

*Environmental Concern Inc. has one-time, limited funds to distribute through a grants program to support the designation of US Ramsar Sites and promote Wetlands Communication, Education, and Public Awareness programs/initiatives associated with current U.S. Ramsar sites*

## **BACKGROUND**

The United States is one of 154 Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and has designated 22 sites as wetlands of international importance. The US National Ramsar Committee (USNRC) is an organization that supports the goals and objectives of the Ramsar Convention within the United States and internationally. The USNRC provides support and advice to initiatives that promote the conservation and wise, sustainable use of domestic and international wetlands. Environmental Concern is a member of the USNRC and has been selected by USFWS to administer the grants program.

Based on the USNRC's work, there is increased interest in the Ramsar Convention within the United States. Accordingly, with this increased interest and the benefits of Ramsar designation now clearly identified, there is an opportunity to designate additional U.S. Ramsar sites and to use Ramsar designation as a non-regulatory means (through CEPA) to promote wetland conservation.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Non-profits, institutes of higher education, schools, local governments, and state governments are eligible to apply for one-year awards up to \$10,000.

## **PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

Grants will be limited to projects that focus specifically on the following program areas:

### **Developing new US Ramsar Designations such as:**

- i) Assisting state wetland organizations in identifying and evaluating potential Ramsar sites;
- ii) Assisting national wetland organizations in identifying and evaluating potential Ramsar sites on a regional basis;
- iii) Assisting with public meetings and workshops to educate land managers (such as USFWS refuge managers) about the Ramsar Convention and the designation process; and
- iv) Assisting with other efforts to designate new Ramsar sites, especially in states or regions that currently are not represented on the Ramsar list.

### **Promote CEPA activities at or related to U.S. Ramsar sites, such as**

- i) Creating a Ramsar tool kit for schools near U.S. Ramsar sites that incorporates World Wetlands Day;
- ii) Creating a Ramsar tool kit for local community groups that support U.S. Ramsar sites that incorporates World Wetlands Day;
- iii) Supporting events (e.g., lectures, conferences, public meetings) at U.S. Ramsar sites that emphasize a site's international importance; and
- iv) Enlisting the support of graduate student(s) to draft and provide input on the preparation of the U.S. National Report for the Tenth Conference of the Parties.

## **GRANT CRITERIA**

Favorable consideration would be given to those projects which result in a specific deliverable (e.g., completed Ramsar Information Sheet) or provide a template that can be replicated elsewhere (e.g., a state-wide or regional method to identify and evaluate potential Ramsar sites or an educational program that can adapted at multiple sites). For activities related to new designations, favorable consideration will be given to proposals that include a CEPA component. For activities related to CEPA, favorable designation will be given to proposals that explain how the CEPA activities will encourage public interest in the objectives of the Ramsar Convention and in new designations. Furthermore, favorable consideration will also be given to proposals with matching funds.

## **GRANT RESTRICTIONS**

USNRC grants may *not* be used for indirect costs, overhead, and other expenses not directly related to the project. *Fringe benefits are also excluded, as are salaries.*

Funds may not be used for travel to scientific/professional meetings or conferences, legal actions, land acquisition, endowments, construction of permanent field stations, or publishing research results.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES & PROPOSAL REVIEW**

Applicants should submit **one original, two photocopies and one electronic copy submitted in pdf format** (contact Environmental Concern if there is a problem with electronic submission) of the completed Grant Application including the authorized signature, and all information specified on the form. Proposals may not be submitted by facsimile. There will be no exceptions to deadlines.

**Application Deadline: November 30, 2007**  
**Grant Announcements: January 2008**

Please allow at least 6 weeks after the deadline date for a decision and reply by Environmental Concern after review by the USNRC Committee. If grant support is approved, payments may be made in one or two installments based on the grant proposal and recommendations by the USNRC Committee. All grantees are required to submit interim and final reports on activities, project results, and expenditures.

### **Mail Your Proposal To:**

Environmental Concern  
ATTN: Ramsar Grant Program  
P.O. Box P  
St. Michaels, MD 21663  
[Dir.educate@wetland.org](mailto:Dir.educate@wetland.org)

### **Program Contacts**

The following partner contacts are available to applicants to discuss proposal ideas and answer questions about this program.

General Grant Questions – Suzanne Slear, Environmental Concern Inc. (410) 745-9620 [admin@wetland.org](mailto:admin@wetland.org)  
CEPA Projects – Bronwyn Mitchell, Environmental Concern Inc. (410) 745-9620 [dir.educate@wetland.org](mailto:dir.educate@wetland.org)  
Site Designations – Royal Gardner, Stetson College (727) 562-7864 [gardner@law.stetson.edu](mailto:gardner@law.stetson.edu)