

# NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

National Reports to be submitted to the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Uruguay, 2015

Please submit the completed National Report in Microsoft Word format (.doc, 97-2003), as an electronic file (not a printed copy) and preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (<a href="dufour@ramsar.org">dufour@ramsar.org</a>) by 1 September 2014.

#### The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

The COP12 National Report Format (NRF) is in four sections:

**Section 1** provides the institutional information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

**Section 2** is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**Section 3** provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional 'free-text' section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

**Section 4** is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

### IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

- 1. All Sections of the COP12 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
- 2. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **1 September 2014**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP12.
- All fields with a pale yellow background \_\_\_\_\_\_ are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.
- 5. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word. You are only able to submit replies and information in the yellow or green boxes, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the structure and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties.
- 6. To select a yellow or green field you wish to complete, 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.
- 7. To move down through the sequence of fields, you can also use the 'Tab' key on the computer keyboard.

- 8. For a 'free-text' field, you can type in whatever information you wish. Note that there is only limited facility within the Microsoft 'form' format to make editorial changes in the 'free-text' box once text has been entered. Therefore, if you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate document, make all the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the box.
- 9. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic entry of data into the Secretariat's database. For that reason, please **do not use double quote marks ""** in the 'free-text' fields. Please **only use single quote marks "**. For the same reason, please **only use simple text in the 'free-text' fields**: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.
- 10. 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, but are generally of the form: 'Yes', 'No', 'Partly', 'In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
- 11. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (maximum of 500 words in each free-text box).
- 12. 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.
- 13. An NRF is not usually completed by one person alone: for many indicators it is best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP11 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.
- 14. After each session, **remember to save the file** in Microsoft Word, .doc, 97-2003 format. A recommended filename structure is: COP12NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP12NRFSpain13July2014.doc
- 15. After the NRF has been completed, please send it in this format to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (dufour@ramsar.org).
- 16. The completed NRF must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP12 National Report.
- 17. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (email as above).

#### **NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12**

#### SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at <a href="https://www.ramsar.org/contacts\_en">www.ramsar.org/contacts\_en</a>.

#### NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: DENMARK

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative

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**Danish Nature Agency, Ministry of Environment** 

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## SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

REMINDER: Please do not use double quote marks "": use single quotes '' instead.

#### In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP11 reporting):

- A. What have been the five most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?
- 1) Finalization of management framework plans 2011-15 for the 28 Danish Ramsar sites and in total 251 Natura 2000 sites as part of the implementation of the EU Bird and Habitat Directives including endorsement of conservation objectives, targets and measures for a first implementation phase.
- 2) Initiation of a first implementation phase including the implementation of concrete activities as well as the initiation of the development of a second generation of management framework plans 2016-21 with revised and updated targets and measures.
- 3) The development of water catchment plans in all Danish catchments with an aim to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous in inland and coastal waters. These plans are in a public hearing. Increased water quality measured in some Danish lakes and streams.
- 4) Designation of the first three Ramsar sites ever on the Faroe Islands and planned initiation of management actions. Designation of a first Danish peatland Ramsar site acting as carbon sink and partly based on criteria for climate regulation as the first Ramsar site globally testing this criterion.
- 5) Successful coordination of the EU positions at the Ramsar COP11 during the Danish EU Presidency in 2012.
- B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?
  - 1) To agree on the national targets of reduction levels of nutrients to Danish inland waters and coastal areas among the various stakeholders and interest organisations.
  - 2) To agree on the measures among the various stakeholders and interest organisations in relation to the targets on the reduction levels as described above.
  - 3) Resources for implementation due to a general economic recession.
  - 4) The conservation of breeding coastal and meadowbirds due to changing land uses.
  - 5) Planning to include the effects of a changing climate.
- C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?
  - 1) To continue implementation a first phase of activities in the 251 Natura 2000 management framework plans 2011-15 covering a.o. the 28 Danish Ramsar sites.
  - 2) To have the 23 river basin catchment management plans endorsed and to continue their implementation.
  - 3) To prepare Natura 2000 management Framework Plans 2016-21 covering the 28 Danish Ramsar sites and to have these plans endorsed.
  - 4) .To hold a regional workshop on peatlands and climate change in Denmark in September 2014 as part of the Nordic Baltic Regional Ramsar Initiative and finalise and dissimenate a peat report including country chapters of the participating countries: Latvia, Lithuenia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Denmark Greenland.
  - 5) To contribute to the work of the convention in the fora where Denmark participates.
- D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

No.

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

No.

F. 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?

By acknowleding the different strength of the different MEAs and coordinate the different activities as much as possible with respect to these differences.

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

No proposal.

- H. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

  No.
- I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

Greenland, The Faroes, DOF - Ramsar CEPA Focal Point, Aage V. Jensens Fonde Naturerhversstyrelsen.

### SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

#### **REMINDER:** Guidance for completing this section

1.	For each 'indicator question'			, please select one answe			from the	'drop-down'	list in the	yellow
	box.									

- 2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green 'free-text' boxes below the indicator questions.
- 3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green 'free-text' box, you should 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. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database National Reports. For that reason, please do not use double quote marks "" in the free text boxes. Use single quotes ''. Text in the 'free text' boxes should be simple text only: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.
- 5. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP11, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP11 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
- 6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties implementation in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
- 7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

#### **GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS**

**STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment**. Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

A - Yes

#### 1.1.1 Additional information:

A comprehensive national monitoring program of nature and water (NOVANA) does cover lakes, streams and coastal waters. Monitoring reports are publised on a yearly basis. A parallel monitoring program of species covers certain freshwater species.

In conjunction with the EU reporting obligations (Habitat Directive article 17) a comprehensive national species and habitat reports have been submitted to the EU Commission in 2013 evaluating status and trends which include a large number of inland and coastal water habitats as well as certain freshwater species. A parallel EU reporting obligation under the Birds Directive (Birds Directive article 12) was submitted the EU Commission in 2014 and includes an evaluation of status and trends of all Danish breeding and wintering birds including many waterbirds.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

A - Yes

1.1.2 Additional information:

Status reports from the Danish Nature and Water monitoring program NOVANA are publiced frequently sorted after thematic areas and are public available.

- 1.1.3 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}
  - a) Ramsar Sites
  - b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

- \* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention
- a) O No change
- b) P Status improved

- 1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):
- a) The national monitoring program NOVANA covers the Danish Ramsar sites, however, no specific surveys in relation to assess Ramsar status is carried out and will be conducted on an ad hoc basis only depending on the needs. Some clear improvements at certain sites can be seen where a specific management efforts are carried out e.g. in Filsø (R1), Vest Stadil Fjord (R3), Vejlerne (R6) og Lille Vildmose (designated in 2013). engfugle de få steder.
- b) Water quality including lower levels of nitrogen has enhanced water and habitat quality in some Danish freshwater habitats including certain streams and lake types. Thus activities to lower the load of nutrients have been succesful in combination with site-specific or species-specific restoration or management projects which have had an overall positiv effect on some inland water habitats and on selected freshwater species (see the National Danish Report to the EU Commission under the Habitat Directive article 17). The significant increase of the population in Denmark of the Eurasian Otter Lutra lutra is an example. Moreover, the majority of the populations of waterbirds wintering in Denmark are increasing according to the National Danish Report to the EU Commission in 2014 (article 12 report) where 89% of the waterbird populations are reported stable, fluctuating or increasing in the 12 years period between 1999 and 2011.

**STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions.** Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i

A - Yes

(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

#### 1.3.1 Additional information:

No specific wetland policy exists in Denmark, however, various policy instruments are in place. In particular the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Birds and Habitat Directives in Danish law most notably in the Act on Environmental Objectives (2003) and a number of related acts and guidelines. The implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Directive has also been initiated in Denmark.

- 1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:
  - a) Poverty eradication strategies
  - b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
  - c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
  - d) National forest programmes
  - e) National strategies for sustainable development
  - f) National policies or measures on agriculture
  - g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

- a) B No
- b) A Yes
- c) C Partly
- d) B-No
- e) C Partly
- f) C Partly
- g) D Planned

#### 1.3.2 Additional information:

Denmark has adobted the EU biodiversity strategy and is working towards implementation of its objectives and targets. The EU biodiversity strategy is designed to achieve the implementation of the strategic plan and its 20 Aichi-targets. In order til meet the targets a national biodiversity strategy (Naturplan Danmark) is being developed.

1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii

A - Yes

#### 1.3.3 Additional information:

The EU SEA Directive has been implemented in Danish law hence SEA is mandatory to new programmes or plans or at major revisions of existing ones. The Danish act can be found at https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=127111 - Bekendtgørelse af lov om miljøvurdering af planer og programmer.

1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

A - Yes

#### 1.3.4 Additional information:

The EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) has been implemented in Danish law and EIA is mandatory for plans or projects or at major revisions of existing ones. The Danish act can be found at

https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=134469 - Bekendtgørelse om vurdering af visse offentlige og private anlægs virkning på miljøet (VVM) i medfør af lov om planlægning.

In the Danish Ramsar sites which are all covered by the EU Birds Directive and designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) also called Bird Areas specific assessments to rule out significant impact on the species and their habitats for which the Bird Area has been designated are mandatory.

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}

B - No

1.3.5 Additional information:

An update of the act on Protected Areas - Bekendtgørelse om afgrænsning og administration af internationale naturbeskyttelsesområder - is pending based on the designation of a new Ramsar site (Lille Vildmose) in Denmark in 2013.

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

B - No

1.4.1 Additional information:

Two outlines have been drafted for two Danish Ramsar Sites. Implementation is pending.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i

C - Partly

1.4.2 Additional information:

Monitoring of the Dansih groundwater is ongoing to secure security and clean drinking water. Water from the tap is drinkable in Denmark.

1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

C - Partly

1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

In some cases e.g. the restoration, management and awareness raising at e.g. Vest Stadil Fjord (R3), Vejlerne (R6), Wadden Sea (R27) and Lille Vildmose (designated in 2013). Moreover, the restoration of shallow marin waters and coastal meadows at Gyldensteen Strand is one of the first Danish restoration projects restoring costal nature by "diking out".

**STRATEGY 1.5** Recognition of the role of the Convention. Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.

1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

a. head of state

b. parliament

c. private sector

d. civil society {1.5.2}

a. B-No

b. B-No

c. B-No

d. B-No

#### 1.5.1 Additional information:

**STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands.** Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

a. agriculture-wetland interactions

b. climate change

c. valuation of ecoystem services

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

a. A - Yes

b. B-No

c. B-No

#### 1.6.1 Additional information:

- a) Research is ongoing especially related to the impact of nutrients to Danish inland and coastal waters and the implementation of the Danish water basin management plans following the EU Water Framework Directive.
- b) Little research has been undertaken in this field.
- c) Case studies are being planned in Ramsar Sites but depends on resources available. Ecosystem services assessments at a more geneal level are planned.

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats to the wetlands? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

#### 1.6.2 Additional information:

The management framework plans for the Natura 2000 sites including the 28 Ramsar sites in Denmark are based upon existing research and site-specific information and include an evaluation of threats and drivers of change in the specific areas. A simple tool to assess status and monitor management trends are under development and have been in use for a number of habitats including small lakes. A similar system for 16 wetland related breeding birds is in public hearing in 2014.

**STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management.** Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.

1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral A - Yes to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii 1.7.1 Additional information: River basin management plans covering Denmark are in public hearing. Theses are part of the Danish implementation of the EU Waterframework Directive. 1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into A - Yes catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.3} 1.7.2 Additional information: River Bassin Management Plans are in public hearing and dialouge meetings with stakeholders have been held. Dialouge forums at the catchment level have been established. 1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to B - No climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii 1.7.3 Additional information: 1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and B - No enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v 1.7.4 Additional information:

**STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration.** *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems 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 and systems.* 

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified?

{1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

#### 1.8.1 Additional information:

As part of the preparation of the Natura 2000 management schemes priorities were given to habitat typs and species habitats including wetland dependent species and habitat types such as e.g. raised bogs, coastal meadows and meadowbirds. As a result large scale restoration projects have been supported with financial support in some cases from EU LIFE funds targetting especially priority sites with raised bogs. These include restoration projects in Lille Vildmose, Holmegaards Mose, Sølsted Mose and the initiation of activities in Horreby Lyng, Sandlyng and Verup Moser in 2013-18. Coastal meadow habitat types are being restored and habitat quality enhanced in e.g. Bøjden Nor, Læsø and Vejlerne which are also benefiting meadowbirds.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

#### 1.8.2 Additional information:

Restoration projects in a number of priority wetlands especially raised bogs are being implemented as described under 1.8.1. The implementation of measures in the action plans in the about 250 Natura 2000 sites including the Danish Ramsar sites are being implemented during 2011-15. The Aage V. Jensens Foundations have undertaken large-scale wetland restoration in several important wetlands. The foundations have initiated the restoration of marine shallow water and coastal meadows by "diking out of farmland" at Gyldensteen Strand on Fuen and the restoration of coastal nature and thereby testing new innovative approaces to adaptation to climate change along the coast. Most recently the foundations have restored the lake Filsø in southwestern Jutland once the largest lake in Jutland. The former lake bottom including about 900 ha was re-filled with water in 2012. The initiation of restoration of raised bog habitat in the largest lowland raised bog in northwestern Europe in Lille Vildmose is also undertaken by the Aage V. Jensens Foundations in collaboration with the Minsitry of Environment and municipalities and supported by EU Life. Other EU Life supported wetland restoration / rehabilitation projects include e.g. Sølsted Mose, Bøjden Nor, Læsø and Horreby Lyng.

**STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species.** Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i

A - Yes

#### 1.9.1 Additional information:

Denmark has undertaken a rather comprehensive inventory of introduced species including wetland species and when available the impacts are listed. The inventory can be found at www.nobanis.org and includes search opportunities for invasive species in specific habitats including wetlands.

1.9.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRa 1.9.iii

A - Yes

#### 1.9.2 Additional information:

Denmark has the "Action Plan for Invasive Species" in 2008, which is a policy document with recommendations towards the management of invasive species.

**STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector.** Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i

B - No

#### 1.10.1 Additional information:

Indirectly by regulated land use planning: Natura 2000 sites including Ramsar sites are included in the overall land use planning schemes and relevant EIAs are mandatory. Moreover, wetland habitats such as saltmarshes, meadows and bogs above 2,500 square meters are protected as well as lakes above 100 square meters and generally all Danish water coursed according to §3 in the Danish law on Nature Protection.

- 1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:
- a. Ramsar Sites
- b. Wetlands in general

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

a. A - Yes

b. A-Yes

#### 1.10.2 Additional information:

Consultants are often involved in the various project stages of a wetland restoration project and the implementation of certain Natura 2000 action plans e.g. in identification or feasibility studies or the physical implementation phase etc..

**STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures.** Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

#### 1.11.1 Additional information:

In the Natura 2000 and Water management planning schemes ways and means are indicated to encourage conservation and wise use in the Natura 2000 areas in particular and in water catchment areas in general.

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

B - No

### 1.11.2 Additional information:

Subsidices are available to farmers for cultivation using various farming practices.

#### **GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE**

**Note**: An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP12 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on each of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes ""; use single quotes '' instead.

**STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation.** Apply the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance' (Handbook 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

B - No

2.1.1 Additional information:

2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii

0 sites

2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):

Under the tri-lateral Wadden Sea cooperation programme between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands it is intended to list the Wadden Sea Ramsar sites as trans-boundary Ramsar site "Wadden Sea" on and thus contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Ramsar Convention to promote the trans-boundary aspect of the protection and the management of wetlands e.g. through enhanced flyway cooperation.

As part of the Nordic Baltic peatland project the participating countries are encouraged to indicate priorities for possibly peatland restoration including the consideration of potential peatland Ramsar sites considering the use of climate regulation as an additional criterion. This proces is ongoing.

**STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information.** Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

**STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning - new Ramsar Sites.** While recognizing that Ramsar Site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar Sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i

A - Yes

#### 2.3.1 Additional information:

The most recent designation of a Danish Ramsar site Lille Vildmose has a mangement framework plan established which is under implementation.

**STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character.** Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	28 sites
2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	28 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	3 sites

#### 2.4.1 - 2.4.3 Additional information:

The current management planning framework plans for the 28 Danish Ramsar sites are being revised on a six years rolling basis as part of the Natura 2000 planning approach.

At three Ramsar sites on the Faroe Islands designated in 2012 the consideration of management planning activities including the establishment of site specific Ramsar committees has started.

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv

0 sites

2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v

0 sites

2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

The Ramsar Information Sheets were updated for 26 Danish Ramsar Sites in 2012.

**STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness.** Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance'.

2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i

B - No

2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):

STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status. Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

Partly via the national monitoring program NOVANA covering both nature and water quality. Specific assessments for the species habitats and habitat types listed for a given site are obligatory for all Natura 2000 areas including the Ramsar sites. Specific ecological character assessments may be undertaken on a case-by-case basis if deemed relevant.

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):
Based on the updated Ramsar Information Sheets in 2012 and the European Ramsar Update from the Secretariat in October 2013 four Danish Ramsar sites have a changed ecological status including Ringkøbing Fjord (R2), Nissum Fjord (R4), Ulvedybet and Nibe bredning (R7) and the Wadden Sea (R27) and one site Ringkøbing Fjord is listed on the Montreux Record. This change has happened over time, however, the situation is improving or expected to improve based on the Danish implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the respective water basin catchment plans and the Natura 2000 planning process and related initiatives.

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? (2.6.3) KRA 2.6.ii

A - Yes

2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

Ringkøbing Fjord is a 300 square kilometre shallow inlet with a max depth of 5 m and connected to the Sea through a narrow canal with a sluice. The Ramsar site is a focus area of the national monitoring program and a variety of physical, chemical and biological parametres are measured frequently. The inlet has experienced several ecosystem changes due to variation in salinity and loads of nutrients during the last 300 years. Latest incidents have been a collapse of the flora and fauna of the Fjord in 1978/79 due to eutrophication and a structural shift in salinity introduced in 1995 due to a relatively small increase in salinity caused by an increased input of sea water from the North Sea regulated via the sluice at Hvide Sande. The increased exchange of sea water was introduced to dilute the euthrophicated water and enhance water quality in the Fjord. The increase in salinity meant that sand clams colonised the Fjord. The clams filtrates the water for algea which has improved water quality considerably and have had the result that the vegetation zone has developed at higher depths. Hence after the vegetation collapsed in connection with the regime shift the plant community is adapting to the new salinity regime and is re-now colonising both the shallow and deeper parts of the Fjord. Thus the sluice practice among others aims at balancing intake of saline water for optimal conditions for flora and fauna in the Fjord on the one hand and to favour a positive development of the protected nature types and species in and around the Fjord including for example breeding meadow birds and resting herbivore water birds on the other. As mentioned the development in the ecological status of Ringkøbing Fjord is followed under the national water and nature monitoring program (NOVANA) in order to secure optimized management. In recent years water quality, the amount of fish, a number of herbivore water birds as well as vegetation are increasing, which indicate that the development in the Fjord is moving in a positive direction. Former numbers of herbivore waterbirds and meadowbirds have however still not been reached and the Fjord is still under pressure from high nutrient loads, which needs to be further reduced in order to secure a positive development. Eutrophication has been mitigated by water treatment plants and a major restoration project at the inflow of the largest river Skjern Å to the Fjord which was finalised in 2003. This is the largest and most expensive restoration project in Denmark and monitoring indicates that the restored area contributes with a reduction of nitrogen of 200 ton per year equal to a reduction in the flow of about 10%.

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

#### 2.7.1 Additional information:

Restoration projects are undertaken in certain wetlands not designated as Ramsar sites. The introduction of the river basin management plans as a result of implementing the Water Framework Directive is expected to enhance water quality in general. However, more stochastic events such as weather conditions may in some years favour oxygen depletion in Danish inland waters and create unfavourable conditions in certain areas.

#### **GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " ": use single quotes ' ' instead.

**STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.** Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).

3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv

B - No

3.1.1 Additional information:

Consultation is undertaken on a case by case basis.

3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv

B - No

3.1.2 Additional information:

Consultation is undertaken on a case by case basis.

**STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives.** Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.

3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i

A - Yes

3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

Denmark has been Vice-Chair in the NorBalWet Ramsar Regional Initiative 2012-14 involving the Nordic and Baltic countries and is being Chair 2014-16.

A trilateral country cooperation program regarding the Wadden Sea is ongoing undertaken by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}

B - No

3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

**STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance.** 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.

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i

A - Yes

- 3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11):

  Through the Danish foreign aid wetland related support to management and conservation has been given directly or indirectly to initiatives in partner countries by which Danida has an agreement such as Vietnam, Tanzania, Indonesia and Kenya. Denmark gives about 0.84% of BNI as foreign aid.
- 3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii

Z - Not applicable

- 3.3.2 Additional information:
- 3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}

Z - Not applicable

3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):

**STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise.** Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}

C - Partly

3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands

involved):

Denmark participates in various networks and for related to internationally shared waters e.g. the Wadden Sea, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv

C - Partly

3.4.2 Additional information:

Updated Danish Ramsar Information Sheets 2012 are available from the Ramsar Site Information Service.

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii

C - Partly

3.4.3 Additional information:

Updated Ramsar Information Sheets for the Danish Ramsar sites were submitted to the Secretariat in 2012.

**STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species.** Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.

3.5.1 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

Transboundary wetlands are wellknown. The list of shared Ramsar sites inlude Wadden Sea (Ramsar site no. 177), Vidå - Magisterkog - Tøndermarsken (no. 177) including relevant parts of the North Sea with Germany. Moreover, shared river basins have been identified during the river basin management planning phase under the auspices of the EU Water Framework Directive.

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

C - Partly

3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

A trilateral country cooperation program regarding the Wadden Sea is ongoing undertaken by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. Moreover, there are established fora for the Baltic Sea (HELCOM) and the North Sea (OSPAR).

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii

B - No

#### 3.5.3 Additional information:

Denmark is a signatory to the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) which covers a number of important waterbird populations in part of Asia, Europe and Africa. Under the tri-lateral Wadden Sea cooperation programme between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands cooperation on migratory waterbird populations is also covered. Denmark is also Party to ASCOBANS, the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas.

#### **GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY**

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " ": use single quotes ' ' instead.

STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.

- 4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i
  - a) At the national level
  - b) Sub-national level
  - c) Catchment/basin level
  - d) Local/site level

a) B - No

- b) B-No
- c) C In progress
- d) A Yes

(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)

4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):

Comprehensive visitor information and facilities have been established at a a few selcted Ramsar sites supported by public and/or private funds. Management framework plans for all Danish Ramsar sites as part of the EU Natura 2000 implementation contain site specific information and are public available. Moreover, dialouge for a have been established in relation to the water basin management plans.

- 4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii
  - a) at Ramsar Sites

a)

centres

b) at other wetlands

- b) centres
- 4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):

A number of wetlands including Ramsar sites are used by visitors and visitor facilities are in place including information boards, bird towers, board walks, information centres etc..

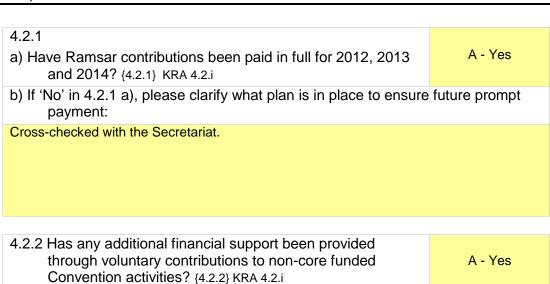
4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:					
<ul> <li>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</li> </ul>	a) C - Partly				
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	b) C - Partly				
{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii					
4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information	n about the ways in				
which stakeholders are involved):					
The public has been involved during public hearings of the Natura 2000 management framework plans including the Ramsar sites as well as the River Basin Management plans. Implementation involves consultations and agreements with local stakeholders often through the municipalities.					
4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii	B - No				
4.1.4 Additional information:					
	Number of				
4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv	opportunities:				
a) at Ramsar Sites	a) 0				
b) at other wetlands	b) 0				
<ul><li>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Ha in the training):</li><li>.</li></ul>	ndbooks were used				
4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	B - No				
4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):	er of meetings since				
4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:					
a) Ramsar Site managers	a) C - Partly				
b) other MEA national focal points	,				
b) other ME, thatierial recal points	b) C - Partly				

c) other ministries, departments and agencies

{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

<ul><li>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</li><li>.</li></ul>					
4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}	B - No				
4.1.8 Additional information:					
4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}	B - No				
<ul><li>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have bee other organizations, please indicate this):</li><li>.</li></ul>	n undertaken by				

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.



4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities): The participation in STRP and SC meetings (in kind).

**STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness.** Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.

4.3.1 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

A - Yes

**4.3.1** Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

The previous national report has been consulted and evaluated during the development of the present report.

**STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others.** *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs\*) and others.* 

\* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, and WWF International.

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

**4.4.1 Additional information** (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):

.

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):

Denmark has a long tradition for supporting the IUCN and the yearly amount has been about 20 mio. DKK in recent years. Certain initiatives by BirdLife Denmark is supported at a national level. Activities by BirdLife Denmark is supported at a national level for improving conditions for certain waterbirds. Moreover, Denmark is a member to Wetlands International with and annual contribution of about 30.000 EUR.