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: RUSSIAN FEDERATION

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	**Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation**
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Sergei Yefimovich Donskoi, Minister
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Email:	admin@mnr.gov.ru
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Nuritdin R. Inamov, Director, Department of International Cooperation
Mailing address:	4/6 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Ulitsa, Moscow 123995, Russia
Telephone/Fax:	.....
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP)	
Name and title:	Andrei A. Sirin, Director
Name of organisation:	Research Institute on Forest Science, Russian Academy of Sciencies
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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:	Vacant
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:	Irina E. Kamennova, Project Coordinator
Name of organisation:	Wetlands International Russia
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SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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

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

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

1) Conservation of wetlands in the national network of protected nature areas: a number of new federal and local protected areas have been established to protect important wetlands under national law;
2) Wetland restoration, in particular restoration of degraded peatlands;
3) Implementation of various CEPA aspects: a national network of educational wetland centres has been established, a Programme of Wetland CEPA Activities for the Network of Wetland Centres developed, and programmes for information and experience exchanges launched.
4) International cooperation, including transboundary cooperation and activities under the Ramsar Regional Initiatives.
5) Wetland monitoring, including GHG monitoring in the framework of peatland restoration activities.

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

1) Integration of wetland conservation issues into broader planning frameworks, such as regional development plans, land-use planning and sector-specific strategies;
2) Introduction of economic incentives to promote sustainable use of wetlands;
3) Development of wetland legislation, in particular introduction of a Ramsar site category into national protected areas law.
4) Some difficulties were posed by the fact that there is no National Wetland Committee or wetland information centre that could accumulate information on wetlands, existing and potential threats to their ecological character, conservation activities carried out by various local GOs and NGOs, and all other wetland-related information required for planning activities on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and their adequate representation in the Ramsar National Report.
5) .....

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

1) Establish a national information system on wetlands;
2) Improve national legislation to ensure effective functioning of the existing 35 Ramsar sites;
3) Develop and adopt a long-term plan for Ramsar site designations;
4) Develop organizational capacity for further implementation of the Ramsar Convention.
5) .....

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

The recent translation of key Ramsar documents into Russian and their publication on the Ramsar website have lagely contributed to the implementation of the Covention in Russia. It would be very useful to provide for regular update of this information in the future.

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)

For the conservation of wetlands in Russia it is important that the Ramsar Site Information Service be updated with information on Russian Ramsar sites that have been submitted to the Secretariat since 2007.

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?

The national implementation linkage is currently more strong than international. It would be helpful if Conventions' Joint Strategic Plans include practical measures at national level to exemplify the use of integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, including integration of biodiversity and wetland conservation issues in various sectors of economy.

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)?

The role of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation as a national co-ordinator of intersectorial cooperation on wetland conservation and wise use needs to be reinforced.

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

It is desirable to obtain a comprehensive guidance on implementing mechanisms of bilateral transboundary cooperation and multilateral basin cooperation, and promoting their application using the Convention's tools.

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

Institute of Forest Science, Russian Academy of Science and Wetlands International Russia.

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:
Information on wetlands is collected by sectoral statistics, monitoring systems, and other governmental institutions, as well as by non-governmental organisations through various projects. In Russia, there exists a system of state and sectoral natural resource cadastres, including the Water Cadastre, Land Cadastre, Forest Cadastre, Peatland Cadastre, etc., accumulating statistical and other information on the extent and use of particular resources on the base of established protocols for collecting, recording and storing data, and standard procedures for reporting. The State Water Cadastre provides information on water resources, including surface and underground waters, and on water resource uses. A detailed description of the Cadastre structure, content and responsible bodies was provided in the COP10 National Report. The Land Cadastre of the Russian Federation also contains data on areas covered by surface waters, which are provided in concise form for the annual National Report on the Environment. Peatlands, which play a key part in most landscape types in Russia, are registered not only in the Land and Water Cadastres, but also as peat deposits, forested lands and agricultural lands. Information on the coverage and current status of peatlands as peat deposits is collected by the Russian Geological Fund network and is presented in the annual State Balance of Mineral Resources in the Russian Federation. An inventory of forested lands conducted within the framework of the Forest Fund of the Russian Federation also provides data on areas covered by peatlands and waterlogged lands. As a whole, sectoral statistics give us an insight into the distribution and current status of wetlands used in national economy. The application of this information for the Ramsar Convention purpose is hampered by the difference of approach: the resource approach on the one hand, and the ecosystem approach, on the other.
Since the late 1970s, an inventory of important wetland sites has been carried out in Russia in accordance with the Ramsar Convention methodologies. The results of wetland inventory activities carried out from 1995 to 2006 have been presented by the Wetlands in Russia series of publications issued under the Wetlands International Russia Programme. Since 1997, six volumes have been published containing information on 375 sites. An inventory of wetlands in the Moscow Region was published in 2008. An inventory of transboundary wetlands located along the 1,600 km-long land border between Russia, Belarus and Ukraine was compiled in 2008-2010.
Scientific publications and reviews (incl. landscape, soil and vegetation maps) provide information on the diversity and distribution of wetlands of various types. The Institute of Forest Science, Russian Academy of Science has been maintaining the National GIS System on Peatlands.
The national wetland inventory is far from completed. The level of our knowledge on wetlands located in different regions of Russia is uneven. The priority areas for future inventory studies include the lowland tundra, taiga peatlands, forested steppes and steppes. The Asian part of Russia generally and the steppe lake systems in Western Siberia specifically have received little study. A structured framework for planning a long-term national wetland inventory programme was provided by the 1999 Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation, which called for undertaking the inventory as a long-term governmental activity, and developing a system of a National Wetland Cadastre supported by relevant legislation and institutional network.

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

1.1.2 Additional information:

The national report on "The environment status and protection in the Russian Federation" (annually submitted by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation) is available at http://www.ecogosdoklad.ru.

Information on specially protected natural areas of Russia is available on the website "Specially protected natural areas of the Russian Federation" (http://www.zapoved.ru) of the RF Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology.

Wetland inventory information published in the Wetlands in Russia series is stored in the Wetland Database developed under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. Part of the Database (with information on the 35 Russian Ramsar sites) is available online at http://wetlands.oopt.info/ by the Biodiversity Conservation Center. All Russian-language volumes of the Wetlands in Russia series are available at the Wetlands International Russia website (www.russia.wetlands.org). Information collected in the Peatland GIS maintained by the RAS Institute of Forest Science is regularly published. A web portal on peatlands in the Moscow region is developed under the Project on Restoring Peatlands in Russia: for Fire Prevention and Climate Change Mitigation as an example of a regional database providing regularly updated data on the status of peatlands, their monitoring and restoration. The Federal State Statistics Service site (http://www.gks.ru/wps) provides access to the environmental data of this service. At this portal, the data on the specially protected nature areas, fresh water use, amounts and emissions of particular pollutants into atmosphere, generation, use and neutralization of wastes are available as the regulated tables only. Data on amounts of the sewage water discharges, including by the types of economic activity, and intake of contaminants with sewage into the water bodies is available as both the regulation tables and the data bases.

Information on the extent, current status, and use of wetlands collected by sectoral statistics, monitoring systems, and other governmental institutions with funding from the state budget is available to all citizens of the Russian Federation in accordance with the 1995 Law on Information.

From end 2013 onwards, draft legal acts developed by federal ministries and agencies have been published on the Unified Website of draft legal acts (http://regulation.gov.ru), which enables society to post comments and suggestions.

Moreover, a Federal Governmental Information System of Public Control over Resource Management and Environment Conservation in the Russian Federation was established on the website "Our Nature" (https://priroda-ok.ru) that includes an open data section containing a list of information resources managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and its subordinated bodies and organizations, in particular data on federal SPA, water reservoirs, river flow resources, and water management regions.

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):

Information on the current status of Russian Ramsar sites was last collected in 2007 under a special project. No significant change in ecological character of sites was reported. According to the 2013 National Environment Report (www.ecogosdoklad.ru/2013), the quality of water in the major rivers of Ob and Yenisei, in the catchments of which several Ramsar sites are located, has deteriorated. High pollution was recorded in the Volga and Amur River Basins.

The potential risk of adverse changes in the ecological character of several Ramsar sites (the Volga Delta, the Moroshechnaya River, Parapolsky Dol, Utkholok, Upper Dvuobye) has increased due to the prospecting for and production of oil and gas in the adjacent areas. The risk of water pollution has increased in: the Kandalaksha Bay Ramsar Site due to intensive navigation; Khanka Lake – due to industrial developments; Chudskoye Lake – due to continuously increased concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds. Recreational pressure has increased in the Ramsar sites of Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland, Kama-Bakaldino Mires, Tobol-Ishim Forested Steppe, Chany Lakes, and in the Baltic coastal sites. Recent trends are towards increased selective and clear forest felling in the water-protecting zones, often followed by house constructions, which pose considerable threats to the Ramsar sites of Kama-Bakaldino Mires and the Kubal Delta.

In 2012-2014 in the Leningrad Province, an ecological status survey of natural complexes and sites on protected islands in the Gulf of Finland was carried out. It included islands within borders of SPA of the Leningrad Province and the Ramsar sites 'The Kurgalski Peninsula' and 'The Beryozovye Islands'. It was found that recreation and bird pressure were the main factors that affected island flora. According to the survey results, the sites had a satisfactory ecological status and avoided the gravest threats. The main reason for this status (in addition to site protection regime and frontier situation) is their location on islands, which limits accessibility for general public.

Fire risk in peatlands and forests has largely increased in the Ramsar sites of Central European Russia, as well as in the Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland, Zeya-Bureya Plains and Udyl Lake Ramsar Sites.

The national network of Ramsar sites includes, partly or wholly, 12 strict nature reserves (zapovedniki, IUCN Category I). Information on these areas is collected under the nation-wide monitoring programme of 'Nature Records', with considerable funding from the Federal Budget. No analysis of this information was made to assess the status of Ramsar sites in the reporting period.

Information to assess changes in wetland status is available in the system of State Environmental Monitoring (SEM). So far, no attempts to combine all available monitoring data for assessing wetland status have been made at national level. Although, basic information to carry out such an assessment is provided by the annual National Report on the Environment. This Report contains information on the use of surface and ground waters, wastewater discharges, and pollution of surface waters by industry, by federal okrug (cluster administrative region) and by

catchment area. According to the 2013 National Environment Report, the total amount of water taken from natural water sources comprised 56.8 km3, with 49.1 km3 taken from the surface fresh water sources, 7.6 km3 – from the groundwater sources.

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)	D - Planned

1.3.1 Additional information:
A National Wetland Policy as an official document has not been prepared yet. Certain elements of wetland policy are found in other strategic documents and sectoral policies and strategies.
Russian environmental policy has been formulated in the 'Basic Principles of State Environmental Development Policy of the Russian Federation through to 2030' adopted by President on 30 April 2012. The goal of environmental policy is stated as social-economic development providing environmentally-oriented economic growth, conservation of favorable environment, biological diversity and natural resources for the today's and future generations, the right of every person for favorable environment, strengthening of law enforcement in the environment conservation and provision of ecological safety.
This policy is based on the federal laws and other normative legislative acts of the Russian Federation. Federal laws covering general environmental issues include “Environmental Protection”, “Specially Protected Nature Areas”, “Wild Animals”, “Fisheries and Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources”, Water Code, Land Code, and Forest Code. Notwithstanding a large number of laws, Russia has no unified legislative system governing relations in the use and conservation of wetland ecosystems as structurally and functionally integrated entities. Wetland legislation tends to be sectoral rather than integrated.

A Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation was developed in 1999. This Strategy has not received the official status of national strategy, but the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation uses this document as an internal planning mechanism for the purposes of implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

To provide integrated management of peatlands as complex ecosystems, the Russian Peatland Action Plan (initiated by WI-RP) was adopted and endorsed by the Ministry of Natural Resources in 2003 and updated in 2005 and in 2010. The Plan identifies priority actions on peatland-related CEPA.

In addition to Federal policies, there are laws and legal acts in the administrative regions, such as laws about environmental protection, specially protected nature areas of regional importance, regional Red Data Books, hunting and game management. These legal and regulatory acts, however, are not directly applicable to wetlands for the lack of their exact definition as a subject of protection and/or management. In most regions, federal legal and regulatory framework (Land, Forest, and Water Codes, relevant government decrees and decisions) constitutes the basis for the management and use of local wetland resources. Most decrees and decisions issued by regional authorities to this effect annually establish hunting, fishing, and harvesting wild resource seasons and rules guiding these activities. There is, however, a general lack of institutional structures to pursue the wetland conservation policy at local and regional levels, which often results in the fact that personal efforts and enthusiasm of people responsible for wetland management and the goodwill of local authorities become the crucial factor for wetlands to be well protected and wisely used.

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) A - Yes
1.3.2 Additional information: A section on wetlands has been included into the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation (2001). This Strategy was regarded as a basis for developing provincial/local strategies and sectoral plans and programmes for biodiversity conservation. It is presently revised in light of the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.	

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	D - Planned
1.3.3 Additional information: The 2012 'Basic Principles of State Environmental Development Policy of the Russian Federation through to 2030' provide for the development of legislative and normative basis to introduce and apply the Strategic Environmental Assessment practicies as part of official procedure required to approve any plan or programme, the implementation of which may affect the environment.	

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 'Framework of National Policy on ecological development of Russia for the period until 2030' made the state environmental review of project documents mandatory for environmentally abusive facilities, including radiation, chemically, and biologically hazardous sites. It also involves improvements to the review procedure and methodology and consideration of the review in making decisions at all levels, including review procedure harmonization in accordance with international treaties of the Russian Federation. In line with Article 32 of the Environmental Protection Law, environmental impact assessment will be carried out for planned economic or other activities that may have direct or indirect impacts on the environment, irrespective of ownership forms of legal persons and sole proprietors.	

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: No amendments have been specifically made for Ramsar implementation, some amendments made for peatland conservation, marine and coastal wetlands, forested wetlands in the sectorial legislation.	

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	C - Partly
1.4.1 Additional information: Assessments of ecosystem services were made in the framework of the assessment of conservation effectiveness of protected nature areas and their regional networks based on the BAT and WWF approaches.	

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	Z - Not applicable
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	A - Yes
1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): Sections on socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands have been included to all existing management plans for Ramsar sites.	

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. A - Yes
1.5.1 Additional information: Information was published at the websites of the national IOP: WWF Russia and Wetlands International Russia.	

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: Interactions between agriculture and wetlands have been studied mainly for peatlands. Russia is actively involved in IPCC activities in the context of developing guidelines for conducting an inventory of wetlands and, in particular, peatlands for the climate change mitigation purposes. In the framework of Project on 'Restoring Peatlands in Russia - for fire protection and climate change mitigation', a guidance document is developed for compiling an inventory of GHG emissions to be applied in the conditions of changing land use and for the purpose of monitoring and lowering GHG emissions in accordance with the UNCCC and voluntary carbon market requirements. Russia is involved into the global initiative of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) focused on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity including the growing cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, including several pilot projects on wetland ecosystem services evaluation.	

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats to the wetlands? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii	A - Yes
1.6.2 Additional information: The majority of Ramsar sites have had management plans based on comrehensive research.	

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:
Article 3 of the Water Code of the Russian Federation (2006) states, among the basic principles of national water legislation, that 'water relationships are governed based on the understanding of water bodies as an essential environmental component providing habitat for animals and plants, including aquatic biological resources, as a natural resource used by humans for their personal and domestic needs as well as for economic and other types of activity, and also as an object of property and other rights'.
Water resources management is undertaken on a basin scale in accordance with the Water Code of the Russian Federation, and has been assigned to the Federal Agency of Water Resources subordinated to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. Twenty basin regions (okrug) have been established in accordance with Article 28 of the Water Code. Basin Coucils are established in each basin region; their memebership includes representatives of federal authorities, local authorities, water users, local communities, public groups and indigenous people. An individual Integrated Scheme for the Use and Protection of Water Resources has been developed for each region. These documents generally encompass the issues of wetland conservation and wise use.

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}	D - Planned

1.7.2 Additional information:
According to the 2006 Water Code, a basic principle of national water legislation is 'participation of public and social groups in resolving issues related to the rights in water bodies as well as to their duty to protect water bodies. Citizens and social groups have the right to participate in decision-making process where the implementation of such decisions may have an impact on the use and protection of water bodies. Government authorities, local self-government, parties involved in economic and other types of activity shall ensure such participation in a manner and in accordance with the procedures established by the laws of the Russian Federation'.

Article 29 establishes public basin councils to develop recommendations regarding the use and protection of water bodies within the boundaries of basin districts. It says that 'Basin councils shall be composed of representatives of federal executive bodies authorized by the Government of the Russian Federation, government authorities of the constituent territories of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government as well as of representatives of water users, public associations and communities of small indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation'. Procedures governing the establishment and activities of basin councils are explained by the Regulations on Development and Activities of Basin Councils adopted by the Federal Government on 30 November 2006, No.727.

The above documents provide the legal basis for basin councils that have been developed as community initiative since the early 1990s. The realization of integrated basin approach to the water management is considered a key function of the basin council. Presently, the most actively working public councils are those established for the transboundary water cources of Amur, Dnieper and Ob-Irtysh.

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	D - Planned

1.7.3 Additional information:
In carrying out the state policy on issues related to climate change, the Government of the Russian Federation is guided by the the 2009 Climate Doctrine of the Russian Federation. Among other things, the Federal Government bodies are to provide the maintenance of the National Register of Anthropogenic Emissions and Absorption of Greenhouse Gases (including forests, peatlands and agricultural lands).
The Russian Federation pays close attention to the development of approaches and adapting policies, planning and management to changing environmental conditions in the Arctic. As an example, a pilot project on the protection and restoration of forest and peatland permafrost carbon pools in the Komi Republic and Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug of Russia started in 2013 under the Clima East initiative.

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	B - No

1.7.4 Additional information:
.....

STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	D - Planned

1.8.1 Additional information:
A GIS system is being developed for the identification of priorities for the restoration of peatlands in the Moscow Region under the Project 'Restoring Peatlands in Russia – for fire prevention and climate change mitigation'.
This major ongoing wetland restoration project 'Restoring Peatlands in Russia - for fire prevention and climate change mitigation' is jointly conducted by the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Moscow Province Government, Wetlands International, the Michael Succow Foundation, Greifswald University and the Institute of Forest Science, Russian Academy of Sciences. This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (ICI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. It is facilitated through KfW Entwicklungsbank (Project number 11 III 040 RUS K Restoring Peatlands).

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:
The project "Restoring Peatlands In Russia – for fire prevention and climate change mitigation" is aimed to restore over 20,000 ha of degraded peatlands in the Moscow, Tver, Nizhni Novgorod and Vladimir provinces during 5 years.
The Meshchora National Park (neighboring to the Floodplains of the Oka and Pra Rivers Ramsar site) has been implementing a long-term peatland restoration programme since 2003. Over 6,000 ha of degraded peatlands were rewetted by 2015.
The methodology for the resoration of peatlands in the permafrost region has been developed and tested under the UNDP/GEF Project 'Strengthening Protected Area System of the Komi Republic to Conserve Virgin Forest Biodiversity in the Pechora River Headwaters Region'.

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

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

1.9.1 Additional information:
The problem of the invasion of alien species in the Russian Federation is under the observation of a large number of official departments: theMinistry of Agriculture, Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment, State Committee for Fisheries of the Russian Federation), research and development organizations (A. N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution under the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Zoological Institute RAS, Komarov Botanical Institute RAS, Papanin Institute of Biology of Inland Waters RAS, Institute of Oceanology RAS, Murmansk Marine Biological Institute RAS, Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, Research Institute of the Azov Sea Fishery, The Main Botanical Garden RAS, Russian Institute for Plant Quarantine, Russian Institute of Phytopatology etc.

The need to consolidate the efforts of all relevant organizations and to develop a national strategy and action plan to prevent and control invasive alien species was first discussed at the Meeting on Environmental Safety and Invasions of Alien Organisms held in Moscow in 2002. Since then, the meetings are held on a regular basis. An interdepartmental commission on biological invasions was established; a special website was created (http://www.sevin.ru/invasive/) holding a database on alien species, relative legislative acts, strategies to control priority target species. The Russian Journal of Biological Invasions, published since 2008, can be downloaded from http://www.sevin.ru/invasjour.

Recent studies resulted in publications that gave detailed descriptions of invasion processes and impacts of certain alien species on aboriginal species and ecosystems. These include papers on e.g. Elodea canadensis that took 100 years to spread over the whole territory of Russia; Mnemiopsis leidyi that invaded the Black, Azov, and Caspian Seas; Cercopagis pengoi, Acartia tonsa, and Marenzelleria viridis that occupied the Baltic Sea; the Baikal endemic Gmelinoides fasciatus introduced to fresh water bodies in northwest Russia; the Kamchatka crab Paralithodes camtschaticus introduced to the Barents Sea; the ratan goby Perccottus glenii that spread following scattered introductions to water bodies in European Russia, West Siberia, and Lake Baikal; the Black Sea and Caspian kilka Clupeanella cultriventris spread across the Volga reservoirs; the smelt Osmerus eperlanus introduced to several lakes and reservoirs in Northwestern Russia; the river beaver Castor fiber that was reintroduced and spread across the whole country. An important result of recent studies is identification of main transit ways of invasion. For instance, the Black Sea - Caspian - Volga transit way was identified as most important for european Russia (Panov et al. 2007). Modeling of invasion processes has been successful in recent years as well.

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:
Strategies and guidelines have been established, although not specifically for wetlands, but wetlands are covered. Control and management of threats associated with alien species are provided for by the 2014 Plant Quarantine Law and other laws. The Federal Law "On wild animals" stipulates the implementation of relatively comprehensive procedures of risk management in case the introduction of animals has been planned.

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	A - Yes
1.10.1 Additional information: A number of oil and gas producing companies, including OAO Surgutneftegaz, OAO Yamal-SPG, ZAO SN-Invest, AO Tatneft, OAO NTK-Nyagan, Sakhalin Energy, Shell, Total E&P Russia, expressed their interest in the implementation of wise use of wetlands. They have accumulated certain experience in mitigation and minimization of impacts on wetlands based on modern technologies and methods of planning and industrial operations command. There are examples of implemented compensation measures on protection of certain species and ecosystem restoration. Principles proposed by the Convention have in many cases been implemented and pinned in corporation practice, however needs serious work in the legal field.	

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: Experience of cooperation with the private sector in implementation of peatland restoration projects in the Tver and Vladimir provinces has been accumulated in the framework of the bilateral Russian-German project on 'Restoring peatlands in Russia - for fire prevention and climate change mitigation'. Oil producing companies have been taking active measures as well. For example, OAO Surgutneftegaz developed special guidelines on operation on wetlands.	

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	D - Planned
1.11.1 Additional information: The introduction of incentive measures into the nature resource management is called for by a number of federal and regional laws, in particular by the Water Code of the Russian Federation. Article 20 of the Water Code defines the major principles of imposing charges on water use: the encouragement of wise use of water resource and the differentiation of water charges depending on the river basin. The actual introduction of incentive measures into wetland management practices is planned under a number of proposed demonstration projects. An example is provided by the 5-year Project on Restoring Peatlands in Russia – for Fire Prevention and Climate Change Mitigation.	

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i	B - No

1.11.2 Additional information:
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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	D - Planned
2.1.1 Additional information: The development of a strategy and action plan for possible further designation of Ramsar sites was carried out in the early 2000s. The assessment of the current status of wetland ecosystems over Russia and identification of priorities for their conservation was performed, and a list of important wetlands to be designated under the Ramsar Convention was compiled and published as Volume 3 of the Wetlands in Russia series. This information was used in the preparation of the Concept of the Development of a Federal Level Protected Area System through to 2020. Although, no new Ramsar sites have been designated since 1994, and the list needs revision. Procedures for Ramsar site designation, management, monitoring of their ecological status, evaluation and reporting are still under development, and the major policy of National Ramsar Administrative Authority is to ensure effective functioning of the existing 35 Ramsar sites.	

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): Presently, there is no officially agreed plan for further Ramsar designations. A list of 166 wetland sites that meet the Ramsar Criteria was published in 2000, including a shortened list of 41 sites regarded as major priorities. It is a distinct possibility that information on some of the listed sites needs to be updated before planning further designations. A number of proposals for Ramsar site designations submitted to the National Ramsar Administrative Authority by constituent entities of the Russian Federation are currently under consideration.	

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

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii	B - No
2.2.1 Additional information:	

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

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i	C - Some sites
2.3.1 Additional information: Many wetland sites that were identified as internationally important in the early 2000s (See 2.1.1) are protected under national law. The areas protected at the federal level include the strict nature reserves (zapovedniki) of Pasvik, Kandalakshsky, Bolshoy Arctichesky, Nenetsky, Rdeisky, Polistovsky, Darvinsky, Bryansky Les, Dagestansky, Orenburgsky, Gydansky, Taimyrsky, Ust-Lensky, Kronotsky and Poronaisky, and the national parks of Sebezhsky, Ust-Vilyuisky and Smolensk Lakeland. For these areas, management planning processes have been established (See 2.4.1). These management plans, however, do not focus specifically on the protection of wetland ecosystems, and wetland conservation appears only as a by-product of traditional biodiversity conservation activities in protected nature areas.	

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	13 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	13 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	t sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:
The 35 Russian Ramsar sites include, in whole or in part, 12 strict nature reserves (zapovedniki, IUCN Category I) and one national park (IUCN Category II). The planning of activities for these protected areas is performed according to the 2011 Concept of the Development of a Federal Level Protected Area System through to 2020. This document identifies a set of measures to improve the management of protected areas network, including the introduction of a unified system of middle-term (5 year) management plans for all strict nature reserves and national parks.

The plans are developed basing on the 'Guidelines for the development, reconciliation and adoption of middle-term management plans for state nature reserves and national parks' approved by the Resolution of the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service No. 491 of 3 December 2007 on Improvement of the Planning System for Activities Performed by State Nature Reserves and National Parks.

The development of management plans specifically for Ramsar sites was mainly performed under international projects. Altogether there are 13 Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place. Unfortunately, no collection of information on the implementation and update of these plans is carried out.

By and large the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites, forms of protective and sustainable use management regimes have been defined in individual regulations prepared for each site. The regulations were developed for the majority of sites in the late 1990s – early 2000s, approved by the Ramsar AA, and adopted by administrations of constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	0 sites

2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):
No official management structures of this kind were established. At the same time, the procedures established for the development and adoption of Regulations for Ramsar sites (See 2.4.5) and for medium-term management plans for state nature reserves and national parks include compulsory consultations with all land users. Practical management of Ramsar sites is usually conducted by executive authorities of administrative regions of the Russian Federation in permanent collaboration with all stakeholders and local communities.

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	35 sites

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

Detailed baseline descriptions of ecological features were prepared for all sites as the basis for their Ramsar designations (in 1993-1994), and later updated (in 1996-1997 and in 2007). Regular monitoring of ecological parameters has been conducted in all strict nature reserves (zapovedniki) under the Nature Records Programme (35 Ramsar sites include 12 strict nature reserves). In 2012-2014 in the Leningrad Province, an ecological status survey of natural complexes and sites on protected islands in the Gulf of Finland was carried out. It included islands within borders of SPA of the Leningrad Province and the Ramsar sites 'The Kurgalski Peninsula' and 'The Beryozovye Islands'.

Status of the Kuban Delta wetlands was assessed under a separate project by the conservation NGO of Ecological Watch in the North Caucasus. They noted considerably decreased liman areas in the delta, more frequent mass fish mortality events in winter, serious negative impacts from rice production, fish farms, oil and gas extraction, shell limestone mining, allocation of landfills for industrial and domestic wastes, and fires. To solve this set of problems (including undefined boundaries and protection regimes on the SPA, lack of a governmental body to manage the site, and numerous examples of unwise economic activities), it was proposed to develop a long-term integrated plan of wetland management in the Kuban Delta and have it authorized. In 2014, a step forward in this direction was made by the Krasnodar Krai Administration having amended the regional Law on Specially Protected Nature Areas of Krasnodar Krai, in particular introduced new categories of regional SPA: the shore natural complexes, liman-plavni complexes, natural recreation zones, and natural attractions. Regulations were developed for several new SPA of regional importance: the liman-plavni natural complexes of the Kuban Delta, the Akhtar Limans, the integrated nature reserve of Lotus Zakaznik, etc. The Krasnodar Krai Ministry of Natural Resources has planned activities on restoration of 4048 ha wetlands in the liman-plavni zone.

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):

Assessments of the management effectiveness were made for strict nature reserves and regional protected areas networks (following RAPPAM and WWF methodologies) under WWF Russia's and Wetlands International Russia's projects in 2011-2015.

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	D - Planned
2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established): Procedures for regular reporting on the ecological character of Ramsar sites are under development. Operative information is currently available on request of the Administrative Authority.	

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	B - No
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):	

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	C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information:

The ecological character of important wetlands protected under national law as strict nature reserves (zapovedniki), national parks or protected nature areas of lower (regional or local) status is maintained in accordance with the individual PNA regulations. See also Paragraph 2.3.1.

Currently, by order of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, the Vasyugansky State Nature Reserve (Zapovednik) is being established. It will cover an area of over 800,000 ha. The planned reserve is located in the Novosibirsk and Tomsk provinces within the boundaries of the Bolshoye Vasyuganskoye peatland - the largest mire system in the Northern hemisphere that is of global ecological importance. The Bolshoye Vasyuganskoye peatland was included in the Shadow List of wetlands of international importance in 2000 and in the list of candidate UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2007. The Governmental Act of the Russian Federation on the establishment of the Vasyugansky State Nature Reserve is expected to be issued in the second half of 2015.

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: No Ramsar Committee has formally been established. Its functions are performed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.	

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: By Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 166-p enacted on 11 February 2002, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation was assigned to coordinate all activities related to the Russian Federation's membership in international conservation organizations and to the implementation of environmental conventions, including the Ramsar Convention.	

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): The Russian Federation participates in the implementation of two Ramsar Regional Initiatives: The Nordic-Baltic Initative (NorBalWet) and the Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and the Sustainable Use of their Habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway (Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway).	

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}	A - Yes

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

Active work has been carried out in the Amur River basin in the framework of trilateral cooperation between Russia, China, and Mongolia. WWF-Russia initiated the international programme 'Green belt of the Amur' focused to the establishment of a transboundary SPA network in Russia, China, and Mongolia, including the trilateral Russian-Chinese-Mongolian reserve 'Dauria'; bilateral Russian-Chinese reserve 'Lake Khanka', and other SPA. The Green belt of the Amur Programme includes all wetlands of conservation importance.

The Green Belt of Fennoscandia (GBF) Programme goes on in the border regions of Finland, Norway and Russia to generate a common system of protected areas in the European North, and to join the efforts for comprehensively dealing with environmental, ethno-cultural and socio-economic problems of the border regions. The GBF concept was developed in the early 1990s with active participation of the the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The 2nd GBF Conference, held in the city of Petrozavodsk, Russa, in October 2013, paid considerable attention to wetland conservation issues.

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	Z - Not applicable

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

.....

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii	Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

.....

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	A - Yes
3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11): Germany, International Climate Initiative (technical assistance - expertise exchange)	

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): In cooperation with the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of WWT, UK, the regional WLI Russia network of 12 wetland education centres was set up, developing regular communication via meetings, online conferencing and web pages. Programmes for knowledge sharing and exchange of experience are carried out by Wetlands International Russia. Under the project 'From the Arctic to Africa: migratory birds connecting wetlands and people', funded by the Arcadia Fund, Wetlands International has launched a flyway-linked exchange programme that focuses on strengthening the capacity of wetland managers and other key stakeholders that have a shared interest in the conservation of migratory birds which connect them. This programme links two areas of highest importance for the birds migrating along the East Atlantic Flyway: the breeding grounds (Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug, Russia) and the key wintering grounds in West Africa (the Senegal Delta Complex). Two exchange visits between representatives of these areas were organized in 2014. Another project 'Russia-USA Wetland Center Exchange Program: Linking People and Wetlands' was launched in 2014. The project seeks to identify the shared challenges of those working in wetland education and outreach throughout the US and Russia and assemble cases of best practice and delivery. This project is implemented in cooperation with The Wetlands Institute (TWI) and Wetland Link International (WLI) under the US-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program of the US Embassy in Russia.	

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: The web pages of the Wetlands International-Russia Programme	

(www.russia.wetlands.org) and the Initiative Peatland Conservation Project (www.peatlands.ru) provide access to a wide range of wetland-related information for Russian-speaking audience.

The six published volumes of the Wetlands in Russia series are widely distributed to all interested organizations and persons free of charge, and can be downloaded from the WI-Russia Programme's website. Information on the 35 Russian Ramsar sites is also available at http://wetlands.oopt.info/ (website of the Biodiversity Conservation Center).

In 2012-2014, under the Leningrad Province Governmental Programme of SPA support and development, illustrated booklets about five internationally important wetllands located in the province were published in the Russian and English languages. Published are also booklets on Ramsar wetlands in the Rostov Province; the Amur River basin; wetlands in the Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland and Kama-Bakaldino Mires. Some publications were made under the UNDP/GEF project 'Conservation of wetland biodiversity of the lower Volga'.

Information on wetlands have been often communicated in the media. Unfortunately, no media monitoring has been carried out so far.

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	D - Planned

3.4.3 Additional information:

The bilingual illustrated publication of 'Wetlands of International Importance in Russia' containing information on the 35 Russian Ramsar sites will be presented to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissenimation at COP12. This publication was prepared by Wetlands International Russia in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in 2012.

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

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

3.5.1 Additional information:

There are 6 Ramsar sites in Russia that border or are located close to Ramsar sites of neighbouring countries: the Kurgalsky Peninsula, Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland, Torey Lakes, Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland, Zeya-Bureya Plains, and Lake Khanka.

The Torey Lake Ramsar site (Daursky Biosphere Reserve) is part of the international Chineese-Mongolian-Russian Nature Reserve of Dauria. The Khanka Lake Ramsar site (Khankaisky Strict Nature Reserve) is part of the Chineese-Russian Nature Reserve of Khanka Lake.

At least six large wetlands located near the national border meet the Ramsar Criteria. Although these wetlands have not been designated Ramsar sites so far, they are partly or wholly protected at national level. These sites are:

• Fjarvann – located within the boundaries of the Pasvik State Nature Reserve

(Zapovednik), Russia, and the Pasvik Naturreservat, Norway;

- Ainovy Islands – located within the boundaries of the Kandalakshsky State Nature Reserve (Zapovednik);
- Sebezh Lake Complex – protected as the Sebezhsky National Park. This area bordering Latvia and Belarus was studied extensively during 2008-2010 under the Wetlands International-Russia Project on Development of a Programme for Transboundary Wetland Conservation along the Border Area between the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine;
- Nerussa-Desna Woodland – located within the boundaries of the Nerusso-Desnyanskoye Polesye Biosphere Reserve bordering Ukraine. Information on this area was also updated under the above mentioned project;
- Lake Khasan and Tumannaya Delta – the Khasansky Nature Park established by the Primorsky Krai Administration, the area includes 4 nature monuments and 23 archaeological sites of national importance; and
- Coastal Aquatic Area around Kunashir Island and the Lesser Kuril Islands – includes the Maly Kurily Federal Refuge (Zakaznik).

Wetlands are also protected in a number of other federal PNAs located in the border regions, such as the Kostomukshsky, Orenburgsky, Kurilsky and Dalnevostochny Morskoi State Nature Reserves (Zapovedniki) and the Kurshskaya Kosa and Paanayarvi National Parks.

The Russian Federation borders 14 countries and, for the total frontier length of 60,993 km, 7,141 km extend on rivers, 475 km on lakes and 38,887 km on seas. There are over 1,000 transboundary watercourses and water bodies. In total, 70 large and middle-sized river basins are transboundary, such as the Vuoxa River (with Finland), the Narva River and Pskovsko-Chudskoye Lake (with Estonia), the Neman (with Lithuania), the Dnieper (with Belarus and Ukraine), the Western Dvina (with Belarus and Latvia), the Samur (with Azerbaijan), the Volga, Ural, and Irtysh (with Kazakhstan), the Yenisey and Selenga (with Mongolia), the Amur (with China and Mongolia), and the Tumannaya (with China and North Korea). There is a good probability that the number of transboundary wetland sites that meet the Ramsar Criteria will increase, as a result of future wetland inventory studies.

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):

Agreements on conservation and use of transboundary water bodies were concluded with Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, Norway, Ukraine, Finland, and Estonia.

See also Paragraph 3.5.1.

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 Russian Federation participates in the activities taken under the Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and the Sustainable Use of

their Habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway.

The Russian Bird Conservation Union takes an active part in the Important Bird Areas Programme of BirdLife International.

Russian experts participated in Wetlands International's Specialist Groups cooperating with the IUCN-Species Survival Commission.

A new initiative to protect migratory waterbirds flying between the Arctic and Africa was launched by Wetlands International in December 2012. Funded by the Arcadia Fund, the three-year project 'From the Arctic to Africa: migratory birds connecting wetlands and people' engages local people and governments to develop a coherent approach to the management of the wetland sites used by the birds along the East Atlantic Flyway. Wetlands International offices in Senegal and Russia, supported by the head office in the Netherlands, work to promote cooperation, networking and exchange by site managers at three levels: the ecoregion, sub-region and entire flyway.

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

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):

At present, there is no National Plan for Wetland CEPA.

A Programme and Action Plan of Wetland CEPA Activities for the Network of Wetland Centres in European Russia was developed under the 2011–2013 Wetlands International's Project on 'Establishing a network of educational wetland centres in European Russia to promote wetland conservation through the development and implementation of a CEPA Action Plan' funded by the Matra Programme of the Netherlands Embassy in the Russian Federation. The Programme was discussed and approved by the international workshop organized by Wetlands International Russia in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation in May 2013.

The Goal of this Programme is to identify priority activities, operating principles and tools for wetland centres to effectively communicate messages about wetland ecosystem services, biodiversity and socio-economic values to people. This will form positive attitudes towards wetlands, and inspire people to take action for the wise use and conservation of wetlands in Russia. This Programme can be used as guidelines for the development of both the long-term and annual work plans for the wetland centres. It can also be used to support the development of new wetland education programmes, either at new wetland centres, or at other relevant sites.

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) 14 centres
b) at other wetlands	b) 11 centres

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

WLI (Wetland Link International) Russia was set up as a network of wetland centres across the country, developing regular communication via meetings, online conferencing and web pages. Until 2010, no Russian educational centres participated in the Wetland Link International project. At present, there are 12 such centres in Russia, of which seven were established in European Russia in 2011-2013 by the Wetlands International Russia's project (mentioned above in 4.1.1). Wetland centres were established in the Muraviovsky Park (Zeya-Bureya Plains Ramsar site), the national parks of Sebezhsky, Smolensk Lakeland, Meschera and Losiny Ostrov, the biosphere reserve of Bryansky Les, and other localities.

It should be noted at the same time, that environmental education and awareness departments and visitor centres are part of organisational structure of all strict nature reserves and national parks in Russia. There are 12 strict nature reserves ("zapovedniki") and one national park within 35 Russian Ramsar sites, all pay close attention to wetland education among local population. Many other nature reserves (such as the Cranes Homeland NR in the Moscow Region, the Meshchera National Park in the Vladimir Region, and the Central Forest NR in the Tver Region), nature museums (such as the K.A. Timiryazev Biological Museum and Darwin Museum in Moscow, and many local museums of nature), and NGOs (Wetlands International-Russia, EcoCentre 'Zapovedniki', Baltic Fund for Nature and some others) also carry out wetland education and awareness activities, and to a certain extent can be regarded as wetland centres.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:	
a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management	a) C - Partly
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) Public participation in decision-making regarding environmental issues is promoted by a number of federal and regional laws, in particular by the 2002 Law on Protection of the Environment and the Water Code of the Russian Federation. The Water Code states, among the basic principles of national water legislation, that 'Citizens and social groups have the right to participate in decision-making process where the implementation of such decisions may have an impact on the use and protection of water bodies. Government authorities, local self-government, parties involved in economic and other types of activity shall ensure such participation in a manner and in accordance with the procedures established by the laws of the Russian Federation' (See 1.7.3 for information regarding public basin councils).

The federal information system of public control over the use of natural resources and environmental protection - 'Our Nature' web portal (https://priroda-ok.ru), containing the Open Data Section has recently been launched by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

In practice, however, there is a lack of institutional, managerial and public structures responsible to pursue the national wetland conservation policy, as well as procedures for community representatives to influence decisions on major projects that have an impact on wetlands.

b) The existing official procedures for the establishment of Ramsar sites and state nature reserves include compulsory consultations with all land users. Practical management of Ramsar sites is conducted by way of permanent collaboration with all stakeholders and local communities.

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:

No special assessment of training needs for the implementation of the Convention has been made so far. It is apparent though that training in the use of the Ramsar Guidelines is strongly needed for senior managers of all Russian Ramsar sites. An assessment of local needs in training the staff of wetland centres was conducted under the Wetlands International-Russia project (see 4.1.1).

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) -12 b) -1020

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

Training workshops on wetland management were held in the framework of the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of wetland biodiversity in the Lower Volga region" in 2011-2012.

The Training of Trainers Course on Flyway Approach to the conservation and wise use of water birds and wetlands was held three times under the Wetlands International Russia projects in the reporting period. The target groups of this course were the wetland managers and educational staff of wetland centres. The training course provided participants (45 people altogether) with technical information, teaching materials, skills in training and communication to ensure effective delivery at local level. The 5-day training workshop was designed on the basis of the Flyway Training Programme developed by Wetlands International and partners under the Wings over Wetlands Project, and includes the following themes: the flyway concept, wetland wise use principles, the life stages of migratory waterbirds, threats along the flyways, overview of different conservation actions relevant to flyway approach, skills to apply flyway conservation practice and strengthen networks, and other aspects.

4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	D - Planned

4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):

Until 2004, the duties of National Ramsar Committee were performed by the Inter-sectoral Working Group on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Group was established under the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection by Chairman Resolution No. 9 issued on 15 January 1997. The members of the Working Group belonged to 16 bodies, including federal ministries, state committees, scientific institutions, and non-governmental organizations. In 2004, due to the reorganization of federal executive bodies (ministries and agencies), the Group's work was suspended.

At the present time, the fulfillment of obligations under the Ramsar Convention is coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.

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) D - Planned
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):

.....

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 activities have been carried out in Russia since 1998. Information on the Ramsar Convention and WWD was published on the websites of MNRE, Wetlands International Russia, WWF-Russia and many others. Materials prepared for WWD by the Ramsar Secretariat were widely distributed.

However, there is still no consolidated acquisition of information on wetland conservation activities carried out by various local organizations in Russia. Many conservation NGOs, museums of nature, nature reserves, educational centres take over the task of distributing information on major international environmental events and celebrations, timing relevant activities to these days.

An example is provided by the K.A. Timiryazev State Biological Museum in Moscow. The Museum has been celebrating the World Wetlands Day since

2005. In 2015, the Museum invited children and their parents to the 'Wetland Weekend' festival (7-8 February). On 3-4 February, 2015, The Botanical Institute, RAS (St. Petersburg) held the 6th Galkin Readings - a tranditional enlarged meeting of the mire science subpanel of the Russian Biological Society dedicated to the World Wetlands Day. The Nenets Museum of Natural History in Naryan-Mar in association with the Nenetsky State Nature Reserve held a regional training workshop on waterbird conservation along flyways.

In 2014, the Moscow Zoo, in cooperation with Wetlands International Russia and the Kerzhensky Nature Reserve, organized a WWD event by the Zoo's pond and House of Birds participated by visitors of the Zoo. WWD events were held by the Baltic Fund for Nature (St.Petersburg, the Muraviovka Park of Sustainable Landuse, the Astrakhansky Nature Reserve (the Lower Volga), and other Russian conservation organisations and nature reserves.

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):

Wetland education and awareness activities are carried out on a large scale by the nature reserves located at the Ramsar sites. The Federal Law on Protected Nature Areas regards environmental education as one of the priority objectives of state nature reserves. Considerable awareness work is performed at many other wetlands, which are currently not listed as Ramsar sites. As an example, active work with all groups of local population has been carried out at the Dubna Peatland Complex, in and around the Cranes' Homeland Nature Reserve in the Moscow Region. Since 1994, the Crane Festival is held annually during a week in September.

The Meschera National Park provides another example. A Wetland Educational Programme has been implemented in the park since 2005. This programme includes lectures, educational games, workshops and excursions to peatlands. There is a visitor centre in the park with peatland panoramas installed. A large section of the Park's Museum of Birds is devoted to water birds. Visitors of the Park's ethnographic museum can see the peculiarities of traditional life styles formed in the Meshchera peatlands.

Over 200 lectures and talks were given and 30 interactive events held in 2012-2014 in the Amur Province that were attended by up to 5000 schoolchildren living nearby wetlands.

All projects implemented under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme include CEPA components. The Naturewatch Baltic Youth Programme of the Baltic Fund for Nature focuses on introducing wetland component into formal and extracurricular education programmes, training cources for teachers and awareness activities. The Amur Branch of WWF Russia organised wetland awareness campaigns in the Amur basin area for several years. In the framework of the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of wetland biodiversity in the Lower Volga region", a special awareness raising block was implemented, including the development of schoolbooks and an educational course for schoolchildren on biodiversity of the Lower Volga.

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	B - No
4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):	

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):	

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	A - Yes
4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of	

assistance received):

Wetlands International, through its Russian Programme office, has provided considerable assistance to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Russian Federation. More detailed information on the Programme activities is provided in the relevant sections of this report.

WWF Russia contributes significantly to the realization of Convention's objectives through several large-scale projects carried out in the Russian Arctic, Amur River basin, in the Caucasus, and other regions of Russia.

The Russian Bird Conservation Union (BirdLife International Partner Designate since 1995) carries out a long-term inventory programme on internationally and nationally important bird areas in Russia, participates in international programmes for monitoring many bird species, organizes actions under the World Birdwatch initiative and coordinates other BirdLife activities in Russia.

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):

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation regularly supports applications of IOPs for the international funding by letters of support; provides coordination of projects with other national and international initiatives, provides support in the intersectorial negotiations involving private business and other important stakeholders.