



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: LATVIA | |
| DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY | |
| Name of Administrative Authority: | The Ministry of Environment |
| Head of Administrative Authority - name and title: | Mr Guntis Pukitis, State Secretary |
| Mailing address: | Peldu street 25, Riga, Latvia, LV-1494 |
| Telephone/Fax: | Tel. +371 67026560, fax +371 67820442 |
| Email: | Guntis.Pukitis@vidm.gov.lv |
| DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS | |
| Name and title: | Ms Vija Busa, Head of Division of Specially Protected Territories, Department of Nature Protection |
| Mailing address: | Peldu street 25, Riga, Latvia, LV-1494 |
| Telephone/Fax: | Tel. +371 67026519, fax: +371 67820442 |
| Email: | Vija.Busa@vidm.gov.lv |
| DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL) | |
| Name and title of focal point: | Ms Valda Baronina, |
| Name of organisation: | Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency |
| Mailing address: | Maskavas street 165, Riga, Latvia |
| Telephone/Fax: | Tel. +371 67032030/ fax +371 67145154 |
| Email: | valda.baronina@lvgma.gov.lv |
| DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS | |
| Name and title of focal point: | Ms Skaidrite Ruskule, Director |
| Name of organisation: | The Natural History Museum of Latvia |
| Mailing address: | K. Barona street 4, Riga, Latvia, LV-1712 |
| Telephone/Fax: | Tel. +371 67356023, fax +371 67603100 |
| Email: | Skaidrite.ruskule@dabasmuzejs.gov.lv |
| DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS | |
| Name and title: | 1) Ms Ilze Kuze, communications officer 2) Mr Uldis Cekulis, director |
| Name of organisation: | 1) Latvian Ornithological Society 2) Environmental Film Studio |
| Mailing address: | 1) P.O. Box 11, Riga-50, LV-1050, Latvia 2) Lapu street 17, LV-1002, Riga, Latvia |
| Telephone/Fax: | 1) Tel. +371 67221580/ fax: +371 67799050 2) Tel.: +371 67503588/ fax: +371 67503589 |
| Email: | 1) ilze@lob.lv 2) vfs@vfs.lv |



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?

Implementation of the Convention in Latvia so far is mainly related with implementation of different projects in Ramsar sites and other wetland areas aimed on restoration and management of different specially protected habitats (inter alia - wetland habitats) and species. Several such projects were successfully completed in the last triennium, but few projects are still ongoing. Also work on elaboration and revision of nature conservation plans for Ramsar sites and other wetland territories is ongoing, for example, nature conservation plan for Ramsar site 'Pape wetland complex' was accomplished in 2007, nature conservation plan for Ramsar site 'Northern Bogs' is being elaborated. Elaboration of appropriate legislation for these territories based on their nature conservation plans is ongoing and continuous process. The Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on individual protection and use for 19 specially protected territories have been elaborated and adopted from 2005-2008. Wetland habitats are present in almost all of those territories. Establishment of a unified specially protected nature territory - nature reserve 'Lubans wetland' - according to the national legislation is ongoing. Lubans wetland was designated as Ramsar site 'Lubans wetland complex' and so far it consisted of 12 separate nature reserves, but in future it is planned to merge all these nature reserves and additional territories in one nature reserve in order to facilitate better administration, conservation and management of this territory. For Ramsar site 'Pape Wetland Complex' the Consultative Board was also established in 2007. Several annual activities related to World Wetlands Day are being organised in Latvia by different institutions.

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

Accomplishment of several large scale projects in Ramsar sites and other wetland areas, e.g. Lake Pape - Conservation, Preservation and Evolution (2003-2007), Management of Lubana Wetland Complex (2003-2007), Conservation of Wetlands in Kemeru National Park (2002-2006), Integrated Wetland and Forest Management in the Transboundary Area of North-Livonia (Estonia and Latvia) (2002-2006), Tuned management and monitoring of the transboundary protected areas in North-Livonia as a support for local development (2006-2007), ongoing projects, e.g. Restoration of Latvian Floodplains for EU Priority Species and Habitats (2004-2008), Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia (2004-2008).

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

Latvia has no serious difficulties in implementation of the Convention. The problem concerning biodiversity conservation in a broader context is the low environmental awareness of general public in Latvia which makes difficult to accomplish a lot of nature conservation activities.

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

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

We consider that the Secretariat fulfills its activities very well and is very co-operative.

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

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?

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)?

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

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] | C - For some sites |
| 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 | --- --- |

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: A comprehensive inventory of specially protected and potentially protected territories (including also territories with wetlands) in Latvia was carried out in 2001-2004 during the establishment of Natura 2000 network. In 2007 the additional inventories were

carried out in the Ramsar site 'Lubans Wetland Complex' and its surroundings in order to establish unified specially protected territory (according to the national legislation) around the Lubana lake (and including Lubans lake) according to the provisions of the European Commission. Inventories of some other Ramsar sites in Latvia (e.g. 'Pape Wetland Complex' and 'Northern Bogs') as well as for other specially protected nature territories including wetland habitats were and are being carried out during the elaboration of their nature conservation plans.

1.1.2: Natura 2000 inventory data is collected and stored in the database 'Specially Protected Nature Territories', available on the web (www.lvgma.gov.lv) and updated by the State Agency 'Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency' (the institution subordinated to the Ministry of Environment).

1.1.3. Information on ecological character of wetlands is known for the specially protected territories which have administrative authority or from nature conservation plans for some territories.

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

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] | C - In preparation |
| 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} | B - No |
| 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} | A - Yes |
| 1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed? | B - No |
| 1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2} | A - Yes |

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. - The new Concept of Environmental Policy is being elaborated (planned to be adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers till the end of 2008) which will contain also chapter 'Biodiversity conservation'.

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] | B - No |
| 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} | F - Not applicable |
| 1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1} | B - No |
| 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} | B - No |

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 ...]”

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} | B - No |
| 1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management? | B - No |
| 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} | B - No |

| | |
|---|--------|
| 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 ...]”

[Green bar for additional information]

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

[Green bar for additional information]

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} | B - No |

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. Several large scale projects (co-financed by the EU Life Nature programme and other funds) dealing with restoration of different wetland habitats are being or were done in Latvia (e.g. ongoing project 'Restoration of Latvian Floodplains for EU Priority Species and Habitats' (project targeted on restoration of floodplains in 16 territories in Latvia), ongoing project 'Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan' for Latvia (project includes restoration of natural hydrological regime in 4 peatland territories), finished project 'Management of Lubans Wetland Complex' (activities accomplished - dams were built in bogs and inundated meadows, fish migration canals in lake Lubans were created etc.)), finished INTERREG III project 'Tuned management and monitoring in transboundary protected areas in North-Livonia as a support for local development'.

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

[Green bar for additional information]

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} | A - Yes |

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. The Ministry of Environment has elaborated programme on eradication of Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum sosnowkyi*) for 2006-2012. The programme is not targeted particularly on wetlands, but on the whole territory of Latvia. At the time being the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture are working on elaboration of appropriate legislative acts for eradication of Giant Hogweed.

1.6.2. The Nature Protection Department of the Ministry of Environment is the focal point of all international conventions dealing with nature conservation.

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

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]

D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

We are planning to designate Kemer National Park as Ramsar site (at present only part of it - Lake Kanieris - is designated as Ramsar site) in 2010-2011.

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?

B - No

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. Scientific information on birds' populations in Ramsar Site 'Lake Engure Nature Park' is still being prepared.

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} | C - Partly |
| 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] | C - Some sites |
| 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] | A - Yes |
| 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] | B - No |

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. Nature conservation plans (containing defined conservation targets and necessary management activities) for almost all Ramsar sites (except - Lubans Wetland Complex, and part of Ramsar site 'Teici and Pelecare bogs' - Pelecares bog) were or are being developed. For some Ramsar sites necessary conservation or restoration activities were realised within the LIFE Nature projects (e.g. project 'Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park' (finished in 2004), project 'Management of Lubans Wetland Complex').

2.3.2. Management plans for Ramsar sites:

- 1) been developed, but not fully implemented: 1 (Pape Wetland Complex)
- 2) in preparation: 1 (Ziemelu purvi/Northern bogs)

2.3.3. Consultative boards for all Ramsar sites have been established. Their statutes are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, but personnel-by the Minister of Environment. These consultative boards are:

- 1) Lake Engure Consultative Board (established in 1998);
- 2) Lubans Wetland Complex Consultative Board (established in 2003);
- 3) Kemeru National Park (includes Lake Kanieris) Consultative Board (established in 2002);
- 4) Teici Nature Reserve Consultative Board (established in 2000). This consultative board covers only a part of Ramsar site - 'Teici and Pelecare bogs';
- 5) North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve Consultative Board (includes Northern Bogs), established in 1998;
- 6) Nature Park 'Pape' Consultative Board (established in 2007 and includes Ramsar site - Pape Wetland Complex).

The main objectives of the consultative boards are to encourage coordination of nature protection and economic management interests, to facilitate and support co-operation among state, municipal, NGO etc. organisations in order to secure nature conservation and sustainable use of the territory.

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>B - No</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 ...]”

[Redacted area for additional implementation information A)

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

[Redacted area for additional implementation information B)

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>A - Yes</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>A - Yes</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 ...]”

2.5.1. Ramsar site 'Northern Bogs' in Latvia is a part of transboundary Ramsar site (with Estonia) 'North Livonian Transboundary Ramsar Site'.

2.5.2. Several management projects for Ramsar site 'North-Livonian Transboundary Ramsar Site' were accomplished. The project 'Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North Livonia; Estonia -Latvia' was concluded in 2006. The project 'Tuned management and monitoring of transboundary protected areas in North-Livonia as a support for local development' was implemented 2006-2007. Projects' partners were governmental and municipal institutions and NGOs from Latvia and Estonia.

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. Latvia participates in the NorBalWet regional initiative. Collaborating countries are: Scandinavian countries, Baltic States and Russia.

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} | A - Yes |
| 3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {13.1.iii} | E - Not applicable |
| 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 ...]”

3.1.1. The Department of nature protection under the Ministry of Environment is the responsible Administrative Authority for most of the Conventions and the Agreements related to nature conservation.

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

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> | C - Partly |
| 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. The project 'Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North Livonia; Estonia -Latvia' was concluded in 2006. The project 'Tuned management and monitoring of transboundary protected areas in North-Livonia as a support for local development' was implemented in 2006-2007. Projects' partners were institutions (governmental and municipal) and NGOs from Latvia and Estonia.

3.2.2. Information on Latvia's specially protected nature territories as well as Ramsar sites is available in the data base of specially protected nature territories on the web (www.lvgma.gov.lv)

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} | B - No |
| 4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2} | C - Partly |
| 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} | B - No |
| 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 ...]"

4.1.5. Nature conservation plans (if elaborated) for Ramsar sites and other wetland territories contain information on cultural values and traditional management of the territory.

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} | B - No |
| 4.2.2 Have private-sector "Friends of Wetlands" fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4} <small>[If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]</small> | B - No |

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 ...]”

[Redacted]

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

[Redacted]

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} | C - Partly |

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. Examples of existing incentive measures which inter alia encourage the conservation of wetlands:

- 1) payments from the Rural Development Programme (2007-2013) e.g. 'Maintaining Biodiversity in Grasslands', 'Natura 2000 Payments' (for both - agricultural and forest areas).
- 2) compensation system for landowners for restriction of management activities in specially protected nature territories and micro-reserves is operating.

4.3.2. Examples of existing documents which remove perverse incentive measures:

- 1) the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No 27 'Regulations on rivers (parts of rivers) on which for fish conservation purposes building and restoration of hydroelectric stations and building of any artificial dams are prohibited';

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

[Redacted]

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:

| | |
|--|------------|
| 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} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism] | C - Partly |
|--|------------|

| | |
|--|------------|
| <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> | B - No |
| <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> | A - Yes |
| <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> | C - Partly |
| <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> | A - Yes |
| <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> | A - Yes |

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 ...]”

4.4.1. In 2006 the Working Group to promote implementation of Ramsar convention's CEPA issues was established.

4.4.4. There are only some national activities, e.g. - celebration of International Water Day (organised by the Latvian Environmental Protection Club), national campaign for protection of salmon (organised by the WWF).

4.4.5. For example - Administration of Kemeru National Park each year is organising World Wetlands Day activities (in 2008-lectures for more than 70 pupils from several schools), The Natural History Museum of Latvia within the World Wetlands Day activities 2008 offered educational programme for children and their parents 'As a fish in water' etc.

4.4.6. Some education centres dealing with nature education and inter alia with wetland education exist in Latvia, for example - Nature School in Kemeru National Park, Nature Education Center in Gauja National park, smaller education centres on other wetland areas.

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

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} [If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p> | <p>D - Not applicable</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} [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 ...]”

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} 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> <div style="background-color: #ffff00; height: 80px;"></div> | |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| <p>4.6.2 {16.1.2} 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>B - No</p> |
| <p>b) If yes, please state the amounts:</p> <div style="background-color: #ffff00; height: 80px;"></div> | |

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 ...]”

[Redacted area]

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

[Redacted area]

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:

| | |
|---|--------|
| 4.7.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring] | B - No |
|---|--------|

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

[Redacted area]

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

[Redacted area]

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:

| | |
|--|--------|
| 4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1} [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] | B - No |
| 4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2} [If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings] | B - No |

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 ...]”

[Redacted area]

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? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p> | <p>B - No</p> |
| <p>4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs*? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p> | <p>B - No</p> |

* 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

[Green bar for additional implementation information A)

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

[Green bar for additional implementation information B)

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:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| <p>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)]</p> | <p>B - No</p> |
| <p>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}</p> | <p>B - No</p> |
| <p>4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}</p> | <p>B - No</p> |

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 ...]"

[Green bar for additional implementation information A)

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

