



National planning tool for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

(And the approved format for National Reports to be submitted for the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Spain, 2002)

file 1

Institutional information

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Note – Not all actions from the Convention Work Plan 2000-2002 are included here, as some apply only to the Bureau or Conferences of the Contracting Parties. As a result, the numbering system that follows contains some gaps corresponding to those actions that have been omitted.

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1

TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

Operational Objective 1.1: To endeavour to secure at least 150 Contracting Parties to the Convention by 2002.

Actions – Global Targets

1.1.1 Recruit new Contracting Parties, especially in the less well represented regions and among states with significant and/or transboundary wetland resources (including shared species), [CPs, SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]

- **The gaps remain in Africa, central Asia, the Middle East and the Small Island Developing States. Refer to Recommendation 7.2 relating to Small Island Developing States.**
- **Global Target - 150 CPs by COP8**
- **These are the countries which at present are not CPs of the Convention:**
Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and

Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.
Is your country a neighbor of, or does it have regular dealings or diplomatic-level dialogue with, one or more of the non-Contracting Parties listed above? (This list was correct as of January 2000. However, accessions to the Convention occur on a regular basis and you may wish to check with the Ramsar Bureau for the latest list of non-CPs.) No If No , go to Action 1.1.2.
If Yes , have actions been taken to encourage these non-CPs to join the Convention? Yes/No
If Yes , have these actions been successful? Please elaborate.
If No , what has prevented such action being taken?
Proposed national actions and targets: Use diplomatic channels, representatives of Slovakia in other environmental conventions, committees and bodies to enhance the goal of recruiting new Contracting Parties.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR and the Slovak Ramsar Committee, MFA SR

1.1.2 Promote membership of Ramsar through regional meetings and activities, and through partners' regional offices. [SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These efforts are to continue and to focus on the above priority regions and the Small Island Developing States. • The current member and permanent observer States of the Standing Committee are Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Costa Rica, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uganda
Is your country a member of the Standing Committee? Yes If No , go to Action 2.1.1.
If Yes , have actions been taken to encourage the non-CPs from your region or subregion to join the Convention? Yes
If Yes , have these actions been successful? Several opportunities as for example international meetings were used to contact the representatives of relevant countries.
If No , what has prevented such action being taken?
Proposed national actions and targets: Use international contacts of the members of the Slovak Ramsar Committee to recruit new countries to join the Convention
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, Division of Nature and Landscape Protection, MFA SR

**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2
TO ACHIEVE THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS BY IMPLEMENTING AND
FURTHER DEVELOPING THE RAMSAR WISE USE GUIDELINES**

Operational Objective 2.1: To review and, if necessary, amend national or supra-national (e.g., European Community) legislation, institutions and practices in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the Wise Use Guidelines are applied.

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>2.1.1 Carry out a review of legislation and practices, and indicate in National Reports to the COP how the Wise Use Guidelines are applied. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This remains a high priority for the next triennium. The <i>Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions</i> (Resolution VII.7) will assist these efforts. Global Target – For at least 100 CPs to have comprehensively reviewed their laws and institutions relating to wetlands by COP8.
Has your country completed a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? The review is partially completed. It has been done in connection with approximation of the legislation of European Union, preparation of an Integrated EU Approximation Strategy in the Environment Sector and development of Nature Conservation Policy of the Slovak Republic. Last mentioned working document is going to be submitted to the Government of Slovak Republic. The Policy should contain proposed actions for intersectoral cooperation also in matters relating to wetlands.
If a review is planned , what is the expected timeframe for this being done? End of 2002
If the review has been completed , did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to these amendments being completed? Please elaborate.
If Yes , and changes to laws and institutional arrangements were made, please describe these briefly. Improvement of legislation on nature conservation and respective regulations is under preparation. National Council of the Slovak Republic (NC SR) approved Act on Water Management and on the Amendment of Other Regulations. Changes of institutional arrangements are included in a national programme of administrative capacity building connected to approximation process.
Proposed national actions and targets: Finalize legislation process and administration capacity building of the government institutions responsible for nature and landscape protection by the end of 2002. Untill the end of 2003 amend the new law on water management to make it fully compatible with the legislatin of the EU (Directive 2000/60/EC - Water Framework Directive).
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, MA SR

2.1.2 Promote much greater efforts to develop national wetland policies, either separately or as a clearly identifiable component of other national conservation planning initiatives, such as National Environment Action Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies, or National Conservation Strategies. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **The development and implementation of National Wetland Policies continues to be one of the highest priorities of the Convention, as does the integration of wetland conservation and wise use into broader national environment and water policies. The *Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies* (Resolution VII.6) will assist these efforts.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, at least 100 CPs with National Wetland Policies or, where appropriate, a recognized document that harmonizes all wetland-related policies/strategies and plans, and all CPs to have wetlands considered in national environmental and water policies and plans. The *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Resolution VII.18) will assist these efforts.**

Does your country have **in place** a National Wetland Policy (or similar instrument) which is a comprehensive statement of the Government's intention to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being put in place? **Please elaborate.**

If the development of such a Policy is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done?

Has your country taken its obligations with respect to the Ramsar Convention into consideration in related policy instruments such as National Biodiversity Strategies, National Environmental Action Plans, Water Policies, river basin management plans, or similar instruments? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to doing so? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please provide brief details. **National Biodiversity Strategy of the Slovak Republic (1997) considers conservation and sustainable use of wetlands as a valuable component of conservation of wider biodiversity and the proposed strategic goals contribute to effective conservation of wetlands. Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy (1998) contains number of actions relating to wetlands, those need to be implemented by the end of 2010. A special updated National Wetland Policy and its Action Plan was adopted by the Government in 2000. Actions for improvement of the state of wetlands and for prevention of their deterioration are also included in the National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP II) from 1999. These documents are being permanently updated.**

Has your government reviewed and modified, as appropriate, its policies that adversely affect intertidal wetlands (COP7 Resolution VII.21)? **No Reply**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening?

If **Yes**, what were the conclusions of this review? and what actions have been taken subsequently? **██████████**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Create budget lines annually for implementation of the Action Plan of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of the National Wetland Policy.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR**

Operational Objective 2.2: To integrate conservation and wise use of wetlands in all Contracting Parties into national, provincial and local planning and decision-making on land use, groundwater management, catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning, and all other environmental planning and management.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.2.2 Promote the inclusion of wetlands in national, provincial and local land use planning documents and activities, and in all relevant sectoral and budgetary provisions. [CPs]

- **Achieving integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to managing wetlands within the broader landscape and within river basin/coastal zone plans is another of the Convention's highest priorities in the next triennium.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be promoting, and actively implementing, the management of wetlands as integrated elements of river basins and coastal zones, and to provide detailed information on the outcomes of these actions in the National Reports for COP8.**

Is your country **implementing** integrated river basin and coastal zone management approaches? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **Please elaborate.**

If integrated management approaches are being applied in part of the country, indicate the approximate percentage of the country's surface area where this is occurring and to which river basins and coastal areas this applies. **Integrated river basin management is still not being implemented throughout the country. All river basins have framework water management plans as well as hydro-ecological plans, those should be updated and adjusted according to new legislation on water management. Plans considering integrated watershed management will be developed after implementation of the Water Framework Directive into the national legislation. Except of this, there is Committee for the Integrated Management of Watershed Use established by the Decree of the minister of environment Nr. 9/2001-2.2 and Nr. 11/2001-2.2. (suplement Nr. 1).**

If **Yes**, are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **Please elaborate.**

Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (COP7 Resolution VII.18)? **Yes**

If Yes, please describe them briefly. **Wetlands of Orava Basin RS - Development of Joint Management Plan for the Transboundary Wetlands in the Orava River Basin (Slovakia, Poland)**

Turiec Wetlands RS - Conservation and Management of the Turiec Wetlands Ramsar Site

Latorica RS - Development of Joint Management Plan for the Upper Tisa River Watershed between Slovakia, Ukraine and Hungary.

SNC SR implemented the given projects with the goal to manage and where necessary restore wetlands on the scale of the whole catchment, that needed involvement of more (all) relevant stakeholders, in this case especially water management authorities.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Develop national policy integrating wetland issues into river basin management**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, MA SR, SNC SR, Slovak Water Management Agency - administrative bodies and state agencies dealing with nature conservation and water management in Slovakia, Water Management Research Institute**

Operational Objective 2.3: To expand the Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use to provide advice to Contracting Parties on specific issues not hitherto covered, and examples of best current practice.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.3.1 Expand the Additional Guidance on Wise Use to address specific issues such as oil spill prevention and clean-up, agricultural runoff, and urban/industrial discharges in cooperation with other bodies. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - Following COP7, the Bureau, with other appropriate collaborators, will produce a series of Wise Use handbooks, based on the outcomes of Technical Sessions at COP7.**
- **(added by the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Resolution VII.14 *Invasive Species and wetlands*) CPs are requested “to provide the Ramsar Bureau with information on databases which exist for invasive species, information on invasive species which pose a threat to wetlands and wetland species, and information on the control and eradication of invasive wetland species.”**

Does your country **have** resource information on the management of wetlands in relation to the following which could be useful in assisting the Convention to develop further guidance to assist other CPs :

- oil spill prevention and clean-up? **Yes/No**

- agricultural runoff? **Yes/No**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes/No**
- invasive species? **Yes/No**
- other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **Yes/No** – **Slovak Republic has in general the resource information in the problems mentioned above. For the management of wetlands it is necessary, that the nature conservation managers (SNC SR, Administration of Slovak Caves) are aware and informed on these issues, so they could appropriately manage wetlands. According to internal review employees of the SNC SR have only partial or no information on the issues mentioned above. They have good quality information only in relation to management of invasive plant species. Only in the case of the Morava River Floodplains RS available information was assessed as sufficient. The described status could be solved through the integrated watershed management and better communication and information exchange between the nature conservation managers and decision-making bodies, water management authorities etc., for example within the management commissions of each Ramsar Sites or catchments.**

In each case, if the answer was **Yes**, has this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre (see 2.3.2 below)? **No** **No capacity for translation**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Create effective information exchange or "clearing house" mechanism on international and national level**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR SNC SR, MA SR, after implementation of the Water Framework Directive also new authorities and authorized organizations**

2.3.2. Publicize examples of effective application of existing Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Promoting and improving the availability of such resource materials is a priority under the Convention's Outreach Programme (Resolution VII.9)**
- **Global Target - By COP8, to have included in the Wise Use Resource Centre 500 appropriate references and publications as provided to the Bureau by CPs and other organizations.**

Further to 2.31. above, has your country, as urged by the Outreach Programme of the Convention adopted at COP7 (Resolution VII. 9), **reviewed** its resource materials relating to wetland management policies and practices? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **Lack of personal capacity**

If **Yes**, have copies of this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Improve awareness on the Outreach Programme of the Convention on the national level**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR and DAPHNE - Institute for Applied Ecology (Outreach Programme non-governmental focal point)**

Operational Objective 2.4: To provide economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands for environmental planning purposes.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.4.1 Promote the development, wide dissemination, and application of documents and methodologies which give economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Given the guidelines available for this activity (see below: *Economic Valuation of Wetlands* handbook), this will be an area of higher priority in the next triennium.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be incorporating economic valuation of wetland services, functions and benefits into impact assessment and decision-making processes related to wetlands.**

Does your government **require** that economic valuations of the full range of services, benefits and functions of wetlands be prepared as part of impact assessments and to support planning decisions that may impact on wetlands? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **Necessity of a policy and legislation framework. Slovakia has an instrument for economic valuation of protected species of plants and animals and protected trees (Regulation of MoE Nr. 93/1999). In coherence with the Action Plan of the National Biodiversity Strategy SNC SR prepared a proposal for economic valuation of all habitats (including wetlands). This proposal should be included into amendment of the legislation on nature protection connected to the EU approximation process.**

If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases?

If **Yes**, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. **No Reply**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Prepare policy and legislation framework for the economic valuation of all habitats including wetlands.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR, MA SR**

Operational Objective 2.5: To carry out environmental impact assessments (EIAs) at wetlands, particularly of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, notably at Ramsar sites, whose ecological character “is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference” (Article 3.2 of the Convention).

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.5.2 Ensure that, at Ramsar sites where change in ecological character is likely as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, EIAs are carried out (with due consideration of economic valuations of wetland benefits and functions), and that the resulting conclusions are communicated to the Ramsar Bureau and fully taken into account by the authorities concerned. [CPs]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, CPs will ensure that EIAs are applied to any such situation and keep the Bureau advised of the issues and the outcomes of these EIAs.**

Has an EIA been carried out in **all** cases where a change in the ecological character of a Ramsar site within your country was likely (or possible) as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **According to legal system of the SR Environmental Impact Assessment is not being carried out in cases of wetlands or other important areas, but in the process of EIA impact of each concrete activity, that could influence the environment, or impact of strategic document on the environment (SEA) is being evaluated. This principle of evaluation of potential impact is being applied for Ramsar Sites as well as for other protected sites, such as national parks, sites protected for water supply function etc. In the case of each EIA, these paid attention for the Ramsar Sites, if such sites were located inside the focal area of the proposed and assessed activities.**

If **Yes**, has this EIA, or have these EIAs, given due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See also 2.4.1 above)
In some cases.

AND: Have the results of the EIA been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **EIA process has specific principles (own convention on the level of UN, directive of the EC, valid legal regulation). Results of the EIA are transmitted to relevant stakeholders by the decision-making body.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Complete the legislation process and methodology for economic valuation of all components of biodiversity and consider these in the process of EIA.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR - Department of Nature and Landscape Protection, Department of Environmental Impact Assessment, DOs, COs, SNC SR**

2.5.3 Carry out EIAs at other important sites, particularly where adverse impact on wetland resources is likely, due to a development proposal or change in land/water use. [CPs]

- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to require EIAs under legislation for any actions**

which can potentially impact on wetlands and to provide detailed reports on advances in this area in their National Reports for COP8.
Are EIAs required in your country for all cases where a wetland area (whether a Ramsar site or not) may be adversely impacted due to a development proposal or change in land/water use? No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? EIA is required in the case of reaching the limits, technical parameters of proposed activities/changes in activities, not in the case of impact on specific habitats, such as wetlands.
If Yes , are such EIAs required to give due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See COP7 Resolution VII.16, also 2.4.1 & 2.5.2 above.) No
Are EIAs “undertaken in a transparent and participatory manner which includes local stakeholders” (COP7 Resolution VII.16)? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: EIA requires environmental and social valuation, but not economic valuation - after completing the legislation and methodology of economic valuation of all components of biodiversity including wetlands (see 2.4.1 above) require it in the EIA process as obligatory part of the assessment.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, Department of EIA (see above 2.4.1)

2.5.4 Take account of Integrated Environmental Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment (at local, provincial and catchment/river basin or coastal zone levels) when assessing impacts of development proposals or changes in land/water use. [CPs]
(Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country undertaken a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) Yes
Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? Yes – partly within the Framework Water Management Plans, Energy Policy, Conception of Territorial Development of Slovakia
Proposed national actions and targets: Integrate all existing environmental policies into the Regional Development Policy, Water Management Plans, Forest Management Plans, Agricultural Plans etc.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR,

MA SR, MD SR

Operational Objective 2.6: To identify wetlands in need of restoration and rehabilitation, and to implement the necessary measures.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.6.1 Use regional or national scientific inventories of wetlands (Recommendation 4.6), or monitoring processes, to identify wetlands in need of restoration or rehabilitation. [CPs, Partners]

- **The completion of such inventories is a continuing area of priority for the Convention.**
- **Global Target - Restoration/rehabilitation inventories to be completed by at least 50 CPs by COP8.**

Has your country **completed** an assessment to identify its priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation? (COP7 Resolution VII.17) **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from being done? **Such an assessment is in development, partially it will be solved by the National Program for Restoration of River Ecosystems which is in preparation phase. Partial assessment was done as a resource information provided by SNC SR to Wetlands International (list of wetlands in the strict protected sites). Some information are included in the national wetlands database. During the preparation of National Ramsar Report for COP 8, organization units of SNC SR were requested to identify wetland site in need of restoration. This information has not been compared with the review completed for Wetlands International, yet. It could be used as a baseline for the document proposed in the Action 2.6.2. concerning national needs in wetlands restoration.**

If this has been done for only part of the country, please indicate for which areas or river basins. **Assessment of the SNC SR on wetlands in the strict protected sites has been done for the whole country, national wetland database covers the country only partially - expected timeframe for completing the database is 2005 depending on available funds.**

If **Yes** (that is, an assessment has been **completed**), have actions been taken to undertake the restoration or rehabilitation of these priority sites? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from being done? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Finalize development of the National Program for Restoration of River Ecosystems and to start with its implementation, incorporate also requirements of Water Framework Directive. Finalize national wetland inventory and for its completion (2002-2005) allocate funds annually for the field mappers, for coordination and evaluation of expert results and also for the computer processing. Information on wetland sites in need of restoration compare with the review made for Wetlands International and with the information from national wetland database.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, MA SR, SNC SR, WMRI, SZOPK - wetland inventory coordinator**

2.6.2 Provide and implement methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

- **There is considerable information resource on this subject, although it is not as readily accessed as desirable.**
- **Global Target - The addition of appropriate case studies and information on methodologies, etc., to the Convention's Wise Use Resource Centre (refer to 2.3.2 above also) will be a priority in the next triennium.**

Refer to 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. Does your country **have** resource information on the restoration or rehabilitation of wetlands? **Yes/No**

If **Yes**, has this been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre and for consideration by the STRP Expert Working Group on Restoration? **No**

If this material has not been forwarded to the Bureau, what has prevented this from occurring? **We have only partial resource informaton on the restoration or rehabilitation of wetlands. Organizational units of SNC SR evaluated resource information available to them as insufficient. Some of them have necessary documents and information, but they consider it as not up-to-date, or already obsolete. Some of them feel lack of practical experience with the wetland restoration.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Concetrate all relevant information and prepare an document on national wetlands restoration needs and allocate funds for its implementation. Forward the document to the Ramsar Bureau.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, MA SR, SNC SR**

2.6.3 Establish wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in association with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value (Recommendation 4.1). [CPs]

- **The Convention will continue to promote the restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands, particularly in situations where such actions will help promote or retain the 'health' and productivity of waterways and coastal environments.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to have identified their priority sites for restoration or rehabilitation and for projects to be under way in at least 100 CPs.**

Refer to 2.6.1 above.

Operational Objective 2.7: To encourage active and informed participation of local communities, including indigenous people, and in particular women, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.7.1 Implement Recommendation 6.3 on involving local and indigenous people in the management of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, the implementation of the Guidelines on local communities' and indigenous people's participation (COP7 Resolution VII.8) is to be one of the Convention's highest priorities. By COP8, all CPs to be promoting local stakeholder management of wetlands.**

Is your government **actively** promoting the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the management of wetlands? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, describe what special actions have been taken (See also 2.7.2, 2.7.3 and 2.7.4 below) (COP7 Resolution VII.8). **Local communities, local governments and other stakeholders are involved in the preparation and implementation of management plans for wetlands, such as in the frame of the project Development of Joint Management Plan for the Transboundary Wetlands in Orava Basin (Administration of the PLA Horna Orava), preparation of management plan for the Turiec Wetlands RS (Administration of PLA Velka Fatra Mts., NGO SZOPK Martin), Šúr Ramsar Site (Administration of the PLA Male Karpaty Mts.), the Morava River Floodplain RS (Administration of the PLA Záhorie, DAPHNE). All mentioned activities are located in the Ramsar Sites, but the SNC SR struggles to apply such principle in other wetlands, too and to involve especially local governments (village mayors), schools, students, NGOs, local residents etc. to the management of wetlands. As an example should be stated here the involvement of local inhabitants, media to the restoration and management of selected wetlands in the Zahorie region (Administration of the PLA Zahorie, NGO BROZ). There are still reserves in providing such activities, the mentioned ones are sporadic, resp. employees of SNC SR sometimes evaluate it as not always successful.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Increase involvement of local communities in the management of wetland sites, especially Ramsar sites through participation in local site management teams**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR, DOs, COs in cooperation with local NGOs**

2.7.2 Encourage site managers and local communities to work in partnership at all levels to monitor the ecological character of wetlands, thus providing a better understanding of management needs and human impacts. [CPs]

- **The Convention's Outreach Programme (COP7 Resolution VII.9) seeks to give such community participation higher priority as an education and empowerment tool of**

the Convention.
Does your government actively encourage or support site managers and local communities in monitoring the condition (ecological character) of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? (Also refer to Operational Objective 5.1.) Yes
If No , what prevents this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , does this include both site managers and local communities, where they are not the same people? No Government supports annually mainly site managers, but also local NGOs are encouraged and supported from various sources.
AND, where such monitoring occurs, are the findings being used to guide management practices? Yes/No
If No , what prevents this from happening? Results of the monitoring are used for adaptation of management practices, but in some sites basic monitoring is missing.
Proposed national actions and targets: Encourage missing basic monitoring. Increase budget for monitoring and tie it to the site managers to carry out regular monitoring aiming in improvement of management practices.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR

2.7.3 Involve local communities in the management of wetlands by establishing wetland management committees, especially at Ramsar sites, on which local stakeholders, landowners, managers, developers and community interest groups, in particular women's groups, are represented. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - Ramsar site management committees operating in at least 100 CPs, and including non-government stakeholder representation.
Are there wetland site management committees in place in your country? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such being established? Please elaborate.
If Yes , for how many sites are such committees in place? 5
AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? 4 - Turiec Wetlands, Pariz marshes, Wetlands of the Orava basin, Senné fishponds. Management committees were in the mentioned 4 cases established in the framework of specific projects, committees are not working on the regular basis. Their work is not regulated by statute, or definition of competence. They have/had status of advisory body for specific activities proposed within the pilot projects. There is a need for regularly working committees and definition of their competence. For example in the case of Senne Fishponds RS, its Advisory Committee have had only one meeting since its establishment in 1997. In the case of Domica RS, state is the owner of all caves in Slovakia and management of caves is in the competence of ASC so probably for this RS such committee will not be established.

AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? all
AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented? none
Proposed national actions and targets: Establish similar committees for other Ramsar sites
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: COs, DOs in cooperation with SNC SR, local NGOs

<p>2.7.4 Recognize and apply traditional knowledge and management practice of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to 2.7.1 above. • Global Target - This will be addressed in the next triennium, possibly in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention to Combat Desertification, which have already initiated work in this area.
Has your government made any special efforts to recognize and see applied traditional knowledge and management practices? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice. Some of the Ramsar sites are managed and used also by Slovak Anglers Union and local anglers support control, guarding and fishstock revival, including endangered species (RS: Orava River and its tributaries, Poiplie, Turiec Wetlands). Pariz marshes RS is used for reed cutting with involvement of local business in the site management, the Morava River Floodplain RS is used for mowing, some meadows have been restored to increase traditional use of the site and improve biodiversity. Mentioned activities supporting traditional use of wetland sites arose more-less from the initiatives of NGOs, good relations and contacts with farmers and local organizations of anglers and were used during the specific projects. These projects were approved by the MEN SR, but it could not be regarded as program of supporting the traditional use of the wetlands. There is lack of stimuluses for wise use of wetland sites, based on systematic subsidies from the MEN SR or MA SR. This kind of support does not need to be compensation for restricted use of the site, or lost profit. It could be some systematic support of environment-friendly (sustainable) land use.
Proposed national actions and targets: Evaluate system of providing subsidies to increase support of traditional management practices in protected sites, especially wetlands.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MA SR, MEN SR

Operational Objective 2.8: To encourage involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.8.1. Encourage the private sector to give increased recognition to wetland attributes, functions and values when carrying out projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, the efforts to work in partnership with the private sector will be further increased and the Bureau will seek to document and make available case studies on some of the more effective and innovative approaches. By COP8, the target is to have private sector support for wetlands conservation in more than 100 CPs.**

Have **special efforts been made** to increase the recognition of wetland attributes, functions and values among the private sector in your country? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts. **Communication with new owners and users of fishponds sites of international importance was carried out (Hrhov fishponds, Senné fishponds Ramsar site - private company is involved in management of the site), seminars and workshops with forestry and peat extraction companies in Orava region, some leaflets and brochures were produced to increase the recognition of wetlands among the land owners (Turiec Wetlands, Morava River Floodplain, Senné fishponds)**

AND: Have these efforts been successful? **Yes/No**

If **No**, why not? **There is still contraversion if it is appropriate to use Ramsar site and protected areas for commercial activities, commercial aims are still very strong in some areas. Ministry of Economy of the SR is competent to formulate the strategy for development of the entrepreneurial environment, as well as in the area of supporting the small and middle size enterprise. It is not competent in supporting of all private sector in relation to conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in general.**

If **Yes**, how do you judge this success? Financial support for management or monitoring? Active involvement in management or monitoring? (Refer to 2.8.3 below) Application of Ramsar's Wise Use principles by private sector interests? (Refer to 2.8.2 below)? Other criteria? **Only partial support for management.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continue with efforts of involvement of the private sector in conservation of wetlands.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, MA SR, ME SR**

2.8.2 Encourage the private sector to apply the Wise Use Guidelines when executing development projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium the application of this tool for promoting Wise Use will be a priority under the Convention. By COP8, the target is to have more than 50 CPs which have completed reviews of their incentive measures.**

Refer to 2.8.1 above. Has your government completed a review of its “existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use” (COP7 Resolution VII.15)? Yes/No
If No , what has been the impediment to this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , what actions have been taken to introduce “incentive measures designed to encourage the wise use of wetlands, and to identify and remove perverse incentives where they exist” (COP7 Resolution VII.15). In coherence with the transposition of the directives of the European Union the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection is being amended and will contain protection of wetlands as an important landscape element. Review of General of Protection and Wise Use of Water, Conception of Water Management Development is necessary. The field of water management will be influenced by the implementation of the Water Framework Directive within 2-3 years. It will require the need for further amendment of the Act on Water Management.
AND: Have these actions been effective? No Reply
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please describe how.
AND if Yes , COP7 Resolution VII.15 requested Parties to share these “experiences and lessons learned with respect to incentive measures and perverse incentives relating to wetlands, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources generally, by providing these to the Ramsar Bureau for appropriate distribution and to be made available through the Wise Use Resource Centre of the Convention’s Web site”. Has this been done? No
Proposed national actions and targets: Prepare an appropriate legislation framework on nature and landscape protection and on water management and to review incentives and policies of other sectors.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, MA SR, ME SR

2.8.3 Encourage the private sector to work in partnership with site managers to monitor the ecological character of wetlands. [CPs]

- This action will be promoted further in the next triennium.**

Refer to 2.7.2 above. In addition, have **any special efforts** been made to encourage the private sector involvement in monitoring? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Weak communication between governmental authorities and private sector, few economic motivation, involvement to the monitoring is not the priority of the private sector (lack of awareness in this topic). Private sector is in most cases involved into the implementation of practical management measures. These are especially agricultural cooperatives. According to experience of SNC**

<p>SR managers, such subjects are not interested in monitoring activities, in some regions the local private small enterprises have economic problems. On the other hand the nature conservation managers does not try to involve the private sector into monitoring of wetlands. In this field SNC SR regional administrations cooperate with schools, students, NGOs, local governments, local organizations of anglers and hunters.</p>
<p>If Yes, describe these special efforts.</p>
<p>AND: How successful has this been? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Increase the awareness of the private sector, involve private sector into the site management committees, using appropriate system of subsidies motivate the private sector to adopt wise management practices and monitor wetland status.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, ME SR, MA SR, DOs, COs</p>

<p>2.8.4 Involve the private sector in the management of wetlands through participation in wetland management committees. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - As indicated under 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 above, the establishment of cross-sectoral and stakeholder management committees for wetlands, and especially Ramsar sites, will be a priority in the next triennium.
<p>Refer to 2.7.3 above</p>

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3
TO RAISE AWARENESS OF WETLAND VALUES AND FUNCTIONS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND AT ALL LEVELS**

Operational Objective 3.1: To support and assist in implementing, in cooperation with partners and other institutions, an international programme of Education and Public Awareness (EPA) on wetlands, their functions and values, designed to promote national EPA programmes.

<p>Actions - Global Targets</p>
<p>3.1.1 Assist in identifying and establishing coordinating mechanisms and structures for the development and implementation of a concerted global programme of EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p>
<p>Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below</p>

<p>3.1.2 Participate in the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for resource development. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p>
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Has your country **taken any action** to help with the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for information/education resource development? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland Communications, Public Awareness, and Education (CEPA) (COP7 Resolution VII.9).

Ministry of Environment of the SR together with the Ministry of Education of the SR, developed the Conception of Environmental Education (approved by Resolution of the Government of the SR Nr. 846 from 25th November 1997) and for primary and secondary schools so called Environmental minimum (approved by MED SR as a Nr. 645/1996-15 valid from the 1st September 1996) was put into curricula as a basic environmental education. At the MED SR there is a Committee for Environmental Education. Regular conferences on the Conception of Environmental Education are organized, new specializations and study fields are opening. "Living Nature" program for primary schools, of the Slovak Environmental Agency started in cooperation with Field Studies Council, U.K. Some study materials were prepared by NGOs - such as "World of Wetlands", "World of Peatlands" worksheets of the DAPHNE. Furthermore the GLOBE program is being introduced into Slovakia, Nature Conservation School of the SNC SR was established and in cooperation with the Danish partners it builds its programme (DANCEE). A strategy for further education of nature conservation managers is missing. Within last few years, some employees of the SNC SR participated on specialized courses (except those mentioned in 4.2.4. it was Distance Course of Biodiversity Conservation funded through Tempus project at the FNS CU in Bratislava). There is still lack of information and experience in some fields, such as management planning, wetland restoration, specific species management etc.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Include the topic of wetlands into the education curricula of various target groups (teachers, educators, environmental education coordinators, etc.) as well as organizations working in the education process of children and young people using alternative creative methods and study materials such as brochure "World of Wetlands". Process videofilms on the wetlands conservation and management in Slovakia with a special emphasis on the Ramsar sites, in the programme of Nature Conservation School of the SNC SR devote capacities to deal with the wetland topic. Prepare courses and training opportunities for further education of nature conservation managers and nature conservation state officers on the conservation of wetlands.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, MED SR in cooperation with SNC SR and NGOs**

3.1.3 Assist in the development of international resource materials in support of national EPA programmes [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.1.2 above also. Has your country **taken any action** to assist with the development of international wetland CEPA resource materials? **No**

If **Yes**, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for

possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9). [REDACTED]
If No , what has prevented this from happening? MEN SR as well as SNC SR does not have enough experts and experienced people on CEPA, those would be responsible only for the Ramsar Convention including CEPA
Proposed national actions and targets: Hire and/or employ people who will get training and will work on CEPA.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR, Slovak Environmental Agency, in cooperation with NGOs

3.1.4 Support international programmes that encourage transfer of information, knowledge and skills between wetland education centres and educators (e.g., Wetland International's EPA Working Group, Global Rivers Environment Education Network (GREEN), Wetland Link International). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to 3.2.4 also. Does your country support any international programmes that encourage transfer of information, knowledge and skills among wetland education centres and educators? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details. Refer to 3.1.2 above, too. GLOBE is an international environmental monitoring program for young people. Children and young adults follow scientific methodology to monitor water and air quality, soil and land cover on a selected parcel measuring 1 square km. The students send their data to the international headquarters in Washington, D.C. where it is analyzed and returned in graphic form. The students can then compare their results with the results from the thousands of other schools in the 90+ countries already participating in the program. The data is used by the scientists to show global environmental trends. The NGO Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protectors (SZOPK) Martin is working with the US Embassy and the Ministry of Education of the SR to sign the intra-governmental agreement necessary in order to bring the program into Slovakia.
Is your country specifically supporting the Wetlands Link International initiative (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? No
If No , what is preventing this from happening? Lack of personal capacity.
If Yes , please provide details. [REDACTED]
AND indicate which Wetland Centres (refer 3.2.3 below), museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and educational environment education centres (refer 3.2.4) are now participating as part of Wetlands Link International. [REDACTED]
Proposed national actions and targets: Support establishment of education centres in Slovakia which will deal also with the topic of wetlands and to participate as part of Wetlands Link International. Prefere their establishment in already existing and sufficiently developed facilities such has SNC SR, Slovak Environmental Agency and

SZOPK

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MED SR, MEN SR in cooperation with NGOs**

Operational Objective 3.2: To develop and encourage national programmes of EPA on wetlands, targeted at a wide range of people, including key decision-makers, people living in and around wetlands, other wetland users and the public at large.

Actions - Global and National Targets

3.2.1 Encourage partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations capable of developing national EPA programmes on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8 to see the global network of proposed CP and non-government focal points for Wetland Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) in place and functioning effectively in the promotion and execution of the national Outreach Programmes in all CPs. To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.**

Did your Government **inform** the Ramsar Bureau by 31 December 1999 of the identity of its Government and Non-Government Focal Points for wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

Has your country **established** an "appropriately constituted Task Forces, where no mechanism exists for this purpose (e.g., National Ramsar Committees), to undertake a review of national needs, capacities and opportunities in the field of wetland CEPA and, based on this, to formulate its National Wetland CEPA Action Plans for priority activities which consider the international, regional, national and local needs" (COP7 Resolution VII.9). **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **In 1996 the Central Board for Environmental Education (CBEE) was constituted as advisory and coordination body to the minister of environment in the field of communication, education and public awareness. Wetland conservation issue is not especially covered in the tasks of existing work groups. There are some environmental centres (coordinated by NGOs, Slovak Environmental Agency and SNC SR), which partly deal also with wetlands. Systematic CEPA is going to be included to the programme of Nature Conservation School of the SNC SR. Slovak Ramsar Committee is only advisory, expert and coordination body of the minister of environment.**

If **Yes**, please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force.

AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000? **No**

If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Education sphere is fully in the competence of the Ministry of Education of the SR. Nowadays the transformation of the education system of Slovakia - so called program "Millenium" is being carried out. According to its Implementation Plan, it assumes also new approach to the environmental education and public awareness in general. Ministry of Environment of the SR currently does not have capacities to prepare National Wetland Action Plan on Communication, Education and Public Awareness.
If Yes , is the Action Plan being implemented effectively? No Reply
If No , what is preventing this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , what are the priority target groups of the Action Plan and the major activities being undertaken?
AND: Has a copy of this plan been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? No Reply
Proposed national actions and targets: Prepare the national CEPA Action Plan as the adjustment of applicable Conception of Environmental Education in cooperation of MEN SR, MED SR, and MC SR. Within the existing work groups of the CBEE incorporate the wetland issue in their work plans.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MED SR, MEN SR - Department of Nature and Landscape Protection, Department of Public Relations, SNC SR, Slovak Environmental Agency in cooperation with NGOs

3.2.2 On the basis of identified needs and target groups, support national programmes and campaigns to generate a positive vision of wetlands and create awareness at all levels of their values and functions. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - see 3.2.1 above.**

3.2.3 Encourage the development of educational centres at wetland sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - The Convention will aim to have more than 150 active education centres (and similar venues - see 3.2.4 below) promoting the principles of the Convention by COP8 and to ensure that all CPs have at least one such centre.**

Has your country **encouraged** the establishment of educational centres at wetland sites? **No**

If **No**, what has been the impediment to such action being taken? **Due to lack of funds for establishment of state environmental education centres the concept of regional proportion was used. Their specific goals related to wetlands see below.**

If **Yes**, how successful has this been?

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites?

How many centres are being established? and at what sites? **Some of the environmental education centres (managed by NGOs) partially deals with wetland issues. Especially at**

the Morava River Floodplain RS there is information and education centre established by NGO DAPHNE. In some protected wetlands there are educational trails and information panels installed.

How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? MEN SR prepares the main educational and information centre placed in Administration of the Malá Fatra Mts. National Park (Nature Conservation School), which is responsible for the Ramsar Site Orava River and its Tributaries supported through project of Danish Cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe program. Establishment of Information and Education Centre for Turiec Wetlands RS is funded through project from Wetlands International. The centre will be managed by local NGO SZOPK Martin in close cooperation with state Administration of the Velka Fatra Mts. Protected Landscape Area.

Of the sites in place, how many are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and at which sites are they? None

Proposed national actions and targets: Support the existing educational centres coordinated by state or NGOs; establish more educational centres as a network in Slovakia which will deal also with the topic of wetlands and use the opportunity to cooperate with the Wetlands Link International.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MED SR, MEN SR in cooperation with NGOs

3.2.4 Work with museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and environment education centres to encourage the development of exhibits and programmes that support non-formal EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- Global Target - see 3.2.3 above

Do all museums, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities in your country have exhibits and/or programmes that support non-formal wetland CEPA? Only for some facilities

If No, what are the impediments to this occurring?

If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? Some of the facilities provides programmes and exhibitions about topics connected to wetlands - regular or occasional - especially the Nature museums, cultural centres etc. provided exhibitions in 2001 in accordance to the 30th anniversary of the Ramsar convention.

If Yes, how many facilities does this apply to and how many of these are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and which facilities are they?

Proposed national actions and targets: Involve Ministry of Culture of the SR into the development of CEPA Action Plan and its implementation

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, MC SR

3.2.5 Encourage the inclusion of modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to see wetland issues incorporated into curricula in over 100 CPs.**

In your country are there modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses? **Yes**

If **No**, what is preventing this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details. **Cross-sectoral environmental education curricula for primary and secondary schools (applied in all education subjects) - so called environmental minimum contains wetland issues in the block "Conservation of Biodiversity - Diversity of Life on the Earth". DAPHNE - Institute for Applied Ecology developed educational material "World of Wetlands" and "World of Grasslands", those are used for training of educators and teachers from the primary and secondary schools preferably from the larger cities and its surroundings, such as Bratislava, Žilina, Banská Bystrica. Another education material "World of Peatlands" is under preparation. The target group of it will be the same, but the trainings will be preferably provided in regions with larger occurrence of peatlands - Záhorie (Rudava River Valley and Morava River Floodplain RS), Orava (Wetlands of the Orava Basin and Orava River and its Tributaries RS), Podtatranská basin and Spiš. In connection with several projects (for example Tempus) publications and textbooks for university students and for distance education needs were prepared by the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava and Slovak Agriculture University in Nitra as for example "Conservation of Biodiversity - International Aspects", Restoration of River Ecosystems" etc. Specialized training course on wetland management for State Nature Conservancy staff and other wetland managers is under development. Publication "Plant Communities of Slovakia III. : Vegetation of Wetlands" (Valachovic, ed., 2001) has been issued. The issue was supported also by the Society of Wetland Scientists.**

If **Yes**, have samples of this curriculum material been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Within the prepared adjustment of the educational curricula on environmental education of primary and secondary schools and curricula of other subjects in relation to "Millenium programme" incorporate relevant materials dealing with wetland issues (such as "World of Wetlands", prepared "World of Peatlands").**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MED SR, MEN SR in cooperation with NGOs**

Operational Objective 3.3: To improve the Ramsar Bureau's communications activities and to develop a Convention Communications Strategy, capable of further

promoting the Convention and its wider application, and of raising awareness of wetland values and functions.

Actions - Global and National Targets
3.3.1 Review the Bureau's communications activities, especially those related to the creation and functioning of regional and national communication networks; develop new material and use of technology, and improve existing material. [Bureau]
Refer to 3.2.1 "To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.". Has your government provided any voluntary contributions to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme? No
If Yes, please provide details. [REDACTED]
Proposed national actions and targets: To allocate additional funds for voluntary contribution to the Bureau budget.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR
3.3.4 Seek the support of an electronic communications carrier to provide and maintain an electronic mail network and electronic bulletin board/ mailing lists linking the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee members, the STRP, the Bureau, and partner organizations. [All]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to gain a sponsor(s) for the Convention's Web site, to ensure that all CPs have Internet access, to increase the use of French and Spanish in the Ramsar Web site, and to see over 300 Ramsar site managers also communicating with the Bureau, and each other, via the Internet.
The Standing Committee and Bureau will consider the issue of a sponsor for the Convention's Web site, and increased presence of French and Spanish materials on the Web site.
With respect to Ramsar site managers, has your government taken steps to provide for Internet links for these people? Yes
If No, what are the impediments to this action being taken? Please elaborate.
If Yes, how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access? all
AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? All of 12, thus in several cases they have only old hardware, that is causing problem with internet access. Also prices for internet use are high.
Proposed national actions and targets: Update of national website on wetlands by the mailing list of all of the Ramsar site managers. Regularly upgrade the hardware and software of the site managers to ease the internet access.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR, ASC, Slovak Environmental Agency

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Please go to file 2.



National planning tool for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

(And the approved format for National Reports to be submitted for the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Spain, 2002)

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file 2

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4

TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF INSTITUTIONS IN EACH CONTRACTING PARTY TO ACHIEVE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS

Operational Objective 4.1: To develop the capacity of institutions in Contracting Parties, particularly in developing countries, to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions - Global and National Targets
4.1.1 Review existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]
Has your country reviewed the national institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise use and the “designated national Administrative Authority for the Convention to ensure [that] these have the necessary resources to support the increasing demands being placed upon them by the growing expectations of the Convention” (COP7 Resolution VII.27)? Yes
If No , what is the impediment to this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , what were the conclusions and outcomes of the review? (Refer to 4.1.2 also). The main conclusion of the review was that the implementation of not only the Ramsar Convention, but all international treaties of those the Slovak Republic is contracting party lies on a few people. There is a general lack of capacity and personnel also in MEN SR, SNC SR and administrations of SNC SR managing the protected sites. Proposals to increase staff numbers were included in recently elaborated documents such as the Nature Conservation Policy, National Programme and Strategy for EU approximation etc. Number of employees is slowly increasing.
Proposed national actions and targets: Increase the number of employees in all executive bodies for nature conservation.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR

4.1.2 On the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:

- **increase cooperation and synergy between institutions;**
- **promote the continued operation of these institutions;**
- **provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, for these institutions. [CPs]**
- **Global Target - By COP8, to see coordinating mechanisms in place in all CPs, and more particularly to see National Ramsar Committees including government and non-government stakeholder representatives, in place in more than 100 CPs. In addition, by COP8, all CPs that have reported the existence of NRCs at COP7 to have evaluated their effectiveness (COP7 Resolution VII.27).**

Refer also to 8.1.9. Does your country have a National Ramsar Committee or similar body?

Yes

If **No**, what has prevented the establishment of such a committee? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, is the committee cross-sectoral, including representatives of appropriate government ministries and non-government expert and stakeholder groups? **Yes**

What is the composition of this Committee? **Representatives of MEN SR, SNC SR, MED SR, MFA SR, MA SR, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Water Management Agency, WMRI, universities and NGOs (DAPHNE, Society for Protection of Birds in Slovakia, Slovak Rivers Network, Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protectors) and Ramsar Site managers from the SNC SR and ASC.**

Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? **Yes/No**

If **No**, why not? **The composition of the SRC was adjusted, as well as its work procedure. The committee has too many members and complicated structure, that sometimes had caused low effectiveness of its decisions and recommendations. On the other hand some key players are still missing (representative from the Division of protection of environment components of the MEN SR).**

Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Ensure the membership of Division of protection of environment components of the MEN SR and more effective way of work of the committee. Review the adequacy of involvement of the education sector (MED SR) and direct information transfer from the committee to some other sectors (ME SR, MA SR, MTPST SR).**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR**

Operational Objective 4.2: To identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries, and to implement follow-up actions.

Actions - Global and National Targets
4.2.1 Identify at national, provincial and local level the needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have training needs analyses completed in more than 75 CPs.
Has a training needs analysis been completed? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , have the results of this analysis been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , how has this been done? Such trainings are in the process of preparation. SNC SR in cooperation with NGOs is preparing management planning guidelines for sites of international importance (Ramsar Sites, Biosphere Reserves, future Natura 2000 sites etc.). Guidelines came from the existing approaches including the Ramsar guidelines for management plans. It will be tested on several pilot sites in the frame of currently running projects and consecutively will be presented in front of a large audience of nature conservation managers.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? Refer to previous paragraph, too. Only few people is trained in the management planning, for future trainings it is necessary to train the trainers.
Proposed national actions and targets: Execution of workshops in accordance to the prepared plan.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR in cooperation with NGOs

4.2.2 Identify current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have reviews of training opportunities completed in more than 75 CPs.
Has your country completed a review of the training opportunities which exist therein? No
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Partial reviews have been completed by the MED SR, but the conclusions and following actions were not included into any strategic documents.
If Yes , have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in

the future? No Reply
If No, why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes, how has this been done? Please elaborate.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? Please elaborate.
Has this information on training opportunities been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities? (Refer to 4.2.3 below also) No
Proposed national actions and targets: To produce report including results from all partial done or planned reviews (resp. other relevant ones) on existing training needs. Include findings of the report into the proposal of National Wetland CEPA Action Plan.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, MED SR in cooperation with NGOs

<p>4.2.3 Develop new training activities and general training modules, for application in all regions, concerning implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines, with specialized modules covering [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - To launch a major wetland manager training initiative under the Convention, possibly in partnership with one or more of the Convention's International Organization Partners, which can promote and take advantage of these new training tools. Refer also to 4.2.4 below regarding the <i>Wetlands for the Future Initiative</i>.
Following its review of training needs and opportunities, has your country developed any new training activities, or training modules? Yes
If Yes, please provide details. see 4.2.1 above
AND: Has information on these training activities and modules been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities and the Wise Use Resource Centre? (Refer to 4.2.2 above also) No
Proposed national actions and targets: see 4.2.1 above
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, MED SR in cooperation with NGOs

<p>4.2.4 Provide opportunities for manager training by: personnel exchanges for on-the-job training; holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites; siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites; obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers around the world. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - Refer to 4.2.3 above. Also to seek the resources from donors or interested CPs to establish <i>Wetlands for the Future Initiatives</i> for the Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, and African regions.

<p>Refer to 4.2.1, 4.2.2, and 4.2.3 above. Has training been provided for wetland managers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through personnel exchanges for on-the-job training? No, Please elaborate. • Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? No, No pilot training course at specific Ramsar site has been held, but for example participants of DARWIN Initiative's course for peatland protection and management in Scotland organised seminars on the conservation and management of peatlands in Bratislava, at Belianske lúky site and on the Wetlands of the Orava Basin Ramsar Site. • Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? No, while there are not educational centres at Ramsar sites, see 3.2.3 above. • Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? Yes, wetland managers had opportunity to participate on several wetland management courses, for example RIZA (the Netherlands) course for wetland management, DARWIN Initiative course for peatland protection (Scotland) EUROPARC, EUROSITE etc.
<p>Has your country provided resources to support the establishment of <i>Wetlands for the Future</i> style programmes in any part of the world? (COP7 Recommendation 7.4) No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details. [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Secure information exchange on all training opportunities and support participation of the wetland managers from Slovakia.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR</p>

<p>4.2.6 Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about the conservation and wise use of wetlands, also with regard to South-South cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p>
<p>Refer to 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 4.2.1-4 above. Has your country specifically undertaken activities as indicated here which could be deemed to be South-South cooperation? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening? Lack of capacity</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details. [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Support SNC SR with necessary staff and funds</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR</p>

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 5
TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF ALL SITES INCLUDED IN THE
LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR LIST)**

Operational Objective 5.1: To maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites.

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>5.1.1 Define and apply the precise measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, in the light of the working definitions of ecological character adopted at the 6th COP (1996) and amended by by Resolution VII.10 of COP7. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, each CP will seek to ensure that the measures required to maintain the ecological character of at least half of the Ramsar sites have been documented.
Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites in your country been documented? Yes
If No , what has prevented this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? Yes
AND: Has a copy been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? No
Proposed national actions and targets: Document and evaluate results of the previous management of Ramsar Sites and in accordance to this review develop or adjust management plans for these sites.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR, ASC
<p>5.1.2 Conduct regular internal reviews to identify potential changes in ecological character, with input from local communities and other stakeholders; take remedial action and/or nominate the site for the Montreux Record. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to 2.5.2 - In the COP7 National Reports, 35 CPs reported Ramsar sites where some change in ecological character had occurred or was likely to occur in the near future. This was true for 115 sites in 33 CPs, and two other CPs stated that changes had occurred to all or some of their sites. In COP7 Resolution VII.12, these CPs were urged to consider nominating these sites to the Montreux Record. Global Target – In the period up to COP8, promote the application and benefits of the Montreux Record as a tool of the Convention through disseminating reports and publications on the positive outcomes achieved by a number of countries which have now removed sites from the Record.
Refer to 2.7.2 and 2.8.3 also. Are regular internal reviews undertaken to identify factors potentially altering the ecological character of Ramsar sites? No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? These reviews are prepared unregularly and partially. More effective and regular review process should be considered as a part of management planning procedure.

If Yes , have these reviews detected situations where changes in ecological character have occurred or may occur? Yes/No
If Yes , for how many sites was this case, which sites were they, and what actions were taken to address these threats? Please elaborate.
AND: Were these sites where change in ecological character was detected, or may occur, added to the Montreux Record? No
If No , why not? We are still collecting all data on the Danube Floodplains Ramsar Site to be proposed for inclusion to the Montreaux Record.
Proposed national actions and targets: Systematic review of proposed objectives and factors altering achievement of such objectives will be a part of the management planning guidelines which are under preparation and will be used in the future.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR

5.1.3 Review and regularly update the Montreux Record (Resolutions 5.4, 5.5, and VI.1). [CPs, STRP, Bureau]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - CPs with Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record, and for which Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) have been completed prior to COP7, are expected to have taken the actions necessary to warrant their removal from the Record before COP8.
For those CPs with a site, or sites, included in the Montreux Record, and for which RAMs (previously Management Guidance Procedures, MGPs) have been completed, have all actions recommended by the RAM been undertaken for each site? No Reply
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , have these actions resulted in a restoration of the ecological character? Yes/No
AND: If Yes , has the site been removed from the Montreux Record following the completion of the necessary questionnaire (COP6 Resolution VI.1)? Yes/No Additional comment?
Proposed national actions and targets: Complete the proposal for inclusion of the Danube Floodplains RS to the Montreaux Record.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR

Operational Objective 5.2: To develop and implement management plans for all Ramsar sites, consistent with the Convention's Guidelines on Management Planning and emphasizing involvement of local communities and other stakeholders.

Actions - Global and National Targets

5.2.3 Ensure that, by the 8th COP (2002), management plans or other mechanisms are in preparation, or in place, for at least half of the Ramsar sites in each Contracting Party, beginning with pilot programmes at selected sites with input from local communities and other stakeholders. [CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8, management plans will be in preparation, or in place, for at least three-quarters of the Ramsar sites in each CP and all CPs will seek to ensure that these are being implemented in full.**

Do all the Ramsar sites in your country have management plans **in place**? **No**

If **No**, how many sites do not have management plans in place and which sites are they? **Sur - draft, Latorica - draft, Danube Floodplains, Rudava River Valley, Domica - draft.**

If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. **Pariz Marshes, Senné Fishponds, Morava River Floodplains, Wetlands of the Orava Basin, Turiec Wetlands, Poiplie, Orava River and its Tributaries.**

For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they?

Non of these plans is fully implemented yet.

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done? **Lack of funds and trained site managers.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Finalize the management plans development for all Ramsar Sites and assign funds for their implementation.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR, ASC**

5.2.4 Promote the establishment and implementation of zoning measures related to larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves and other wetlands (Kushiro Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

For those sites where it is warranted, are zoning measures being used to regulate the activities allowed in different parts of the wetlands? **Yes**

If **No**, what is preventing these from being implemented? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **Pariz Marshes, Senné Fishponds, Sur, Latorica, Danube Floodplains, Morava River Floodplains, Wetlands of the Orava Basin, Turiec Wetlands, Poiplie, Orava River and its Tributaries**

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool? **Several Ramsar Sites in Slovakia, or their parts are protected as special protected sites with different levels of protection (there are together 5 levels of protection according to our legislation, the 5th is the strictest), that could be considered as zoning measures. Smaller RS are protected as reserves with the buffer zones, larger RS consists of several small-scale protected sites**

and their buffer zones (reserves, etc.) with the rest of the Ramsar Site designated as a part of larger Protected Landscape Area or without any special protection. From the viewpoint of the nature conservancy differentiation of protection is proven as appropriate tool for the protected sites management. Thus in some concrete cases it can not ensure the wise use of the site by itself and sites could be disturbed by adverse management practices (for example of forest management) or by illegal activities (in the case of the Danube Floodplains RS illegal gravel mining in the Danube river bed, fish poachery).

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases of zoning for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Establish zoning measures as integrated part of the management planning procedure.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR**

5.2.5 Promote the establishment and implementation of strict protection measures for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

- **This aspect of Ramsar site management was not considered in the COP7 National Reports and will have to be reviewed in time for COP8.**
- **Global Target - Provide for consideration at COP8 detailed information on the implementation of strict protection measures at small and/or sensitive sites.**

For those sites where it is warranted, are strict protection measures being used to regulate the activities allowed in different parts of the wetlands? **Yes**

If **No**, what is preventing these from being implemented? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **Sur, Danube Floodplains, Morava River Floodplains, Wetlands of the Orava Basin, Orava River and its Tributaries, Pariz Marshes Turicc Wetlands, Poiplic, Domica, Latorica, Senne Fishponds**

AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool? **Yes, in these concrete cases.**

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Review of effectiveness of existing protection will be also a part of the management plans which will propose changes or maintenance of the existing status. According to adjustment of the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection new zonation principle is proposed to be used also for the Ramsar sites.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR**

Operational Objective 5.3: To obtain regularly updated information on wetlands of international importance, in accordance with the approved standard format.

Actions - Global and National Targets

5.3.1 Ensure that the maps and descriptions of Ramsar sites submitted to the Ramsar Database by the Contracting Parties at the time of designation are complete, in the approved standard format of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, and provide sufficient detail to be used for management planning and monitoring of ecological character. [CPs, Bureau, Wetlands International]

5.3.2 Ensure that missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of listed sites are submitted as a matter of priority and in the shortest possible time, as a means to enhance the relevance and use of the Ramsar Database. [CPs]

- **Global Target – By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites for which appropriate sites descriptions and maps are still required.**

If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided a Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet in the approved format, with a suitable map, in one of three working languages of the Convention, has this now be rectified? **Yes**

If **No**, what is preventing this from being done? **Adjusted RIS for the Latorica and Morava River Floodplains RS requested by the Bureau are just finalized. Problematic is the adjustment of the requested map for the Rudava River Valley RS, that is located within the military training area Zahorie. Originally the border of the RS was drawn into the copy of the forest parcel map following the borders of the forest parcels. For RS map adjustment it is essential to obtain the latest version of such forest parcel map and to digitise the borders of the forest parcels. Then it could be overlaid with the general map containing habitat information and the border of the RS could be drawn in. Despite negotiations with sector of the Ministry of Defence of the SR, the updated forest parcel maps in the appropriate scale were not released for this purpose (they are subject of the military secrecy).**

5.3.3 Ensure that data sheets on Ramsar Sites are regularly updated, at least for every second meeting of the COP, so that they can be used for reviewing the achievements of the Convention, for future strategic planning, for promotional purposes, and for site, regional and thematic analysis (Resolution VI.13). [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]

- **Global Target - By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites designated before 31 December 1990 for which updated site descriptions are still required.**

If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided an updated Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet for sites designated before 31 December 1990, has this now be rectified? **Does Not Apply**

If **No**, what is preventing this from being done? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 5.4: To keep under review the content and structure, as well as the hardware and software, of the Ramsar Database, in order to ensure that it retains its relevance in light of evolving information and communication technology.

Actions - Global and National Targets

5.4.1 Assess data currently available in the database and identify any gaps in the data provided by Contracting Parties. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]

Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.

5.4.4 Support the establishment of national wetland databases compatible with the Ramsar Database and develop a common protocol to facilitate exchange and interaction. [CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland databases in over 50 CPs which are accessible globally.**

Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? **Yes**

If **No**, what is preventing such a database being established? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? **Yes**

If **No**, why not? **Please elaborate.**

AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) **Yes**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **Key information from the database is available on the website of the SNC SR (www.sopsr.sk), in Slovak language.**

If **No**, why not?

AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) **No**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

If **No**, why not? **Database as well as inventory is not finished yet and is permanently updated.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Finalize the database and inventory by the end of 2005, update database available through the Internet, prepare CD-Rom with national wetland database. Because the owner of the database is the SZOPK, arrange and coordinate with the SZOPK further procedure of wetland inventory and database adjustment.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR, SZOPK**

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 6

TO DESIGNATE FOR THE RAMSAR LIST THOSE WETLANDS WHICH MEET THE CONVENTION'S CRITERIA, ESPECIALLY WETLAND TYPES STILL UNDER-REPRESENTED IN THE LIST AND TRANSFRONTIER WETLANDS

Operational Objective 6.1: To identify those wetlands that meet the Ramsar criteria, and to give due consideration to their designation for the List.

Actions - Global and National Targets
6.1.1 Develop, regularly update -- especially in the case of Africa -- and disseminate regional wetland directories, which identify potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Partners]
Refer to 6.1.2 and 6.2.1. Does there exist for your country a directory or similar listing of sites which are potential Ramsar sites? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such a list of sites being prepared? Please elaborate.
If Yes , when was it prepared and was it prepared taking into consideration the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.11)? Done at the end of the year 1999, published in the beginning of 2000 Yes
AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? 2 potential Ramsar Sites
Proposed national actions and targets: Update national wetland directory with special emphasis on the identification of potential Ramsar Sites
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR in cooperation with SZOPK

6.1.2 Establish, update and disseminate national scientific inventories of wetlands which identify potential Ramsar sites and wetlands of provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland inventories completed by over 50 CPs and the information housed in databases (Refer to 5.4.4) which are accessible globally
Does there exist a comprehensive national inventory (as opposed to a directory of important sites; see 6.1.1 above) for your country? No
If No , what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared? Lack of funds and capacity, uncleared competence and priority. Existing wetland inventory was managed by the NGO Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protectors (SZOPK) and done by volunteers for small amount of money. Nowadays it is not possible for the same amount of money obtain higher quality scientific data required for management planning and

monitoring purposes. The inventory is now running partly as a task of SNC SR regional offices, but they has not enough capacity for it, so it is not considered as their priority. Partly it is still running as a volunteer work. SZOPK currently has not sufficient capacity for inventory continuation/completion, too. There are of course data gaps, some habitat types are not well covered by the inventory (especially mountain wetlands). Quality of information is various. At the same time grassland and peatland inventories are running coordinated by DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology.

If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are. We do not have exact overview if in some parts of the country the inventory could be already considered as completed, but on the other hand from all of 72 districts only in 2 districts there are neither partial results of the wetland inventory.

AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory? 2005

If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized?

AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes

If No, what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.

Has national/subnational inventory information been provided to the Ramsar Bureau (if it is not accessible through the Internet)? Yes

Proposed national actions and targets: Finalize the inventory, update information sheets and database, update website with the new information gathered.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR in cooperation with Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protectors (SZOPK), SNC SR

6.1.4 Support the work of Wetlands International and IUCN in updating information on population sizes of waterfowl and other taxa, and utilize these data in identification of potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Does your country regularly gather waterbird population data? Yes

If No, what prevents this from happening? Please elaborate.

If Yes, is this information provided to Wetlands International? Yes

If No, why not? Please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets: Establish specialized research and monitoring centre within the SNC SR or transform one of the existing institutes for purposes of nature conservation research and monitoring services.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR, MED SR

Operational Objective 6.2: To increase the area of wetland designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, particularly for wetland types that are under-represented either at global or national level.

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>6.2.1 Promote the designation for the Ramsar List of an increased area of wetland, through listing by new Contracting Parties, and through further designations by current Contracting Parties, in particular developing countries, in order to ensure the listing of a representative range of wetland types in the territory of each Contracting Party and in each Ramsar region. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - As proposed in the Strategic Framework, the short-term target of the Ramsar List should be to achieve the designation of 2000 sites, in accordance with the systematic approach advocated therein, by the time of COP9 in the year 2005. In addition, by COP8 the target is to have at least 20 CPs that are applying a systematic approach to site selection nationally.
Refer also to 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.2.3. Has your country taken a systematic approach to identifying its future Ramsar sites (as promoted in the <i>Strategic Framework for the List – COP7 Resolution VII.11</i>)? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this included considerations to ensure the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this resulted in the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes/No
Proposed national actions and targets: see 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 above
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, SNC SR, SZOPK
<p>6.2.3 Give priority attention to the designation of new sites from wetland types currently under-represented on the Ramsar List, and in particular, when appropriate, coral reefs, mangroves, sea-grass beds and peatlands. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Targets - The long-term targets are set by the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.11). Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived [by the STRP].
Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this included designations of wetlands including:

- coral reefs? **No**
- mangroves? **No**
- seagrass beds? **No**
- peatlands? **Yes**
- intertidal wetlands? (COP7 Resolution VII.21) **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **see 6.1.1, 6.1.2 and 6.2.1 above**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR, SZOPK**

6.2.4 Pay particular attention to the designation of new sites currently enjoying no special conservation status at national level, as a first step towards developing measures for their conservation and wise use. [CPs]

- **This question was not considered in the National Reports for COP7. It will be included for consideration in the NRs for COP8.**
- **Global Target - All CPs to consider this approach to ensuring the long-term conservation and wise use of wetlands that are subject to intense human use.**

Has your country designated wetland sites for the Ramsar List which previously had no special conservation status? **Yes**

If No, what has prevented this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

If Yes, please provide details. **This was the case of the following Ramsar Sites: Poiplie, Danube Floodplains, Rudava River Valley, part of the Turiec Wetlands**

AND: Are there plans for further such designations? **Yes**

If No, why not? **Please elaborate.**

If Yes, please elaborate. **Upcoming proposal for trilateral Ramsar Site on the upper Tisa river alluvium within the Slovakia will cover both protected parts and parts currently without any special protection.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Prepare all necessary data and maps for nomination of the Tisa River Alluvium (in the Slovakia the Latorica-Bodrog-Tisa proposed RS) for the Ramsar List. In the case of already existing RS increase the protection status via designation of special protected sites in current national categories. After approval of the amendment of Act on Nature and Landscape Protection ensure the sufficient protection of the Ramsar Sites using zoning measures.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR, ASC**

6.2.5 Consider as a matter of priority the designation of transfrontier wetland sites. [CPs]

- **The issue of transfrontier or shared wetlands is addressed in the *Guidelines for***

international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (COP7 Resolution VII.19) and the Guidelines for integrating wetlands into river basin management (COP7 Resolution VII.18).

- **Global Target - By COP8, for there to be over 50 transfrontier wetland sites designated under the Convention.**

For those CPs which ‘share’ wetlands with other CPs, have all suitable sites been designated under the Convention? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this action being taken? **Designation of the trilateral Ramsar site in the upper Tisa River region is under preparation. Slovakia has elaborated the proposal (RIS) for its part of the trilateral site, which will consist of already existing Ramsar Site Latorica enlarged by adjacent section of the Bodrog River and its alluvium and second part of the new RS will be the Slovak section of the Tisa River with the inundation area. Also map of slovak part of the proposed site was produced. Now our partners in Ukraine and Hungary have to deal with the matter.**

If **Yes**, are there arrangements in place between the CPs sharing the wetland for the cooperative management of the site? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented such arrangements from being introduced? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Increase the communication between the neighbouring countries with aim to designate transboundary Ramsar Sites and set up cooperative management tools.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, MFA SR, MA SR, SNC SR in cooperation with NGOs**

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 7

TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND MOBILIZE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION AND WISE USE IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND AGENCIES, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL

Operational Objective 7.1: To identify international and/or regional needs for managing shared wetlands and shared catchments, and develop and implement common approaches.

Actions - Global and National Targets

7.1.1 Identify transfrontier wetlands of international importance (including those within shared catchment/river basins), and encourage preparation and implementation of joint plans for such sites, using a “catchment approach” (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

Refer to 6.2.5 above.

7.1.2 Encourage twinning of transfrontier wetlands, and of other wetlands with similar characteristics, and use successful cases for illustrating the benefits of international cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Both the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (COP7 Resolution VII.19) and the *Convention's Outreach Programme* (COP7 Resolution VII.9) promote site twinning as a mechanism for accelerating the flow of knowledge and assistance and promoting training opportunities.**
- **Global Target - By COP8 to have in place over 100 Ramsar site twinning arrangements. The Bureau will keep a record of which sites are twinned and make this available through the Convention's Web site.**

Does your country have Ramsar sites twinned with those in other CPs? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved. **Morava River Floodplains (Slovakia, Austria);**

AND: Do these arrangements involve:

- sharing of information resources? **Yes**
- transfer of financial resources? **Yes**
- exchanges of personnel? **Yes**
- other activities? **cooperation between Austrian NGO Distelverein and WWF Austria, Czech Veronica and Slovak DAPHNE - Institute for Applied Ecology**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Implementation of the ratified Memorandum on Understanding for Declaration of a Trilateral Ramsar Platform "Morava-Dyje Floodplains"**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, MFA SR, MA SR, SNC SR, NGOs**

Operational Objective 7.2: To strengthen and formalize linkages between Ramsar and other international and/or regional environmental conventions and agencies, so as to advance the achievement of shared goals and objectives relating to wetland species or issues.

Actions - Global and National Targets

7.2.1 Participate in, or initiate, consultations with related conventions to foster information exchange and cooperation, and develop an agenda for potential joint actions. [SC, Bureau]

- **Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention to Combat Desertification which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.**

Refer also to 4.2.1. Does there exist a mechanism (such as an inter-ministry committee) at the

national level with the charter of coordinating/integrating the implementation of international/regional conventions/treaties to which your country is a signatory? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? Please elaborate.
If Yes , describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider. Governmental "Board for the Sustainable Development", Slovak National Committee for the Man and Biosphere UNESCO program, further bilateral committees on environment and nature protection (Poland, Hungary) based on bilateral agreements, Commission for International Waters.
AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please elaborate. These are proven to be effective for sharing of information on activities, methods, plans and opportunities for cooperation and development.
Proposed national actions and targets: Intesify work of governmental bodies and improve their operation
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR, MA SR

7.2.2 Prepare project proposals together with other conventions and partner organizations, and submit them jointly to potential funding agencies. [CPs, SC, Bureau, Partners]

For eligible countries, have there been project proposals prepared and submitted to funding agencies which were intended to assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, were such proposals successful in gaining funds? **Yes - Some of them were succesful (funded through GEF, PHARE, Ramsar SGF, Wetlands International).**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Propose agri-environmental projects for provisional NATURA 2000 sites (including Ramsar sites), possibly use the funds from the financial tools of the European Commission - SAPARD, LIFE III, bilateral agreements.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, MA SR, SNC SR, NGOs, private sector**

7.2.3 Strengthen cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular as regards inclusion of wetland concerns in national biodiversity strategies, and planning and execution of projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - To see the Joint Work Plan implemented in full and resulting in cooperative implementation of both Conventions at the international, national and local levels.**

Further to 7.2.1 above: Has there been a review **completed** of the Joint Work Plan between Ramsar and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish the areas of priority for cooperative implementation of these Conventions? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented such a review being done? **Action Plan for implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy in Slovakia for 1998-2010 (adopted by the Resolution of the Government of the SR Nr. 515 from 4th August 1998) consists of the tasks supporting implementation of the Ramsar Convention and it is currently being updated. From the funds allocated for its implementation specific projects of wetland conservation are funded.**

If **Yes**, what are the areas established as priorities for national cooperation between Ramsar and CBD implementing agencies/focal points? **Both conventions have the same administrative authority (MEN SR) and implementation agency (SNC SR), those together defines priorities, such as invasive species control, habitat and species management, assessment of impacts of the water works on biodiversity, inventories etc.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Finalize review and adjustment of the Action Plan for Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy; policy support for appropriate implementation of both Ramsar and CBD and their Joint Work Plan.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SNC SR**

7.2.4 Develop cooperation with the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO's Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), especially as regards wetlands designated as World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and/or Ramsar sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with the Man and the Biosphere Programme, leading to Joint Work Plans with the MAB Programme and with the World Heritage Convention which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local, levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.5 Enhance Ramsar's contribution to international cooperation on shared wetland species, notably through cooperative arrangements with the Convention on Migratory Species, flyway agreements, networks and other mechanisms dealing with migratory species (Recommendation 6.4). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **The *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* propose an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CMS (COP7 Resolution VII.19)**
- **Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, regional and national and local levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.6 Develop Ramsar's contribution to wildlife trade issues affecting wetlands, through increased interaction with CITES. [Bureau]

- **The *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* propose an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CITES (COP7 Resolution VII.19)**
- **Global Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with CITES, leading to a Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which sees cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above

7.2.7 Initiate links with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in view of the potential impacts on wetlands of climate change. [CP, Bureau]

- **Global Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with UNFCCC, leading to a Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.8 Extend cooperation with conventions and agencies concerned with conservation and wise use of wetlands at regional level, and in particular: with the European Community, as regards application of its Habitats Directive to wetlands, and adoption and application of measures like the Habitats Directive for wetlands outside the states of the European Union; with the Council of Europe (Bern) Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats as regards the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy; with the Barcelona Convention and Mediterranean Action Plan in relation to the MedWet initiative; with the Western Hemisphere Convention; with UNEP programmes, in particular the Regional Seas Conventions; and with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). [CPs, Bureau]

- **Global Target - With the European Commission and SPREP, develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation and prepare and implement a Joint Work Plan. For Medwet, secure the long-term funding base for this important initiative and continue to develop new programmes of regional action. For the others referred to, and others which are appropriate, develop an appropriate working relationship.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.9 Develop relationships with other specialized agencies that deal with wetland-related issues, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the World Water Council (COP7 Resolution VI.23). [Bureau]

- **Global Target - To progress to closer working relations with these and other relevant initiatives, as appropriate.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

Operational Objective 7.3: To ensure that the development assistance community, and multinational corporations, follow improved wetland practices such as the Wise Use Guidelines in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition.

Actions - Global and National Targets

7.3.2 Work with multilateral and bilateral development agencies and multinational corporations towards a full recognition of wetland values and functions (Recommendation 4.13), and assist them to improve their practices in favor of wetland conservation and wise use taking account of the *Guidelines for Aid Agencies for Improved Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Wetlands*, published by OECD's Development Assistance Committee (Recommendation 6.16). [Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - At the Bureau level, to consider ways and means to increase its ability to work more systematically in this area, so as to increase the level of donor agency support for wetland conservation and wise use activities, and to see an increasing number of multinational corporations adopting voluntary codes of conduct for protecting wetlands.**

While this action is directed at the Bureau principally, CPs also have a role to play in this area; refer to 7.4.2 below with respect to bilateral development agencies. For the multilateral donors: Is your government represented on the governing bodies or scientific advisory bodies of the multilateral donors, or the GEF? **No**

If **Yes**, has this person/agency/ministry been briefed on the obligations of your country under the Ramsar Convention, and the relevant expectations raised of each CP by the Strategic Plan and COP decisions? **Yes/No**

Additional comments?

7.3.3 Interact with multilateral development agencies and through bilateral development programmes, to assist developing countries in meeting their Ramsar obligations, and report on actions taken and results achieved (Recommendation 5.5). [CPs]

Refer to 7.4.2 to 7.4.6 below.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Cooperate with OECD, provide information on Slovak knowledge and experience in the field of the wetland inventory and preparation of databases. After completion of the Management Planning Guidelines for Sites of International Importance and its testing on the pilot sites (planned by the end of 2002) enable all CPs the access to information on our approach and experience with implementation of management planning process and mentioned guidelines.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, MFA SR**

Operational Objective 7.4: To obtain funds to fulfil obligations contracted under the Convention, notably for developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition.

Actions - Global and National Targets
7.4.1 Allocate funds for conservation and wise use of wetlands in the budget of each Contracting Party. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - By COP8, to see allocations for wetlands made by all CPs and also for specific wetland programmes in more than 40 CPs.
Does your government allocate funds for wetland conservation and wise use activities? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a separate allocation to a Wetlands Programme (or similar)? Yes • As part of a broader allocation for the environment? Yes • As part of the programmes maintained by a range of Ministries? Yes
AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds? Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic Nr. 664/2000 on the Conception of a New Manner for Financing the Protection of Environment and timeframe of concrete measures in coherence to the requirements of the EU for the quality of environment as well as results of screening of environment sector, Action Plan for Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and National Wetland Policy and its Action Plan. Board of the MEN SR for Environmental Projects evaluates projects and defines priorities.
Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? Yes Action Plan for Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy of Slovakia, Action Plan for National Wetland Policy for 2000-2002.
Proposed national actions and targets: Allocate funds in accordance to tasks and timeframe of implementation of the relevant action plans.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR

7.4.2 Include projects for conservation and wise use of wetlands in development plans funded by development assistance agencies, and ensure the latter consult the Ramsar administrative authority in each Contracting Party. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - To see this trend continue such that all eligible CPs are receiving donor support for a range of major wetland-related projects by the time of COP8. In particular, to see this support being provided, as appropriate, for the priority areas of policy development, legal and institutional reviews, inventory and assessments, the designation and management of Ramsar sites, training and communications.

If your country has a bilateral development assistance programme, does it allocate funds for wetland-related projects on a regular basis? Yes/No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Such development assistance programmes are now in place with the governments of Denmark and Netherlands. The funds are not released regularly and not only for the wetland issues.
If Yes , are these projects subjected to rigorous impact assessment procedures, which take account of the full environmental, social and economic values of wetlands? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is the Ramsar Administrative Authority consulted during the screening and assessment phases of the projects? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
AND: Is there a formal consultative process in place (such as a National Ramsar Committee) which ensures that the development assistance agency is fully aware of the Ramsar Convention obligations of the country with respect to international cooperation? Yes
If No , why not?
If Yes , please elaborate. National Ramsar Committee is only an advisory board of the minister of environment, without concrete competence in the field of evaluation of the development assistance, all projects have to be approved by all divisions of MEN SR and by the minister of environment, so by the Division of Nature and Landscape Protection which is the Ramsar administrative authority in Slovakia, too.
Proposed national actions and targets: Develop the mechanism for projects consultation within the Slovak Ramsar Committee.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR

7.4.4 Mobilize direct funding support from multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies to assist developing countries and countries whose economy is in transition, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands and in implementation of the present Strategic Plan. [CPs. Bureau]

- **Global Target - By COP8 for all the bilateral donors from appropriate CPs to have funds earmarked for wetland projects, and for all of these CPs to have in place mechanisms for consultation between the development assistance agency and their Ramsar Administrative Authority.**

Refer to 7.4.2 above

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 8
TO PROVIDE THE CONVENTION WITH THE REQUIRED INSTITUTIONAL
MECHANISMS AND RESOURCES**

Operational Objective 8.1: To maximize achievement of Ramsar's mission and objectives by evaluating and, if necessary, modifying the Convention's institutions and management structures.

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.1.9 Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, governmental and non-governmental organizations, key stakeholders, indigenous people, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to 4.1.2.
8.1.10 Review the designated national focal point in each Contracting Party, with a view to increasing involvement in the work of the Convention from all agencies concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]
Refer to 4.1.1

Operational Objective 8.2: To provide the financial resources required to carry out Ramsar activities.

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.2.1 Pay invoiced contributions to the Convention's core budget in full, and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - During this triennium to achieve full and timely payment of all dues by all CPs. The SC to prepare a proposal on sanctions for non-payment for consideration at COP8 (COP7 Resolution VII.28).
Is your country completely up to date with its annual contributions to the core budget of the Convention? Yes
If No , what is the impediment to this being done? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: Pay invoiced contributions to the Convention's core budget in full, and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year and provide the voluntary contribution.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MEN SR

8.2.4 Give priority to funding for training programmes, education and public awareness work, development of the Ramsar Database, and the Convention's Communications Strategy. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - To secure the resources needed to establish regional training initiatives (like <i>Wetlands for the Future</i>) in other regions, to allow the Bureau to

progress the implementation of the Outreach Programme, and to support the proposed developments for the Ramsar Sites Database into a fully online and Web-based promotional and planning tool of the Convention.

Refer to 3.3.1 (Convention Outreach Programme), 4.2.4 (Wetlands for the Future).

Operational Objective 8.3: To maximize the benefits of working with partner organizations.

Actions - Global and National Targets

8.3.1 Strengthen cooperative planning mechanisms with the partners and improve communications and information exchange, including exchange of staff. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.2.1 and 4.1.2. Does your country include representatives of the Convention's official International Organisation Partners (BirdLife International, IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International) on its National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies, where they exist? **Yes**

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Encourage the membership of the SNC SR in the IUCN, improve the level of information on the work of the International Organisation Partners and their national representatives.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR, SRC, SNC SR**

Operational Objective 8.4: To secure at least one million US dollars per annum for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use (Resolutions 5.8 and VI.6) and to allocate these funds effectively.

Actions - Global and National Targets

8.4.1 Develop a strategy for securing at least one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, to be approved by the first full meeting of the Standing Committee after the 6th COP (1996) and proceed immediately to its implementation. [Bureau, SC, CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - To establish a mechanism to ensure one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (COP7 Resolution VII.28).**

Refer also to 8.2.4. For developed countries, do you provide additional voluntary contributions to support the Small Grants Fund? **No**

If **No**, what prevents this from happening? **Slovak Republic as a country with economy in transition has difficulties to finance its own nature conservation objectives and it still needs to use the additional external funds.**

If **Yes**, is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution?

Proposed national actions and targets: **Contribute to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund at least on occasional basis.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MEN SR**

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