NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

National Reports to be submitted to the 12th 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 (dufour@ramsar.org) 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.

3. All fields with a pale yellow background must be filled in.

4. 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 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 (e-mail 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 www.ramsar.org/contacts_en.

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: CANADA

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	**Canadian Wildlife Service/ Environment Canada**
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Director General
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Grant Hogg, Director, Habitat Conservation Management Division
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP)	
Name and title:	Barry Warner, Professor and Chair
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DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)	
Name and title:	No designated government focal point for CEPA
Name of organisation:	.....
Mailing address:	.....
Telephone/Fax:	.....
Email:	.....
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)	
Name and title:	No designated non-government focal point for CEPA
Name of organisation:	.....
Mailing address:	.....
Telephone/Fax:	.....
Email:	.....

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) Canada has 37 designated Ramsar Sites, representing all provinces and territories, and covering over 13 million hectares. These sites are managed by various jurisdictions and are a testament to the cooperation of all levels of government and others in the wetland conservation community to ensure proper management of our nationally important wetlands.
2) The Alaksen Ramsar Site, first designated in 1982, was vastly extended from 586 to 20,682 hectares. The new area, renamed the 'Fraser River Delta', has six components (Burns Bog, Sturgeon Bank, South Arm Marshes, Boundary Bay, Serpentine, and the former 'Alaksen' Ramsar Site) and is located in the Metro Vancouver Region, British Columbia. The expanded site was approved by the Ramsar Secretariat in September 2012, and is part of the most important river delta/estuary for fish and birds on the west coast of Canada.
3) In partnership with the United States and Mexico, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan was revised in 2012 as a new 'call to action' identifying an integrated vision and defining goals and measurable objectives for waterfowl populations, habitat and people. A separate Action Plan provides further guidance for implementation. Since the establishment of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in 1986, over 8 million hectares of wetlands or associated uplands have been retained, and over 48 million hectares have been managed and/or restored in Canada.
4) Under the Natural Areas Conservation Program, an investment of $245 million has been made by the Government of Canada since 2007, with funding used to secure lands that were nationally or provinically significant, that protect habitat for species at risk and migratory birds, or that enhance connectivity or corridors between existing protected areas. More than 388,000 ha of ecologically significant land has been conserved under this program, including areas of wetlands and associated upland habitats.
5) In May 2014, Canada launched the National Conservation Plan, that includes significant investments over 5 years to secure ecologically sensitive lands, support voluntary conservation and restoration actions, and strengthen marine and coastal conservation. In addition, it contains a new initiative designed to restore and enhance wetlands through a federal investment of $50 million over five years (2014-2019). An additional investment in the Natural Areas Conservation Program was also announced under the National Conservation Plan to include $100 million over five years to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to secure ecologically sensitive lands.

B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

1) Broadly limited human and financial resources across stakeholders who implement the Convention in Canada, in particular, resources required to facilitate communication of the value of wetlands, and those needed to proactively manage Canada's wetlands.
2) The rate of development from urbanization, agricultural intensification, and industrial land use change in southern regions of the country, and associated habitat loss and degradation of remnant ecosystems is a continuing challenge to wetland conservation in Canada.
3) Gaps in wetland inventories continue to make it challenging to prioritize areas for conservation and restoration.
4) Outreach and engagement by the Adminstrative Authority and STRP National Focal Point on Ramsar-related matters to the wetlands community across Canada continues to be a challenge as does communication among Ramsar site managers.
5) Invasive species, habitat fragmentation and land-use activities in areas surrounding Ramsar sites are a concern for many Ramsar Sites in Canada's southern regions.

C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

1) Continuing to improve communications between the Administrative Authority and STRP National Focal Point, and Ramsar Site Managers and other wetland stakeholders, using the site managers network and WetlandNetwork (www.wetlandnetwork.ca) as key mechanisms.
2) Many provinces have indicated that they will continue to work towards updating and improving wetland inventories to inform management decisions. The Canadian Wetland Inventory hosted by Ducks Unlimited Canada continues to make progress, integrating compatible data and facilitating access through the Canadian Wetland Inventory interactive status map.
3) To continue to build upon and utilize partnerships to identify and deliver long-term coordinated actions to conserve wetlands including connecting with other sectors (e.g. agriculture, industry stakeholders) to promote the Ramsar Convention and actions that can be taken to support its implementation. This includes building on the momentum of the 2014 Wetlands Leadership Workshop, and developing a wetlands group to work on priority issues including: offset policy and wetland inventory.
4) Implementation of the National Conservation Plan, launched in 2014, to expand opportunities for partners, including municipalities, environmental groups, hunters and anglers, landowners and community groups, to take practical actions to safeguard the land and water around them in three priority areas: conserving Canada's lands and waters; restoring Canada's ecosystems; and, connecting Canadians to nature. It includes significant investments over 5 years to secure ecologically sensitive lands, support voluntary conservation and restoration actions, and strengthen marine and coastal conservation. In addition, it contains a new initiative designed to restore and enhance wetlands and to encourage Canadians to connect with nature close to home through protected areas and green spaces located in or near urban areas.
5) The role of wetlands in providing ecosystem goods and services has been recognized under a wide range of policies and programs in Canada. Evaluation and integration of wetland ecosystem services research and development of practical tools (e.g. offset policy) is an ongoing priority.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

No specific recommendations at this time.

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 specific recommendations at this time.

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?

National implementation of the Ramsar Convention can be better linked to the implementation of other biodiversity-related conventions through: exploring ways to avoid duplication, advancing synergies, promoting opportunities for mutual recognition and involvement as well as through information sharing among government departments and agencies involved in biodiversity and climate change. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan update process could represent a good opportunity to establish closer coordination amongst biodiversity-related conventions, including the Ramsar Convention.

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)?

Currently, Ramsar guidance and wise use principles are considered where possible in provincial, territorial and federal strategies and their use should continue to be encouraged. In addition, the link between ecosystem goods and services of wetlands and sustainable development, poverty reduction and other strategies should continue to be researched and communicated to decision makers both to influence such strategies and incent conservation of wetlands.

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

The strength of the current Ramsar Strategic Plan (2009-2015) is the theme of partnerships. This theme should continue into the next Strategic Plan. Communications and outreach should also be an integral component of a new plan, including guidance for dissemination of information from the STRP to Contracting Parties for distribution to on-the-ground practitioners. Ramsar's STRP needs to increase collaboration and leverage the expertise of other bodies (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Intergovermental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, International Organization Partners) in order to undertake tasks with minimal resources.

I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

List of Organizations Invited to Contribute:

Federal Government: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Environment Canada; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada; International Joint Commission (Canadian Section); Natural Resources Canada; National Capital Commission; Parks Canada Agency

Provincial/ Territorial Governments: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon

Municipal/ Regional: Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority (British Columbia), Metro Vancouver (British Columbia), Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (Ontario)

Non-Government: Bird Studies Canada, Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Nature Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Réserve de la biosphère du Lac-Saint-Pierre, Wildlife Habitat Canada

Academic/ Research: Acadia University, International Institute for Sustainable Development, University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo

Private/ Industry: Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Canadian Cattleman's Association, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, Forest Products Association of Canada, Mining Association of Canada

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing 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 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	C - In progress

1.1.1 Additional information:
The Canadian Wetland Inventory (CWI) was established in 2002 with an initial partnership between the Canadian Space Agency, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment Canada and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada). The objective of the work was to provide a national wetland inventory that could be used for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands for environmental and societal benefits, and to provide easy access to digitally mapped and classified wetlands using standardized data structure and management protocols. Ducks Unlimited Canada currently leads this initiative and reports that, to date, approximately 25% of the Canadian Wetland Inventory is underway or complete (representing over 251 million ha). This represents an increase of approximately 43.2 million ha in the last 3 years, with mapping completed or underway in 12 areas of the country.

In addition, many provinces maintain their own wetland inventory or have initiated inventory work in priority areas. For example, in the province of Alberta, as a commitment under their 2013 Wetland Policy, a variety of tools will be developed to enhance decision making using the existing provincial wetland inventory including: a GIS-based wetland value assessment system; a publicly available database and reporting tool; and an inventory of drained wetlands/ restoration opportunities. In Saskatchewan, inventories of intact and drained wetlands are available for portions of the province. In Manitoba, the government is working towards a new province-wide wetlands inventory, focusing initial efforts on priority needs in southern regions.

The Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium, a bi-national partnership with scientific experts from U.S. and Canadian federal, state and provincial agencies, non-government orgnaizations and other interest groups, has developed a basinwide digital coastal wetland inventory as the framework for long-term monitoring of Great Lakes wetlands.

The Canada Centre for Remote Sensing of Natural Resources Canada continues to develop new techniques whereby wetland inventories can be improved and maintained in Canada. Current research projects are investigating advanced methodologies for mapping and monitoring subarctic and boreal peatlands using polarmetric satellite radar data, along with the active development of methods to reliably map wetland extent and related water levels using current and future satellite radar systems.

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

1.1.2 Additional information:

Ducks Unlimited Canada, with initial support from the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada), has developed an interactive status map to show areas of the country where a Canadian Wetland Inventory (CWI)-compatible inventory is either in progress or complete. The map (http://maps.ducks.ca/cwi/), provides access to detailed wetland polygons, either directly online or through provincial sources. Contact information is available for all inventories associated with the interactive status map should stakeholders wish to acquire the wetland data. The Canadian Wetland Inventory interactive status map won an international prize at the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Society for Conservation GIS International Conservation Mapping Competition in 2011.

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) O - No change

1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):

a) Ramsar Sites: Overall, the condition of Canada's Ramsar Sites has not changed. However, Environment Canada and Ramsar Site Managers are monitoring water level changes at the Beaverhill Lake site, which has a history of natural water level shifts as part of its essential character and ecology, and Quill Lakes site, where water levels have risen due to higher than average moisture in the region and drainage of surrounding agricultural lands (see section 2.6.2). Many of the sites continue to manage for invasive alien species. Habitat fragmentation and development pressures on surrounding lands are also a concern for many Ramsar Sites in Canada's southern regions.

b) The overall condition of wetlands across Canada varies. Canada's most recent national assessment (Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010), reported that internationaly significant wetlands in Canada remain healthy and provide billions of dollars in ecosystem services annually (http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=83A35E06-1). Numerous efforts to conserve and enhance Canada's wetlands are underway across the country (see section 1.8.2), and there is increasing recognition of the important role that wetlands play in critical services such as flood control and carbon storage.

There is still localized loss and degradation of wetlands in southern Canada due to a wide range of stressors. For example, in Quebec, a 2013 study by the Centre de la science de la biodiversité du Québec documented changes in wetlands in the St. Lawrence Lowlands over the last 2 decades. The analysis demonstrated that while 12% of the wetlands in the region are part of a protected area, 19% have been affected by agriculture, forestry and urban/ industrial activities.

Work is underway to update wetland loss trend information across southern Ontario and to report on the status and trends of Ontario's Great Lakes coastal wetlands. Environment Canada is involved in monitoring initiatives in the region including: the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a Canada-U.S. partnership monitoring over 1000 coastal wetlands over a 5 year period (2010-2014); a regional project monitoring water quality and the condition of bird, aquatic macroinvertebrate and vegetation communities in a suite of indicator wetlands across the Canadian side of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the Huron-Erie corridor; and, collection of baseline wetland habitat condition information on Lake Ontario shorelines.

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 (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)	B - No

1.3.1 Additional information:
Wetland conservation in Canada is a shared federal, provincial and territorial responsibility and therefore, no national policy exists.

The federal government has a particular role to play as a major landowner and is responsible for implementing the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (1991).

Many provinces also have a wetland policy or strategy for regions under their jurisdiction and several new policies have been released over the last 3 years. The Alberta Wetland Policy (2013) provides a strategic framework for wetland conservation and recognizes wetlands as integral to watershed health. New Brunswick released a Long Term Wetland Management Strategy in 2012 with the goal of ensuring protection of provincially significant wetlands, improving permitting processes and encouraging use of best practices.

Other provinces and territories have committed to updating or developing a wetland policy. Saskatchewan's 25-year Water Security Plan (2012) recognizes the importance of wetlands in providing ecosystem services and calls for an update to the 1995 Provincial Wetland Policy by 2015. The province of Manitoba released a 2014 draft Peatlands Stewardship Strategy promoting the protection and responsible development of peatlands recognizing the range of ecosystem goods and services they provide, and has committed to developing a Wetland Strategy under its 2012 Green Plan. Newfoundland and Labrador is in the process of developing a wetland strategy/ framework. A Quebec Wetland Policy is under development and expected in 2015. In addition, through its 2014 Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan, the Yukon Territory has committed to developing a policy for managing wetlands.

In Ontario, impacts to significant wetlands and Great Lakes coastal wetlands continue to be prevented under provincial land use planning and resource management statutes and associated regulations and policy. In 2014, amendments to provincial policy resulted in consideration and protection for Great Lakes coastal wetlands.

The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement identifies an active role for the Territorial Government in both wildlife management (including habitat) and the review and regulation of development activities as part of a unique co-management system. In practice, the Territorial government works with the responsible federal authorities, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Impact Review Board, and local people to ensure good conservation practices for watersheds, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.

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) Z - Not applicable b) C - Partly c) C - Partly d) C - Partly e) C - Partly f) C - Partly g) C - Partly

1.3.2 Additional information:
Various federal, provincial/ territorial strategies and planning processes incorporate wetland conservation values. Some recent examples:

b) Saskatchewan's 25 year Water Security Plan (2012), the Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan (2014), and the Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy (2010) and Action Plan (2011-2015) recognize the importance of wetland ecosystem services in water resource management planning.

c) Integrated coastal management planning exercises led by Fisheries and Oceans Canada were recently completed for two Large Ocean Management Areas, with consideration of ecologically significant areas including wetlands. The federal Health of the Oceans Initiative (2007-2013, renewed in 2014 through the National Conservation Plan) provides further support for the protection of unique and vulnerable marine areas.

d) Forest management guidelines and regulations provide standards for consideration of wetlands and buffers (e.g. British Columbia's Forest and Range Practices Act; Yukon Forest Resources Act).

e) The Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (2013-2016) captures wetland conservation under Goal 4: Conserving and Restoring Ecosystems, Wildlife and Habitat, and Protecting Canadians. In Ontario, legislative tools provide direction on sustainable development with consideration of wetlands (e.g. the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement). Wetlands are also protected under place-based land use legislation (e.g. the Greenbelt Act).

f) Growing Forward 2 (2013-2018), led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, provides a federal-provincial-territorial policy framework for agriculture in Canada with cost-shared funding to producers to identify on-farm environmental risks and implement beneficial management practices, including some that directly or indirectly support the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

g) A set of proposed 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada has been developed by a federal-provincial-territorial working group with input from stakeholders and Aboriginal organizations using the CBD Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 as a guide. The goals and targets identify medium-term outcomes to support the long-term goals in Canada's Biodiversity Outcomes Framework (2006) and Canada's Biodiversity Strategy (1995). Goal A, Target 3 refers directly to wetland conservation: 'By 2020, Canada's wetlands are conserved or enhanced to sustain their ecosystem services through retention, restoration and management activities'.

Provincial/ territorial governments are also working to implement the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

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	C - Partly

1.3.3 Additional information:
Most jurisdictions in Canada conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments of policies, programs and plans to identify potential important environmental effects, including on wetlands. At the federal level there is a Cabinet directive on Strategic Environmental Assessments (http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/default.asp?land=En&n=B3186435-1) and all Government of Canada departments and agencies that are developing policy and program proposals must implement the Directive (complete at time of approval).

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 Canadian Environmental Assessment Act was updated in 2012 and focuses on potential adverse environmental effects that are within federal jurisdiction, including: fish and fish habitat; other aquatic species; migratory birds; federal lands; effects that cross provincial or international boundaries; effects that impact Aboriginal peoples; and, changes to the environment that are directly linked to or necessarily incidental to any federal decisions about a project (http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=16254939-1). The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (1991) also considers wetland values in its decision-making framework as a key consideration in federal environmental assessments.

Environment Canada's role in conservation relates to migratory birds, species at risk and nationally significant habitats. In the context of natural resource and other development opportunities, Environment Canada provides technical expertise and advice through the environmental assessment process to help avoid or reduce environmental impacts, including those to wetlands associated with projects.

In addition, most provinces and territories have their own legislation that requires environmental assessment on select projects. For example, under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act, the importance of wetlands is recognized and avoidance or mitigation of wetlands is applied in environmental assessments. In Ontario, Environmental Impact Assessments are required to determine if development projects will have any negative impacts to the features or functions of signficant wetlands in northern Ontario (development is prohibited in significant wetlands in southern Ontario). An Environmental Impact Assessment is also required prior to development adjacent to significant wetlands. In Newfoundland and Labrador, Environmental Impact Assessments have been completed for mining activities, new roads, cranberry farms and transmission lines affecting wetlands.

Offset guidance is also provided in some cases where development activities have the potential to impact wetlands. For example, under the 2013 Alberta Wetland Policy, wetland replacement is required where impacts cannot be avoided or minimized and permanent wetland loss is incurred. The area to be replaced is dependent on a wetland valuation approach.

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:	

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: No national assessment of ecosystem benefits and services provided by Ramsar Sites has been made at this time. Individual management plans generally reference the ecosystem benefits and services of the sites but no specific assessments have been completed. An assessment of ecosystem services at the Last Mountain Lake Ramsar Site in Saskatchewan will be included as part of the updated management plan.	

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	B - No
1.4.2 Additional information:	

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):

Twenty Ramsar sites have socio-economic and cultural values included in their management planning including: Baie de l'Isle Verte, Cap Tourmente, Columbia River Wetlands, Creston Valley, Grand Codroy Estuary, Hay-Zama Lakes, Lac Saint-Francois, Lac St. Pierre, Last Mountain Lake, Long Point, Mer Bleue Conservation Area, Minesing Wetlands, Oak Hammock Marsh, Old Crow Flats, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Point Pelee National Park, Polar Bear Provincial Park, St. Clair National Wildlife Area, Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary, and Whooping Crane Summer Range.

For example:
- Hay-Zama Lakes has identified and protected First Nations Traditional Uses with its plan. The site provides critical winter range for a free-ranging re-introduced provincially-endangered Wood Bison population. Management of the herd has included hunting by both First Nations and resident hunters to manage population levels and maintain disease free status.
- The St. Clair National Wildlife Area management plan incorporates values such as wildlife viewing and furbearer trapping.
- The Mer Bleue Conservation Area management plan recognizes the interdependence between sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation at the Ramsar Site.
- The Old Crow Flats Ramsar Site is one of 4 designated Habitat Protection Areas under the Yukon Wildlife Act. The areas, which are predominantly wetlands, were chosen under land claim agreements in part because of their cultural, subsistance values and all have management plans.

The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (1991) also considers socio-economic wetland values in its decision-making framework and as a key consideration in federal environmental assessments. Provincial/territorial governments may also consider socio-economic values, aboriginal values and cultural heritage in wetland evaluation.

The Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan is working in the Saskatchewan River Delta and Cumberland Marshes (an Important Bird Area) to investigate the impact of future flow scenarios, associated with existing dams, on aquatic habitats and market and customary (non-market) resource use by people in the region. The work will assign value (social, cultural and economic) to resource use and related conservation activites with the goal of developing a range of scenarios for sustainable output and an operational plan.

Ducks Unlimited Canada has promoted the inclusion of First Nations traditional cultural values into conservation strategies in its Boreal Conservation Programs. Recreational use is allowed at Ducks Unlimited Canada's conservation lands across the country in keeping with local interests.

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 ecosystem services {1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i	a. A - Yes b. A - Yes c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:
a) Under the Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices Program (2004-2013), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and partners assessed Beneficial Management Practice performance in 9 watersheds across the country.

The Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan is investigating hydrological connectivity and agricultural drainage impacts at the Smith Creek Wetlands Research Site. Other researchers at the University are investigating frequency of occurrence and impact of Neonicotinoids in wetlands.

b) Natural Resources Canada is developing bioacoustic monitoring techniques to track long-term change in anuran and bird communities. Current research in Atlantic Canada focuses on prediction and detection of climate change impacts on wetland frog communities. Natural Resources Canada is also testing the use of polarmetric satellite synthetic aperture radar for tracking peatland loss and transformation in subarctic and boreal regions.

The Province of British Columbia is establishing a Long-Term Ecological Monitoring Program network of 10-20 sites, with standard wetland sampling protocols for temperature, water levels, amphibians and waterfowl.

Researchers at Western University supported by Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources recently completed a study investiging carbon storage and accumulation rates in southern Ontario wetlands. In Alberta, a large scale research project with university, government and Ducks Unlimited Canada partners is informing an ecosystem services pilot project and wetland restoration carbon offset protocol.

c) Statistics Canada released a 2013 compendium of interdisciplinary research from 7 federal departments, 'Measuring Ecosystem Goods and Services in Canada', including a section on valuation of wetland services and case study from the Assiniboine-Red drainage region.

In 2012, Canada's Natural Science and Engineering Research Council provided 5 years of research funding for a Canadian Network for Aquatic Ecosystem Services. University, government and industrial partners are investigating impacts of regional climate change on wetland ecosystem services.

Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Universities of Saskatchewan and Alberta are developing a business case for wetlands in southern Saskatchewan, using quantifiable environmental, economic and social benefits of wetlands relating to flooding, water quality and carbon sequestration. Preliminary results have been synthesized to inform economic valuations.

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:
Many provinces have legislation that require protected areas, including protected wetlands to have scientifically sound management plans (e.g. British Columbia Wildlife Act). In addition, provincial agencies, non-government organizations and land trusts typically develop management plans using the best available science for secured wetlands to ensure that the habitat is maintained for future generations and to clearly identify restoration and stewardship targets. Activites in habitat joint venture implementation plans under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan are also directed by science that includes extensive modeling of wetland loss and waterfowl productivity.

Management Plans for federal protected areas (e.g. National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Santuaries) are also based on sound scientific research. These sites are managed to maintain their ecological integrity for the benefit of wildlife including migratory birds, species at risk and other wildlife of national importance. All management plans include identified challenges and threats as part of the standard management plan template. A review of academic and government research specific to the types of habitat and species found locally and on a broader basis form the basis for the management plan. Many of Canada's Ramsar Sites are federal protected areas (refer to Section 2.4 for management plan status).

Some conservation-based organizations such as Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada require management plans for all of their projects and the lands they manage. Many of the above mentioned management plans also incorporate traditional ecological knowledge.

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 to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii	A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:
Wetlands are recognized as natural water infrastructure at the scale of river basins through existing legislation, policy and integrated watershed planning frameworks. For example, in Ontario, Conservation Authorities use a permitting process to regulate proposed development including the control of interference with natural storage areas such as wetlands for flood attenuation and for shoreline erosion prevention/ mitigation. Manitoba's Water Protection Act (2006) guides watershed planning in the province, enabling Conservation Districts to coordinate and support integrated watershed management planning with stakeholders. The recently released 'Manitoba Surface Water Management Strategy' and draft 2014 'Towards Sustainable Drainage - a Proposed New Regulatory Approach', provide an integrated approach to surface water management in the agricultural and municipal areas of the province. The proposed regulations have a goal of no-net loss of wetland benefits and will facilitate movement to a watershed-based regulatory planning framework where water retention and drainage projects are considered together.

In other provinces, independent watershed management groups designated by the provincial management authority assess watershed condition and prepare management plans (e.g. Alberta's Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils; Quebec's Basin Organizations under the Regroupement des organizations de bassin versant du Quebec, and Saskatchewan's Watershed Advisory Committees). Community-based organizations are also active in provinces such as New Brunswick (Community-based Coastal Management Areas) and Prince Edward Island (Cooperative Watershed Management Groups).

The Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan (2014) recognizes the importance of wetlands for ground water and sets a broad goal to sustain water quality and quantity for aquatic and terrestrial health and ecosystem services. Similarly, the Northwest Territories recognizes the importance of wetland ecosystem services in its Water Stewardship Strategy and is working to integrate the strategy's principles into watershed and natural resource planning frameworks.

Wetlands are also recognized as natural water infrastructure in the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (1991).

1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.3}	A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:
Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness objectives are incorporated into federal, provincial and territorital wetland policies, stewardship initiatives and habitat conservation programs. Most of the communication/ education and capacity building activities are carried out by provincial government agencies and private sector partners like Bird Studies Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

Provincial and Territorial governments also work with stakeholders such as watershed-based organizations and municipalities to ensure participation in planning processes. For example, in Saskatchewan, wetland issues have been examined during community-led, watershed-based source water protection planning facilitated by the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency. In Ontario, Conservation Authorities and other environmental non-government organizations work with municipalities to encourage inclusion of wetland policies in local official plans. Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness elements are also incorporated in various degrees within watershed plans, watershed report cards and through print and electronic outreach material produced by jurisdictional Conseration Authorities in the Great Lakes Basin. In the Atlantic region (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador), all provinces, Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada provide funding to watershed-based environmental programs and organizations.

1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii	A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:
Environment Canada is responsible for preparing Canada's official National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. The Land Use, Land-use change and Forestry Sector of the inventory reports GHG fluxes between the atmosphere and Canada's managed lands, as well as those associated with direct human induced land-use changes. The representation of wetland conversion and management is currently limited to GHG estimates from historic peatland loss to agriculture as cultivation of organic soils, land flooded for large hydroelectric reservoirs and peatlands drained for peat harvesting. Work is on-going to develop methods and quantify the GHG impacts of other human activities on wetlands.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recently produced the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands (Wetlands Supplement). This supplement was produced to address gaps in previous IPCC guidelines on wetlands and organic soils. The Wetlands Supplement updates previous guidelines and provides cross-cutting methodological guidance for drained and rewetted organic soils, coastal wetlands, wet mineral soils and constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment. New guidance in the Wetlands Supplement will aid in improving the representation of various anthropogenic drivers on wetland GHG flux in Canada's national GHG inventory. In addition, efforts have been made to develop methodologies relevant to domestic circumstances. This includes acquiring and/or developing improved data on areas affected, the land management practices utilized and their GHG impacts. These developments will improve the quantification of the anthropogenic GHG impact of major drivers affecting Canadian wetlands and assist in identifying mitigation policies and measures.

Under the Regional Adaptation Collaboratives Climate Change Program (2009-2012), the Atlantic provinces and Government of Canada recognized the importance of wetland conservation as an adaptation strategy to prepare for and adapt to local impacts from climate change. A federal/ provincial investment facilitated the development of tools for decision makers to address coastal erosion, flooding, infrastructure design and ground water management.

Agricultural programs in Canada are guided by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Growing Forward 2 Policy Framework (2013-2018). Incentives for beneficial management practices include some that directly or indirectly support the conservation and wise use of wetlands on agricultural lands which, in turn, can contribute to GHG mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Several provinces and territories have also established guidance. Manitoba's draft Terrestrial Carbon Management Action Plan will help ensure the responsible management of provincial forest and peatland ecosystems by: improving understanding of carbon dynamics and sequestration values; promoting stewardship of carbon pools; and, considering terrestiral carbon within climate change initiatives. Saskatchewan's Ministry of the Environment is currently developing guidelines for wetland mitigation.

1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v	A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is committed to helping the agriculture sector contribute to the quality of Canada's water resources. In order to promote an environmentally responsible agricultural sector, in 2003, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada introduced the Environmental Farm Plan Program in partnership with the provinces and territories. The program helps producers assess on-farm environmental risks and create an associated action plan.

Environmental Farm Plan programs and cost-shared incentives for implementation of beneficial management practices are delivered by the provinces and territories based on identified regional priorities. On-farm beneficial management practices eligible for financial assistance range from water quality protection through soil and nutrient management, to riparian protection/ enhancement, wetland restoration, biodiversity conservation, wildlife habitat stewardship and mitigation of wildlife damage. Several provinces have also developed broader watershed planning initiatives to facilitate strategic actions in high risk areas (e.g. Alberta's Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program; Saskatchewan's Agri-Environmental Group Plans). Other provinces have developed programs acknowledging the provision of ecological goods and services, providing specific assistance to producers adopting select beneficial management practices identified to have a public conservation benefit (e.g. Manitoba's Growing Assurance Ecological Goods and Services Program delivered by local Conservation Districts; New Brunswick's Enhanced Support for selected priority beneficial management practices; and Prince Edward Island's Alternative Land Use Services 2).

Most provinces also have an extensive stewardship network including federal, provincial, regional governments and non-government conservation associations. For example, in Atlantic Canada, the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan) has supported private land stewardship and restoration projects integrating wetlands and agriculture. In Saskatchewan, research and programming has been investing in the possibility of using restored wetlands as an enhanced forage resource for livestock producers.

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:
Under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (revised in 2012), priority sites for wetland restoration for waterfowl productivity are identified through four public-private habitat joint venture partnerships. The Joint Ventures use a science-based implementation plan to deliver habitat conservation programs at a regional level (http://nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca/joint-venture/habitat-joint-ventures/).

Canada's Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan (2005) outines a strategy to undertake rehabilitation projects at priority sites in the lower Great Lakes Basin. Through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement update in 2012, Canada and the United States have further committed to the development of lake-wide habitat and species protection and restoration conservation strategies for each of the Great Lakes.

Habitat priorities, including wetlands, are also identified under federal and provincial/ territorial species at risk funding programs (e.g. the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and the National Wetland Conservation Fund). Conservation organizations and watershed organizations also use blueprinting, natural heritage system planning and biodiversity hotspot exercises to prioritize sites for restoration.

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:
Wetland securement and restoration for the benefit of waterfowl populations is a key action of the Joint Ventures established under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Since the establishment of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in 1986, over 8 million hectares of wetlands or associated uplands have been retained, and over 48 million hectares have been managed and/or restored in Canada. Note: these numbers are not comparable to values in the 2012 National Report due to a change in Canadian terminology for reporting.

Each year, through a partnership between Wildlife Habitat Canada and Environment Canada, a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp is produced for purchase by waterfowl hunters to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit. The stamp and an associated print are also available for purchase by conservation enthusiasts. Revenues from the stamp and print are directed to Wildlife Habitat Canada to carry out projects that conserve and enhance wetlands associated with waterfowl. Since 1985, over $40 million from the revenue of the stamp and print sales has been invested in conservation projects focusing primarily on wetlands across Canada.

In May 2014, Canada launched the National Conservation Plan, that includes signficant investments over 5 years to secure ecologically sensitive lands, support voluntary conservation and restoration actions, and strengthen marine and coastal conservation. In addition it contains a new initiative designed to specifically restore and enhance wetlands.

Many restoration and rehabilitation projects are also championed by local or regional interests with funding from federal, provincial or regional governments, non-government and private sources.

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	C - Partly

1.9.1 Additional information:
There are several online open access databases at the national scale that maintain data on alien species. While these are not specific to wetlands, many species that have the potential to impact the ecological character of wetlands are included:
Wild Species 2010 (www.wildspecies.ca/wildspecies2010/downloads.cfm?lang=e) is a Canadian database with information on 1426 exotic species; and NatureServe Explorer (http://explorer.natureserve.org/index.htm), includes 223 invasive alien plant species in Canada. The Canadian Wildlife Federation maintains an invasive species encyclopedia (http://cwf-fcf.org/en/discover-wildlife/resources/encyclopedias/invasive-species/).
Many species that have the potential to impact the ecological character of wetlands are included in these databases.

Several provinces and territories also maintain inventories. For example:
- Ontario has a list of non-native aquatic invasive species and tracks the spread of invasives using an online system (EDDMapS) (www.eddmaps.org/ontario/).
- Saskatchewan maintains a taxonomic list of invasive species that impact wetlands through its Conservation Data Centre. The Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council has been promoting the use of IMap Invasives as a platform for mapping and inventory of invasive species in the province (http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca/invasives.htm).

Many management plans, such as those for National Parks and Environment Canada's Protected Areas also include partial inventories of invasive alien species. Regular ecological condition monitoring and data collection inform management decisions and reporting on invasive alien species in protected areas.

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	C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information:
Nationally, the Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada (2004) plays an important role in preventing new invasions, detecting and responding to new invasive alien species and in managing established invasive alien species through eradication, containment and control. Although not specific to wetlands, this Strategy seeks to protect Canada's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and their native biological diversity and domestic plants and animals, from the risks of invasive alien species. The Canadian Action Plan to Address the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (2004) further outlines a national approach for managing aquatic invasive species including those that impact wetlands. The Invasive Plants Policy (2010) of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency also outlines a national approach to developing and implementing phytosanitary measures to regulate the importation and domestic movement of pest plants, for protecting Canada's plant resource base, including protecting the environment.

In 1999, Environment Canada released a report entitled, Invasive Plants of Natural Habitats in Canada: An integrated review of wetland and upland species and legislation governing their control.

Many provinces also have strategies or guidelines to address invasive species including those present in wetlands (e.g. Invasive Alien Species Strategy for British Columbia 2013; Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan 2012). In Saskatchewan, an aquatic invasive species management plan has been developed and an invasive species management framework is proposed.

A Binational (Canada-United States) Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan (2012) has been developed through the International Joint Commission for the Lake Huron/ Lake Erie Corridor providing an action plan and analysis of jurisdictional roles and capabilities for response efforts to minimize the likelihood of establishment of high risk aquatic invasive species in the corridor which includes a significant area in wetlands.

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	C - Partly

1.10.1 Additional information:
Many of the principles and guidance provided by Ramsar are reflected in federal and/or provincial and territorial guidelines which are available to the private sector.

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:
a) - Hay-Zama Lakes: The oil and gas industry suspended operations in the Hay Zama Lakes Wildland Park in March 2014 and will begin reclamation three years in advance of the agreement made with the Hay Zama Committee when the Park was established.
- Lac St. Pierre: Private companies provide funding and sit on management committees for the Biosphere Reserve.
- Columbia River Wetlands: Local conservation groups conduct species inventory, annual clean-up and invasive plant removal.
- Long Point: The Long Point Waterfowlers Association studies migratory bird use, and threats to local wetlands

b) Conservation groups work with private landowners to: support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; identify beneficial management practices for wetland stewardship; and, enable wetland restoration. Environmental Farm Planning and producer driven programs (such as 'Alternative Land Use Services') also promote wetland conservation on private land. Hunters provide an ongoing financial commitment supporting wetland conservation programs through provinicial/ territorial licensing fees and purchase of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp associated with federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits.

Industry groups are also investing in wetland research and engaged through conservation partnerships:
- The Canadian Federation of Agriculture co-hosted the 2014 Canadian Wetland Leadership Workshop with Ducks Unlimited Canada, with the goal of identifying coordinated actions for wetland conservation and approaches to stakeholder engagement.
- Syncrude Canada Ltd. developed the Sandhill Fen Research Watershed Initiative with an interdisciplinary team from 7 Universities with the goal of creating operational techniques for fen restoration over tailing sand hummocks. A 52 ha watershed restoration project was completed in 2012 and will be monitored to evaluate success.
- The Ontario Waterpower Association, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Environment Canada developed a 2012 beneficial management practice for consideration of wetlands during waterpower facility construction.
- FPInnovations, Ducks Unlimited Canada and forest industry partners are working towards a 2015 national beneficial management practices standard on forest resource roads and wetland conservation.
- The Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association and its members invested over $7 million in peatland restoration research over the last 20 years. The Association is currently working with Environment Canada to quantify potential climate mitigation impacts of peatland management and restoration.

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:
During the past triennium, a number of actions have been taken to implement incentive measures encouraging wetland conservation and wise use. Examples of national and regional programs include:
- Federal-Provincial-Territorial cost-shared funding to producers to identify on-farm environmental risks through an Environmental Farm Plan and to support the implementation of Beneficial Management Practices, including some that directly or indirectly support the conservation and wise use of wetlands on agricultural lands (see 1.7.4).
- Delta Waterfowl's Alternative Land Use Services, a community-developed, farmer-delivered program, provides support to farmers and ranchers to retain and reconstruct natural areas (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, riparian areas) for the maintainance and rehabilitation of processes such as water filtration and purification, nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration, and conservation of wildlife habitat.
- The Lake Winnipeg Basin Stewardship Fund provides financial support to high impact, community driven stewardship projects aimed at reducing nutrient loading within the basin. This includes support for rehabilitation of priority aquatic ecosystems such as wetlands that support nutrient sequestration.
- Manitoba's Wetland Restoration Incentive Program provides financial incentives, technical support, and advice to landowners wanting to restore wetlands on their property. Landowners enter into a conservation agreement with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation or Ducks Unlimited Canada and are offered an ecological goods and services payment to restore wetlands on the secured land with the goal of green house gas reduction, and a range of other environmental benefits.
- The National Conservation Plan, announced in 2014, includes federal government funding of $50 million over five years to restore wetlands (2014-2019).
- Ontario's Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program provides a 100% property tax exemption to recognize, encourage and support the long-term private stewardship of important natural features, including provincially significant wetlands.

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	A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:
Agricultural policies in Canada have evolved over time with an overall decrease in producer support relative to gross farm receipts. Agricultural income policies in Canada are generally 'decoupled' from production practices, and based on drops in net income at the whole-farm level. They do not favour any particular land use, such as drainage of wetlands.

While there are still perverse legislative and incentive measures in place in some regions, efforts are being made through partnerships to reduce impacts. For example, in Ontario, government financial incentives for drainage are no longer available to producers who wish to establish drains in provincially significant wetlands. The Wetland Drain Restoration Project has been an ongoing effort by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and other partners in Norfolk County to balance the advantages provided by municipal drainage projects with the water purification, storage and discharge functions provided by wetlands. In January 2014, the Ontario Minstry of Natural Resources also entered into an agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada to pilot a program that would administratively streamline approvals for small, low risk dams for wetland conservation under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act.

Provincial government funding for engineered drainage works has not been available in Saskatchewan for a number of years. However, cross compliance between wetland drainage and other government support programs has not been pursued.

The proposed regulations under Manitoba's draft 2014 'Toward Sustainable Drainage - a Proposed New Regulatory Approach', have a goal of no-net loss of wetland benefits and will facilitate movement to a watershed-based regulatory planning framework where water retention and drainage projects are considered together.

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, 3rd 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	A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:
A 'Strategic Overview of the Canadian Ramsar Program', was published by Environment Canada in 1996, encouraging further designation for Ramsar sites based on: geographic and biological representation; priority areas for internationally important migratory bird species; and, Ramsar Criteria. The report also encourages 'on-the-ground' initiation of future designations by provincial, territorial, First Nations and non-government agencies.

An updated version of the 'Nomination and Listing of Wetlands of International Importance in Canada: Procedures Manual' is currently in preparation.

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):
At this time, there are no specific designations planned for the next triennium (2015-2018), but opportunities will be explored as they arise. For example, the Government of Manitoba, as a long-term objective in their draft Peatlands Stewardship Strategy, has indicated that they may pursue Ramsar designations for some of the province's protected peatlands. There has also been discussion with the United States regarding a potential transboundary wetland Ramsar designation in the Niagara Region of Ontario. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is also investigating opportunities to pursue Ramsar designation for some of its territories. In addition, some existing Ramsar Sites are also considering expansion.

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: Not applicable at this time. Specific sites have not been identified for future designation.	

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	B - No
2.3.1 Additional information: Not applicable at this time. Specific sites have not been identified for future designation.	

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	23 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	23 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	2 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

2.4.1. The following Ramsar Sites have a management plan for all or a portion of the site (depending on designation): Baie de l'Isle Verte (1986); Cap Tourmente (1986); Chignecto (1984); Columbia River Wetlands (2004); Creston Valley (2004); Fraser River Delta (various dates by management unit); Grand Codroy Estuary (1995); Hay-Zama Lakes (2002); Lac Saint-Francois (1986); Lac St. Pierre (2013); Last Mountain Lake (1999); Long Point (1983); Mary's Point (1984); Matchedash Bay Provincial Wildlife Area (1989); Mer Bleue Conservation Area (2007); Minesing Wetlands (2009); Old Crow Flats (2006, 2010 by management unit); Peace-Athabasca Delta (2010); Point Pelee National Park (2010); Polar Bear Provincial Park (1980); St. Clair National Wildlife Area (1982); Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary (2004); Whooping Crane Summer Range (2010).

Several Ramsar Sites are currently drafting updates to their existing plans: Baie de l'Isle Verte; Chignecto; Lac Saint-Francois; Shepody Bay (National Wildlife Area portion of Ramsar Site); Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary.

2.4.2. Management plans are being implemented either fully or in part at 23 Ramsar Sites.

2.4.3. Ramsar Sites with a management plan in preparation include: Musquodoboit Harbour (anticipated completion in 2014); Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary (a management planning workshop will be held in 2014 to begin early stages of drafting a management plan).

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	16 sites

2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):
The following Ramsar Sites have cross-sectoral management committees: Columbia River Wetlands (1463), Delta Marsh (238), Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary (249), Hay-Zama Lakes (242), Matchedash Bay Provincial Wildlife Area (866), McConnell River (248), Minesing Wetlands (865), Oak Hammock Marsh (366), Old Crow Flats (244), Peace-Athabasca Delta (241), Point Pelee National Park (368), Polar Bear Pass (245), Queen Maud Gulf (246), St. Clair National Wildlife Area (319), Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary (612), Whooping Crane Summer Range (240).

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	23 sites

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

Ecological character descriptions are an important component of most management plans and/or have been conducted for portions of many sites including: Baie de l'Isle Verte (362), Beaverhill Lake (370), Cap Tourmente (214), Chignecto (320), Columbia River Wetlands (1463), Delta Marsh (238), Grand Codroy Estuary (364), Hay-Zama Lakes (242), Lac Saint-Francois (361), Lac St. Pierre (949), Last Mountain Lake (239), Long Point (237), Mer Bleue Conservation Area (755), Minesing Wetlands (865), Oak Hammock Marsh (366), Old Crow Flats (244), Peace Athabasca Delta (241), Point Pelee National Park (368), Quill Lakes (365), St. Clair National Wildlife Area (319), Southern James Bay (367), Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary (612), Whooping Crane Summer Range (240).

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	C - Some sites

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

Chignecto - Management effectiveness is evaluated as part of broader enforcement reviews by the Wildlife Enforcement Division.

Columbia River Wetlands - Compliance assessments of motorized vehicle regulations are conducted on a regular basis. In 2013, the re-introduction of the extirpated northern leopard frog was initiated and will be monitored to assess the effectiveness of the project.

Delta Marsh - Ongoing research at Delta Marsh will continue to monitor the effects of the Common Carp Exclusion Project (construction in 2011).

Fraser River Delta - Waterbird surveys have been conducted in the winter months for the past 3 years (2012-2014) along with an ongoing assessment of crop rotations to evaluate management effectiveness within the Alaksen component of the site (surveys do not extend to the entire Fraser River Delta site).

Grand Codroy Estuary - The Newfoundland Wildlife Division's stewardship program conducted an independent formal audit in 2003.

Last Mountain Lake - As part of the management plan in preparation, a critical analysis of past management effectiveness will be completed, with challenges guiding the path forward.

Point Pelee National Park - All five key strategies of the management plan have targets to measure management effectiveness and are reported in the State of the Parks Report (2007 is most recent). Ecological condition monitoring and data collection is conducted annually.

St. Clair National Wildlife Area - Studies have been undertaken to identify management and infrastructure needs to improve the wetland management regime for the diked wetlands at this site. These are being reviewed prior to

implementation anticipated in 2015 and 2016.

Various Ramsar Sites have ongoing monitoring of species at risk, invasive species, migratory birds, etc. to inform management planning or more informal asssessments of management effectiveness (e.g. Southern James Bay, Long Point, Oak Hammock Marsh). Environment Canada has conducted vegetation mapping, satellite imagery mapping and annual goose banding in the Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary, McConnell River, and Queen Maud Gulf, to monitor impacts of vegetation change, climate change and possibly other factors on goose survival over time.

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):

For Ramsar Sites managed by Environment Canada (National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries), there is a mechanism in place for reporting to the Administrative Authority on changes at the sites.

The 3-year reporting cycle for the National Report ensures communication between all Ramsar Site Managers and the Administrative Authority with regard to changes to Ramsar Sites. A broad questionnaire is completed at this time providing a detailed update.

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	Z - No negative change

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):

Although in general there has been no negative change in the ecological character of Canada's Ramsar Sites, ongoing monitoring of Quill Lakes has generated some concern. Over the last 10 years, water levels have risen significantly at Quill Lakes as a result of both higher than average moisture in the region and agricultural drainage. The Administrative Authority will continue to monitor this situation with the Ramsar Site Manager to determine causes and impacts to the site, and to discuss potential changes to ecological character as defined in Article 3.2 of the Convention.

Invasive species continue to be of concern for a number of Ramsar Sites (Lac St. Pierre, Lac Saint-Francois, Last Mountain Lake, Long Point, Oak Hammock Marsh, Point Pelee National Park, St. Clair National Wildlife Area). Lower water levels are an issue for Beaverhill Lake and St. Clair National Wildlife Area. Higher than normal water levels over the last few years in the St. Lawrence River have impacted Baie de l'Isle Verte and Cap Tourmente causing shoreline erosion and deposition of debris. Prolonged high water levels on Lake Manitoba and proliferation of Common Carp continue to be an issue at Delta Marsh. Foraging by geese is also impacting vegetation at Cap Tourmente, Queen Maud Gulf and Southern James Bay.

Habitat fragmentation and land use activities in areas surrounding Ramsar Sites (e.g. agricultural expansion, ditching, pollution) are impacting sites such as Lac Saint Francois, Point Pelee National Park and the St. Clair National Wildlife Area.

Some Ramsar Sites reported improvements in ecological character through: management efforts reducing motor vehicle use (Columbia River Wetlands); site expansion (Fraser River Delta); and, the improvement to the Eel grass flats damaged by the invasive European Green Crab (Musquodoboit Harbour). Early evidence from the Common Carp Exclusion Project at Delta Marsh also shows positive results including increases in submerged aquatic plants and numbers of staging waterfowl.

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	Z - Not applicable

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

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:

The most recent national reporting on the state of Canada's biodiversity (Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010) reports that internationaly significant wetlands in Canada remain healthy and provide billions of dollars in ecosystem services annually (http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6F7EB059-1&wsdoc=A519F000-8427-4F8C-9521-8A95AE287753). The province of Saskatchewan and Yukon Territory report that large important wetlands are generally not being impacted by current development. Many internationally important wetlands are recognized as Important Bird Areas or as continentally important areas for waterfowl under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and may have some protection through conservation ownership or by land use policy.

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:

Canada does not have a National Ramsar Committee.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) is a national wetland committee, made up of federal, provincial/ territorial and non-government organization representatives. National focal points of other MEAs are not invited to participate as it is beyond the mandate of the Council. The Chair of the Council is the National Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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	A - Yes

3.1.2 Additional information:

Canada has a number of mechanisms at the federal level to ensure there is collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the national focal points of other UN, global and regional bodies. These mechanisms include coordination groups among senior management (Director General Committee on International Affairs in Environment Canada as an example) and interdepartmental fora (Federal Biodiversity Committee as an example) for sharing information and developing policy on various MEAs.

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):

Canada contributed to the Mediterranean Wetlands Capacity Building Initiative in Tunisia, Jordan, and Morocco, with the goal of building the capacity of civil society to dialogue with governments about improved wetland management, thereby ensuring that those living off wetland resources are involved in wetland management. Contributions from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada from 2007-12 were $1,709,306 to Wetlands International.

Canada also provided support to the Niger Basin Authority (2009-2013) to build capacity among member countries for the integrated management of the basin's water resources. Contributions from Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada from 2009-13 were $6,660,530 directly to the Niger Basin Authority.

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):

Canada does not support regional wetland training and research centres, but Canadian researchers are partnering with colleagues in other countries through regional research networks. For example:

Through the International Development Research Centre, Canadian researchers are collaborating with researchers from universities in Brazil, Uruguay and Portugal to investigate climate change stressors, factors affecting wetland management, and risk perception by local communities on South America's Atlantic coast. The results will be used to develop guidelines to encourage municipal and national governments to incorporate coastal wetland ecosystem services into climate change policies.

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation has initiated a project assessing the role of coastal habitats in the continent's blue carbon budget. The resulting scientifically-based methodology will account for net GHG benefits of tidal wetland conservation activities including salt marshes, mangroves and other coastal wetland ecosystems.

The Agricultural Wetland Research Network through the International Institute for Sustainable Development has developed research and information sharing partnerships with institutions in Israel, Paraguay and Mexico.

The Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan has developed the Saskatchewan Research Basin Project with national and international research partners, as part of the Global Energy and Water Exchanges Initiative of the World Climate Research Program. The project is one of ten regional projects in the world and the only one of its kind in North America. The project has four wetland research sites investigating hydrological and ecological responses to changing environmental conditions.

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):

Canada is helping developing countries implement their environmental priorities through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada. Examples of currently funded initiatives involving wetland conservation:

- Nicaragua: Integrated Watershed Management
- Niger, Burkina-Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Chad: Niger Basin Authority Capacity-Building Program
- Malawi: Coastal Resource Management Through Enhanced Stewardship
- Cuba: Integrated Coastal Zone Management Capacity Building.

There are numerous other initiatives supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada and its multilateral partners that are directly and indirectly related to wetland conservation and management. In addition to providing core funding to the Global Environmental Facility, Canada's 2012-13 Official Development Assistance Report includes expenditures from supporting initatives relating to water resource protection, water quality monitoring and capacity building for invasive alien species management and waterbird conservation.

Environment Canada has also contributed to wetland conservation in developing countries through an investment in the Ramsar Small Grants Fund designed to support the conservation and wise use of wetland resources and the sustainable development of communities which depend on and care for them.

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	A - Yes

3.3.2 Additional information:

Canada assesses all of its development assistance activities for potential risks and opportunities with respect to environmental sustainability and works with its partner countries to ensure that they have the capacity to do the same. This includes enhancing partners' abilities to manage natural resources and address issues like desertification and climate change.

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}	A - Yes
3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): Under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan there are regional networks between Canadian, United States and Mexican partners for knowledge sharing specifically related to wetlands that support waterfowl. Canada is a member of the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum for cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic States with involvement of Indigenous communities. The Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group signed a resolution of cooperation with Ramsar in 2012 with the goal of building and sharing knowledge, creating awareness, and enhancing capacity for understanding change. The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network facilitates communication and sharing of technical resources among a network of sites in North and South America. The Canadian Shorebird National Working Group represents Canada on the Network, Canada's Hay-Zama Lakes Ramsar Site was 'twinned' with Dalai Lake National Nature Reserve Ramsar Site (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China) in 2008. They were twinned with the goal of sharing knowledge and providing training opportunities.	

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	A - Yes
3.4.2 Additional information: Many websites make information available on Canada's wetlands and Ramsar sites. WetlandNetwork was launched in 2012, with the goal of helping Canadians to discover, access, and share wetland knowledge and experience. The site provides access to a range of tools and resources. Regional Environment Canada websites, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Joint Venture and Ramsar websites are linked through	

www.wetlandnetwork.ca.

The Canadian North American Waterfowl Management Plan webpage was also recently updated (2013) based on the Plan's 2012 revision http://nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca/ . The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) also has its own webpage at http://nawcc.wetlandnetwork.ca/ .

In addition, many governments (federal, provincial, territorial, municipal), non-governmental organizations, academia and private organization maintain websites that provide resources and information on Canada's wetlands and Ramsar Sites. For example, the website. www.WetlandsAlberta.ca was developed by Alberta Environment, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Alberta North American Waterfowl Management Plan Partnership, and provides resources for educators, landowners and the public on the value of wetlands and actions for conservation in the province.

Ramsar Sites managed by Environment Canada (including National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries) are profiled at http://www.ec.gc.ca/ap-pa/default.asp?lang=En&n=989C474A-1 . Other Ramsar Sites, associated with national or provincial parks and wildlife areas are generally also profiled on government websites (e.g. Point Pelee National Park http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pelee/plan.aspx; and Hay Zama Lakes http://www.albertaparks.ca/hay-zama-lakes/information-facilities.aspx). Non-government organizations managing Ramsar Sites and surrounding lands may also provide information regarding site characteristics and management (e.g. Matchedash Bay Provincial Wildlife Area http://www.tinymarsh.ca/aboutus.htm; Creston Valley https://www.crestonwildlife.ca/). On most of these sites, however, Ramsar objectives are secondary to profiling broader conservation and management issues.

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	A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

A range of activities on World Wetlands Day have been submitted each year by Canadians to the Ramsar Secretariat for promotion on their website and highights map (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-wwds-wwd14-reports/main/ramsar/1-63-78%5E26400_4000_0__). Several examples are included in section 4.1.8.

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:

The International Joint Commission has responsibilities for regulating water levels and monitoring the water quality of rivers and lakes along the international border between Canada and the United States. The Commission carries out

its responsibilities with the support of 20 boards made up of experts from both countries that assist in regulating water levels or report on water quality.

In the Great Lakes/ St. Lawrence River Basin, Canada and the United States have committed to restoring water quality and ecosystem health under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (updated in 2012). Five identified 'areas of concern' are specifically designated as bi-national and have varying amounts of coastal/ riverine wetlands.

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):

The International Joint Commission provides a platform for effective cooperative management for shared waters between Canada and the United States. The International Joint Commission International Watersheds Initiative works with local stakeholders (i.e. federal, provincial, state and local govenments, non-government organizations, industry and aboriginal organizations) to solve water issues and achieve desired outcomes on both sides of the border.

In the Atlantic Coastal Zone there is cooperative management among provinces and federal agencies, such as the Regional Coordinating Committee on Oceans management, and internationally through the Gulf of Maine Council.

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (updated in 2012), a range of tools exist to promote cooperative action and management in the basins among federal, provincial and state governments, non-government organizations and other partners (e.g. the 1994 Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan; the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium; and, the 2007 Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem).

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council is an Indigenous grassroots organization, consisting of 70 First Nations and Tribes, dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Yukon River Watershed which spans the Canada/US border. The Council provides technical assistance, facilitation and coordination of information exchange, research and training.

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

3.5.3 Additional information:

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is an international partnership between Canada, the United States and Mexico with the goal of conserving and protecting wetland and upland habitats, and associated waterfowl populations. Since the establishment of the Plan, over 8 million hectares of wetlands or associated uplands have been retained in Canada, and over 48 million hectares have been managed and/or restored.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan was revised in 2012 as a new 'call to action' identifying an integrated vision and defining goals and measurable objectives for waterfowl populations, habitat and people. A

separate Action Plan provides further guidance for implementation (http://nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca/nawmp-revision-2012/).

National and regional action plans/ strategies also exist for shorebirds and waterbirds in Canada.

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative is a coordinated effort among Canada, the United States and Mexico for the maintenance of the diversity and abundance all North American birds. Ecoregion-based Bird Conservation Regions provide a framework for priority setting/ planning and integration of bird conservation initiatives.

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 (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)	a) B - No b) B - No c) B - No d) B - No

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):

Although no formal Action Plans have been established, CEPA values are incorporated in broader planning activities. For example:

a) - The National Conservation Plan, launched in 2014, will expand opportunities for partners, including municipalities, environmental interest groups, hunters and anglers, landowners and community groups, to take practical actions to safeguard the land and water around them in three priority areas: conserving Canada's lands and waters; restoring Canada's ecosystems; and, connecting Canadians to nature.

- In 2012, Environment Canada launched WetlandNetwork (www.wetlandnetwork.ca) with the goal of connecting people, sharing resources, and raising the profile of wetlands-related work and information across Canada and internationally.

- The Environmental Farm Planning initiative promotes wetland retention as a component of environmental stewardship to the agricultural sector in Canada.

b) - Under North American Waterfowl Management Plan regional habitat joint venture partnerships, communication, education and stewardship are key strategies towards the conservation of wetland and upland habitat, and waterfowl populations..

- Provincial wetland policies (e.g. Nova Scotia's Wetland Policy), along with broader water and sustainability strategies (e.g. Alberta's Water for Life) may also call for the development of wetland awareness, education, and stewardship programs targeting a range of stakeholders

- The Government of Alberta, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Alberta North American Waterfowl Management Plan Partnership developed WetlandsAlberta.ca, providing resources for educators, landowners and the

public on the value of wetlands and actions for conservation in the province.

c) The Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan has several strategies to increase public awareness and commitment to protecting wetlands and continues to publicize the value of wetland to society, to water, and to wildlife in order to encourage wetland conservation.

d) - Ducks Unlimited Canada operates several programs across the country that seek to inform and educate youth and schools about wetlands including their 'Wetlands Centres of Excellence' program.

- The Grand Codroy Estuary Ramsar Site has incorporated specific objectives of increasing awareness of the importance of waterfowl and waterfowl habitat and the need for their conservation into its management plan.

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) 21 centres
b) at other wetlands	b) 0 centres

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

a) The Ramsar Sites with some form of an education/ visitor centre include: Baie de l'isle Verte, Cap Tourmente, Chignecto, Creston Valley, Delta Marsh, Fraser River Delta, Grand Codroy Estuary, Lac Saint-François, Lac St. Pierre, Last Mountain Lake, Mary's Point, Matchedash Bay Provincial Wildlife Area, Oak Hammock Marsh, Old Crow Flats, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Point Pelee National Park, Quill Lakes, Shepody Bay, Southern Bight-Minas Basin, Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary, Whooping Crane Summer Range. Others report trails and wildlife viewing areas on site (e.g. Columbia River Wetlands, Mer Bleue Conservation Area and St. Clair National Wildlife Area).

b) Many other wetland interpretation centres are established across Canada, however we do not have an estimate of the number of these centres. For example, Ducks Unlimited Canada has an extensive network of interpretive centres across the country including: the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre (Ramsar Site); at least 9 other public centres; and, 18 school-based Wetland Centres of Excellence. There are also interpretation areas at federal protected areas that are not designated as Ramsar Sites (e.g. the Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area has a bird viewing tower and boardwalk established in cooperation with the Province of British Columbia and the Nature Trust of British Columbia).

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:	
a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management	a) A - Yes
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	b) A - Yes
{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii	

4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

a) For most jurisdictions, pubilc consultation is an integral part of the policy development and regulatory process including environmental assessment. It is also encouraged in management planning with a public comment period on draft management plans. Participation is also encouraged through community-based watershed planning activities.

b) Many Ramsar Sites report the involvement of local stakeholders in site management. Several sites have established management committees (e.g. Hay-Zama Lakes, McConnell River, Old Crow Flats, Polar Bear Pass, Queen Maud Gulf, St. Clair National Wildlife Area). Others engage local organizations directly in management (e.g. Columbia River Wetlands, Fraser River Delta). Stakeholders are also involved in site-specific activities such as: restoration (Delta Marsh, Minesing Wetlands); stewardship and mitigation of impacts from surrounding land uses (Grand Codroy Estuary, Long Point), and protection of surrounding lands (e.g. the Nature Conservancy of Canada has purchased ecologically sensitive lands near or adjacent to Ramsar Sites at Malpeque Bay, Musquodoboit Harbour, Mary's Point and the Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary; the Nature Trust of New Brunswick has also protected an island within Shepody Bay through conservation easement). Other sites involve stakeholders by seeking advice/ input or through formal consultation related to management planning or environmental assessment (Oak Hammock Marsh, Point Pelee National Park, Last Mountain Lake). Others report ongoing and frequent dialogue, but limited involvement in management due to the nature of the site (Chignecto, Mary's Point).

The involvement of local stakeholders is also critical to Ramsar Site selection. Under the draft procedures manual for the 'Nomination and Listing of Wetlands of International Importance in Canada', Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service will only support nomination of a site where there is concurrence from the province or territory and all landowners where the site is located.

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	C - Partly

4.1.4 Additional information:

A 2007 survey of Canadian site managers identified many opportunities to improve the capacity for the sustainable management of Ramsar Sites. The 2009 Ramsar Site Managers Training Course built on the findings of the 2007 survey and led to further recommendations.

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands	Number of opportunities: a) 0 b) 0

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

A wetland training course (webinar) was delivered October 29, 2013 by Wetland Link International and other partners to North American wetland

practitioners (including Ramsar Site Managers) focusing on challenges in delivering wetland education messages. Experiences from the Oak Hammock Marsh Ramsar Site were highlighted as a case study (http://wli.wwt.org.uk/regions/north-america/north-america-regional-initiatives/wli-north-america-webinar/).

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 of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):

There is no National Ramsar/ Wetlands Committee in Canada. The Canadian Wildlife Service at Environment Canada acts as an expert science and advisory agency working with a range of partners. Also see 3.1.1.

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) A - Yes
b) other MEA national focal points	b) A - Yes
c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi	c) A - Yes

4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):

a) Ramsar activities are communicated on an ad-hoc basis through the Ramsar Site Managers Network. The national WetlandNetwork website also provides a mechanism for the communication of current guidelines and tools (www.wetlandnetwork.ca).

b) Communication between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other MEA national focus points occurs as a function of the day-to-day obligations of reciprocal information exchanges.

c) There are a number of committees through which Ramsar-related information may be shared between the Adminstrative Authority and other relevant federal, provincial and territorial ministries, departments and agencies, such as the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee and the federal, provincial, territorial Biodiversity Steering Group.

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}	A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information:

World Wetlands Day (WWD) falls during mid-winter in Canada. Many Ramsar

sites therefore do not host activities as site accessibility is limited. A few examples of activites include:

- In 2012, Ontario partners under the Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan, held an Ontario Wetland Conference on World Wetlands Day (WWD) titled: the History and Future of our Wetlands.
- In 2013, Canada's Minister of the Environment issued a Ministerial Statement to celebrate World Wetlands Day, thanking partners and recognizing achievements in the conservation of wetlands across Canada.
- In 2013, the Corporation of Delta held a celebration of the new designation of the Fraser River Delta Ramsar site to help raise awareness on WWD.
- In February 2013, an issue of SciencePages was published through the Partnership Group for Science and Engineering and Science Media Centre of Canada. The issue profiles the current state of wetland knowledge and policy in Canada.
- To celebrate WWD in 2014, the Canadian Fertilizer Institute, CropLife Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Soil Conservation Council of Canada joined to announce a shared policy position supporting the protection of wetlands in agricultural landscapes.
- The Toronto Zoo held a 2014 WWD event showcasing animials that rely on healthy wetland habitats.
- In 2014, the Ecohydrology Group at the University of Waterloo hosted a symposium, "A celebration of World Wetlands Day", bringing together scientists, economists and policy makers for a dialogue on wetland conservation and sustainability.
- In Nova Scotia at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, Eastern Habitat Joint Venture partners offered a wildlife exhibit and walk promoting the value and benefits of wetlands in agricultural landscapes on WWD 2014. An article was published through the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture promoting WWD and the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation Plan program.
- In British Columbia, the North Shore Wetland Partners Society, worked to remove invasive species at a conservation area on WWD in 2014.
- At the 'Centre d'excellence pour les milieux humides de la Côte-de-Beauprê' in Quebec, secondary school students built and sold next boxes in recognition of WWD 2014.
- Environment Canada released a 'tweet' on WWD 2014 to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits.

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}	A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):

In addition to signage and interpretive centres, many Ramsar Sites in Canada host awareness-raising campaigns and programs. Some examples include:

- Columbia River Wetlands: From 2012-2014, the Ramsar site was used as an educational venue by a variety of users including school programs, summer camps, commercial interpretive trips, and for wildlife festivals. The Columbia

Wetlands Stewardship Partners also continued to raise awareness through a blog, local publications and newpapers, and distribution of a 'Wise Use' guide for recreational activity in the wetlands over this period

- Grand Codroy Estuary: From 2012-2014, an annual 10-day Feather and Folk Festival celebrated the diverse avian species of the area and engaged the public through presentations on the ecological importance of the Ramsar Site.
- Point Pelee National Park: In the summer months of 2012-2014, interpretive tours by freighter canoe were available and a display of interpretive panels of the Pelee marsh was open to the public. Publications, website, and a new visitor orientation/ welcome area at the entrance of the park highlighted the importance of wetlands. A Junior Naturalist program and Youth Day Camp had a wetland education component and the site took part in the Essex County Water Festival promoting the park wetlands.

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.*

4.2.1 a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	
.....	

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities): - $75,000 in 2014 to support the COP12 Ramsar Convention Conference of the Parties' preparations to strengthen international collaboration in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.	

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):

Preparation of the 3-year Ramsar National Report provides a useful mechanism for communication/ updates and evaluate progress among government agencies, non-government organizations and others regarding the status of wetland conservation and management in Canada.

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):

Environment Canada has provided financial assistance for a variety of undertakings to four of the five Convention IOPs, including:

- BirdLife International
- Wetlands International
- World Wildlife Fund Canada
- International Union for Conservation of Nature