



**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.

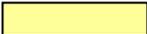
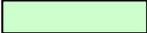
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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: BULGARIA

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Environment and Water
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Dzhevdet Chakarov, Minister
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Email:	feedback@moew.government.bg

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Ms Aylin Hasan, Senior expert, Natura 2000 Department
Mailing address:	22 Maria Luisa blvd., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
Telephone/Fax:	Tel: +359 2 940 6103 / Fax: +359 2 981 6610
Email:	ahasan@moew.government.bg

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)

Name and title of focal point:	Mr Georgi Hiebaum, Associate Professor
Name of organisation:	Central Laboratory of General Ecology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Mailing address:	2 Gagarin Str, Sofia 1113, Bulgaria
Telephone/Fax:	Tel: +359 2 8736 137 / Fax: +359 2 8705 498
Email:	hiebaum2001@yahoo.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 Aylin Hasan, Senior expert, Natura 2000 Department
Name of organisation:	Ministry of Environment and Water
Mailing address:	22 Maria Luisa blvd., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
Telephone/Fax:	Tel: +359 2 940 6103 / Fax: +359 2 981 6610
Email:	ahasan@moew.government.bg

DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Name and title:	Mr. Tanyo Michev, Associate Professor
Name of organisation:	Central Laboratory of General Ecology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
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Email:	tanyo@abv.bg

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?

Adoption of :

Odessa -2007 Resolution on the establishment of a regional initiative to prevent the loss of the coastal wetlands of the Black and Azov Seas (BlackSeaWet):

- The need for a regional wetland initiative as expressed in the Odessa 2000 declaration is still necessary and urgently required;
- The establishment of a regional wetland initiative under the Ramsar Convention (as described under Ramsar CoP Resolution XIII.30) should be undertaken to ensure submission to the Ramsar CoP 10 meeting, Republic of Korea, 2008;
- The Regional Initiative will be named 'BlackSeaWet' (BSW) and should address the coastal wetlands and biodiversity of the six States whose territories border on the Black and the Azov Seas (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine)

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

1. Undertaking steps for the establishment of regional initiative to prevent the loss of the coastal wetlands of the Black and Azov Seas;
2. Preparing and publishing of 'Inventory of Bulgarian Wetlands', Part I, Non-lotic wetlands. Completion of process of inventory of Bulgarian wetlands and their biodiversity aiming to give an overall view of their contemporary state (incl. the lost water bodies) and to make account as complete as possible of the recent state of-art. The background idea is to identify the conservation problems and through a scientific approach to address, and solve them;
3. The 10-th Bulgarian Ramsar sites of international importance were included in the National Biodiversity Monitoring System (adopted with Regulation № 2 / 18.12.2006 on conditions and form of establishment and functioning of a National Biodiversity Monitoring System, SJ, 3/2007 г.) as sites for monitoring implementation.
4. In accordance with the National Biodiversity Act the most important natural and artificial wetlands in Bulgaria were included in the National Ecological Network (as part of the European Ecological Network - Natura 2000) as Special Protection Areas (SPA) and were proposed as Site of Community Importance (pSCI).
5. Elaboration of the Pomorie Wetland Complex Management Plan - a Ramsar Site, Protected Area (according to the national legislation - the Protected Areas Act) and a Protected Zone, according to both European Directives: Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, and Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds;
6. Elaboration of the Dragoman Swamp Management Plan - a Critically Endangered Wetland, included in the 'Red List of Bulgarian Wetlands' and proposed to be a Protected zone (Natura 2000 site), according to Habitats Directive;
7. Establishment of a Visitor and Information Centre at Durankulak Lake - a Ramsar Site, Protected Area and Natura 2000 Protected Zone;
8. The wetlands on Belene Island are already restored under the Bulgarian Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project funded by GEF/World Bank. The objective of the project is to restore the important wetlands, to use them as a nutrient sinks and to conserve the important species;

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

The main difficulties in achieving an effective wetlands conservation and their wise use were:

1. Lack of a topical National Strategy and National Action Plan for Wetlands;
2. The Integrated Wetland Management approach has not been applied operatively;
2. Inoperative National Ramsar Committee during the whole triennium period;
3. Destruction of coastal habitats, including critical wetland sites, as a result of tourism development, housing construction and accompanying pressures of urbanization;
4. Biodiversity costs, opportunities and concerns are given secondary priority by municipalities in their development and spatial planning processes;
5. Environmental policies barely effected or did not reflect at all on economic sector plans and programs, such as tourism and inland use plans;
6. Insufficient cooperation and coordination between different sectors interested in wetlands conservation and wise use activities: state institutions, NGOs, local authorities and private sector;
7. Insufficient economical incentives to wetlands conservation and wise use;
8. Insufficient enforcement of measures and activities from the management plans. Ignoring some important principals and recommendation of the Srebarna Biosphere Reserve Management Plan.

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

1. Elaborating and implementing a new National Strategy and a new National Action Plan for Wetlands Conservation, which have to replace the old ones (Michev-ed. 1995. National Plan for the Most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria. - MOEW, 55 pp.);
2. To designate new National Ramsar sites to be included in the list of the Wetlands of International Importance;
3. To achieve an Integrated Wetland Management;
4. Ramsar Advisory Mission for Durankulak Lake;
5. The procedure of removing Srebarna from Montreux Record has to be finalized;
6. Increasing the investments in restoration and mitigation projects; Funding projects for buying up of small, but very important key areas in Durankulak Lake, Pomorie Lake, Alepu Marsh, Stamopolu Marsh in order to avoid habitat loss and degradation;
7. Reinforcement of environmental objectives, including wetland conservation, in the regional development and sectoral policies and their integrated implementation on local and regional levels.
8. Implementetion of actions determinated in wetlands management plans;
9. Continuing the process of elaboration, adoption and implementation of management plans for wetlands;
10. Enforcement and realization of future BlackSeaWet regional initiative targets:
 - 10.1. To prevent the loss and the degradation process of wetlands and their biodiversity by 2020;
 - 10.2. To ensure that wise use principles are integrated into coastal zone development;
 - 10.3. To engage local people into planning and decision-making;

10.4. To complete the ecological network around the Black and Azov Sea coasts;
10.5. To combine wetland conservation in integrated water resource management and integrated coastal zone management approaches;
10.6. Mainstream wetland conservation in sectors whose activities are contributing to degradation;
11. Raising public awareness - publishing of a rich illustrated book devoted to the tenth Bulgarian Ramsar Sites and several potential such sites.
12. Raising training and education programs: Elaboration of an Educational and a Research Regional Wetland Centre at Bourgas Lakes. There is a significant and may be unique concentration of Ramsar Sites around the town of Bourgas (Pomoryisko, Atanasovsko and Vaya Lakes, and Mandra Lake - potential Ramsar Site).

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

More training and educational programmes for implementation of convention are needed. Ramsar Advisory Mission for Durankulak Lake.

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

No

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?

The 10-th Bulgarian Ramsar sites were identified as Important Birds Areas (IBAs) of global importance and in accordance with the National Biodiversity Act were included in the National Ecological Network - Natura 2000 as Special Protection Areas (SPA), as a part of the European Ecological Network. The Ramsar sites were also proposed as Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) in accordance with the National Biodiversity Act.

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)?

Wetlands restoration for biodiversity conservation and nutrient reduction. The Government recognizes the multiple benefits of wetlands restoration: first, as a way to decrease transboundary pollution; second, as a means to preserve the global significant biodiversity; and third, as a possible source of revenue for local communities, living in poorer regions of Bulgaria. The wetlands on Belene Island are already restored under the Bulgarian Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project funded by GEF/World Bank. The objective of the project is to restore the important wetlands, to use them as a nutrient sinks and to conserve the important species. During the last 2 years the construction works were completed, and the monitoring of water quality, habitats and birds and fishes were conducted. The first controlled flooding will be at the end of April, 2008.

The Wetlands Management Plans have to be included in the River Basin Management Plans. The River Basin Management Plans are under preparation and have to be completed by the end of 2008.

Biodiversity conservation requirements have to be mainstreamed into renewable energy planning and investment principles, preventing threats to wetland habitats and their biological diversity.

Biodiversity conservation requirements have to be mainstreamed into tourism sector planning and marketing strategies, and sustainable and economically viable partnerships between the conservation NGOs, local communities;

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}	B - No
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. The book 'Inventory of Bulgarian Wetlands' and the supplemented CD-ROM present the results of the inventory of about 9000 wetlands with their biodiversity in Bulgaria. They are grouped and encoded into original hierarchical classification, and the most threatened of them (340) are included in the first Red List of Bulgarian Wetlands. The etymology and terminological meanings of Bulgarian hydronyms together with their English equivalents are provided.

All water bodies and saturated habitats with their inhabitants are described in a similar way based on different sources depicted in a common list of references with about 2000 titles. Almost all of the existing sites were checked on satellite images. The first Database of the Bulgarian wetlands is provided in the attached CD. The sites are supplied by a detailed description with exact coordinates (MGRS and UTM), species composition (incl. the newly described species, relicts, endemics), conservation measures, etc. The book contains also articles on different aspects of the wetlands theory, status, conservation and biodiversity. Their authors are leading experts from Sofia University 'St Kliment Ohridski', Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and other scientific country institutes.

The book is written in English and is translated into Bulgarian in its most important parts. It is indispensable for hydrobiologists-limnologists and is of interest for other scholars and students in biology and geography and for interpreters as well. It is a helpful tool and also a manual for all those, related with the investigation, conservation and management of wetlands.

1.1.3. Some information about ecological character of wetlands is included in the above mentioned Inventory.

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]	D - Planned
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}	D - Planned
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}	D - Planned
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 ...]”

[Redacted area]

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

[Redacted area]

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]	B - No
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}	B - No
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}	B - No

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 ...]”

[Redacted area]

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

[Redacted area]

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}	D - Planned
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	D - Planned

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}	D - Planned
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 ...]”

1.4.1 The Wetlands management plans have to be included in the river basin management plans. The river basin management plans are under preparation and have to be completed by the end of 2008 and will be implemented in 2009.

1.4.3 PPA06/BG/7/3 The project for 'Elaboration of Black Sea coast vision and Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management' (MyCoast project) started in April, 2007, and will be completed in the end of 2008. The purpose of MyCoast is to develop a Vision for 2030: How do you want the coast to look like in 2030? MyCoast focuses on the future. MyCoast seeks shared interest.

The vision will be drafted by those organisations and people who have an interest in the coast: an economic interest or an interest to protect the nature. For this purpose we invite hotel owners, industry, wineries, farmers and fishers, local authorities and environmental NGOs to participate in drafting this vision.

MyCOAST seeks new ways to balance these interest and to ensure that economy and environment can benefit from each other.

The vision was developed in the first year: until October 2007. In the second year the vision will be translated into a strategy. The strategy will ensure that the ideas, the dreams of the participants can become real. The strategy will get a legal background in order to ensure it can be enforced.

MyCoast is based on the EU recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Development and the International Treaty on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution.

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}	A - Yes

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 1.) Bulgarian Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project founded by GEF/World Bank is implemented since October 30, 2002, and will be completed by December 15th 2008. In June 2002, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided the Government of Bulgaria with funding for the implementation of project activities for the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project.

The project development objective is that local communities and local authorities in the Persina Nature Park and Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site areas adopted sustainable natural resources management practices. The project will help demonstrate how environmentally-friendly rural development activities can improve livelihoods.

The global environmental objective is to demonstrate and provide for replication of reduction of transboundary nutrient loads and other agricultural pollution flowing into the Danube River and the Black Sea Basins while time conserving key target threatened species in the project areas through: (i) wetlands restoration and protected areas management programs, and (ii) support for stakeholders to adopt environmentally-friendly economic activities in the two project areas.

2.) Project: 'Pomorie Lake - Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Management' GEF-MSP TF 054774, is implemented since February 2005, and will be completed till February 2009. (activities planned for the restoration of a natural saline lagoon on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast); Implemented by 'Green Balkans' NGO.

Project objectives:

To support the Pomoriisko lake and the wetlands ecosystem sustainable development by engaging activities for biodiversity conservation and restoration and sustainable use of natural resources.

Subtargets of the project:

1. To support the development and the implementation of long-term management plans of the Protected Area, stressing on conservation, restoration and management of nature resources of the ecosystem;
2. To restore the natural resources base of the ecosystem and the hydrological balance;
3. To provide for the sustainable management of natural resources of the lake resources by innovative multi-stakeholders partnership;
4. To raise the awareness amongst the local communities and the touristic sector;
5. To improve collaboration between other wetlands restoration sites in Bulgaria and Europe;

The project activities include four main components:

1. Management framework

Developing and functioning of Project Management Unit and Advisory Committee for the project.

2. Developing a Management plan for Pomoriisko lake Protected Area;

3. Management Plan implementation

Involves the following basic activities:

- o Rehabilitation and renovation of the freshwater overflowing system of the lake.
- o Rehabilitation and renovation of the system providing saline waters to the lake (connection sea-lake).
- o Conservation and restoration of habitats for nesting of rare and world endangered birds species.
- o Capacity building and development of visitors educational centers.
- o Developing a small touristic infrastructure in the Protected Area.

4. Managing the project and national and international cooperation.

3.) Project: 'Developing a conservation and restoration plan for the protected area 'Zlato pole''

Description: The site is an old meander of Maritza River which has maintained a typical for the flood plain marshland ecosystem. There is a mixed heron stock in the area and it is one of the few areas where the hibernating population of Pygmy cormorant sleeps /up to 1800 birds/

Activities under the Biodiversity law: Preparing and introducing to MOEW a Draft Management Plan for the Protected area 'Zlato pole'. Developing a plan for optimizing the water regime in the wetland Protected Area 'Zlato pole' during 2005. Annual monitoring.

Duration: 2005 -2008. Implemented by 'Green Balkans' NGO.

4.) Project: 'Preparing a restoration plan and protection of *Acipenser nudiiventris* in Bulgaria'

Description: Natural habitats of the species include the wetlands of Danube River and Black sea. The status of the species is critical all over the world, particularly its Danubian population. Bulgarian scientists consider that species as extinct from the country's fauna.

Duration 2005-2008. Implemented by 'Green Balkans' NGO.

5.) Project: Capacity building for preparation of Management Plans for Natura 2000 Protected Areas in Bulgaria.

Description: The Pojarevo garvan protected area includes 24 km of the Danube River valley with adjacent swamps and islands. Three of the fewest Bulgarian Danube Swamps are situated in the area as follows: Pojarevsko swamp, the Swamp Malak Preslavetz, Garvansko Swamp, which were famous in the past with their ornithofauna and are protected zones according to the Birds Directive.

Activities on the project include developing a pilot plan for management of protected zone 'Pojarevo garvan'. Prior actions on restoration of the Pojarevsko and Garvansko swamps are laid into the Plan. Both swamps are in aggravated hydrological regime.

Duration 2005-2008 r. Implemented by 'Green Balkans' NGO.

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

There are fulfilled Ramsar Information Sheets for several Bulgarian sites (a total of 24 wetlands), covering the Convention criteria, proposed to be included in the Ramsar List for Wetlands of International Importance.

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?

C - Partly

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 ...]”

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}	E - Planned
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]	C - Some sites
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. The Management Plans for two sites (Pomorie Lake and Belene Islands Complex) are under elaboration and approval. The Management Plans for another five Ramsar sites were elaborated, approved and partly implemented (Atanasovo Lake, Durankulak lake, Lake Shabla, Poda, Srebarna).

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>A - Yes</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>A - Yes</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 local administrative authorities - Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water are responsible for control and monitoring actions in the Ramsar sites in there territory;

2.4.2. Reports have been made to 'Belene Islands Complex', 'Srebarna' and 'Durankulak Lake. For wetland site 'Dragoman swamp' positive change in ecological character occurred but have not been reported yet.

2.4.3. Implementation of actions determined in management plans for 'Durankulak Lake' and 'Srebarna', listed in Montreux Record.

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

2.4.3. 'Srebarna':

In 1994 a channel was constructed, with the financial support of international organisations, which vastly improved the ecological condition in the lake, it also improved the quality and the quantity of the water. Initiating the operation of the hydraulic system between Danube River - connecting channel - Srebarna lake in 1994, conditions for water control, flooded areas and stored water amounts have been created. The abundance and diversity of typical for the region species of birds has increased.

The management Plan involves a project titled: Development of a temporary system, including instructions for management of the lockages, built in 1994. The aim of the Project is optimum usage of average and high-level Danube waters until informational - expert system is developed. The mentioned project is being implemented annually. The Management Plan also envisages the following projects:

1. Developing an informational-expert system, connected with the level of Danube river, in order to regulate the water regime by means of management of the two lockages of the channel constructed in 1994. The second step is to develop a computerized expert system aiming to optimize the usage of average Danube waters in long-terms.
2. Developing a scientific-informational and expert system for assessing the hydrological processes in the lake and it's water collecting for determining it's water balance and regime of the reserve and it's impact on the ecosystem. The aim is to define the optimal water regime in the reserve.
3. Constructing a hydrotechnical plants at the entrance of the Danube - lake channel to lower the inflow of suspended substances in to the lake when Danube waters inflow through the channel. The aim is to decrease the inflow of solid materials the lake and stop its swamping.

'Durankulak Lake':

Actions on solving the problem with eutrophication of the lake have been taken.

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]	C - Partly

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 ...]”

'Srebarna', 'Belene Islands Complex'

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]	A - Yes
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

2.6.1. Odessa -2007 Resolution on the establishment of a regional initiative to prevent the loss of the coastal wetlands of the Black and Azov Seas (BlackSeaWet):

- The need for a regional wetland initiative as expressed in the Odessa 2000 declaration is still necessary and urgently required;
- The establishment of a regional wetland initiative under the Ramsar Convention (as described under Ramsar CoP Resolution XIII.30) should be undertaken to ensure submission to the Ramsar CoP 10 meeting, Republic of Korea, 2008;
- The Regional Initiative will be named 'BlackSeaWet' (BSW) and should address the coastal wetlands and biodiversity of the six States whose territories border the Black and Azov Seas (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine)

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}	A - Yes
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}	---

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 ...]”

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:

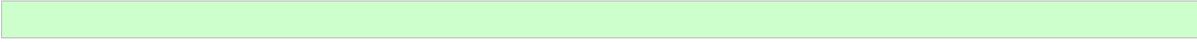
3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]	A - Yes
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 Twinning project implemented by Green Balkans NGO in partnership with the Po Delta Park; wetlands involved - 'Pomorie Lake' (BG), 'Po Delta' (IT);
The Danube River Protected Sites Network was established last April in Tulcha, Romania. Two Bulgarian Protected sites (Persina Nature Park and Sreburna BR) are in the network.

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}	A - Yes
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	A - Yes
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}	A - Yes
4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii}	A - Yes
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]	A - Yes

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 ...]"

4.1.2. In the past local traditions and crafts in 'Srebarna' reserve were fishery and manufacturing wares of *Phragmites australis* and *Typha angustifolia*. To the present time very small number of the local people are occupied with this activity.

In the past fishery was the main occupation of the local people. Nowadays fishing in the reserve is forbidden and every year, according to the Management Plan, and under the regulations of the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water Rouse a project, called 'Organizing of places for regulated sport fishing - angling'. Its aim is to regulate the shoal, to bring back traditions and to create conditions for effective control.

According to the Management Plan, a project 'Limited mowing and exporting the *Phragmites australis* under the regulations of RIEW Rouse/MOEW. Use of *Phragmites australis* in traditional manufacturing of souvenirs and rush-mats.' is expected to be implemented in 2009. Its aim is to create a mosaic structure in the periphery of rush massifs, biomass export, return to the traditions and to rise the awareness to the lake.

4.1.4. Educational and public awareness activities implemented by Green Balkans NGO among local stakeholders in the regions of the Danube River, the Maritsa River, and the Tundja River, as well as the coastal wetlands in Pomorie, Shabla and Durankulak;

In the period 2006-2007 the interactive game 'Find the legend' was published, where people have to be encouraged to find the legend about the origin of the 'Srebarna' reserve name. The main objective of the game is to involve young people and children on local and national levels into the problems of preserving the wetland, and to introduce them into the local traditions and knowledge about biodiversity. In 2007 in the game participated Romanian representatives from the city of Klarash. The target is that the game spreads to more wetlands, as in Bulgaria, and also to support international cooperation between neighbour countries and other Convention parties.

4.1.5. Through the Small Grants Program of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project

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}	C - Partly
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]	D - Planned

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 ...]"

4.2.1. Through the Farmer Transition Support Fund Program of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project

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}	C - Partly
4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	C - Partly

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 ...]”

[Redacted area for additional implementation information A)

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

[Redacted area for additional implementation information B)

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
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} [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]	D - Planned
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}	C - Partly
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} [If: a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]	C - Partly
4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}	A - Yes

<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>
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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 ...]”

4.4.4. One project was implemented in the regions of Srebarna Biosphere Reserve and Atanasovsko Lake for raise community awareness: 'Without Border - Inform of local community about tendency and practices for conservation of nature and biodiversity in Europe'.

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}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p>	<p>B - No</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}</p> <p>[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 ...]”

4.5.2) 1) Bulgarian Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project founded by GEF/World Bank is implemented since October 30, 2002, and will be completed by December 15th 2008.

2.) Project: 'Pomorie Lake - Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Management' GEF-MSP TF 054774, is implemented since February 2005, and will be completed till February 2009.

3.) Project: 'Capacity building for preparation of Management Plans for Natura 2000 Protected Areas in Bulgaria'.

Description: The Pojarevo garvan protected area includes 24 km of the Danube River valley with adjacent swamps and islands. Three of the fewest Bulgarian Danube Swamps are situated in the area as follows: Pojarevsko swamp, the Swamp Malak Preslavetz, Garvansko Swamp, which were famous in the past with their ornithofauna and are protected zones according to the Birds Directive.

Activities on the project include developing a pilot plan for management of protected zone 'Pojarevo garvan'. Prior actions on restoration of the Pojarevsko and Garvansko swamps are laid into the Plan. Both swamps are in aggravated hydrological regime.

Duration 2006-2008 . Implemented by 'Green Balkans' NGO. Founded by MATRA.

4.) Project for conservation of last populations of inside country Ardea sp. colonies. Project founded by EECNET Action Fund and was implemented in 2006 by Green Balkans NGO.

5.) Project: 'Development of Natura 2000 network in the region of Danube river'. Project founded by World Wildlife Fund and was implemented in 2006 by Green Balkans NGO.

6.) Project: 'Long-term conservation of Red-breasted Goose on the territory of Durankulak Lake and Shabla Lake'. Project founded by EECNET Action Fund and was implemented in 2006-2007 by Green Balkans NGO.

7.) Project for recovery of relation between wetland conservation and agriculture development and farming in the territory of Lower Danube Green corridor. Project founded by World Wildlife Fund and was implemented in 2007 by Green Balkans NGO.

8.) Project for conservation of Phalacrocorax pygmeus habitats on the territory of South Bulgaria. Project founded by MATRA and was implemented in 2007 by Green Balkans NGO.

9.) Project: 'Partnerships for the European natural heritage'. Project founded by European Commission and will be implemented in 2008 by Green Balkans NGO.

10.) Project: 'Reconnecting the Danube and its People'. Project founded by WWF and will be implemented 2008-2012.

11.) Project: 'Poda - model for the management of a protected area by a non-government organization - guarantee for sustainable nature protection, environmental education and nature-oriented tourism'. Project founded by Alfred Töpfer Foundation, implemented by Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB), 2006-2007.

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:

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)?

A - Yes

b) If "No" in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

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:	

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:

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? <small>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring]</small>	A - Yes
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

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

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>	<p>D - In progress</p>
<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>	<p>B - No</p>

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 ...]”

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>	<p>B - No</p>
<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>	<p>B - No</p>

* 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

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:

<p>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)]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>

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 ...]"

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