



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 10th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Republic of Korea, 28 October – 4 November 2008**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **31 March 2008**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org)

Introduction & background

1. This Ramsar COP10 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Republic of Korea, October/November 2008).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 35th meeting in February 2007, and its Decisions SC35-22, -23 and -24, this COP10 National Report Format has been significantly revised and simplified in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In particular this National Report Format provides a much smaller number (66) of implementation "indicator" questions, compared with the much larger suite of questions on all aspects of national implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 included in previous NRFs.
4. The COP10 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee (Decision SC35-24), certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) and CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention.
5. The 66 indicator questions are grouped under each of the implementation "Strategies" approved by the Parties at COP9 (Resolution IX.8) in the Convention's "A Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006 -2008 period" (www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_08_e.htm). The indicators have been selected so as to provide information on key aspects of the implementation of the Convention under each of its Strategies.
6. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply **additional information** concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.

The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention, and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's Web site.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
 - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) capture lessons/experience, so as to allow Parties to develop future action;
 - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention through Convention processes;
 - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable against their obligations under the Convention;
 - v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and plan for its future implementation and priorities; and
 - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. In addition, the data and information provided by Parties in their COP10 National Reports now have another important purpose, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation will provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP10 consideration.

10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
 - i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each COP on the global and regional implementation, and progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at COP as a series of Information Papers including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 5);
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 6); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP9 DOCs 10-13);
 - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at COP. Examples at CO9 included:
 - Resolution IX.15, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
 - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC 15) and *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC 25);
 - iii) providing the source of time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention, included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (3rd edition, 2007); and
 - iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for the CBD for wetlands.

The structure of the COP10 National Report Format

12. In line with Standing Committee Decisions SC35-21 and SC35-22, the COP10 National Report Format is in three sections.
13. **Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.
14. **Section 2** is a "free-text" section in which to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.
15. **Section 3** provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy, and with a "free-text" section under each Strategy in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of the Strategy and its indicators.

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP10 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

16. All three Sections of the COP10 National Report Format should be filled in, in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
17. The deadline for submission of the completed National Report Format is **31 March 2008**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received from Parties after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP10.
18. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
19. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the COP10 NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since it is the experience of the Secretariat that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.
20. In order to assist Contracting Parties in their provision of such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the "Additional implementation information" fields.
21. The Format is created as a "Form" in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to, and between, each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information. All other parts of the form are locked.
22. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form, and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
23. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the "Tab" key on the computer keyboard.
24. For a "free-text" field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow "free-text" box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box. This is because within the "Form" format there is limited facility to make editorial changes within the "free-text" box once text has been entered.
25. For each of the "Indicator questions" in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question asked in the indicator, but are in general of the form: "Yes", "No", "Partly", "In progress", etc.
26. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can provide this in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
27. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box, and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.

28. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given.
29. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP10NRF [Country] [date].
30. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by email, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, email: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
31. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP10 National Report.**
32. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP10 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: JAPAN	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Kazuaki Hoshino, Director
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Email:	wildlife@env.go.jp
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
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DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
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DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
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SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP9 reporting):

A. What new steps have been taken to implement the Convention?

The statuses of wise use and monitoring projects were surveyed at Ramsar sites in Japan.

Workshops were held to strengthen cooperation among local stakeholders in order for promoting wise use at several selected Ramsar sites in Japan.

Training courses were organized for wetland managers regarding wise use of Ramsar sites in Japan.

Birds and macrobenthos were monitored at a selected Ramsar site as a model case, and were analyzed the existing condition and the challenges associated with monitoring.

A booth with a theme 'Blessings of Wetland' has been set up since 2006 at 'Eco-life Fair' held annually in Tokyo.

The Partnership for East Asian - Australasian Flyway was established as a WSSD type 2 Partnership in 2006 in order to further promote conservation of migratory waterbirds in the region, which had been originally promoted under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy.

B. What have been the most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?

The voluntary measures for conservation and management of wetlands were promoted and the networks at national and local levels were established and/or expanded with central focus on 20 Ramsar sites designated on the occasion of COP9.

The awareness of the Ramsar Convention was raised by the doubled number of Ramsar sites.

C. What have been the greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

Development of new activities was difficult at some of the Ramsar sites designated on the occasion of COP9, while there were successful cases as described in B.

D. What proposals and priorities are there for future implementation of the Convention?

Designation of 10 additional sites by 2011.

Promotion of wetland restoration.

Promotion of communication, education, and public awareness.

Building capability of site managers.

E. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

Information is appreciated on case studies in implementation of the Ramsar Convention, if it exists.

F. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)?

No

G. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the "Biodiversity cluster" (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

The policy on promoting implementation of the Ramsar Convention is described in the National Biodiversity Strategy in Japan based on the CBD, which is regarded as the national wetland policy.

The target of designating 10 additional sites by 2011 is described in the 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy in Japan (November 2007).

H. How can Ramsar Convention implementation be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., sustainable development, energy, extractive industry, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

The policy on promoting implementation of the Ramsar Convention is described in the National Biodiversity Strategy, which is regarded as the national wetland policy.

In the process of formulating the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, measures focusing on conservation of coastal areas are proposed.

I. Does the Contracting Party have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

No

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box.
2. If you wish to add any additional information on either one or more of the specific indicators for each strategy, and/or for other aspects of the national implementation of this strategy, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions for each Strategy.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. So as to assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP9, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP9 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1: *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1}	A - Yes
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	A - Yes
1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed]	A - Yes
1.1.4 If the answer is “Yes” in 1.1.3, does this information indicate that the need to address adverse change in the ecological character of wetlands is now greater, the same, or less than in the previous triennium, for: a) Ramsar sites b) wetlands generally	B - the same B - the same

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.1.1 – 1.1.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.1.1 : We have published reports of the surveys on wetlands, lakes, and tidal flats/seaweed beds/coral reefs conducted within the framework of Japan's National Survey on the Natural Environment. In addition, reports on the Annual Census of Waterfowls (Anatidae) and '500 Important Wetlands in Japan' are available.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 national implementation:

1.1.3 : Geographical, geological and biological (fauna and flora) characteristics at each Ramsar site in Japan are compiled. Contact Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan for further information.

STRATEGY 1.2: *Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supranational policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied, where possible specifying the appropriate policy instrument(s) in each Contracting Party which ensures wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

1.2.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {2.1.1} [If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
1.2.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {2.1.2}	C - Partly
1.2.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development (including National Poverty Reduction Plans called for by the WSSD and water resources management and water efficiency plans)? {2.1.2}	B - No
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	C - Partly
1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2}	D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.2.1 – 1.2.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.2.3: [.. additional information ...]"

1.2.1 : In the 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy formulated in 2007, concepts, goals, and concrete activities concerning wetland conservation are described. WSSD goals and activities are also partly included in the Strategy.

1.2.4 : At Kushiro-shitsugen, researches on the quality and quantity of water are conducted as part of the Nature Restoration Project. Moreover, a conservation project conducted in the wildlife protection area of Manko includes investigations on the water quality.

1.2.5 : In March 2007, guidelines were developed for the introduction of Strategic Environmental Assessment that describes the common procedures and evaluation methods for such assessment at the site location and/or scale reviewing stage of the project. The guidelines put 'animals/plants/ecosystem' as one of the evaluation items, and being a Ramsar site is cited as a case example of regional characteristics to be considered. At present, an approach to implement a strategic environmental assessment has just started based on the guidelines.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.3: *Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defence, climate change mitigation, food security, poverty reduction, cultural heritage, and scientific research, with a focus on under-represented ecosystem types, through developing and disseminating methodology to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

1.3.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar sites? {3.3.1} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in the Additional implementation information below, the year of assessment and from where or from whom this information can be obtained]	A - Yes
1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4}	B - No
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	A - Yes
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.3.1 – 1.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.3.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.3.1 : The statuses of fishing, agriculture, sightseeing etc. in Ramsar Sites as of March 2007 were compiled and introduced in the brochure promoting wise use of Ramsar sites. Contact Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan for requesting a copy.

1.3.3 : Nature restoration projects are implemented at Kushiro-shitsugen and Sarobetsu-gehya to conserve and restore peatlands.

1.3.4 : There is continuous financial support for the research projects on cultural values and management methods of wetlands designated as Natural Monuments, including Sugisawa no

Sawa-Sugi (Sugi swamp forest at Sugisawa) and Plant communities around Shishigahana moor, terminal cliff of Shinzan lava and cold springs from lava at Volcano Mt. Chokai, and of landscapes including Landscape of waterfront at the confluence of the Tone River and Watarase River and Landscape of creeks in Yanagawa. In addition, pilot research projects on cultural values and management methods have been implemented in wetlands with cultural landscapes such as Oyama Senmaida” and Inami Reservoirs. Furthermore, Suigo Area of Omi-hachiman and Cultural Landscape of the Saru River basin influenced by Ainu traditions and modern pioneers, etc. were selected as Important Cultural Landscapes in Japan.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.4: *Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change, all in the context of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).*

Indicator questions:

1.4.1 Has the Convention’s water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been used/applied in decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {3.4.2 – r3.4.xiv}	A - Yes
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	A - Yes
1.4.3 Has the Convention’s guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5}	D - Planned
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.4.1 – 1.4.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.4.2 : Promotion of environmental education has been incorporated into nature restoration plans of most nature restoration projects implemented in such wetlands as rivers, moors, and tidal flats, including Kushiro-shitsugen.

1.4.3 : 'Basic Act on Ocean Policy' formulated in April 2007 prescribes that integrated necessary measures should be taken to appropriately manage coastal ocean areas and land areas which need implementation of an integrated policy in view of the natural and social conditions. Based on this Act, Basic Plan on Ocean Policy which provides the policies to be implemented is now in process of creation.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.5: *Identify priority wetlands where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites.*

Indicator questions:

1.5.1 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {4.1.2} [If “Yes”, please identify any major programmes or projects in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
1.5.2 Has the Convention’s guidance on wetland restoration (Annex to Resolution VIII.16; Wise Use Handbook 15, 3rd edition) been used/applied in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {4.1.2}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.5.1 – 1.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.5.2: [.. additional information ...]”

1.5.1 : Nature restoration projects are implemented in such wetlands as rivers, moors, tidal flats, and lagoons, including Kushiro-shitugen, Sarobetsu-genya, Gamoo Tidal Flat, Sekisei Lagoon Lake. In addition, coral communities are conserved in Kushimoto.

1.5.2 : Various stakeholders such as governments, experts, NPOs and local people are engaged in most nature restoration projects that have been conducted in such wetlands as rivers, moors and tidal flats, including Kushiro-shitsugen.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.6: *Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems.*

Indicator questions:

1.6.1 Have national policies, strategies and management responses to threats from invasive species, particularly in wetlands, been developed and implemented? {r5.1.ii}	C - Partly
1.6.2 Have such policies, strategies and management responses been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organisations/processes? {r5.1.ii}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.6.1 – 1.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.6.2: [.. additional information ...]”

1.6.1 : Based on the 'Invasive Alien Species Act' enacted in June 2004, import and distribution of invasive alien species, which have significant adverse effects on ecosystems have been restricted, and control and eradication measures against invasive alien species in the field in Japan have been conducted.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 national implementation:

1.6.1 : Control and eradication measures against invasive alien species are conducted in Ramsar sites such as Izu-numa and Uchi-numa, Katano-kamoike, Biwa-ko, Kuju Bogatsuru and Tadewara-shitsugen, and Imuta-ike.

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

STRATEGY 2.1 *Apply the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Handbook 7, 2nd edition; Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

Indicator questions:

2.1.1 Have a strategy and priorities been established for any further designation of Ramsar sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {10.1.1}
 [If further Ramsar site designations are planned, please indicate in Additional implementation information, the number of sites and anticipated year of designation]

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

2.1.1 : The target of designating 10 additional sites by 2011 is described in the 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy in Japan (November 2007).

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.2 *Maintain the Ramsar Sites Information Service and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the Ramsar Sites Database as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.*

Indicator questions:

2.2.1 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {10.2.3}

B - No

2.2.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its database used in national implementation of the Convention concerning Ramsar site issues?

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.2.1 – 2.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.2.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.2.1 : All required updates of the Ramsar Information Sheets will be submitted by COP10 in cooperation with relevant local governments and others.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.3 *Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites.*

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	A - Yes
2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised]	A - Yes
2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information]	C - Some sites
2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out? [if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.3.1 – 2.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.3.3: [.. additional information ...]”

2.3.1 : Conservation and management of Ramsar sites are ensured by applying the zoning system based on the national legislations for nature conservation such as 'Wildlife Protection and Appropriate Hunting Law' and 'Natural Parks Law'.

2.3.2 : In Japan, all Ramsar sites are designated as National or Quasi-National Parks and/or Special Protection Zone of Wildlife Protection Areas. Within these designated areas, wetland conservation and management are conducted based on Park Plans of Natural Parks and Designation Plans for Wildlife Protection Areas, and these plans were not developed directly based on the Convention's New Guidelines for management planning. However, there are some cases that the guidelines were used for developing management plans for Wildlife Protection Areas and they may be used as reference when drawing up such management plans. In addition, there are some cases that conservation and management plans concerning Ramsar sites have been formulated by relevant local governments.

2.3.3 : At Kushiro-shitsugen, Sarobetsu-genya and Nakaumi, Nature Restoration Committees based on 'Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration' were established with the involvement of various local sectors. Moreover, committees or councils for wetlands conservation have been established at several Ramsar sites including Kutcharo-ko, Tofutsu-ko, Furen-ko and Shunkuni-tai, Hotokenuma, Izu-numa and Uchi-numa, Sakata, Katano-kamoike, Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies, Fujimae-higata, Biwa-ko, and Kuju Bogatsuru and Tadewara-shitsugen.

2.3.4 : In 2006, statuses of monitoring, wise use, and CEPA activities were surveyed for all Ramsar sites by questionnaire. Contact Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan for requesting copies of the questionnaire results.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.4 Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Secretariat without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.

Indicator questions:

<p>2.4.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {r11.2.iv}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>2.4.2 Have all cases of change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {11.2.4}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which Ramsar sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>2.4.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record? {r11.2.viii}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]</p>	<p>D - Not applicable</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.4.1 – 2.4.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

2.4.1 : Regional Environment Offices of Ministry of the Environment that have jurisdiction over respective Ramsar sites will inform the Administrative Authority. Biodiversity Center of Japan will also inform the Administrative Authority of the results of Japan’s National Survey of the Natural Environment for wetlands including lakes, tidal flats, and coral reefs and of the results of 'Monitoring Sites 1000.'

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.5 Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.

Indicator questions:

<p>2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}</p>	<p>D - Not applicable</p>
<p>2.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (including regional site and waterbird flyway networks)? {12.1.2; 12.2.2}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.5.1 – 2.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.5.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.5.2 : Within the framework of the Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, joint projects for conservation of waterbirds and wetlands as their habitat are considered.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.6 *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

Indicator questions:

2.6.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development of a regional initiative under the framework of the Convention? {12.3.2}

[If “Yes” or “Planned”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the name(s) and collaborating countries of each regional initiative]

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

2.6.1 : The Partnership for East Asian - Australasian Flyway was established as a WSSD type 2 Partnership in 2006 in order to further promote conservation of migratory waterbirds in the region, which had been originally promoted under the Asia – Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy. Government Partners include Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Korea, U.S.A., Russia, Singapore, and Cambodia.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 national implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGY 3.1 *Collaboration with other institutions: Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies.*

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	B - No
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}	B - No
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	E - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.1.1 – 3.1.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “3.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

3.1.3 : Japan commits to support NEPAD, which shares the same concepts with the processes of the Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD).

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 national implementation:

In Japan, instead of establishing an inter-ministerial committee for coordinating Ramsar Convention and other Conventions concerned, Global Environment Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a diplomatic authority, administers all multilateral environmental conventions/agreements (MEAs) en bloc. Also, consultation and coordination is undertaken among the relevant Focal Points of other MEAs by providing information as necessary.

Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee for implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan under the CBD was established, and consultation and coordination regarding actions on biodiversity conservation are implemented through this mechanism.

STRATEGY 3.2 *Sharing of expertise and information: Promote the sharing of expertise and information.*

Indicator questions:

3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} <small>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]</small>	A - Yes
3.2.2 Has information about the country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a Web site)? {14.1.1}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1 :

- At the 'Meeting of the Municipalities with Ramsar Sites', case examples of management are reported and information is exchanged.
- Japan intends to expand 'Shorebird Site Network', 'Crane Site Network', and 'Anatidae Site Network' which were established under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy and are currently under the Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, and we promote information exchange and provide training opportunities as a part of network activities.
- Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)
- Twinning arrangements among Kushiro-shitsugen, Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-shitsugen, Kiritappu-shitsugen, and Hunter Estuary Wetlands (Australia), between Narashino City where Yatsu-higata is located and Brisbane City (Australia) where Boondall wetlands are located, and between Nagoya City where Fujimae-higata is located and Geelong City (Australia) where more than 100 wetlands are located.

3.2.2 :

- '500 Important Wetlands in Japan' (Both in Japanese and English) is posted on 'Internet Nature Information System' organized by Natural Environmental Strategy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment and Biodiversity Center of Japan. In addition, results of Japan's National Survey on the Natural Environment which include information on wetlands are posted on 'Japan Integrated Biodiversity Information System (J-IBIS).' Information about Ramsar sites in Japan is publicized in brochures and is posted on the website of the Ministry of the Environment.
- Information about nature restoration projects implemented in such wetlands as rivers, moors, and tidal flats including Kushiro-shitsugen is publicized in brochures. Moreover, information on most projects is posted on the websites.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 national implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

STRATEGY 4.1 *Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values: Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, including women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including in relation to understanding the dynamics of cultural values.*

Indicator questions:

4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5}	A - Yes
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	A - Yes
4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party promote public participation in decision-making (with respect to wetlands), especially with local stakeholder involvement in the selection of new Ramsar sites and in Ramsar site management? {6.1.4}	A - Yes
4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii}	C - Partly
4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} <small>[if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]</small>	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.1.1 – 4.1.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.1.3: [.. additional information ...]"

4.1.1 :

The outlines and challenges of nature restoration projects implemented in such wetlands as rivers, moors, and tidal flats including Kushiro-shitsugen have been compiled and published as basic information for local people to participate in the Nature Restoration Committee.

4.1.2 :

- One of Japan's Natural Monuments, 'Sugisawa no Sawa-Sugi', is a swamp forest that had been maintained by utilization of timbers, fallen leaves and branches by local people. This forest is facing changes in physiognomy partly due to the lack of utilization as people used to do in recent years. Financial support was provided to the project that aimed at maintaining the former forest landscape, in which an investigation involving local people was conducted and the management plan was developed to restore the management methods in the past.
- At the Important Cultural Landscape 'Cultural Landscape of the Saru River basin influenced by Ainu tradition and modern pioneers', the importance of water places including rivers for traditional life in the area was made clear, and the financial support was provided to a project to develop a conservation plan, which encourages appropriate wetland management through conducting festivals and pasturage.
- The management methods in coordination with local people are stipulated in the Nature Restoration Plans under the nature restoration projects implemented in such wetlands as rivers, moors and tidal flats including Kushiro-shitsugen.

4.1.2 & 4.1.5 :

- Katano-kamoike has functioned as an irrigation pond for surrounding paddy fields in summer for more than 300 years. After the rice harvest, paddy fields are filled with water and the open water surface has provided habitat for ducks and geese (Anatidae). Katano-kamoike has been maintained and used as a hunting field for the traditional cast net hunting. After the designation as a Ramsar site in 1993, the effectiveness of traditional water management practices has been recognized and a liaison committee was set up to coordinate and promote management and conservation activities among organizations concerned.
- At Biwa-ko, wise use of wetlands has been implemented for a long time through traditional fishing methods for endemic species such as Japanese trout (*Plecoglossus altivelis altivelis*) and 'Nigorobuna' (*Carassius auratus grandoculis*). Lakeside reeds have played an important role in conserving traditional landscape, and the reeds were utilized as a traditional building material in the past years. Currently, the conservation measures for lakeside reeds are enforced by the Reed-Community Conservation Ordinance, etc..
- At Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan, 'Utasebune' (a boat with white triangular sails) has been used in shrimp (*Pandalus latirostris*) fishing for more than 100 years so as not to damage the eelgrass growing in the shallow gulf with a screw.

4.1.3 :

- To conserve ecosystems including wetlands, protected areas such as Wildlife Protection Areas and Natural Parks are designated. In case of developing management plans for such protected areas, the government agencies call for public comments from citizens widely, as well as coordinate with relevant government agencies, local governments, stakeholders and others.
- In the nature restoration projects implemented in such wetlands as rivers, moors and tidal flats including Kushiro-shitsugen, the grand designs and action plans are developed by Nature Restoration Committees consisted of various stakeholders such as governments, experts, NPOs and local people.
- At Hotokenuma, 'Misawa City Hotokenuma Conservation and Utilization Committee' was established in order to promote conservation and wise use of Hotokenuma through role-sharing and cooperation among the relevant governments, local communities and local people. To hand

over Hotokenuma as a Ramsar site to the next generation and to continue using the site sustainably, the Committee developed the “Basic Guidelines for Conservation and Utilization of Hotokenuma” which would lead to conservation of ecosystem and practical use of Hotokenuma.

- At places like Oze National Park, which contains the Ramsar site 'Oze', measures for cooperation and coordination with various local stakeholders are taken to promote appropriate management of the protected areas that contain Ramsar sites.
- In formulating River Improvement Plans, a river basin committee is set up with involvement of relevant citizens to discuss the plans.
- In order to promote the wise use of Ramsar sites, participation of stakeholders in conservation and management of wetlands is encouraged by holding workshops for local stakeholders and by distributing brochures for communication, education, and public awareness.

4.1.4 :

- In most nature restoration projects implemented in such wetlands as rivers, moors and tidal flats including Kushiro-shitsugen, environmental education is provided in cooperation with citizens' groups and others.
- In the field tour at Nagura Amparu on the first anniversary of designation as a Ramsar site, folk songs on Amparu were introduced and sung in chorus, and a field observation was conducted.
- The conservation plan of the cultural landscape 'Suigo Area of Omi-Hachiman' is used as teaching materials for school education and life-long education. In the conservation plan, the cultural value of wetlands is described.
- River Environment Course provided by College of Land, Infrastructure and Transport includes the subject related to cultural value of wetlands.

4.1.5 :

- The value of wetlands as cultural assets is described in the conservation management plans of wetlands designated as Natural Monuments and in the conservation plans of wetlands selected as Important Cultural Landscapes.
- Management of the river including Kushiro-shitsugen and cultural value of the marsh are described in the draft Kushiro River Improvement Plan.
- The cultural value of wetlands is mentioned in the master plan and the grand design for Sekisei Lagoon Nature Restoration.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.2 *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

4.2.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands? {7.1.1}	C - Partly
4.2.2 Have private-sector “Friends of Wetlands” fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.2.1 – 4.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.2.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.2.1 :

To raise awareness of a wide range of bodies including private sectors about the objectives of the Ramsar Convention and wise use of wetlands, a number of symposiums were held and information dissemination was encouraged at the waterfowl and wetland centers located at major Ramsar sites. When protected areas are designated on the premise of designating them as new Ramsar sites, approvals from private sectors as local stakeholders are obtained.

4.2.2 :

ICRI International Year of the Reef 2008 Ad Hoc Committee is established, with the involvement of companies such as Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Corporation, and Resorttrust, Inc.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.3 *Promote measures which encourage the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

4.3.1 Have actions been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}

C - Partly

4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}

B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.3.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.3.1 :

- At Fujimae-higata (Ramsar site), a Liaison Committee was set up in the surrounding area to address the feeding damage on agricultural products caused by Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), and the mitigation measures are taken in order to achieve the coexistence of waterbirds and agriculture.
- In some cases, paddy agriculture that is concerned about the wintering environment of migratory birds is conducted and the rice harvested from these paddy fields are branded as 'rice from migratory bird-friendly paddies.' Some of these efforts are financially supported.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.4 *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention’s Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Programme (Resolution VIII.31) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA).*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.4.2 Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the subnational, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? {r.9.iii.iii}</p> <p>[Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4]</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>4.4.3 Have actions been taken to communicate and share information cross-sectorally on wetland issues amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {r9.iii.v}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.4 Have national campaigns, programmes, and projects been carried out to raise community awareness of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {r9.vi.i}</p> <p>[If:</p> <p>a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or</p> <p>b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values,</p> <p>please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.4.1 – 4.4.6 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

4.4.2 :

- The concrete measures of 'Promotion of Communication and Public Involvement' for conservation of biodiversity including wetlands are described in the 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan developed in 2007.
- At the local level, there are 'Action Plan for Public Awareness on Kushiro-shitsugen Nature Restoration' developed by Subcommittee for Public Awareness on Kushiro-shitsugen Nature Restoration, 'Action Plan for Public Awareness on Kami Sarobetsu Nature Restoration' developed by Kami Sarobetsu Nature Restoration Committee, 'Master Plan of Sekiseishoko Nature Restoration' and 'Grand design for Sekiseishoko Nature Restoration.'

4.4.4 :

- CEPA materials on 'blessings of wetlands' were developed and distributed to local governments.
- Kushiro-shitsugen Nature Restoration Symposium, field trip and other activities were held at Kushiro-shitsugen.
- A booth with a theme 'Blessings of Wetlands' has been set up since 2006 at 'Eco-life Fair' held annually in Tokyo.

4.4.5 :

World Wetlands Day posters developed by Ramsar Secretariat were distributed to the relevant ministries, local governments and NGOs. A field trip in association with World Wetlands Day has been conducted in Biwa-ko, and NGOs have organized a number of other activities around Japan such as hosting symposiums.

4.4.6 :

Among the Ramsar sites in Japan, educational centers have been established in Kutcharo-ko, Miyajima-numa, Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-shitsugen, Biwa-ko, Sakata, Fujimae-higata, Manko, etc. Among them, Miyajima-numa Waterfowl and Wetlands Center was opened in March 2007.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 national implementation:

'KODOMO Ramsar' is a CEPA activity which promotes participation of children in implementing the Ramsar Convention by gathering children involved in Ramsar site activities in Japan and providing chances to learn from and communicate with each other about ecosystem, conservation and wise use of their respective wetlands. From 2006 to 2008, 'KODOMO Ramsar', hosted by Ramsar Center Japan and supported by the Ministry of the Environment, was held at seven sites (Tofutsu-ko, Miyajima-numa, Sakata, Biwa-ko, Nakaumi, Shinji-ko, Manko) and 400 children from 29 Ramsar sites participated in it.

STRATEGY 4.5 *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.5.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only] Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {15.1.1}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p>	<p>C - some countries</p>
<p>4.5.2 [For Contracting Parties in receipt of development assistance only] Has funding support been mobilized from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {15.1.8}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the agencies from which support has been received since COP9]</p>	<p>D - Not applicable</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.5.1 – 4.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.5.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.5.1 :

Japan gives high priority to the cooperation projects in environment-related area including wetland conservation. During the fiscal years 2005-2008, technical cooperation was provided in Indonesia, Myanmar, Brazil, Iran and Malaysia, and grant assistance for grassroots human security projects under the government’s official development assistance were conducted in the Philippines and Vietnam. Japan has also provided voluntary contribution to Ramsar Small Grant Fund (SGF). Japan recognizes the importance of the SGF for the capacity building, etc. in developing countries, and plans to make efforts to continuously provide voluntary contribution to the SGF.

Recipient country of this fund: Nepal (FY2006), Fiji (FY2008)

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.6 *Provide the financial resources required for the Convention’s governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.6.1 {16.1.1}</p> <p>a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>b) If “No” in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p>	

<p>4.6.2 {16.1.2}</p> <p>a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity?</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>b) If yes, please state the amounts:</p>	
<p>. FY 2008: provided 36,000 USD for Small Grants Fund Assistance programme to Fiji Project (Upper Navua Conservation Area, Improving the management of Fiji's first Ramsar site)</p> <p>· FY2006: provided 32,000 USD for Small Grants Fund Assistance programme to Nepal project (Sustainable Wetland Management for Wildlife and People at Jagdishpur Reservoir, Central Nepal)</p> <p>· FY2005: provided 20,000 USD for Asian developing countries as travel expenses to attend Ramsar COP9</p>	

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.6.1 – 4.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.6.2: [.. additional information ...]”

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.6 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.7 *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Framework.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.7.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention?</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

4.7.1 : The implementation status of the Ramsar Convention was reported at the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.7 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.8 *Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]</p>	B - No
<p>4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2}</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]</p>	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.8.1 – 4.8.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.8.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.8.2:

Meetings of National Ramsar Committee composed of relevant ministries, local governments (prefectures and municipalities), and NGOs are convened as needed for information exchange.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.8 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.9 *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention’s International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

Indicator question:

<p>4.9.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention’s IOPs* in its implementation of the Convention?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	A - Yes
<p>4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention’s IOPs*?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	A - Yes

* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), and WWF International.

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.9.1-4.9.2

4.9.1 :

- The Asian Waterbird Census conducted by Wetlands International enables us to calculate 1 % of the individuals in a population used in Criterion 6 and to identify the fluctuation of waterbird populations.
- IUCN Vietnam Country Office supports the 4th Asian Wetland Symposium, which is co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and is to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam in June 2008.

4.9.2 :

- Japan became a member of WI in 1995 and has paid the membership dues annually.

- Japan became a national member of IUCN in June 1995 and have paid the membership dues annually.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.9 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.10 *Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses.*

Indicator questions:

4.10.1 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? [If “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]	B - No
4.10.2 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention, including in the use of the Wise Use Handbooks, been made? {20.1.2}	B - No
4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.10.1 – 4.10.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.10.3: [.. additional information ...]”

4.10.3 :

- Through the training programs of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), a variety of training courses are provided in Japan (at Kushiro International Wetlands Centre, etc.) and in developing countries, for trainees from developing countries, on conservation and wise use of wetlands, conservation of coral reef, and conservation of mangroves.
- With the financial support from Japan, UNITAR (UN Institute for Training and Research) has provided training opportunities in Kushiro, Hokkaido, which aim to promote understanding of international environmental agreements such as the CBD and the Ramsar Convention among the officials in charge of environmental issues from developing countries, thus contributing to the progress in environmental policies in those countries.
- In addition, workshops are held targeting the managers of Ramsar sites in Japan, and trainings for managers of domestic network sites under the Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway are provided.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.10 national implementation: