



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

**National Reports to be submitted to the 10th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Republic of Korea, 28 October – 4 November 2008**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **31 March 2008**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org)

Introduction & background

1. This Ramsar COP10 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Republic of Korea, October/November 2008).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 35th meeting in February 2007, and its Decisions SC35-22, -23 and -24, this COP10 National Report Format has been significantly revised and simplified in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In particular this National Report Format provides a much smaller number (66) of implementation "indicator" questions, compared with the much larger suite of questions on all aspects of national implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 included in previous NRFs.
4. The COP10 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee (Decision SC35-24), certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) and CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention.
5. The 66 indicator questions are grouped under each of the implementation "Strategies" approved by the Parties at COP9 (Resolution IX.8) in the Convention's "A Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006 -2008 period" (www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_08_e.htm). The indicators have been selected so as to provide information on key aspects of the implementation of the Convention under each of its Strategies.
6. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply **additional information** concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.

The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention, and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's Web site.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
 - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) capture lessons/experience, so as to allow Parties to develop future action;
 - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention through Convention processes;
 - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable against their obligations under the Convention;
 - v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and plan for its future implementation and priorities; and
 - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. In addition, the data and information provided by Parties in their COP10 National Reports now have another important purpose, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation will provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP10 consideration.

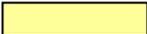
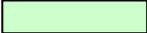
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each COP on the global and regional implementation, and progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at COP as a series of Information Papers including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 5);
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 6); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP9 DOCs 10-13);
 - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at COP. Examples at CO9 included:
 - Resolution IX.15, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
 - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC 15) and *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC 25);
 - iii) providing the source of time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention, included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (3rd edition, 2007); and
 - iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for the CBD for wetlands.

The structure of the COP10 National Report Format

12. In line with Standing Committee Decisions SC35-21 and SC35-22, the COP10 National Report Format is in three sections.
13. **Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.
14. **Section 2** is a "free-text" section in which to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.
15. **Section 3** provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy, and with a "free-text" section under each Strategy in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of the Strategy and its indicators.

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP10 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

16. All three Sections of the COP10 National Report Format should be filled in, in one of the Convention’s official languages (English, French, Spanish).
17. The deadline for submission of the completed National Report Format is **31 March 2008**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received from Parties after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP10.
18. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
19. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the COP10 NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since it is the experience of the Secretariat that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.
20. In order to assist Contracting Parties in their provision of such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the “Additional implementation information” fields.
21. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to, and between, each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information. All other parts of the form are locked.
22. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form, and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
23. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
24. For a “free-text” field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box. This is because within the “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes within the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
25. For each of the “Indicator questions” in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question asked in the indicator, but are in general of the form: “Yes”, “No”, “Partly”, “In progress”, etc.
26. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can provide this in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
27. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box, and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.

28. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given.
29. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP10NRF [Country] [date].
30. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by email, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, email: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
31. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP10 National Report.**
32. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP10 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: ARMENIA | |
| DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY | |
| Name of Administrative Authority: | Ministry of Nature Protection |
| Head of Administrative Authority - name and title: | Aram Harutyunyan, Minister |
| Mailing address: | Ministry of Nature Protection Government Building 3, Republic Square 0010 Yerevan, Armenia |
| Telephone/Fax: | +374 10 585469 / +374 10 585469 |
| Email: | interdpt@rambler.ru |
| DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS | |
| Name and title: | Karen Jenderedjian, PhD Head, Department of Animal Resources Management Agency of Bioresources Management |
| Mailing address: | Ministry of Nature Protection Government Building 3, Republic Square 0010 Yerevan, Armenia |
| Telephone/Fax: | +374 10 580711 / +374 10 527952 |
| Email: | jender@arminco.com |
| DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL) | |
| Name and title of focal point: | Karen Jenderedjian, PhD Head, Department of Animal Resources Management Agency of Bioresources Management |
| Name of organisation: | |
| Mailing address: | Ministry of Nature Protection Government Building 3, Republic Square 0010 Yerevan, Armenia |
| Telephone/Fax: | +374 10 580711 / +374 10 527952 |
| Email: | jender@arminco.com |
| DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS | |
| Name and title of focal point: | Ms. Ruzan Davtyan, Head, Department of International Cooperation |
| Name of organisation: | |
| Mailing address: | Ministry of Nature Protection Government Building 3, Republic Square 0010 Yerevan, Armenia |
| Telephone/Fax: | +374 10 585469 / +374 10 585469 |
| Email: | ruzikdav@rambler.ru |
| DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS | |
| Name and title: | Dr. Susanna Hakobyan, Senior Scientific Researcher of the Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of Armenian |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name of organisation: | Academy of Sciences / Board Member, Professional and Entrepreneurial Orientation Union |
| Mailing address: | 24d Marshal Baghramyan Avenue, room 908, 0019 Yerevan, Armenia |
| Telephone/Fax: | +374 10 5823830 / +374 10 523830 |
| Email: | susannahakob@rambler.ru |



SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP9 reporting):

A. What new steps have been taken to implement the Convention?

During reporting period, which covers April 2005 – March 2008:

- the project "Development, Formulation of Implementation Strategy, and the Launch of the National Wetland Policy in Armenia" funded from the Ramsar Convention's Small Grants Fund with money kindly provided by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, allows to start the preparation of National Wetland Policy.
- within the framework of abovementioned project the constituent meeting of the National Wetland Committee (NWC) was held in March 2008. Members of the NWC represents ministries, provincial administrations, organizations responsible for management of Ramsar sites, non-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private sector;
- Management Plan 2007–2011 of Sevan National Park (part of larger Lake Sevan Ramsar site) developed and approved on 18 January 2007 by the Government Decision N205-N within the framework of the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" Project funded by World Bank - Global Environment Facility. This Management Plan is to be used as a tool to guide the philosophy and direction of the management authority of Sevan National Park;
- in total EUR 2.2 million have been provided by the Ministry of Co-operation and Development (BMZ) of the Federal Republic of Germany to finance the establishment of Protected Areas on Armenia's Javakheti Plateau in the frames of Caucasus Initiative. In particular, National Park Arpi will establish in 2008 in order to protect among other landscapes wetlands, including Lake Arpi Ramsar site (Lake Arpi itself and adjacent lands), peatlands and wet meadows of upper stream of River Akhuryan, and Pond Ardenis. In its turn, National Park Arpi together with neighboring Georgian future bird sanctuaries, including wetlands (lakes Tabatskuri, Khanchali, Madatapa, adjacent peatlands) are expected to declare as transboundary Biosphere Reserve.
- Wetland Management Training Course for the Staff of Sevan National Park (Armenia) and Kolkheti National Park (Georgia), Sevan, Armenia, 24 September – 5 October 2007, funded by the Critical Environmental Partnership Fund was extremely effective. Both national parks are responsible for management of Ramsar sites: Lake Sevan and Kolkheti Wetlands, respectively. Moreover, in framework of this project excellent relationships have been established between the administrations of these national parks.
- Armenia has fully closed its membership dues to the Ramsar Convention.

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

- Establishment of the National Wetland Committee;
- Start of preparation of the National Wetland Policy paper;
- Ongoing designation of Khor Virap marsh as a Ramsar site and natural protected area;
- Approval and launch of Management Plan 2007–2011 of Sevan National Park, an administrative authority for management of LAke Sevan Ramsar site;
- Launch of the project Establishment of Protected Areas on Armenia's Javakheti Plateau funded by the BMZ/KfW, Germany;
- Extremely effective Wetland Management Training Course for the Staff of Sevan National Park (Armenia) and Kolkheti National Park (Georgia), Sevan, Armenia, 24 September – 5 October 2007.

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

- Delay with submission of updated RIS and maps for Lake Arpi and Lake Sevan Ramsar sites due to financial restraints (expected to close till COP10);
- Delay with submission of RIS and maps for newly designated Khor Virap Marsh Ramsar site due to financial restraints (expected to close till COP10);;
- Postponing for indefinite time of the UNDP/GEF funded PDF B project Restoration of Lake Gilli;
- Decline of commercial fishery in Lake Sevan Ramsar site as a consequence of unsustainable use: overfishing and poaching.

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

On national level

- Establishment of Lake Arpi National Park that will cover whole Lake Arpi Ramsar site as well as other adjacent wetlands;
- Strengthening management of Sevan National Park (1/3 of Lake Sevan Ramsar site) on the background of recently approved 2007-2011 Management Plan; enforcement of protection and sustainable use of Lake Sevan fish resources, especially of endemic species.
- Development, formulation of Implementation Strategy, and the launch of the National Wetland Policy paper

On international level:

- To continue to intensify efforts aimed on bilateral and multilateral international cooperation, especially in the fields of shared water basin management, establishment of protected areas on transboundary wetlands, and wetland training.

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

Armenia thanks the Ramsar Secretariat for permanent interest to the country, especially in successful efforts for additional fundraising for funding and implementation of the Ramsar SGF 2006 project "Development, Formulation of Implementation Strategy, and the Launch of the National Wetland Policy in Armenia" with money kindly provided by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and anticipate further cooperation and advice in the field of implementation of the National Wetland Policy in Armenia.

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

The WWF, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the IUCN already have shown their interest to Armenia.

The WWF recently has established the program office in Armenia.

The BirdLife International has defined finally the partner organization in the country. With support from the Wetlands International in frames of Global Peatlands Initiative identification of ecological and economical values and threats of Armenia's Peatlands has been made.

The IUCN recently has established in 2006 the regional program office in Tbilisi, Georgia. Water has always been a matter of special interest and Armenia anticipate cooperation with new partner, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

G. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the "Biodiversity cluster" (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

Through active cooperation, in particular within the recently established National Wetland Committee.

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

Through inclusion of the Ramsar objectives in appropriate policy documents.

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

No

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box.
2. If you wish to add any additional information on either one or more of the specific indicators for each strategy, and/or for other aspects of the national implementation of this strategy, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions for each Strategy.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. So as to assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP9, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP9 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1: *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} | A - Yes |
| 1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6} | C - Partly |
| 1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed] | C - For some sites |
| 1.1.4 If the answer is “Yes” in 1.1.3, does this information indicate that the need to address adverse change in the ecological character of wetlands is now greater, the same, or less than in the previous triennium, for: a) Ramsar sites b) wetlands generally | A - Greater A - Greater |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.1.1 – 1.1.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.1.1. wetland inventories has been done in frames of different projects funded by different organizations:

- Identification of Ecological and Economical Values and Threats of Armenia's Peatlands: a Framework for Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use funded by the Global Peatland Initiative (2003) [Outputs: a) Detailed inventory of peatlands based on the overview of peatlands diversity, distribution, values and threats throughout the country.]
- Ecologo-economical Valuation of Armenian Wetlands: a Step Towards the Elaboration of the National Wetland Policy funded by the Ramsar Convention's Small Grants Fund (March 2000 – March 2002) [Outputs: a) The List of Armenian Wetlands that include 24 types of inland wetlands, total 255; b) The List of Armenian Wetland Vertebrate Species; c) ecological and socio-economic survey on 6 typical wetland areas situated in different regions and at different altitudes: Armash Fishponds (Ararat Valley, 800 m a. s. l.), Lori Valley Relict Ponds (Northern Region lowlands, 1500 m a. s. l.), Lake Arpi (Northern Region highlands, 2023 m a. s. l.), Noradus Fishponds (Sevan Basin lowlands, 1900 m a. s. l.), Madina Valley Floodplain (Sevan Basin highlands, 2280 m a. s. l.) and Lake Gazana (Southern Region highlands, 3590 m a. s. l.); d) identified wetlands that are of international, national and local importance and need a special conservation status: 1/ Lake Arpi Ramsar site (3139 ha, 2023 m a. s. l., Northern Region) for supporting the largest world colony of endemic Armenian Gull, abundance of waterfowl, including globally threatened species; for its botanical importance, supporting several species rare in Armenia; 2/ Lake Ardenis (10 ha, 2040 m a. s. l., Northern Region) as a unique example of a natural high-mountain pond found within the Caucasus biogeographic region, for enormous high bird biodiversity and for support to populations of a number of rare plant species; 3/ Poqr Vedi Marshes (351 ha, 820 m a. s. l., Ararat Valley) for regularly support of the number of waterbird species, which are rare, globally or regionally endangered (Pygmy Cormorant, Marbled Teal, Great White Egret, Glossy Ibis, Black-winged Stilt); 4/ Armash Fishponds (ca. 1,000 ha, Ararat Valley, 805 m a. s. l.) as an important nesting area and migration stopover for many species of waterfowl. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded in Armash Fishponds since they were established. Several species of special concern are nested at the ponds: Pygmy Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Marbled Teal, White-headed Duck, Little Crake, Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Stone-Curlew, etc.; 5/ Relict Ponds and Mires of Lori Upland (ca. 600 ha, Northern Region, 1500 m a. s. l.) are unique refuge for remnants of Glacier Period in the South Caucasus Region: *Salvinia natans*, *Nymphaea alba*, *N. candida*, *Nymphoides peltata*, *Carex bohemica*, *C. vaginata*, *C. appropinquata*, *C. elata*, *Scolochloa festucacea*, *Utricularia intermedia*, *U. minor*, *Elatine alsinastrum*, *Veronica acutellata*, *Peplis alternifolia*, *Sparganium minimum*, *Scirpus supinus*]
- Implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan in Management of Wetlands in Sevan National Park funded by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (December 1999 – December 2000, closed) [Outputs: a) The following wetlands had been recognized of special national importance within the territory of Sevan National Park: Lchashen Cove (3100 ha) as one of three and the shallowest coves of Lake Sevan, which support spawning and nursing of number of fish species and its great recreational value; Gull Islets (10 ha) as the second breeding site for the world population of endemic Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*) after Lake Arpi (Armenia), and the only in the basin of Lake Sevan; Noradus Fish Ponds (30 ha) as an example of scientific importance for better understanding natural development and succession processes in the newly created high-mountain wetlands; Lake Lichk (30 ha) as the most important breeding site for dozen species of ducks, grebes and coot in the basin of Lake Sevan; Madina Valley Floodplain (1000 ha) as important breeding area for many species of waders, and resting and foraging site for migrating flocks of cranes; Lake Gilli (600 ha) as historically the most important inland wetland between Caspian and Black seas for dozen species of breeding and migrating birds; b) The studies confirmed main conclusions of previous Ramsar SGF project that the negative influence of human activities on the wetlands in the Basin of

Lake Sevan is expressed in (by the order of the level of influence): extensive exploitation of the water resources of Lake Sevan, wrong water-level management, (over)grazing, hay-mowing, firewood collection including felling, factor of disturbance, (over)fishery, point and non-point pollution; c) long term (draft) management plans for 6 wetlands: Lchashen Cove, Gull Islets, Noradus Fish Ponds, Lake Lichk, Madina Valley Floodplain, and Lake Gillij

- Inventory of Armenian Ramsar sites: in Search of Ways for Restoration of the Lost and Rehabilitation of Degraded Wetlands, especially as Waterfowl Habitat project funded by the Ramsar Convention's Small Grants Fund (April 1998 – March 2000)

1.1.2. Most information is available in English and additional finances required for translation into mother language.

1.1.3. The status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands are described in the reports on projects mentioned above under paragraph 1.1.1.

1.1.4. Below brief assessment of trends of main identified threats to wetlands is given for the last 3 years:

i. Water loss

Wetlands and large fishponds for Ciprinidae with soft bottom and emergent vegetation have commonly been drained mainly in Ararat Valley to enlarge the area of concrete fish breeding pools for Salmonids, which brought to reduction of breeding and foraging habitats for waterfowl [GREATER].

Another type of water loss was artificial increase of the outflow from Lake Sevan; during the last 3 years the water level was increased on ca. 1 m [Less].

ii. Water balance disturbance

Turning of water from Pond Ardenis to the Village Ardenis for cattle watering purpose made impossible breeding of Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) [GREATER].

iii. Soil deterioration

Exposure of wetland soils to drying in Ararat Valley brought to their salination. At present the area of lands exposed to salination is 15000 ha, i. e. the same as 3 years before.

iv. Soil erosion

Soil erosion rates on riverbanks of tributaries of Lake Sevan situated on the soft sandy soils of the lake's former bottom: River Dzknaget, River Gavaraget, River Tsakqar, River Lichk and River Masrik are the same as 3 years before.

v. Sedimentation

Although sedimentation rates of Lake/reservoir Arpi are the same as 3 years before, currently sediments filled up most part of net storage volume with affects significantly on ichthyofauna [GREATER].

vi. Mudflows

The frequency of mudflows occurrence on rivers remains the same as 3 years before.

vii. Waterlogging

The territories under the waterlogging in Ararat Valle deceased from 400 to 200 ha around Metsamor Marsh in Armavir Marz [Less].

viii. Pollution

The discharge of industrial pollutants, domestic sewerage and agricultural run-off into wetlands seems, increases due to activation of mining industry and intensive agriculture [GREATER]. Meanwhile the oxygen concentrations in the water Lake Sevan in some extend decreased during the last triennium, which could be a sign of decreased pollution rates [Less].

Dumping of garbage became even greater problem for urban wetlands (Yerevanyan Reservoir, Pond Komsomolskoe, Pond Vardashen, River Getar in Yerevan) [GREATER].

ix. Over-exploitation

Livestock overgrazing on the Lake Lichk area brought to further degradation of vegetation and serious deterioration of the waterfowl habitats.

Due to uncontrolled fishery and poaching in Lake Sevan the commercial fish stocks has been completely destroyed. Yearly catches decreased from 700 to 100 tones, and the whitefish was replaces by Crucian Carp [GREATER].

x. Factor of disturbance

New construction activities on the shoreline of Lake Sevan and increasing people access in the wetland areas influenced adversely on the waterfowl, especially near Town Sevan [GREATER].

xi. Deforestation

This threat became almost insignificant during the last triennium [Less].

xii. Invasive species

There is no evident expansion of the territory occupied by alien and invasive wetland species, such as Crucian Carp and Muskrat; they areas remain the same as 3 years before.

xiii. Health problems

The epidemiological and epizootic situation on wetlands of Armenia became much better. No events of malaria, cholera and dysentery had been registered during the last 3 years [Less].

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

STRATEGY 1.2: *Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supranational policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied, where possible specifying the appropriate policy instrument(s) in each Contracting Party which ensures wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1.2.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {2.1.1} [If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in Additional implementation information] | C - In preparation |
| 1.2.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {2.1.2} | B - No |
| 1.2.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development (including National Poverty Reduction Plans called for by the WSSD and water resources management and water efficiency plans)? {2.1.2} | C - Partly |
| 1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed? | C - Partly |
| 1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2} | A - Yes |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.2.1 – 1.2.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.2.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.2.1. The Main Objective of the project “Development, Formulation of Implementation Strategy, and the Launch of the National Wetland Policy in Armenia” funded from the Ramsar Convention’s Small Grants Fund with money kindly provided by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, is the official launch of the National Wetland Policy. At this stage an overview of existing wetland policies, strategies, action plans of different countries, adopted or drafts is in preparation.

To resolve the Main Objective the following Operational Objectives should be achieved:

- To define and involve key stakeholders and on this basis to (re-)establish National Wetland Committee (Operational Objective /O.O./ 18.1).
- To enhance communication and coordination among government agencies and promote involvement of non-governmental organizations, local communities (O.O. 6.1) and private sector (O.O. 7.1) in wetland management issues.
- To describe the extent (O.O. 1.1) and assess current and temporal perspective conditions (O.O. 1.2) of wetland resources at provincial scale in order to close informational gaps to the Ramsar Secretariat (O.O. 10.2).
- To formulate the implementation strategy and establish management objectives (O.O. 11.1) of the National Wetland Policy.
- To raise public awareness campaign for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation (O.O. 9.1) and dissemination of popular brochures and leaflets advocating incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use principle and the removal of perverse incentives (O.O. 8.1).
- To adopt officially National Wetland Policy (O.O. 2.1).

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.3: *Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defence, climate change mitigation, food security, poverty reduction, cultural heritage, and scientific research, with a focus on under-represented ecosystem types, through developing and disseminating methodology to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1.3.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar sites? {3.3.1} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in the Additional implementation information below, the year of assessment and from where or from whom this information can be obtained] | A - Yes |
| 1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4} | A - Yes |
| 1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1} | C - Partly |
| 1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3} | C - Partly |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.3.1 – 1.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.3.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.3.1. In 2000-2001 in frames of project Ecologo-economical Valuation of Armenian Wetlands: a Step Towards the Elaboration of the National Wetland Policy funded (CHF 40,000) by the Ramsar

Convention's Small Grants Fund. Full report is available from the Ramsar Secretariat. According to this study the total value of Armenian wetlands estimated around CHF 400 million per year or CHF 250 per ha. The latter is comparable with a crop field or a meadow.

1.3.2. In frames of project "Environmental Management and Poverty Alleviation" funded by the WorldBank is significantly improved the institutional capacity of Sevan National Park, which is situated in the territory of Lake Sevan Ramsar site.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.4: *Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change, all in the context of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1.4.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been used/applied in decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {3.4.2 – r3.4.xiv} | B - No |
| 1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management? | C - Partly |
| 1.4.3 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5} | E - Not applicable |
| 1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9} | B - No |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.4.1 – 1.4.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.4.3: [.. additional information ...]"

1.4.2. Public hearings and involvement in decision making process.

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

STRATEGY 1.5: *Identify priority wetlands where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|---------|
| 1.5.1 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {4.1.2} [If "Yes", please identify any major programmes or projects in Additional implementation information] | A - Yes |
|---|---------|

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1.5.2 Has the Convention's guidance on wetland restoration (Annex to Resolution VIII.16; Wise Use Handbook 15, 3rd edition) been used/applied in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {4.1.2} | C - Partly |
|--|------------|

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.5.1 – 1.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.5.2: [.. additional information ...]"

1.5.1. "Restoration of Lake Gilli" PDF A preparatory project funded by GEF – UNDP (ARM/99/G41/A/99; August 2000 – May 2001). "Restoration of Lake Gilli" PDF B project was agreed for funding (US\$1,876,308) through the Government of Armenia (US\$937,600, in kind) and GEF – UNDP (US\$963,708). The main objective of the project is the conservation of wetland biodiversity in the Lake Gilli area through the involvement of local communities in partnerships with local authorities and international organizations. The project has two immediate objectives: (i) the establishment of viable habitat for globally significant biodiversity in the area of Lake Gilli, and (ii) to ensure long-term protection of biodiversity in Lake Gilli through co-management arrangements between local communities and authorities. The project will produce two outputs: (i) a restored Lake Gilli that can serve as an effective wetland habitat for species of international significance, and (ii) a co-management plan for the restored Lake Gilli jointly developed and under implementation by local communities and local authorities. However, the implementation of the project is suspended for indefinite time.

1.5.2. Earlier editions of the Convention's on wetland restoration been used.

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

-

STRATEGY 1.6: *Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|--------|
| 1.6.1 Have national policies, strategies and management responses to threats from invasive species, particularly in wetlands, been developed and implemented? {r5.1.ii} | B - No |
| 1.6.2 Have such policies, strategies and management responses been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organisations/processes? {r5.1.ii} | B - No |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.6.1 – 1.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.6.2: [.. additional information ...]"

-

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

-

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

STRATEGY 2.1 *Apply the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Handbook 7, 2nd edition; Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

Indicator questions:

2.1.1 Have a strategy and priorities been established for any further designation of Ramsar sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {10.1.1}

[If further Ramsar site designations are planned, please indicate in Additional implementation information, the number of sites and anticipated year of designation]

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

Wetlands proposed for submission to the Ramsar list are listed in the brochure prepared for the 4th European Regional Meeting (Jenderedjian, K., A. Jenderedjian, T. Salathe, S. Hakobyan, 2004. About Wetlands, and around Wetlands in Armenia. Yerevan: 64 pp.). Khor Virap marshes are designated as a Ramsar site (as well as natural protected area) by Government Decision N –N of 2007 January 31 (in force from December 2007). To the moment of submission of this report important papers (RIS and maps) are in preparation for official submission to the Ramsar Secretariat.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.2 *Maintain the Ramsar Sites Information Service and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the Ramsar Sites Database as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.*

Indicator questions:

2.2.1 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {10.2.3}

B - No

2.2.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its database used in national implementation of the Convention concerning Ramsar site issues?

D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.2.1 – 2.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.2.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.2.1. It is expected that updated RIS for Lake Arpi and Lake Sevan will be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat before the COP10. The updated maps will be submitted in 2009-2010.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.3 *Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1} | C - Partly |
| 2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised] | C - Some sites |
| 2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information] | D - Planned |
| 2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out? [if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available] | D - Planned |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.3.1 – 2.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.3.3: [.. additional information ...]”

2.3.2. A management has been developed for one site: Management Plan 2007 – 2011 of Sevan National Park developed within the framework of the “Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction” Project funded by World Bank - Global Environment Facility. This Management Plan is used from early 2007 as a tool to guide the philosophy and direction of the management authority of Sevan National Park.

Goals of the Management Plan include:

- conserve, rehabilitate and sustain the status and well-being of representative and threatened natural habitats, key flora and fauna species, natural landscapes, the physical environment and natural and cultural heritage;
- improve the level of application and enforcement of Protected Area and natural resource use regulations and reviewing and adapting their content;
- regulate and monitor rational resource use activities, and allow sustainable continuation of traditional practices without damaging natural/physical environment;
- increase the level of socio-economic development of communities by encouraging the development of revenue sources that are not detrimental to the environment;
- increase the opportunities for participatory involvement by stakeholders in the decision making and management process;
- provide a range of recreation opportunities for casual and specialist visitors that do not conflict with conservation objectives and provide an income for the Park and local communities alike;
- increase knowledge and understanding of the physical and natural environment and its capacities in terms of sustainable resource use and development;
- increase knowledge and awareness of stakeholders concerning the nature and importance of the physical/natural environment and the need for the sustainable use and protection of its resources;
- create an environment in which effective implementation, control and monitoring of management actions and achievement of management objectives is assured;
- increase the National Park’s revenue base, and propose the devising of mechanisms that

result in revenue going back into the management of the Park, in particular for conservation. The MP is broken down into the following seven management themes:

1. Natural resource conservation and management. Goal: To maintain and enhance the structure and ecological integrity of the biological and physical features of the National Park and its buffer zone.
2. Protecting cultural heritage. Goal: To conserve and promote natural and cultural heritage.
3. Promoting education and awareness. Goal: To increase the knowledge and awareness of stakeholders concerning the National Park's policies, actions and the conservation and sustainable use of its natural resources
4. Tourism and recreation development. Goal: To provide a range of recreation opportunities, services and facilities for casual and specialist visitors that do not conflict with conservation objectives and that provide an income for the Park and local communities alike.
5. Community development Goal. To increase community well-fare through active involvement in the National Park development and management process.
6. Effective National Park administration, management and sustainability. Goal: To strengthen and maintain the National Park's operations and support services.
7. Research and monitoring. Goal: To provide accurate, relevant and timely information for resource management.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.4 Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Secretariat without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <p>2.4.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {r11.2.iv}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]</p> | <p>A - Yes</p> |
| <p>2.4.2 Have all cases of change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {11.2.4}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which Ramsar sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made]</p> | <p>C - Some cases</p> |
| <p>2.4.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record? {r11.2.viii}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]</p> | <p>D - Not applicable</p> |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.4.1 – 2.4.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

- 2.4.1. The arrangements are in place for the Ministry of Nature Protection to be informed on changes of some abiotic (Lake Sevan and Lake Arpi: water level and volume changes) and biotic indices (fish stocks: only Lake Sevan) on ecological character of Ramsar sites.
- 2.4.2. Changes on ecological character of Armenian Ramsar sites have been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat in forms of Ramsar SGF 1997 and 1999 funding projects as well as project

Implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan in Management of Wetlands in Sevan National Park funded by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (1999).

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

STRATEGY 2.5 *Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1} | A - Yes |
| 2.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (including regional site and waterbird flyway networks)? {12.1.2; 12.2.2} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place] | D - Planned |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.5.1 – 2.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.5.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.5.1. i) Wetland of Javakheti Plateau shared by Armenia (Lake Arpi, peatlands and wet meadows of upper stream of River Akhuryan, Pond Ardenis) and Georgia (Lakes Tabatskuri, Khanchali, Madatapa, adjacent peatlands) and partly by Turkey (Lake Childir); ii) wetlands of River Arax valley shared by Armenia (including Armash Fishponds, Khor Virap Marshes), Azerbaijan Nakhichevan enclave, Iran and Turkey.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.6 *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

Indicator questions:

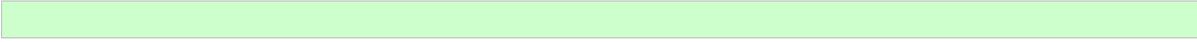
| | |
|--|--------|
| 2.6.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development of a regional initiative under the framework of the Convention? {12.3.2} [If “Yes” or “Planned”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the name(s) and collaborating countries of each regional initiative] | B - No |
|--|--------|

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

2.6.1. Initially Armenia had been involved in regional initiative “Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands Central and West Asia” and took active participation in the preparation of the Centre’s Draft Strategy, 2007-2011. However, Armenia was rejected from the list of range countries, since is situated in the Ramsar European Region.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 national implementation:



GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGY 3.1 *Collaboration with other institutions: Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| 3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1} | C - Partly |
| 3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii} | D - Planned |
| 3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6} | E - Not applicable |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.1.1 – 3.1.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “3.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

3.1.1. Using personal relationships.
3.1.2. National Focal Points for the CBD, UNFCCC and CCD will take part in all meetings of newly established National Wetland Committee.

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

STRATEGY 3.2 *Sharing of expertise and information: Promote the sharing of expertise and information.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|------------|
| 3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} <small>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]</small> | C - Partly |
| 3.2.2 Has information about the country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a Web site)? {14.1.1} | A - Yes |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1. Between Sevan (Armenia) and Kolkheti (Georgia) national parks, responsible for management of Lake Sevan and Kolkheti Wetlands Ramsar sites.
3.2.2. Brochure prepared for the 4th European Regional Meeting (Jenderedjian, K., A. Jenderedjian, T. Salathe, S. Hakobyan, 2004. About Wetlands, and around Wetlands in Armenia. Yerevan: 64 pp.), a number of articles in the Ramsar <www.ramsar.org>, International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) <www.imcg.net.> and Professional and Entrepreneurial Orientation

Union ,www.orientation.am.> web sites.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 national implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

STRATEGY 4.1 *Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values: Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, including women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including in relation to understanding the dynamics of cultural values.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|------------|
| 4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5} | C - Partly |
| 4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2} | C - Partly |
| 4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party promote public participation in decision-making (with respect to wetlands), especially with local stakeholder involvement in the selection of new Ramsar sites and in Ramsar site management? {6.1.4} | C - Partly |
| 4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii} | C - Partly |
| 4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} [if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below] | C - Partly |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.1.1 – 4.1.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.1.3: [.. additional information ...]"

4.1.1.-4.1.5. Mentioned above applied only to Lake Sevan Ramsar site, since all these is included in the Management Plan of Sevan National Park, 2007-2011 (see 2.3.2.)

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.2 *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|--|--------|
| 4.2.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands? {7.1.1} | B - No |
| 4.2.2 Have private-sector "Friends of Wetlands" fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved] | B - No |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.2.1 – 4.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.2.2: [.. additional information ...]”

-

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

STRATEGY 4.3 *Promote measures which encourage the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 4.3.1 Have actions been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1} | D - Planned |
| 4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1} | D - Planned |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.3.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.3.1.-4.3.2. Actions to promote positive and to remove negative incentive measures are planned during establishment and development of Arpi National Park (Lake Arpii Ramsar site)..

4.3.2. In case of Lake Sevan Ramsar site the communities adjacent to the Sevan National Park and located in the buffer zone have no participation in sharing benefits received from the usage of biological resources. Besides, the legislative framework regulating nature use, non-optimal system of permissions and restrictions, complicated and unjustified procedures for the use of plant and animal resources for the nature are incentives for illegal usage of bioresources. The national park has limited capacities for application of economic mechanisms and promotion tools.

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

STRATEGY 4.4 *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention’s Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Programme (Resolution VIII.31) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA).*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism] | D - Planned |
|--|-------------|

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <p>4.4.2 Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the subnational, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? {r.9.iii.iii}</p> <p>[Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4]</p> | <p>B - No</p> |
| <p>4.4.3 Have actions been taken to communicate and share information cross-sectorally on wetland issues amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {r9.iii.v}</p> | <p>C - Partly</p> |
| <p>4.4.4 Have national campaigns, programmes, and projects been carried out to raise community awareness of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {r9.vi.i}</p> <p>[If:</p> <p>a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or</p> <p>b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values,</p> <p>please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p> | <p>C - Partly</p> |
| <p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p> | <p>A - Yes</p> |
| <p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p> | <p>C - Some sites</p> |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.4.1 – 4.4.6 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

4.4.3. This has been done in frames of seminars (2006 and 2007) organized by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (Norway) in cooperation with the Ministry of Nature Protection. The seminars were covering three main areas; (1) a continuation of the focus on international conventions, and the CBD, CCD and the Ramsar, in particular; (2) how the government can increase the efficacy of environmental management through mainstreaming and sector integrating policies; and (3) the sub-national level, such as civil society's, businesses' and knowledge institutions' role in environmental management. Among participants were representatives from the ministries of Agriculture, Energy, Education and Science, Foreign Affairs, Healthcare, Urban Development, administration of Gegharquniq and Kotayq marzes (provinces), NGOs, business.

4.4.5. Special events devoted to wetlands have been organized by NGO Professional and Entrepreneurial Orientation Union with support from the Agency of Bioresources Management and the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Nature Protection. These are: exhibitions of stamps and coins with images of wetland animals and plants (2006) and wetland literature (2008), excursion to Khor Virap proposed Ramsar site (2007).

4.4.6. The Museum of Nature of Sevan National Park for many years organizes educational visits and excursions of pupils from the schools of Town Sevan. Such visits and excursions are in place also in the Museum of Nature (Yerevan) where special attention is given to wetland biodiversity.

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

STRATEGY 4.5 *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <p>4.5.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only] Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {15.1.1} [If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p> | <p>D - Not applicable</p> |
| <p>4.5.2 [For Contracting Parties in receipt of development assistance only] Has funding support been mobilized from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {15.1.8} [If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the agencies from which support has been received since COP9]</p> | <p>A - Yes</p> |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.5.1 – 4.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.5.2: [.. additional information ...]”

In total EUR 2.2 million have been provided by the Ministry of Co-operation and Development (BMZ) of the Federal Republic of Germany to finance the establishment of Protected Areas on Armenia’s Javakheti Plateau in the frames of Caucasus Initiative.

The project area straddles the border area between Turkey and Georgia and is well recognized for high ecological value due to their high ecosystem diversity. The area is characterised by unique mountain lakes and extensive wetlands. Although Lake Arpi and neighboring wetlands (3,139 ha) are a Ramsar site since 1993, the corresponding ecosystems are not included in the Protected Area System of the country. While the protection and rehabilitation of the wetlands might best be achieved by proclaiming them sanctuaries, it is proposed to include the upper watersheds of Lake Arpi into a National Park.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.6 *Provide the financial resources required for the Convention’s governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <p>4.6.1 {16.1.1} a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?</p> | <p>A - Yes</p> |
| <p>b) If “No” in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p> | |

[Empty yellow box]

| | |
|---|--------|
| 4.6.2 {16.1.2} | |
| a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity? | B - No |
| b) If yes, please state the amounts: | |
| [Empty yellow box] | |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.6.1 – 4.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.6.2: [.. additional information ...]”

-

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

[Empty green box]

STRATEGY 4.7 *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Framework.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|------------|
| 4.7.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring] | C - Partly |
|---|------------|

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

Yes, the success of monitoring would be rather more in case if the format of report will not changes from COP to COP

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

[Empty green box]

STRATEGY 4.8 *Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| <p>4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]</p> | C - Partly |
| <p>4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2}</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]</p> | D - Planned |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.8.1 – 4.8.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.8.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.8.1. The review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands is almost completed. The review of completed information will be one of the tasks of the National Wetland Committee (see 4.8.2.)

4.8.2. The Constituent Assembly of the National Wetland Committee was held in March 2008 with participation of representatives of the Ministry of Nature Protection, designated administrative authority of the Ramsar Convention in Armenia, ministries of Agriculture and Health, heads of organizations responsible for management of Ramsar sites (Lake Sevan – Sevan National Park; Lake Arpi – Arpi National Park; Khor Virap Marsh – Khosrov Forest State Reserve), administration of Shirak, Gegharquniq and Ararat marzes (provinces), non-governmental organizations, and private sector involved in use of wetland resources. In 2008 more than 3 meetings of the National Wetland Committee are scheduled to develop and discuss the draft National Wetland Policy paper.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.8 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.9 *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention’s International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

Indicator question:

| | |
|--|---------|
| <p>4.9.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention’s IOPs* in its implementation of the Convention?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p> | A - Yes |
| <p>4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention’s IOPs*?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p> | B - No |

* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), and WWF International.

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.9.1-4.9.2

4.9.1. From the Wetlands International's Global Peat Initiative the project Identification of Ecological and Economical Values and Threats of Armenia's Peatlands: a Framework for Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use (Grant Agreement nr. WGP2 –21 GPI 46; Agreement holder: NGO Professional and Entrepreneurial Orientation Union).

4.9.2. The WWF Armenian Program Office is established in Yerevan.

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

STRATEGY 4.10 *Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses.*

Indicator questions:

| | |
|---|---------|
| 4.10.1 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? [If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)] | A - Yes |
| 4.10.2 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention, including in the use of the Wise Use Handbooks, been made? {20.1.2} | A - Yes |
| 4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6} | A - Yes |

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.10.1 – 4.10.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.10.3: [.. additional information ...]"

4.10.1. Armenian National Focal Point has participated in the development of and discussions on the Draft Strategy 2007-2011 of the Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands Central and West Asia.

4.10.2. Assessments of training needs have been carried out in 1996, 2000 and 2006. Based on their outcomes institutions and persons were identified for different types of wetland trainings.

4.10.3. Specialists from Armenia took part as participants in the International Training Course on Wetland Management (1997, 1998), and Restoration (2001), WATC/ RIZA, Lelystad; International Training of Trainers on Wetland Management (2006), Wageningen University/RIZA, in The Netherlands. Wetland Trainings in Russian Federation (2001) and Czech Republic (2007).

The following training courses had been carried out in Armenia:

- Wetland Management Training Course for the Staff of Sevan National Park (Armenia) and Kolkheti National Park (Georgia), Sevan, Armenia, 24 September – 5 October 2007, funded (USD 30,000) by the Critical Environmental Partnership Fund (2008, closing). [Outputs: a) 24 participants from Armenia (15: from the Sevan National Park /5/, Dilijan National Park /1/, Ministry of Nature Protection /3/, Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology /2/, Gegharquniq Marzpetaran Administration /1/, NGOs /2/, Joint Stock Company “Miavar” /1/) and Georgia (9: Kolkheti National Park /5/, Kobuleti Nature Reserve /1/, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources /2/, WWF Caucasus Program Office /1/); b) draft management plans for Gull Islets, Hispani 2 Mire, Lake Lichk, Lake Paleostomi]
- Wetland Management and Poverty Reduction in Mountain Regions Difficult of Access: Lake Arpi and Mount Aragats. Mitigating Problems through Public Awareness and Training funded (US\$ 6,660) by the World Bank Small Grants Fund, and in-kind support of the Orientation Union, and in its frames Fourth National Training Course on Wetland Management, 27 October – 3 November 2002 (2002, closed) [Outputs: a) 14 participants from Shirak Marz (6), Aragatsotn Marz (6) and the Republic of Nagorno-Kharabagh (2); b) Brochure Wetland Values and Functions; c) Brochure Guide for Wetland Management Planning]
- Regional Training Course on Wetland Management for Technical Staff of Wetland Conservation and Management Institutions in the New Independent States of the European Region, 9-23 September 2001 funded (CHF 40,000) by the Ramsar Convention’s Small Grants Fund with additional support (US\$ 5,800) from the Office of the Agricultural Counsellor at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kyiv (2001, closed) [Outputs: a) 19 participants from 6 countries: Armenia (6: from the Sevan National Park, Biological Faculty of the Yerevan State University, Gegharquniq Marzpetaran Administration, Joint Stock Company “Torgom & Gevorg”, Joint Stock Company “Ararat-Ishkhan”, Ministry of Nature Protection), Belarus (1), Georgia (3), Moldova (1), Russian Federation (2) and Ukraine (6); b) draft management plans Lake Lichk Rehabilitation Plan and Improvement of Management of Torgom & Gevorg Fishponds; c) resolutions about 1/ Importance of Regional Collaboration on Wetland Issues and 2/ Conservation of Endemic Fish Ishkhan (*Salmo ischchan*)]
- National Training Course on Wetland Management, 9-21 October 2000 funded (CHF 8,000) by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, and in-kind support of the Orientation Union (2000, closed) [Outputs: a) 12 participants from the Gegharquniq Marzpetaran Administration (2), Sevan National Park (8), Institute of Botany, National Academy of Sciences (1), Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology, National Academy of Sciences (1); b) draft management plan for restored Lake Gilli wetlands]
- National Training Course on Wetland Management, 11-23 October 1999 funded (CHF 12,500) by the Ramsar Convention’s “Evian Programme” (1999, closed) [Outputs: a) 12 participants from the Institute of Land Use Planning, Ministry of Agriculture (1), Department of Especially Protected Natural Areas, Ministry of Nature Protection (2), Sevan National Park (3), Pedagogical Institute after Kh. Abovyan (1), Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology, National Academy of Sciences (2), Institute of Vegetables and Melons, Ministry of Agriculture (1), Brusov State Institute of Foreign Languages (1), Department of Water Resources Protection, Ministry of Nature Protection (1); b) draft management plans for Gull Islets and Noradus Fishponds]

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