



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: THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Nature and Landscape Protection Division
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Dr. Stanislav Klaučo - Director General
Mailing address:	Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic Námestie Ľ. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava, Slovak Republic
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Dr. Mikuláš J. Lisický, CSc.
Name of organisation:	Institute of Zoology, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Mailing address:	Dúbravská cesta 9, 842 06 Bratislava 4, Slovak Republic
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DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Dr. Jana Durkošová
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DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Dr. Ján Šeffer, CSc.
Name of organisation:	DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology
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Email:	daphne@changenet.sk

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?

Updated national Programme for Wetland Management in Slovakia for 2008-2014 and its Action Plan for 2008-2011 was adopted by the Slovak Government in October 2007. An additional (14th) Slovak Ramsar Site of under-represented wetland type (subterranean karst wetland) was designated for the Ramsar List - Caves of the Demanova Valley (November 2006). A Strategy for Water Management Policy in the Slovak Republic till 2015 was also adopted by the Slovak Government in 2006 with emphasis to integrated river basin management and implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. Several projects on wetlands management, restoration and public awareness have been implemented and funded from international and national funding sources (e.g. in the Danube Floodplains Ramsar Site, Sur Ramsar Site, Morava River Floodplain Ramsar Site, Senne Fishponds Ramsar Site, Turiec Wetlands Ramsar Site, Poiplie Ramsar Site, Wetlands of Orava Basin, Muranka River, etc.).

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

Multilateral cooperation in preparation of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative for its endorsement by COP10 as the Ramsar regional initiative and cooperation with the Carpathian Convention in preparation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between secretariats of the both Conventions. Thanks to funding especially from EU funds and other donors (e.g. UNDP/GEF, SBB, Dutch Government) some management and restoration activities and awareness activities were possible.

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

Insufficient capacity for implementation of the Convention and funding for practical implementation of conservation and management activities. Increasing pressure from development activities to all types of wetlands is recognized.

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

National updated Programme for Wetland Management in Slovakia 2008-2014 and Action Plan 2008-2011, adopted by the Slovak Government in 2007, have 4 strategic goals and 51 activities, including: Database on wetlands and its permanent updating; Development, evaluation, refining and implementation of national and supra-national strategies, legal tools, institutions and practices, improvements in legal documents; Increasing of public awareness; Integration of strategies for wetland conservation and management into planning activities and decision processes on national, regional and local level in context of implementation of Integrated Water Management; Identifying of priority wetlands for restoration and taking steps for revitalisation of these sites; Development of guidelines and activities for prevention of dispersal, control and eradication of invasive alien species in wetland ecosystems; Updating of Ramsar Information Sheets and maps; Maintaining ecological character of Ramsar sites and other sites of international importance; Ramsar sites monitoring; Support for regional initiatives; Cooperation, coordination and harmonisation with other MEAs; Support for active participation of local and regional self-governments, land owners and land users, private sector and other groups in wetland conservation and wise use; Capacity building for implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

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

To increase cooperation and support in fund-raising for projects, in mediation of capacity building and in communication between Contracting Parties at regional level.

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

Scientific and technical support in international cooperation, coordination and fund-raising for the regional initiative in the Carpathians and the Danube River Network of Protected Areas.

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 effort for improved national implementation of the Ramsar Convention and other MEAs (including the Carpathian Convention) is one of the aims of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and such regional initiatives can be a good tool for coordinated support of several countries with similar conditions. It is planned to use the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas for evaluation of management effectiveness in all protected areas, especially in the Carpathian eco-region.

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)?

Involvement of the national specialists for the Ramsar Convention in the drafting teams for the development of the water policy/strategy or other strategies from the beginning can ensure appropriate inclusion of the wetland conservation and management priorities and goals into the documents. Regular meetings of implementation teams with participation and involvement of representatives of various sectors and their inclusion in the national Ramsar Committee can harmonize and support the better implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

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

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]	A - Yes
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	B - the same B - the same

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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 1.1.1
Inventory of wetlands in Slovakia was realized during the period 1991 – 2000 (through Ramsar’s Small Grant Fund). Later, before 2004, inventory of habitats for NATURA 2000

sites designation was done using expertise of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and scientific and technical institutions, with support of different projects. During the inventory of wetlands in 1990 – 1999, 11 sites were designated to the List of Wetlands of International Importance. Since then 3 additional wetlands were designated to the List (2001, 2004, one in the reporting period, 2006).

During last triennium the coordinated works focused on updating of the existing database and the inventory of habitats and species listed in Annexes of EU Birds Directive 79/409/EEC and EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, including wetland habitats and water-related species were carried out. There was mapping of peatlands and wet meadows organized by DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology in the period 2005 – 2007. New designations (including wetland sites) were prepared for Natura 2000 network according to the results of the EU biogeographical seminars.

Additional information on Indicator 1.1.2

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) is responsible for the storage and maintenance of the data and information on wetland inventory for the wetlands of international and national importance, inventories of protected areas, and wetland habitats of national and Community interest. The Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protectors made arrangements for updating, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data on all wetlands. Wetland inventory was published in the book (2000) and later on was set up on these following websites for access for wide public, different stakeholders and relevant state authorities:

Results of inventory: <http://www.sopsr.sk/webs/MokrSlov/index.htm>

Wetlands with international importance:

<http://www.sopsr.sk/webs/MokrSlov/medzinarodzoznam.htm>

With national, regional and local importance:

<http://www.sopsr.sk/webs/MokrSlov/prehladokresy.htm>

The website also includes contacts to administration units of SNC in case of further information needed.

Additional information on Indicator 1.1.3

Wetlands, especially those of Community or international importance are monitored by administrative units of SNC (that include administration of national parks and administration of protected landscape areas).

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:

<p>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]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

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}	A - Yes
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	D - In progress
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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 1.2.1:

The Slovak Wetland Management Programme (National Wetland Policy) valid for the period 2005 - 2007 had 8 strategic goals: To halt increasing destroying and degradation of wetlands and their biodiversity; Create sufficient database about Slovak wetlands and its up-grading; Ensure restoration of riverine, marsh and lake systems; Develop analyses of economical instruments (sources) and prepare financial proposal for each measure of the Action Plan; Capacity building of institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise-use; Develop trans-boundary and international co-operation for wetland conservation and restoration; Education and public awareness activities.

For implementation of this Programme was elaborated the Action Plan (2003 – 2007) for conservation, restoration and wise-use of wetlands. This Action Plan was developed and approved by the Slovak Government in February 2003 (resolution no. 200/2003).

The Slovak Wetland Management Programme as well as its Action Plan were assessed in 2007 and updated. The Slovak Wetland Management Programme for 2008 – 2014 and its Action plan 2008 - 2011 were developed. The Slovak Government approved it by its resolution no. 848/2007 in October 2007. The new Slovak Wetland Management Programme has 4 strategic goals: Wise use of wetlands; Conservation and management of wetlands of international importance; International co-operation; Capacity building of institutions responsible for implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

Additional information on Indicator 1.2.3:

Concept of National Water Management Policy of the Slovak Republic till 2015 was elaborated by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and approved by the Slovak Government in 2006 and wetland issues are incorporated.

Additional information on Indicator 1.2.5:

Strategic Environmental Assessment in reviewing policies, programmes and plans is incorporated in the Act No. 24/2006 on Environment Impact Assessment.

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]	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}	F - Not applicable
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	A - Yes
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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 1.3.3:

Following national actions have been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands:

a) knowledge of global resources:

The mapping of peatlands was carried out in Slovakia by Daphne – Institute of Applied Ecology in 2005 – 2007. The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic has been organizing the mapping of peatlands since 2002 (e.g. Poloniny National Park, Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area, Muránska planina National Park, Veľká Fatra National Park, Poľana Protected Landscape Area, Záhorie Protected Landscape Area).

b) education and public awareness of peatlands:

Several events were organized on the World Wetlands Day. The exhibition 'Wetlands and Peatlands of Slovakia' was displayed in schools and public halls. Meetings with stakeholders were organized in different areas.

c) policy and legislative instruments:

Several peatlands are Ramsar sites, they were included into Natura 2000 network and are small-scale protected areas. Management plans for these areas are in progress. More information about national wetland policies see in Strategy 1.2.

d) research network:

Phytocoenological, hydrological and hydrochemical research was carried out in the National Nature Monument of Micinske traveriny, in National Nature Reserves Kláštorské lúky and Belianske lúky. Peatland research was organized in 2 sites in Poloniny National Park. Hydrological research was carried out in peatland of regional importance 'Bahno'. It is the last site in Slovakia where the glacial relict *Pseudobryum cinclidiodes* occurs. The basic zoological research (Molusca, Oligochaeta, Hirudinea, Crustacea, Ephemeroptera, Odonata Heteroptera...) was organized in the Rybník Medova Baba peatland. Basic inventory research was organized in the Postávka, Hypkania a Durova mláka peatlands in Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area. Botanical research, research of amphibians, moss, vascular plants, mushrooms, butterflies, lichens, mammals, fish, dragonflies and habitats was carried out in several important sites in Záhorie region (including Morava Floodplain Ramsar Site, Rudava Floodplain Ramsar Site and Natura 2000 sites - Vanisovec, Mesterova lúka, Orlovske vrsky, Kotlina, Zelenka, Bahno, Jasenacke, Gazarka).

e) wise use of peatlands and restoration measures:

Management measures were taken in many peatlands in Slovakia. They include mostly mowing of grass, reduction of bush and tree overgrowth, removal of successive tree species, invasive alien species eradication and removal of cut biomass from the peatland sites, or improvement of the water regime.

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}	A - Yes
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}	C - Partly

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 ...]"

Additional information on indicator 1.4.2:

Project on information workshops for employees of catchment administrations, state water authorities, state nature conservancy branches and municipalities under the title 'Role of Wetlands in Integrated River Basin Management' was organized by the DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology in 2006 as a part of activities of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project in the Slovak Republic.

The Ministry of Environment organized in 2007 the seminar 'Legislative frameworks in protection of habitats and species of Community interest with special attention to wetlands'.

The Water Research Institute in Bratislava, the Slovak Water Management Enterprise in Banska Stiavnica and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute organized courses for water managers and activities for public during the World Water Day and Open-door days. Specialized books of the Water Research Institute were published, among others on water management in Slovakia, Towards Integrated River Basin Management, Basin-wide Water Balance in the Danube River Basin, magazines and journals etc.

In a framework of project funded by the Dutch Government in 2005 'Capacity building of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic' with the support of Rijkswaterstaat RIZA were organized activities for capacity building, including the national symposium on river basin and wetland restoration.

Several study tours were organized to neighbouring countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Poland).

Additional information on Indicator 1.4.4:

A special study and conference on Water and Climate in Europe (A New Water Paradigm) was organized in 2007 by team of experts, a publication was issued on this theme.

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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 1.5.1:

The National Programme on Wetland Restoration is in the process of preparation. Several projects which were focused on wetland restoration and rehabilitation were carried out.

In 2005 the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) implemented a project with support of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment of the Netherlands and in cooperation with several Dutch institutions focused on training, management and restoration of wetlands and river basins, with special emphasis on some Ramsar sites (Turiec Wetlands, Senne Fishponds) and background information for national wetland restoration strategy.

Several SNC staff members participated also in training workshop in the Czech Republic on restoration and water management in March 2006.

This organisation also implemented activities for restoration of population of endangered fish species *Umbra krameri* and of sterlet in Morava Floodplain and Danube Floodplain Ramsar sites.

Regional Environmental Association TINCA realised the 2nd stage of the project 'Management of National Nature Reserve of Čičovské rameno' – which is a part of the Danube Floodplains Ramsar Site.

In 2005, the Slovak Ornithological Society – BirdLife Slovakia realised the project 'Restoration and nitrogen reduction in the Žitava River basin'.

SNC in co-operation with NGO Eva Zuberová, Kolárovo carried out the project 'Restoration of the Listové Jazero Nature Reserve'.

The Bratislava Regional Conservation Association (BROZ) NGO in close cooperation with the SNC led the EU LIFE Nature project 'Conservation and management of the Danube floodplain forests' (2003 - 2007). The project objective was to preserve the last remaining natural forests in the Slovak part of the Danube floodplain and to introduce sound, sustainable forest management in the area. In 2005 started another LIFE Nature project 'Restoration of Wetlands of Zahorie Lowland'. The main project objective is to restore the original water conditions and to reach the favourable conservation status of the forest and wetland habitats at 8 project localities - proposed Sites of Community Importance. The duration of the project is four years (2005 - 2008). During this period specific restoration and management measures are being implemented at individual project sites, including the restoration of water regime, improvement of the habitat conditions for most threatened plant and animal species, construction of fish by-pass at Rudava River near Veľké Leváre community to restore this important fish migration route, and restoration of species-rich lowland meadows along the rivers' floodplain.

In 2005 SNC - Administration of Muranska planina NP in cooperation with other partners and with the support of SBB Germany realized restoration of riverine habitats in the catchment of the Muranka River.

In 2004, the SOSNA NGO has started a project 'Restoration of the Budov kút oxbow lake'. The objective of the project was to joint this oxbow lake with the Hornad River and to increase water level in surrounded areas. The SOSNA NGO also realised activities in the Hornád microregion focused on restoration and management measures on small rivers.

The DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology carried out the following projects concerning wetland restoration (in cooperation with the SNC units):

'Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use of Rich Fens in the Slovak Republic' (UNDP/GEF, 2005/2009) (includes also part of the Turiec Wetlands Ramsar Site and other important wetlands)

'Integrated land use and management of wetlands - pilot project in the village Oľšavica (Levoča county)' (DRP (UNDP/GEF), 2005/2006)

'Conservation by Restoration: Strategy and Management for a River-Floodplain on the Lower Morava River' (Water Research Institute - Science and Technology Assistance Agency, 2003/2005)

'The conservation and restoration of valuable habitats in National Park Pieniny as a model example for large scale protected areas in Slovakia' (German Fund for the Environment (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt - DBU 2007/2008).

Crossborder INTERREG III.A project "The clean Vlára River from mouth to source" was implemented in 2006-2007 by municipalities of Horne Srnie (SK) and Brumov-Bylnice (CZ) in cooperation with NGO Pre Prirodu Trenčín (planting of trees, elimination of alien invasive species, illegal dumping sites and water quality monitoring).

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}	A - Yes
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}	A - Yes

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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 1.6.1

Following national legislation concerning Invasive Alien Species was developed and implemented:

§ 7 of the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection. According to this Act it is allowed to spread invasive species behind the border of urban areas only with the approval of the Ministry of Environment.

Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 Coll. as amended by later regulation. Annex 2 of the above mentioned Order consists of the List of invasive plant species and it determines the ways of their eradication. Annex 3 of this Order lists the invasive plant species which are allowed to be spread behind the border of urban areas.

Order of the Ministry of Environment No. 110/2005 Coll. prohibits possession of alien birds of prey (Falconiformes) and owls (Strigiformes), and Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)

Order of the Slovak Government No. 81/2007 Coll. as one of the conditions for direct subsidies in agriculture requires elimination of invasive alien plant species.

Additional information on indicator 1.6.2

National Legislation is carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions. Following policies, strategies and action plans concerning the Invasive Alien Species were developed, agreed and implemented for the implementation of the international conventions:

- National Biodiversity Strategy in Slovakia and Updated Action plan for implementation of the National Strategy for 2003 – 2010 (resolution of the Slovak Government no. 1209/2002) which deals with Invasive species in Chapter 1, Strategic goal 2.
- proposal of the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species which implements Recommendation No. 99(2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).
- The Slovak Wetland Management Programme (National Wetland Policy) and Action plan (2003 – 2007) to this Programme which implements Resolution 8.18 on Invasive Species and Wetlands of the Ramsar Convention on Wetland.

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

In 2004 the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (hereinafter as European Strategy) was translated into the Slovak language. Ministry of Environment of the SR sent both versions (English and Slovak) to the relevant stakeholders (all ministries and other selected relevant organizations with the recommendation to take the European Strategy into account while organizing activities within their responsibilities. Ministry of Environment also informed the relevant stakeholders about

its intention to work out a National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (hereinafter as National Strategy) as a comprehensive (cross-sectoral) document and asked them to prepare their proposals for key actions which should be included into the National Strategy.

The State Nature Conservancy of the SR in Banská Bystrica as the technical organization to the Ministry of Environment in the issues of nature and landscape protection prepared a draft of the National Strategy from the point of view of nature and landscape protection. The draft was presented at the 5th international conference Invasions and Invasive Organisms organized by the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra in October 2004. Later, in 2005 Ministry of Environment sent the draft of the National Strategy to the relevant stakeholders not only for comments but also for their proposals of key actions. The positive fact was that the 12 ministries sent their comments and some suggestions for key actions. However, some of the comments required additional negotiations, but in 2006 the work on drawing up the National Strategy was postponed and the issue was opened at the beginning of 2007. Due to lacking personal and financial resources the issue remained open (national strategy has not been officially approved).

Nevertheless, quite a lot of key activities proposed in the European Strategy/National Strategy (the draft) are being implemented. Following information gives some examples of what was implemented in Slovakia in the period 2005 – 2006 (up to the beginning of 2007 respectively).

1. Building awareness and support

As the work with the Slovak media (TV, radio broadcasting; national, regional and local newspaper and magazines) plays an important role in building awareness and support, contributions on invasive alien species (hereinafter as IAS) issues appear in the media. The contributions are prepared by various institutions, e.g. the State Nature Conservancy of the SR, Botanical Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra, East Slovakian Museum in Košice etc.

The State Nature Conservancy of the SR published series of leaflets Invasive Alien Plant Species in Slovakia No.1- 5. As the whole series appeared quite interesting, practical, and helpful, second edition of the series was published and leaflet No. 6 is prepared for publishing.

East Slovakian Museum in Košice prepared an exhibition 'Unwanted invaders – invasive alien plant species around us' in 2005. The exhibition is still very popular; it has been installed in many places all over Eastern Slovakia so far.

2. Collecting, managing and sharing information

The national lists of alien species of non-vascular plants (lichens and bryophytes) and fishes are prepared for publishing. The lists are results of work of Botanical Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences and Faculty of Natural Sciences of Comenius University in Bratislava.

Quite intensive research has been focused on the distribution and impacts of Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) on biodiversity of wetland habitats and on populations of protected species *Emys orbicularis*.

Some of the Slovak research institutions participate in European projects dealing with IAS, e.g. Institute of Landscape Ecology of Slovak Academy of Sciences is one of the partners in the ALTERnet project (Threat to biodiversity through invasive non-native species – a long-term monitoring network).

State Nature Conservancy of SR participates in the project SEBI 2010 (Streamlining European 2010 biodiversity indicators).

3. Strengthening national policy, legal and institutional frameworks

See Additional information on Indicator 1.6.1

4. Regional cooperation and responsibility

Traditionally, there is quite good cooperation between neighbouring countries: Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Austria. Good example is on-going project 'Development of the net of biological monitoring for the support of effective management of protected sites' between Hungary (National Park Aggtelek) and Slovakia (East Slovakian Museum in Košice with the cooperation of National Park Slovenský kras) within INTERREG III. Programme. IAS is one of the issues covered by the project. The planned project outcomes inter alia are coordinated transboundary activities on:

- building awareness and support (bilingual leaflets, brochures, lectures etc.)
- control of the most problematic invasive alien plant species in that region, e. g.: Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) threatening habitats with the occurrence of endemic plant species

Onosma tornensis, Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), Late goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) threatening grasslands and wetlands.

5. Mitigation of impacts

Most of the management activities (eradication, containment, control of IAS) are still coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of SR and they are concentrated in protected areas. Areas, where no special protection is provided but invasive alien species have been recorded there, are also subject to management measures.

6. Restoration of native biodiversity

Some management activities for mitigation of impacts of IAS and/or for restoration of native biodiversity have been applied e.g. in Morava Floodplain Ramsar Site where alien tree species *Fraxinus americana* was eradicated on about 7,5 ha or in the Danube Floodplains Ramsar Site. In many cases assessment of the impact of some non-native species on various habitat types and on populations of native species is missing subject of many studies.

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

Based on the Inventory of Wetlands in Slovakia and other studies new Wetlands of International Importance were identified. The Caves of Demanova Valley were designated in 2006 as under-represented wetland type in the Ramsar List. Many wetlands with habitats of Community interest were designated for NATURA 2000 network and are potential Ramsar sites.

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?

B - No

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 ...]”

Additional information on indicator 2.2.1

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic submitted in 2007 updated Information Sheets on following Ramsar Sites: Domica, Latorica, Rudava River Valley, Sur, Senne fishponds, Turiec Wetlands and Wetlands of Orava Basin.

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]	A - Yes
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]	B - No

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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 2.3.1:

The measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been defined and will be incorporated into prepared management plans. For some Ramsar sites these measures are part of decrees on Special Protection Areas (when overlapped with Natura 2000 sites according to EU Birds Directive) and their draft management plans.

Additional information on Indicator 2.3.2:

The State Nature Conservancy of the SR is developing the methodology for elaboration of management plans for the large scale protected areas including the sites of international importance (Ramsar sites). Up to now management plans for 3 Ramsar sites have been developed but not implemented and management plans for 11 Ramsar sites are in preparation (drafts).

Additional information on Indicator 2.3.3 :

Intra- and inter-ministerial dialogues have been established by the means of the Slovak Ramsar Committee for the purpose to enhanced integration of relevant policies related to the conservation of water resources, wetlands and biodiversity. All protected areas administrations established their own Consultation Committees for improved implementation of obligations and cooperation with stakeholders.

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>---</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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 2.4.1:

Ecological character of each Ramsar site is monitored by the Ramsar site manager who is employee of the State Nature Conservancy of the SR. Most Ramsar sites overlap with Natura 2000 network and are subject of monitoring and reporting also to the European Commission.

2.4.2 Not applicable

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:

<p>2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>

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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 2.5.1

Following Ramsar sites have been designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance as transboundary wetlands:

Morava floodplains

The Trilateral Ramsar Platform was established in 1995 and Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Waters of the Republic of Austria, the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic was signed in 2001. In 2003 common objectives and principles for establishment of the management plans for the trilateral region - Floodplains of Morava-Dyje-Danube confluence were adopted. They include following field of co-operation:

Transboundary Cooperation, Conservation and Wise Use of Habitats and Species, Agriculture, Forestry, Water management/engineering, Spatial planning, Hunting and fishing, Research and Monitoring, Environmental education and Public awareness.

Trilateral Ramsar Site Floodplains of Morava-Dyje-Danube Confluence was officially declared at the 8th meeting of the Trilateral Ramsar Platform held in Devin (Slovakia), November 2007.

Poiplie

In 2007, to fulfil the commitments made by the Slovak Republic and Hungary in their national reports submitted to the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention, in accordance with Article 5 of the text of the Convention on Wetlands and with Resolution VII.19 on Guidelines on international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention both countries designated the two sites the Ipoly Valley and Poiplie, already listed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance, as transboundary sites, in order to facilitate harmonising the management of this shared wetland.

Tisa River

The Tisa River is trilateral Ramsar site situated in the southeastern Slovakia. The site includes a 6 km section of the Tisa River and its floodplain contiguous with portions of the river in Hungary and Ukraine.

There is bilateral co-operation on transboundary rivers with all neighbouring countries through (bilateral) transboundary commissions. Topic of wetlands is up to now included partly into agenda only in cooperation between Slovakia and Austria.

On multilateral level ICPDR deals with wetland conservation, management and restoration. Special expert group was set up for this purpose. Representative of Slovakia is member of this group.

Following Ramsar sites are situated along the state borders:

Wetlands of Orava basin

It has a diverse mosaic of wetland communities, including riverine-forested peatland, wet peat meadows, non-forested shrub, swamp forests, fens, open bogs, and an artificial water reservoir. The site is situated in northern Slovakia, close to the state borders with Poland.

Danube floodplains

A section of the Danube River and its floodplain along the Austrian and Hungarian borders.

Domica

Sub-surface wetland representing a part of the 25 km long cave hydrological system Domica – Baradla in a cross-boundary position of Slovakia and Hungary with the total length of measured spaces in Slovakia 5358 m

Additional information on Indicator 2.5.2

Effective cooperative management is in place only in the Floodplains of Morava-Dyje-Danube confluence Trilateral Ramsar Site.

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

The Carpathian Wetland Initiative was initiated by Slovakia as a signatory of the Carpathian Convention and Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention on occasion of the World Wetlands Day in February 2004 by the letter of the Slovak minister of Environment L. Miklos to his partners in other Carpathian countries and other potential partners, including NGOs. In the first stage it was supported by the Slovak-Norwegian project on a 'Network of Carpathian protected areas and Ramsar sites' (2004-2005). In the initial workshop in Brezovica (Slovakia, 28-30 April 2004) and the 6th Evian Encounter (Evian, France, 15-17 November 2006) the key points for action were set. The Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) aims to operate as a Regional Initiative within the framework of the Ramsar Convention, as stated in Annex I of Resolution IX.7 (adopted in 2005) and in the same time as a part of the work of the Carpathian Convention. The framework for cooperation between secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Convention provides the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in December 2006.

The mission, objectives, partners, implementing bodies of CWI and its guiding principles are agreed in the Terms of Reference for the CWI, adopted by the Implementation Committee of the Carpathian Convention in October 2007.

The background and tool for implementation of the mission and goals of CWI through the Carpathian Convention is also the (draft) Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Biodiversity Protocol), which is expected that will be approved by the Carpathian Convention COP2 in June 2008. The proposal for endorsement of the CWI as the regional initiative of the Ramsar Convention was submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat on 31 March 2008.

Key points for the CWI work plan are agreed in the results of the 6th Evian Encounter (2006) and in the adopted Terms of Reference for the CWI (2007) and there are as follows.

1. Information on wetland ecosystems
2. National focal points
3. Designation of additional Wetlands of International Importance
4. Integrating wetlands into river basin management
5. Wetland restoration
6. Transboundary wetland ecosystems
7. Species and habitat monitoring
8. Capacity building and public awareness

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? {13.1.iii}	A - Yes
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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 3.1.1:

There are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements based on the fact that Focal points of mentioned agreements are employees of the Ministry of Environment and/or the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic. In some cases the same person is the focal point for more environmental international agreements. Some specialists are members of several national committees for different conventions.

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

Additional information on Indicator 3.2.1:

In 2006 during a workshop in Tulcea (Romania) was established and in 2007 developed international Danube River Network of Protected Areas where two Slovak Ramsar Sites participate - Danube Floodplains (Danube Floodplains Protected Landscape Area) and Morava River Floodplains (Záhorie Protected Landscape Area).

Additional information on Indicator 3.2.2:

Information about the country's wetlands including Ramsar sites and their status are publicly available through both publications and Web sites. Several publications about wetlands were published – books (Horna Orava – the Proposed Site of Community Interest, Nizke Tatry National Park – natural values, history and current status of the nature protection), brochures (Wetlands of European importance in the military district of Zahorie, Guide for the Sur Ramsar Site, the Cave system of the Domica-Baradla – underground wetland of international importance, the Caves of Demanova Vallley - underground wetland of international importance), leaflets and posters (Water habitats – Natura 2000, Peatlands). Several brochures on wetland habitats and NATURA 2000 sites were published and disseminated to target groups.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic made publicly available information on wetlands on its web page: www.sopsr.sk.

Results of inventory of wetlands of Slovakia are available on web page:

<http://www.sopsr.sk/webs/MokrSlov/index.htm>

Wetlands with international importance:

<http://www.sopsr.sk/webs/MokrSlov/medzinarodzoznam.htm>

Wetlands of national, regional and local importance:

<http://www.sopsr.sk/webs/MokrSlov/prehladokresy.htm>

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}	B - No
4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} <small>[if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]</small>	B - No

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 ...]"

Additional information on Indicator 4.1.3:

Public participation is included in the national legislation and guidelines for decision making processes and for management planning of protected sites and sites of international importance. This principle is included also in the Concept of Water Management Policy of the Slovak Republic till 2015.

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}	A - Yes
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<p>4.2.2 Have private-sector “Friends of Wetlands” fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 4.2.1:

The principle of using the property wisely and to take appropriate measures is included in the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection. Maintaining of or achieving the favourable conservation status of habitats and sites of international importance is an obligation of the land owner and land user, who can be compensated or can be supported with financial contribution. Some management activities are implemented with agreements with land owners or land users or are ordered in private companies.

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:

<p>4.3.1 Have actions been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 4.3.1:

Incentive measures are included in the Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection. Guidelines and methodologiers for using of incentive measures were developed and used.

In some protected areas management activities (e.g.clearing of shrubs, reed and tall herbs) have led to preparation of the site for regular management and wise use by land owners and land users according to the needs of habitats and species.

Additional information on Indicator 4.3.2:

Work on new act on nature conservation which will improve incentive measures was started in 2007.

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:

<p>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}</p> <p>[If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<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>C - Partly</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 ...]"

Additional information on Indicator 4.4.1:

The national Ramsar Committee includes both government and non-government CEPA focal points. The issue is subject to national wetland policies and its action plans (both approved by the government) as well as in other documents, such as the Ministry strategy on NATURA 2000 for 2005-2013 and its action plan for 2006-2013 the Strategy of development of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic until 2013 (approved in 2005). This forms a good base for establishment of a specialized strategy and action plan for wetland CEPA.

Additional information on Indicator 4.4.4:

Zahorie Protected Landscape Area Administration worked on documentary film on wetlands of Zahorie region. Within the UNDP/GEF project 'Conservation, restoration and wise use of rich fens in the Slovak Republic' seminars and workshops were organized for local stakeholders especially in 3 pilot sites. Similar activities and production of brochures and leaflets for general public were executed in a framework of the Twinning PHARE Project 'Implementation of Habitats Directive and Birds Directive in Slovakia'. Community awareness activities were important part of all other projects mentioned above. Exhibitions prepared in cooperation with museums and NGOs on wetlands and their importance were placed in different sites. Community awareness activities are a part of every day work of 25 units of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and of the Slovak Environmental Agency.

Additional information on Indicator 4.4.6:

Specialized educational centres have not been established, one is under construction in Wetlands of Orava Basin Ramsar Site, information centres are established in some other administrations of protected areas. Activities of the educational centres of the Slovak Environmental Agency include also wetland and water issues.

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:

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]	B - No
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]	C - Some agencies

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 ...]"

Additional information on Indicator 4.5.2:

Examples of projects for wetlands and species conservation, restoration and CEPA during the triennium:

Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment of the Netherlands (MATRA PPA-short) - 2005 - Capacity Building of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic;

EU LIFE - 2005-2007 - Conservation and Management of the Danube Floodplain Forests;

EU LIFE - 2005 - Resoration of Water Regime of Sur National Nature Reserve;

EU LIFE - 2005–2007 - Wetlands Resoration of Zahorska nizina Lowland;

EU LIFE - 2005-2007 - Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPA;

UNDP/GEF - 2005–2007 - Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use of Rich Fens in the Slovak Republic;

UNDP/GEF (Danube Regional Project) - 2005-2006 - Integrated Land Use and Management of Wetlands - pilot project in the village Olšavica (Levoča county);

German Fund for the Environment (DBU) - 2007 - The conservation and restoration of valuable habitats in National Park Pieniny as a model example for large scale protected areas in Slovakia;

EU Structural Funds - 2006–2007 - Saving of the species of Community importance *Umbra krameri* in protected areas of Slovakia through implementation of measures of the management plan;

EU Structural Funds - 2006–2007 - Improvement of infrastructure for implementation of the obligations of NATURA 2000 network in Horná Orava PLA;

EU Structural Funds - 2006–2007 - Optimization of Communication and Communication and Information on Protected Areas of NATURA 2000 Network;

Swiss Revolving Fund – 2005 - Management Plan for Morava River Floodplain Ramsar Site;

Phare Twinning - 2005 - Implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives;

German Government – 2005 - Evaluation of the status of habitats and species of the Annexes of the Habitats and Birds Directives and complementary collection of data for development of management plans in 10 NATURA 2000 sites;

SBB Germany - 2006 - Restoration of rivers in Revuca District;

INTERREG III.A - 2006-2007 - The clean Vlara River from mouth to source.

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 - Yes
a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?	
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?	A - Yes
b) If yes, please state the amounts:	
Funding of coordination activities of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative.	

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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 4.6.2:

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic coordinated the activities of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (in-kind contribution).

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

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

The National Report Format was used in analysis of shortcomings, compiling of annual work plans of the State Nature Conservancy and drawing of the new Programme and Action Plan for wetlands conservation and wise use in Slovakia.

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>	A - Yes
<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>	A - Yes

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 ...]”

Additional information on Indicator 4.8.1:

Review of national institutions was a part of processes for implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and of processes of reorganisation of governmental institutions. Specialized working groups of the implementing division were established which include also specialists of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and insufficient capacity was stated.

Additional information on Indicator 4.8.2:

The Slovak Ramsar Committee is composed of representatives of nature conservation sector, water management sector, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specialists, universities, academic institutions and NGOs. National Focal Points for STRP and CEPA are members, as well as national delegates to Wetlands International.

Due to changes in positions, work load and capacity problems the stabilisation of the Ramsar Committee and planned yearly meetings during last years have met with difficulties.

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

Additional information on Indicator 4.9.1:

The development of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and the proposal for its endorsement by COP10 was consulted – with some IOPs: BirdLife International, IUCN, Wetlands International and

WWF.

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)]	D - Planned
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}	D - In progress
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 ...]"

Additional information on Indicator 4.10.3:

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) developed a project on capacity building, which was supported by the Dutch Government, implemented in 2005 and it included participation of SNC staff members in international interactive training course on restoration of river basins (RWS-RIZA, Lelystad, the Netherlands). In 2007 employees of protected areas administrations participated in international training course on Ecohydrological Approaches to Wise Use, Restoration, Management and Conservation of Wetlands, organized by the Czech National Committee for UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme in cooperation with other organizations and the Czech Ministry of Environment in Trebon, Czech Republic (June 2007).

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