procedures and rules for planning, budget utilization and reporting: performance indicators, written confirmation of reports by country convention focal points, hiring of experts, report formats, etc.

### **Format of RRI-CA activities**

The format of activities will include the already traditional: on- and off-line meetings of the coordinating committee, extended roundtables, workshops on new challenges in wetland management and conservation, transfer of experience, involvement of experts in wetland management, ecosystem services assessment, etc.

The issue of funding remains the most pressing and significant issue for the ability to implement this strategy and the CC RRI-CA plans. Given that funding from the convention secretariat is unsustainable and decreases annually, this strategy includes areas that do not require additional funding, such as participation in national working groups to incorporate CA wetland protection issues into national policies, action plans and budgets; interviews, networking with colleagues in other countries. However, RRI-CA CC members will need to work out additional sources of funding, both from donors, countries and international partners, to continue actions on inventory, research, development of wetland management plans and other activities.