



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Romania, June 2012**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **15 September 2011**.

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

Introduction & background

1. This National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee in Decision SC41-24 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40th meeting in May 2009, and its Decision SC40-29, this COP11 National Report Format closely follows that used for the COP10 National Report Format, which in turn was a significantly revised and simplified format in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In addition to thus permitting continuity of reporting and implementation progress analyses by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP10 NRF), this COP11 NRF is structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP10 as Resolution X.1, and the indicators speak to relevant Key Result Areas (KRAs) for each Strategy in the Strategic Plan.
4. The COP11 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee, certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in light of its work on assessing effectiveness indicators, and by the CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention. The format also includes indicator questions concerning the use of the "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands", as requested in Resolution X.3 (2008).
5. This COP11 NRF includes 82 indicator questions. 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.
6. The COP11 Format also now includes an additional, optional, section (section 4) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, if it wishes to, on indicators relevant to individual Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

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 website.
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 and experience to help Parties develop future action;
 - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
 - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable for their commitments under the Convention;

- v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and to plan its future priorities; and
 - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation 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 COP11 consideration.
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent 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 meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the 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., COP10 DOC. 6);
 - 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., COP10 DOC. 7); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP10 DOCs 8-13);
 - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP. Examples at CO9 and COP10 included:
 - Resolution IX.15 and X.13, *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), *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC. 25), *Overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2006-2008* (COP10 DOC. 16, and *Background and rationale to the Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character* (COP10 DOC. 27);
 - iii) providing the source data for 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 (4th edition, 2010); 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 on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the COP10 NRF indicators have been used extensively in 2009 in the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems that was being considered by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3).

The structure of the COP11 National Report Format

12. The COP11 National Report Format is in four sections.

Section 1 provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

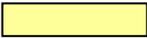
Section 2 is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 82 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional “free-text” section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity; and a further “free-text” section for adding further information on other aspects of implementation of that Strategy.

Section 4 ([www.Ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc](http://www Ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc)) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). This has been included at the request of a number of Parties.

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP11 National Report Format

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

- 13. All of the first three Sections of the COP11 National Report Format should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
- 14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **15 September 2011**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP11.
- 15. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
- 16. Fields with a pale green background  are optional free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since experience

shows 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.

17. In order to assist Contracting Parties in providing 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.
18. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the form and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties. If you need to work with an unlocked version of the Format, please contact Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer (dufour@ramsar.org), who will advise on how that can be done.
19. 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.
20. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
21. 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 Microsoft “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes in the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
22. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic data entry into our database for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [] °°°° in the “free text” fields.
23. For each of the “Indicator questions” in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: “Yes”, “No”, “Partly”, “In progress”, etc. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
24. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
25. 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.
26. 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. When filling in this form, it is also advised to refer back to the National Report submitted for COP10 for purposes of continuity and consistency.

27. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP11NRF [Country] [date].
28. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, e-mail: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in this electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
29. 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 COP11 National Report.**
30. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP11 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: CANADA	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Virginia Potter, Director General
Mailing address:	351 St. Joseph Blvd., Gatineau, Québec K1A 0H3
Telephone/Fax:	(819) 994-1360 / (819) 953-7177
Email:	Virginia.Poter@ec.gc.ca
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Robert McLean, Executive Director, Habitat and Ecosystem Conservation
Mailing address:	351 St. Joseph Blvd., Gatineau, Québec K1A 0H3
Telephone/Fax:	(819) 997-1303 / (819) 994-4445
Email:	Robert.McLean@ec.gc.ca
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Randy Milton, Manager, Wildlife Resources (Habitats Program)
Name of organisation:	Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Mailing address:	136 Exhibition St., Kentville, Nova Scotia B4N 4E5
Telephone/Fax:	(902) 679-6224 / (902) 679-6176
Email:	miltongr@gov.ns.ca
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	No designated government focal point for CEPA
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title:	No designated non-government focal point for CEPA
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP10 reporting):

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

- 1) In 2009, the first Canadian Ramsar Site Managers training course was held at the Creston Valley Ramsar Site. The training course focused on: providing a training opportunity for site managers that complemented their ongoing needs and duties; providing a means for making the most effective and efficient use of existing resources to better manage sites in accordance with Ramsar guidelines; and, explore common needs and opportunities for advancing a Ramsar Site Managers Network.
- 2) In 2011, the first steps were taken to formalize that Ramsar Site Managers Network. This network will improve communications between and among the site managers and with the national Ramsar focal point as well as provide a forum for exchanging ideas, discussing issues specific to the Ramsar sites and sharing best practices.
- 3) The appointment of a Canada Research Chair in Watershed Analysis and Modeling at Nipissing University, which will improve our ability to understand and predict how nutrients and contaminants are transported through the landscape, and how watersheds respond to environmental (climate and land use) change. Another Canada Research Chair appointment at the University of Western Ontario in Environment and Sustainability whose work will focus on understanding how the impacts of climate and changes in land use on northern wetland ecosystems.
- 4) Many provinces across Canada are in the process of updating their wetland and water-related policies. Alberta released a policy intent for the Alberta Wetland Policy in October 2010 and the completed policy is anticipated in Fall 2011. The Nova Scotia Wetland Policy is currently under development and British Columbia is undertaking a modernization of their Water Act. In Saskatchewan, wetland conservation will be considered within a broader provincial water management strategy and new biodiversity action plan, both of which are under development. In Ontario, a review of the Provincial Policy Statement is underway, which protects significant natural heritage, including wetlands, from development activities.
- 5) Under the Natural Areas Conservation Program, a \$225 million initiative of the Canadian government announced in 2007, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) targets the funds it receives, as well as matching funds, towards North American Waterfowl Management Plan priority areas across the country, focusing on highest priority waterfowl habitats (wetlands and associated uplands) and in the first 3 years of the program, DUC secured 42,611 hectares in partnership with landowners, municipalities, provincial governments and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 6) In 2009, the Government of Canada announced funding of \$3 million for the \$9 million Atlantic Habitat Partnership Initiative to sustain Atlantic Canada's valuable wetlands. This funding matched \$3 million in funding by the governments of the four Atlantic provinces (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick), as well as \$3 million of private funding obtained by Ducks Unlimited Canada. This partnership will protect and maintain over 400 square kilometres of wetlands on public and private land across Atlantic Canada.

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

1) Canada has 37 designated Ramsar Sites, representing all provinces and territories, and is home to the second largest Ramsar site in the world (Queen Maud Gulf). These sites are managed by various jurisdictions and is a testament to the cooperation between all levels of government to ensure proper management of our nationally important wetlands.

2) For the "Promoting the Wise Use of Wetlands" Competition in 2011 three proposals were submitted from Canadian site managers (ten in total for the Americas) and eight entries from Canadian schools (nine in total for the Americas). Tantamar Regional High School in Sackville, NB, and Elgin School in Alymer, ON won first and second prize, respectively, in the school competition for their experiences aimed at the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Americas. The awards ceremony took place in February 2011 at the World Wetlands Day event in Huatulco, Mexico, as part of the Convention's 40th anniversary celebrations.

3) Canadian Ramsar Site Managers and the national STRP focal point participated in the development of the publication Wetlands in the Americas: The role of the Ramsar Convention and the Benefits of Ramsar Site designation.

4) Canada has been able to support non-core funded Convention activities to improve implementation capacity in other regions (see 4.2.2).

5) In 2011, Environment Canada tweeted on World Wetlands Day and it became the Department's most retweeted tweets ever and appeared as a top tweet in the WWD hashtag stream. The Minister of the Environment also gave a statement on World Wetlands Day: (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FFE36B6D-1&news=5B273EA6-E5D4-4E61-81F9-7E81F84CB79F>).

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

The greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention continue to be broadly limited human and financial resources across stakeholders who enable its implementation in Canada. In particular, those resources required to facilitate communication of the value of wetlands, in addition to the ability to proactively manage Canada's wetlands in light of the challenges that are facing wetlands nation-wide.

The need for better outreach and engagement by the focal point to the wetlands community across Canada has been identified. This would lead to greater knowledge and uptake of Ramsar wise use principles and guidance materials. The development of the Ramsar Site Managers Network, in addition to the redevelopment of Wetkit.net to WetlandNetwork.ca are expected to ameliorate these issues.

Lastly, jurisdictional challenges occur in many regions of Canada, especially with respect to funding and wetland management, and pose difficulties in implementing the Convention.

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

Priorities for future implementation of the Convention include: the expansion of the Alaksen Ramsar Site in British Columbia to a larger, more ecologically inclusive site named the Fraser River Delta; the development of a Ramsar Site Managers Network; and, the development of WetlandNetwork.ca, a website that will help Canadians to discover, access and share wetland knowledge and experiences online and advance the principles of the Ramsar Convention. Canada will continue to work on the Canadian Wetlands Inventory and strive to make it publicly accessible through GeoBase.ca, a federal, provincial and territorial government initiative to ensure provision of, and access to, up-to-date and maintained base of quality geospatial information at no cost and with unrestricted use.

E. Does the Contracting Party have any proposals concerning adjustments to the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan?

No specific proposals at this time.

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

No specific recommendations at this time.

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

No specific recommendations at this time.

H. 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?

National implementation of the Ramsar Convention can be better linked to the implementation of other biodiversity-related conventions through exploring ways to avoid duplication, by advancing synergies, by promoting opportunities for mutual recognition and involvement as well as through information sharing among government departments and agencies involved in biodiversity and climate change.

I. 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 industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

Currently, Ramsar guidance and wise use principles are considered where possible in provincial, territorial and federal strategies and their use should continue to be encouraged. As guidance and wise use principles continue to be increasingly reflected in policies and strategies, implementation ranging from watershed and landscape planning to environmental assessment and wetland management should increasingly reflect the value of wetlands in decision-making.

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

The Convention has produced numerous valuable resources and tools. There needs to be better promotion and dissemination of this material. Outreach activities across Canada to encourage uptake and use of these resources to benefit wetland managers and decision-makers should also be increased.

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 a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database designed for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [], °°°° in the free text box.
5. To assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP10, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP10 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment. *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.*

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

C - In progress

1.1.1 Additional information:

The Canadian Wetland Inventory (CWI) was initiated in 2002 and to-date approximately 20% of the CWI is underway or complete. Currently, inventories are in place in portions of Alberta, the St. Lawrence Lowlands and the Boreal area of Ontario. Activities in the next triennium includes developing a work plan for making a wetlands data layer through GeoBase, putting existing provincial inventories into CWI standards and putting additional information in the CWI data model for the Southern Ontario-Great Lakes region. In addition, many provinces maintain their own wetland inventory (e.g. Prince Edward Island).

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

C - Partly

1.1.2 Additional information:

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) recently developed an interactive status map (<http://maps.ducks.ca/cwi/>) to show areas of the country where a CWI-compatible inventory is either in progress or complete. By clicking on an inventory polygon, the user can find the agency responsible for the inventory along with the year, status, size, contact and partners involved. This map application also permits the visualization of detailed wetland polygons and attribute information for certain areas where wetland inventory data have been made available to all stakeholders.

The long term intention is to make the wetland inventory data available to all stakeholders through GeoBase.

1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}

- a) Ramsar Sites
b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

- No change

- No change

1.1.3 a) Additional information:

Overall, the condition of Canada's Ramsar Sites has not changed. However, Environment Canada and Ramsar Site Managers continue to monitor water level changes at the Beaverhill Lake site, which has a history of natural water level shifts that is part of its essential character and ecology. The Quill Lakes site is also being monitored for water level changes. The majority of sites are dealing with invasive alien species management issues, large-scale flooding, particularly in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and future potential development pressures on surrounding lands.

1.1.3 b) Additional information:

The overall condition of wetlands across Canada varies. There is localized loss and degradation of some wetlands in southern Canada due to a wide range of stressors. The Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010 Report reports that internationally significant wetlands in Canada remain healthy and provide billions of dollars in ecosystem services annually (<http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6F7EB059-1&wsdoc=A519F000-8427-4F8C-9521-8A95AE287753>).

The provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have indicated that there have been no significant changes. Prince Edward Island reports a net gain in wetlands. Development and agricultural pressures have affected the overall condition of wetlands in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Case studies of specific areas in British Columbia and Quebec indicate that wetland loss due to agricultural conversion, development, and fluctuating water levels are a concern in some areas. Through the Coastal Habitat Assessment and Monitoring Program, the Canadian Wildlife Service monitors and assesses the coastal wetlands of the lower Great Lakes. Based on assessments using birds, water quality, submerged aquatic vegetation, and invertebrates, the trends are likely downward for the condition of lower Great Lakes coastal wetlands. The State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2010 Report found that in a recent analysis by Ducks Unlimited Canada of the number of wetlands converted to other uses, an additional 3.5% of re-settlement wetlands in southern Ontario have been lost since 1982, representing a continuing loss of 0.17% per year.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i
(If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

B - No

1.3.1 Additional information:

Wetland conservation in Canada is a shared federal, provincial and territorial responsibility and therefore, no national policy exists. The federal government has a particular role to play as a major landowner and is responsible for The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (1991). Some provinces also have a wetland policy for regions under their jurisdiction (e.g. Prince Edward Island) while others may include wetlands under the framework of broader policy statements (e.g. Ontario's Provincial Policy Statement).

1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}

Z - Not applicable

1.3.2 Additional information:

Although there is no national wetland policy in Canada, some provincial policies do incorporate WSSD targets and actions:

- Ontario's Provincial Policy Statement includes policies on the conservation of water, natural heritage values, and the wise use and management of resources, which link to some of the WSSD targets and actions.
- The New Brunswick Provincial Wetland Conservation Policy (2002) incorporates WSSD targets and actions.
- The Nova Scotia Wetland Policy currently under development has a number of interconnecting and supporting objectives that include targets and actions in-line with the WSSD
- Many provincial governments and non-government partners have also been actively developing Biodiversity Strategies that indirectly address outcomes from the 2002 WSSD aimed at reducing the rate at which animals and plants are becoming extinct.

1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
 - b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
 - c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
 - d) National forest programmes
 - e) National strategies for sustainable development
 - f) National policies or measures on agriculture
 - g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans
- {1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

Z - Not applicable

C - Partly

1.3.3 Additional information: In Canada, various federal, provincial/territorial strategies and planning processes include wetland issues, for example:

b) British Columbia (BC) - Living Water Smart - British Columbia's Water Plan (2011) commits to protecting and rehabilitating wetland and waterway function.

Alberta (AB) - wetland issues are incorporated into the Water for Life Strategy (renewed 2008)

Manitoba (MB) - wetland issues have been incorporated into the Manitoba Water Strategy (2003) including wetland conservation and retention, water storage, planning and development of drainage projects.

Saskatchewan (SK) - wetland conservation will be considered within a broader provincial water management strategy in the future.

Ontario (ON) - the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (2005, under review), includes policies on conservation of water, including protection, improvement or restoration of quantity and quality through various actions that include wise use of wetlands. Wetlands are also considered in Conservation Authorities Act regulations, which help to protect sustainable water resources.

Northwest Territories (NWT) - Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy (2010) identifies importance of improving the understanding of water and watershed features in decision-making.

c) Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Canada is guided by principles that include awareness of the importance of wetlands, sustainable and wise-use, integrated ecosystem management and coastal planning. Specific plans include: Beaufort Sea Integrated Ocean Management Plan (2009), and the National Framework of Marine Protected Areas (draft 2010).

d) The Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, is undertaking a pilot project focusing on potential effects of a variety of disturbance factors including timber harvesting, prescribed fire, herbicide applications and climate change on wetlands.

BC - The Forest and Range Practices Act (2004) and associated regulations contain a classification scheme and riparian management areas for wetlands.

ON - Recent updates were made to the province's Forest Management Guides for Conservation Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales to provide direction to forest managers on biodiversity conservation, including wetland habitat.

e) The Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (2010) captures wetlands issues as part of Goal 6 (Ecosystem/Habitat conservation and Protection), and will be reported on as part of a measure of ecosystem health.

ON - The PPS provides policy direction on sustainable development, enabling appropriate development while also protecting the quality of the natural environment, including wetlands.

f) BC - in 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture established standards for agricultural building setbacks from watercourses and wetlands in farming areas.

g) The Canadian Biodiversity Strategy (1995) addresses wetlands under many of the goals outlined in the strategy. Many Great Lakes' bi-national biodiversity conservation strategies include content regarding wetland conservation (e.g. Lake Ontario 2009, Lake Huron 2010).

BC - Conservation Framework (2009) provides a set of science-based tools and actions for conserving species and ecosystems, including wetlands.

ON - the Biodiversity Strategy (2011) identifies targets that align with the new Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: Most jurisdictions in Canada conduct SEAs of policies, programs and plans with the potential for important environmental effect, including on wetlands. At the federal level, there is a Cabinet Directive on SEAs (http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=B3186435-1) and all Government of Canada departments and agencies that are developing policy, plan and program proposals are obligated to implement the Directive.</p>	

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	C - In some cases
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (1992) triggers federal environmental assessments on projects that meet a number of criteria, including when the federal government is a proponent, provides financial assistance, is a land manager or owner, or provides a licence, permit or approval in order to carry out the work. In addition, most provinces and territories have their own provincial/territorial legislation that requires environmental assessments on select projects.</p>	

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	A - Yes
<p>1.3.6 Additional information: In British Columbia, the new Oil and Gas Activities Act (2010) and associated regulations provides for protection of environmental values that includes wetland riparian management areas, reserve zones and management zones.</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	B - No
<p>1.4.1 Additional information: Although Ramsar Site management plans reference the benefits and services of the sites, few assessments have been conducted of the ecosystems benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites specifically.</p>	
1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i	Z - Not applicable

1.4.2 Additional information:

1.4.3 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {1.3.4} KRA 1.4.iii

C - Partly

1.4.3 Additional information:

Although the Convention's guiding principles have not been specifically used, a number of provinces have taken action to include the cultural values of wetlands in their policy development. For example, cultural values of wetlands are being considered in the development of the Alberta Wetland Policy and British Columbia's policy and legislative reform fully considers the cultural values of wetlands. The development of the proposed Water Sustainability Act in British Columbia is driven by principles that include respect for First Nations social and cultural practices associated with water. In the Yukon, the territorial government has coordinated the planning of several Habitat Protection Areas or Special Management Areas for which management plans were prepared together with local First Nations. In Nunavut, land use planning, which includes water resources, for the Nunavut Settlement Area must give weighty consideration to the tradition of Inuit oral communication and decision making under the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. In Ontario, the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System is used to identify provincially significant wetlands and includes aboriginal values and cultural heritage.

1.4.4 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.1.5} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

17 Ramsar sites have socio-economic and cultural values included in their management planning, including: Alaksen, Baie de l'Isle Verte, Cap Tourmente, Columbia River Wetlands, Creston Valley, Grand Codroy Estuary, Hay-Zama Lakes, Lac Saint-François, Last Mountain Lake, Long Point, Minesing Wetlands, Mer Bleue, Old Crow Flats, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Point Pelee National Park, St. Clair National Wildlife Area, Tabusintac Lagoon & River Estuary, and Whooping Crane Summer Range.

An additional site, Musquodoboit Harbour is currently preparing a management plan, which will include socio-economic and cultural values.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

Socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands are being better incorporated into the North American Waterfowl Management Plan through an ongoing revision process.

Ducks Unlimited Canada has struck an Oversight Team to inform decisions about long-term DUC investments in economic and social research and has established several socio-economic research agreements with Universities.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is currently building on their Growing Forward Agricultural Policy Framework, with Growing Forward 2, which seeks to mainstream environmental considerations and link environment and sustainability to productivity in agricultural systems.

STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention. *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes*

1.5.1 Have you taken steps to ensure that your national focal points for other environmental conventions are contributing to the application of Ramsar Convention implementation mechanisms? KRA 1.5.i

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information: Canada has a number of mechanisms at the national level to ensure there is collaboration between the national focal points of other environmental conventions. These mechanisms include coordination groups among senior management (Directors General Committee on International Affairs in Environment Canada as an example) and interdepartmental fora (Interdepartmental Committee on Biodiversity as an example) for sharing information and developing policy.

1.5.2 Have you brought the "Changwon Declaration" (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
- b. parliament
- c. private sector
- d. civil society

B - No
B - No
B - No
B - No

1.5.2 Additional information:

1.5.3 Has the "Changwon Declaration" been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?

B - No

1.5.3 Additional information:

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?

Z - Not applicable

1.5.4 Additional information: The Changwon Declaration is already available in Canada's two official languages: English and French

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

KRA 1.6.i

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

a) The provincial, territorial and federal governments along with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) are preparing to undertake a review of science-based wetland-agricultural beneficial management practices implemented under the Agriculture Policy Framework (2003). In addition, DUC has worked extensively in Atlantic Canada with the agricultural community through their agricultural biodiversity program, which develops farm management plans promoting best management processes targeted at biodiversity and wetland protection. In Manitoba, DUC has completed research to determine the impacts of wetland loss from agricultural drainage activities in the Broughton's Creek watershed. The Agricultural Wetlands Research Network (AWRN) (a partnership led by the International Institute of Sustainable Development Water Innovation Centre and the Migal-Galilee Technology Center in Israel) is working to foster an international research partnership on the particular challenges within agricultural landscapes. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority undertook research in 2008 on the agricultural drainage impacts on various lakes in the province.

b) In 2010, the University of British Columbia conducted a preliminary assessment of the vulnerability of wetlands to climate change in the southern interior ecoprovince (www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/FIA/2011/FSP_Y113120d.pdf). Workshops in Ontario have been organized to bring together wetland conservation professionals to discuss current and future research of climate change impacts on wetlands. DUC has a Climate Change Central technical working group to advance the development of a wetland management greenhouse gas sequestration protocol in Alberta. At the federal level, Environment Canada is working to improve input data and develop methodologies that more comprehensively assess the greenhouse gas impact of land management practices in Canada's carbon rich peat ecosystems.

c) In proposed protected areas in the Northwest Territories that contain wetland areas, Environment Canada calculated the value of certain migratory birds based on expenses incurred and reported for bird watching and hunting in both Canada and the US. Environment Canada has also looked at different policies for dealing with excess nutrients in Lake Winnipeg, and wetland restoration is one of them. This work involves the measurement of improvements in water quality and quantity and other co-benefits from environmental goods and services that result from wetland restoration, such as carbon sequestration/storage and waterfowl productivity. DUC has provided funding to the University of Alberta to design a stated preference contingent valuation method survey to estimate the non-market values of wetlands in the prairie pothole region of Manitoba. In 2011, DUC completed research in partnership with the Universities of Guelph and Alberta that examined the ecological value and impacts of wetlands and wetland loss in Ontario's Lake Simcoe basin. In 2009, Ontario published a report on estimating ecosystem services in southern Ontario, which found wetlands provide the highest value (up to \$161.00 CAD/ha/year in economic benefits in urban and suburban areas).

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including on potential threats to the wetlands? KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Many provinces have legislation that require protected areas, including protected wetlands to have scientifically sound management plans (e.g. British Columbia Wildlife Act). In addition, provincial agencies (ENGOs, land trusts, government) typically develop management plans for secured wetlands to ensure that the habitat is maintained for future generations and to clearly identify restoration and stewardship targets for the land. Such plans are developed using the best available science and information. Federal protected areas with management plans (e.g. National Parks) are also based on sound scientific research. Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada requires management plans for all of their projects and the lands they manage. Many of the above mentioned management plans also incorporate traditional ecological knowledge.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

The projects highlighted above in 1.6.1 are a small sample of the work that is currently taking place across Canada. The science of wetlands continues to be the base from which management planning occurs nationally.

STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i

C - Partly

1.7.1 Additional information:

Many provinces (e.g. Ontario) approach water resource planning in a manner that is consistent with the Convention's guidance, even though it may not have been explicitly utilized. In Saskatchewan, the Convention's guidance is to be considered within the context of work currently being undertaken in the province.

1.7.2 Does your country's water governance and management treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? KRA 1.7.ii

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

Wetlands are very important sources of aquifer recharge in many parts of Canada, and in particular the Prairies. Natural Resources Canada treats wetlands as water sources or sinks depending on their location, hydrostratigraphy, etc. and from the point of scientific studies wetlands are treated as natural water infrastructure.

Through legislation, policy and planning, wetlands are treated as natural water infrastructure, for example, the Manitoba Water Strategy (2003), the Alberta Water Act (2010), the Nova Scotia Wetland Policy (draft 2009), and the Nova Scotia Water Resource Management Strategy (2010). In British Columbia, water governance is currently being reviewed in the development of the proposed Water Sustainability Act that supports government's shift in the natural resource sector to an area-based model and more integrated approach for natural resource management. In Nunavut, the Nunavut Water Board has responsibilities and powers over the regulation, use and management of water in the Nunavut Settlement Area as stated under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. In Ontario, a number of tools are employed that explicitly recognize the value of wetlands in managing water resources (e.g. Provincial Policy Statement (under review), Clean Water Act (2006), and Lakes and River Improvement Act (1990)).

1.7.3 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.4.2}

C - Partly

1.7.3 Additional information:

CEPA objectives are incorporated into federal and provincial wetland policies, stewardship initiatives and habitat conservation programs. Most of these activities are carried out by provincial government agencies and private sector partners like Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Bird Studies Canada.

The majority of provinces and territories have incorporated CEPA expertise and tools. For example, in Alberta, watershed stewardship groups operate with regional multi-stakeholder Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils and are made up of volunteer citizens who take the initiative to protect their local creek, stream, stretch of river or lake. Watershed stewardship groups proactively develop on-the-ground solutions to ensure the protection of the watershed. In Saskatchewan, wetland issues have been examined during community-led watershed-based source water protection planning facilitated by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. In Ontario, watershed education, awareness and stewardship activities are delivered mainly through two initiatives: Conservation Authorities and the Ontario Stewardship Program. Outreach projects and education are largely provided by conservation officers and by watershed organizations and Priority Intervention Zone (ZIP) committees in Quebec. In the Northwest Territories, the Water Stewardship Strategy (May 2010) and Action Plan (May 2011) were developed based on input from Northerners and are guided by an Aboriginal Steering Committee in addition to participation from numerous northern water management stakeholders; a communications plan for the Water Stewardship Strategy is being developed; and, community-based monitoring is one key to successes in implementing the Water Stewardship Strategy.

1.7.4 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? {1.4.3}

B - No

1.7.4 Additional information:

ICZM in Canada does not use Ramsar guidance, specifically, however it is guided mainly by strategies and plans sharing the same general ideas and values as the guiding principles of the Ramsar Convention. Specific plans include: Canada's Ocean Strategy (2002), Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management Plan (2007), Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (2008), National Framework of Marine Protected Areas (draft 2010).

1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

1.7.5 Additional information:

In 2009, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) developed a collaborative, strategic, Canada-wide vision for water, which includes as a goal: climate change impacts are reduced through adaptive strategies. This includes developing an overview on water monitoring networks for climate change detection, watershed vulnerability assessment, prioritization and adaptation planning.

The Pollutant Inventories and Reporting Division of Environment Canada is responsible for preparing Canada's official national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. The Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry sector of the national GHG inventory includes emissions and removals associated with wetland management. To enhance the quality of wetland estimates, work has been prioritized to improve input data and develop methodologies which more comprehensively assess the GHG impact of land management practices in Canada's carbon rich peat ecosystems. This work will utilise the best available Canadian research. These developments will improve the quantification of the direct anthropogenic impact on Canadian wetlands and assist in identifying mitigation policies and measures.

Canadian expertise has and will continue to inform the development of guidelines by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the preparation of national greenhouse gas inventories, specifically for wetlands. Scientists from the Government of Canada, along with other Canadian scientists, have played a lead role in the writing of the wetlands chapter in the 2006 IPCC guidelines. Additionally, Canada continues to promote Canadian methodological advancements so they inform upcoming work by the IPCC to develop supplementary methodological guidance for wetlands. Involvement in these initiatives highlights Canada's commitment to the development of wetland methodological guidance that is scientifically sound and applicable to national GHG inventories.

1.7.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands and water in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? KRA 1.7.v

A - Yes

1.7.6 Additional information:

Since 2003, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has supported environmental farm planning (EFP) programs nationally, through which farmers enhance their environmental management, assess the agri-environmental risks and benefits on their farm, and create an Action Plan to address risk(s). The proper management, protection and enhancement of wetlands is one issue promoted and addressed through the process and in a 2006 Farm Environmental Management Survey, farms with an EFP had a statistically higher rate of maintaining a riparian buffer around both permanent and seasonal wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation:

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

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified?

{1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) (currently under revision) through four public-private habitat joint venture partnerships (JVs) is the primary vehicle for identifying priority sites for wetland restoration.

Restoration activities in Atlantic Canada are identified by the Atlantic Habitat Partnership Initiative, which will help maintain infrastructure that sustains valuable wetlands and will protect and maintain over 40,000 hectares of wetlands on public and private land across Atlantic Canada.

In addition, other plans such as the Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan (2005) outlines a strategy to undertake rehabilitation projects at priority sites in the Great Lakes Basin. Habitat priorities, including wetlands, are also identified for Species at Risk funding programs, such as the Habitat Stewardship Program. Non-Government Organizations may use other tools for identifying priority restoration sites including Important Bird Areas (many of which are wetlands).

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

Wetland restoration/rehabilitation is a key action of the JVs established under the NAWMP. Between 1986 and 2010, over 16 million hectares of wetlands or associated uplands have been protected, restored or managed through the NAWMP and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCC) at a cost of over \$1.4 billion CAD. Between 2006 and 2010, alone, partners with the Ontario Eastern Habitat JV completed 298 wetland enhancement projects in Ontario, resulting in the improvement of 9,505 hectares of wetlands within the Great Lakes Basin.

Each year, through a partnership between Wildlife Habitat Canada and Environment Canada, a habitat conservation stamp is produced which is purchased by waterfowl hunters (to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit) and stamp and conservation enthusiasts. Revenues from the Stamp are directed to Wildlife Habitat Canada to carry out projects that conserve and protect wetlands associated with waterfowl. Since 1985, over \$35 million from the revenue of the Stamp and print sales has been invested in conservation projects focusing primarily on wetlands across Canada.

Other projects funded by a variety of organizations across Canada include wetland drain restoration projects that benefit species at risk, restoring and creating wetland habitat and a landowner contact program, a rehabilitation program to repair failing water control infrastructure (Oak Hammock Marsh), Asian Carp exclusion projects (Delta Marsh), eel grass plantings in British Columbia, removal of invasive species, working with landowners to create buffer zones around wetlands, remediation of contaminated sites. The Canadian Forest Service at Natural Resources Canada is undertaking multifaceted studies to assess indicators and benchmarks for recovery of ecological function in disturbed forest landscapes, one aspect of which will focus specifically on phytoremediation using wetland associated plants in the Alberta oilsands area.

1.8.3 Has Ramsar guidance (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidance on wetland restoration been used in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {1.5.2}

C - Partly

1.8.3 Additional information:

The International Institute for Sustainable Development has consulted Ramsar guidance in the development of background research and management planning options related to Netley-Libau Marsh in Manitoba. However, for the most part, Ramsar guidance is not specifically used, although similar principles and approaches are applied in the design and implementation of projects involving wetland restoration and rehabilitation. The mitigative sequence is applied with the preferred option being restoration/rehabilitation of wetland area or function in the same watershed for unavoidable loss.

Equivalent guidance is used by Ducks Unlimited Canada and other JV partners in wetland restoration/rehabilitation projects. For example:

Gray, B.T., R. W. Coley, R. J. MacFarlane, A. J. Puchniak, D. A. Sexton and G. R. Stewart. 1999. Restoration of prairie wetlands to enhance bird habitat: A Ducks Unlimited Canada perspective. Pp. 171-194 in Aquatic restoration in Canada (Murphy, T. and M. Munawar, eds.). Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands.

In addition, DUC's engineering department has developed an extensive manual entitled "Ducks Unlimited Canada Hydrology Guide" (1983, currently being updated) to help guide their wetland restoration program.

Annually, in Ontario, a wetland restoration course, coordinated by the provincial government and local conservation authorities, teaches restoration practitioners the basic principles of water conservation and wetland restoration through case studies and hands-on field work. The materials for this course follow many of the same principles as those in Ramsar guidance materials.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

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

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

C - Partly

1.9.1 Additional information:

Although some provinces/territories maintain inventories of invasive alien species, none currently exists nationally. Many management plans, such as those for National Parks and Environment Canada's Protected Areas also include partial inventories of invasive alien species. Of the existing databases, there are clear gaps in certain taxa and in different areas of the country, while other groups and areas are covered more comprehensively.

1.9.2 Have national invasive species control and management policies or guidelines been established for wetlands?
{1.6.1} KRa 1.9.iii

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information:

In 1999, Environment Canada released a report entitled, Invasive Plants of Natural Habitats in Canada: An integrated review of wetland and upland species and legislation governing their control (www.ec.gc.ca/eee-ias/78D62AA2-55A4-4E2F-AA08-538E1051A893/invasives.pdf).

Nationally, the Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada (2004) plays an important role in preventing new invasions, detecting and responding to new invasive alien species and in managing established invasive alien species through eradication, containment and control. Although not specific to wetlands, this Strategy seeks to protect Canada's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and their native biological diversity and domestic plants and animals, from the risks of invasive alien species. Some provinces and territories or specific federal departments may have control and management policies related to particular species that occur on wetlands. For example, aquatic guidelines/policies under the Manitoba Water Strategy (2003) addresses some invasive species (e.g. zebra mussels), and in British Columbia a Response Plan was developed in 2010 to address the eradication of *Spartina*, a marine aquatic plant not native to the Pacific Coast. The Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan was recently posted to the province's Environmental Registry (2011) for public comment. The new plan outlines actions to address invasive species in Ontario, including those present in wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {4.2.1} KRA 1.10.i

C - Partly

1.10.1 Additional information:

Many of the principles and guidance provided by Ramsar are reflected in federal and/or provincial and territorial guidelines. Therefore, although Ramsar materials are not used specifically, the message conveyed to the private sector is the same.

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of:

- a. Wetlands in general
- b. Ramsar Sites

KRA 1.10.ii

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

a) Private organizations have undertaken projects that: support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; establish long-term protection of wetlands through conservation easements; identifying beneficial management practices for wetland stewardship; restoring and creating wetland habitat; and, developing a landowner contact program for lowland agricultural area species at risk and their habitats. In addition, many organizations use social media, blogs, newsletters and public consultations to communicate wise use principles.

In 2010, the International Institute for Sustainable Development Water Innovation Centre hosted a two-day Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit that focused on how to develop solutions for Lake Winnipeg water quality and nutrient loading that addressed environment, social, and economic concerns.

www.iisd.org/wic/summit_2010.aspx

b) The interpretative programs at many Ramsar Sites promote personal responsibility to the environment. For example, at the Alaksen Ramsar Site, the British Columbia Waterfowl Society uses the habitats and birds to illustrate wise use and management of the site to 70,000 visitors a year.

1.10.3 Have awareness-raising materials been made available to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices? KRA 1.10.iii

A - Yes

1.10.3 Additional information:

Many organizations publish websites and written materials to encourage wetland-friendly consumer choices.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.1} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <p>During the past triennium, a number of actions have been taken to implement incentive measures encouraging wetland conservation and wise use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has provided cost-share incentive funding to farmers for adopting beneficial management practices, once an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) has been developed, some of which included the restoration of wetlands and improved riparian management for the protection of wetlands and waterways. It is estimated that, as of the last agricultural census (March 31, 2009), approximately 1/3 of Canadian farmers have developed an EFP, with more than \$83,000 federal incentive dollars supporting over 25 wetland restoration projects and \$14.4 million federal incentive dollars helping to implement over 4,600 riparian mangement projects implemented by farmers. - Manitoba Water Stewardship administers the Wetland Restoration Incentive Program, which provides financial incentives, technical support, and advice to landowners wanting to restore wetlands on their property. - Nova Scotia is developing a Wetland Policy, the latest draft of which includes preventing net loss of ecologically significant wetland area and function and prevent the loss of other wetlands. - The document, Establishing a Regional Conservation Fund in British Columbia: A Guide for Local Governments and Community Organizations, has been developed by Environment Canada partners, which provides information on how to establish a regional conservation levy. Conservation funds are used for securement and stewardship of wetlands and other sensitive ecosystems. - The Natural Areas Protection Tax Exemption Program, British Columbia, has been established in one regional district of British Columbia and provides a 65% property tax exemption to landowners who protect sensitive areas of their property through conservation covenants. - Ontario has a Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP), which encourages private stewardship of Ontario's provincially significant lands, including wetlands, by providing tax relief to landowners who agree to protect the natural heritage values of their property. - Delta Waterfowl's Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) project is a unique ecological goods and services program proposal designed by farmers, for farmers, that recognizes the value of conserving and restoring Canada's natural capital while respecting and rewarding the important role that farmers play in environmental management. - A number of provincial programs exist that provide tax exemption status to NGOs and landowners who hold land for conservation purposes. 	
1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

British Columbia is currently undergoing a provincial Water Act modernization to update the current Water Act that was originally passed in 1909. The new Act will improve the protection of ecological values. In addition, in February, 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture established standards for agricultural building setbacks from watercourses and wetlands in farming areas. This will help prevent infilling of wetlands to grow marginal crops.

The Wetland Drain Restoration Project in Ontario has been an ongoing effort by the Ministry of Natural Resources and other significant partners in Norfolk County. The overall goal of the project is to balance the advantages provided by municipal drainage projects with the water purification, storage and discharge functions provided by wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note. An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP11 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on any of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. *Apply the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance" (Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A - Yes
2.1.1 Additional information: The report, Strategic Overview of the Canadian Ramsar Program, was published by Environment Canada in 1996; however, it has only been partially implemented.	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	B - No
2.1.2 Additional information: All required updates are currently being finalized and will be forwarded as a package to the Ramsar Secretariat prior to COP11.	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.3 Additional information: No Ramsar Site designations have been submitted to the Secretariat during the past triennium.	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	1 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation): One site is expected to be presented late in 2011 after submission of this Report to the Ramsar Secretariat.	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

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

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii	A - Yes
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2.2.1 Additional information: These tools were used to develop the nomination package that is currently being put together for the expansion of a Ramsar Site in British Columbia, which is expected to be presented later this year.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

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

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? KRA 2.3.i

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

Each portion of the site being prepared for Ramsar designation has a management plan and these plans meet most of the criteria outlined in the Management Planning Guidelines adopted at COP8. However resources to achieve management goals and monitor a habitat will be a limiting factor.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.3.2} KRA 2.4.i

23 sites

2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i

23 sites

2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i

2 sites

2.4.4 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being revised or updated? KRA 2.4.i

12 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

2.4.1 The following Ramsar Sites have a management plan for all or a portion of the site (depending on designation): Alaksen (2002), Baie de l'Isle Verte (1986), Cap Tourmente (1986), Chignecto (1984), Columbia River Wetlands (2004), Creston Valley (2004), Grand Codroy Estuary (1995), Hay-Zama Lakes (2002), Lac Saint-François (1986), Lac St.Pierre (1987), Last Mountain Lake (1999), Long Point (1983), Mary's Point (1984), Matchedash (1989), Mer Bleue (2007), Minesing Wetlands (2009), Old Crow Flats (2010), Peace-Athabasca Delta (2010), Point Pelee National Park (2010), Polar Bear Provincial Park (1980), St. Clair National Wildlife Area (1982), Tabusintac (2004), Whooping Crane Summer Range (2010)

2.4.2 For the majority of Ramsar Sites, the management plans are being implemented either fully or in part.

2.4.3 Ramsar Sites with management plans in preparation include Musquodoboit Harbour (anticipated completion 2013). In addition, Hay-Zama Lakes is developing a separate fire management plan.

2.4.4 The following Ramsar Sites, or portions of sites with management planning, have management plans that are being revised or updated: Alaksen, Baie de l'Isle Verte, Cap Tourmente, Chignecto, Creston Valley, Grand Codroy Estuary, Lac Saint-François, Last Mountain Lake, Long Point, Mary's Point, St. Clair, Tabusintac

2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii

C - Some sites

2.4.5 Additional information:

Most Sites that have a management plan incorporate the maintenance of ecological character as a management objective. Management plans and the contents therein vary depending on the management body and the legislation or level of protection guiding the management of each site.

2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv

14 sites

2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):

The following Ramsar Sites have cross-sectoral management committees:
Columbia River Wetlands, Delta Marsh, Hay-Zama Lakes, Matchedash Bay, McConnell River, Minesing Wetlands, Oak Hammock Marsh, Old Crow Flats, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Point Pelee National Park, Polar Bear Pass, Queen Maud Gulf, St. Clair National Wildlife Area, Whooping Crane Summer Range

2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v

21 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number):

Ecological character descriptions are an important component of most management plans and/or have been conducted for portions of many sites:

Baie de l'Isle Verte (362), Beaverhill Lake (370), Cap Tourmente (214), Chignecto (320), Columbia River Wetlands (1463), Delta Marsh (238), Grand Codroy Estuary (364), Hay-Zama Lakes (242), Lac Saint-François (361), Last Mountain Lake (239), Long Point (237), Mer Bleue (755), Minesing Wetlands (865), Oak Hammock Marsh (366), Old Crow Flats (244), Peace-Athabasca Delta (241), Point Pelee National Park (368), St. Clair National Wildlife Area (319), Southern James Bay (367), Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary (612), Whooping Crane Summer Range (240)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness. *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance".*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of Ramsar Site management effectiveness been carried out? {2.3.4} KRA 2.5.i

C - Some sites

2.5.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available):

Grand Codroy Estuary - The Newfoundland Wildlife Division's stewardship program conducted an independent formal audit in 2003

Mer Bleue - A summary of the management plan implementation is anticipated in the coming years to assess management effectiveness

Minesing Wetlands - Effectiveness is observed through ongoing process of meeting management targets

Peace-Athabasca Delta - A Synthesis of Ecological Information Related to the Peace-Athabasca Delta and a Traditional Knowledge Based Assessment of the Ecosystem Health, Human Health and Community Health of the Peace-Athabasca Delta were completed in 2010 to help inform the Peace-Athabasca Environmental Monitoring Program. A vulnerability assessment of the Delta is also now underway. In addition, a State of the Aquatic Environment (2002) reports specifically on the aspects of the Delta and, in 2009, the Wood Buffalo National Park State of the Park Report included several measures of ecological integrity summarizing the state of the Delta.

Point Pelee National Park - All five key strategies of the management plan have targets to measure management effectiveness and are in the State Of The Park Report produced by the Parks Canada Agency every five years. The last was produced in 2007 and work on the 2012 report is underway.

Tabusintac - Management effectiveness has been assessed and the Nature Conservancy of Canada is in the process of updating a conservation plan for the site including the findings of this assessment.

Whooping Crane Summer Range - The Whooping Crane Recovery Team meets once every 2 years to evaluate its program. A State of the Park Report for Wood Buffalo National Park evaluates the effectiveness of the management plan for the Park -- a portion of which is a component of the Whooping Crane Summer Range.

Various Ramsar Sites have ongoing monitoring of species at risk, invasive species, etc. that feed into management planning or more informal assessments of management effectiveness (Alaksen, Chignecto, Long Point, Minesing, St. Clair)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status. *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.4.1} KRA 2.6.i	A - Yes
2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established): Regular communication with Ramsar Site Managers ensures that the Administrative Authority is informed of changes to Ramsar Sites. The Ramsar Site Managers Network will ensure more timely and regular communication.	
2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {2.4.2} KRA 2.6.i	Z - No negative change
<p>2.6.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some cases", please indicate 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>Invasive species continue to be of concern for a number of Ramsar Sites (Delta Marsh, Lac Saint-François, Last Mountain Lake, Long Point, Oak Hammock Marsh, Point Pelee, St. Clair). Low water levels are an issue for Beaverhill Lake, although this is likely reflective of natural historical variation. There are also water level issues at Baie de l'Isle Verte, Cap Tourmente, Delta Marsh, Lac St. Pierre, Last Mountain Lake, Quill Lakes, and St. Clair National Wildlife Area. Water level issues at these sites are a result of activities adjacent to the site affecting the water levels or indirectly through changes in source water supplies and sinks. Southern James Bay is experiencing ongoing changes due to intense foraging by geese, as is Cap Tourmente. Follow up is required at these sites to determine whether any of these changes are significant or human-induced.</p> <p>Some Sites have had improvements in ecological character through management efforts reducing motor vehicle use (Columbia River Wetlands), reclamation or restoration or clean-up activities (Columbia River Wetlands, Hay-Zama, Musquodoboit, Polar Bear Provincial Park), securing additional habitat (Mer Bleue, Shepody Bay).</p>	
2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.4.3} KRA 2.6.ii	Z - Not applicable
2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken):	
Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:	

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally*

designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

The Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010 Report reports that internationally significant wetlands in Canada remain healthy and provide billions of dollars in ecosystem services annually (<http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6F7EB059-1&wsdoc=A519F000-8427-4F8C-9521-8A95AE287753>).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. *Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).*

<p>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)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.1.1 Additional information: Environment Canada is the federal government department responsible for many MEAs. This Department seeks to ensure there is coordination and information sharing being the focal points of the various MEAs, including the Ramsar convention, and also consults with other government departments. There is a directorate within Environment Canada that manages and assists in coordinating the Department's international engagement in multilateral fora, such as the OECD, UNEP, etc, and also monitors and contributes to other bodies, such as the Ramsar Convention.</p>	
<p>3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>3.1.2 Additional information: Canada does not have a National Ramsar Committee. The North American Wetland Conservation Council is made up of federal, provincial/territorial and non-governmental organization representatives, however national focal points of other MEAs are not invited to participate as it is beyond the scope of the Council.</p>	
<p>3.1.3 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO, etc)? KRA 3.1.iv</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.1.3 Additional information: Canada has a number of mechanisms at the national level to ensure there is collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the national focal points of other UN, global and regional bodies. These mechanisms include coordination groups among senior management (Director General Committee on International Affairs in Environment Canada as an example), interdepartmental fora (Interdepartmental Committee on Biodiversity as an example) for sharing information and developing policy on various MEAs.</p>	
<p>3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii</p>	<p>Z - Not applicable</p>

3.1.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i

A - Yes

3.2.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Planned", please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

In cooperation with Wetlands International, Canada has participated in a regional initiative in North Africa to build the capacity of the civil society to dialogue with governments about improved wetlands management. Canada has also participated in the second phase of a project with Iraq to develop an integrated management plan for the Marshlands area using collaborative decision-making processes. Along with the Netherlands and Denmark, Canada has supported African Development Bank's Water Partnership Program, which provides grants to support water information and data management at the African Development Bank; integrated water resource management outreach and knowledge sharing; and the exchange of best practices and experiences.

3.2.2 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {4.10.1}

A - Yes

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

Canada participates in the Terrestrial Wetlands Global Change Research Network, which is a USA/Canada initiative led by the United States Geological Survey that is aimed at establishing a binational and transcontinental network to monitor change in small wetland ecosystems at the terrestrial/wetland interface, particularly in response to climate change.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an*

integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.

<p>3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iraq: Restoration of Mesopotamian Marshes - Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan: Mediterranean Wetlands Capacity Building - African Development Bank's Water Partnership Program <p>There are likely numerous other initiatives supported by the Canadian International Development Agency and its multilateral partners that are directly and indirectly related to wetland conservation and management. In addition to providing core funding to the Global Environment Facility, Canada's 2009-2010 Official Development Assistance Report includes expenditures related to: flood prevention/control, biosphere protection, bio-diversity, site preservation, and water resources protection, amongst other areas related to wetlands.</p>	
<p>3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.3.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Canada assesses all of its development assistance activities for potential risks and opportunities with respect to environmental sustainability and works with its partner countries to ensure that they have the capacity to do the same. This includes enhancing partners' abilities to manage natural resources and address issues like desertification and climate change. Assessing the environmental implications of projects, programs, and policies has become an integral part of planning and implementation at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Environmental assessments help ensure that environmental concerns are addressed at an early stage, and that projects are designed with environmental sustainability in mind. CIDA's Policy for Environmental Sustainability addresses not only the issue of changes to the biophysical environment, but how these changes affect the social, economic, cultural, and political sustainability of a community. The interrelationship of these elements of sustainable development is acknowledged within CIDA's project cycle, and informs all stages of development planning, from conceptualization and appraisal to monitoring and completion. As part of good development planning, CIDA uses environmental assessment to anticipate impacts, prevent adverse effects and maximize environmental benefits.</p>	

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”): Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}

Z - Not applicable

3.3.3 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.2.1}

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):

- Projects undertaken internationally by the Habitat Joint Ventures may include knowledge sharing and training, specifically related to wetlands that support waterfowl
- The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre (OHMIC) is a member of the Wetland Link International network. OHMIC is also twinned with the Agamon-Hula wetland in Israel.
- The Agricultural Wetland Research Network (AWRN), through the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) is working to foster interational research partnerships on the particular challenges related to wetlands within agricultural landscapes. With funding from the province of Manitoba, AWRN efforts have involved the development of an effective partnership between IISD/Water Innovation Centre and the Migal-Galilee Technology Center in Israel. Additional partnerships in Paraguay and Mexico are in development. Participants from several countries have been involved in online discussions and information sharing via the AWRN.

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

Many websites exist that make available information on Canada's wetlands and Ramsar sites. WetKit.net, which was the storehouse for many wetlands-related materials and tools at the time of the COP10 National Report, is currently being redeveloped into WetlandNetwork.ca by Environment Canada and partners. WetlandNetwork.ca, whose slogan is Connecting People - Sharing Information, will help Canadians to discover, access, and share wetland knowledge and experience. Regional Environment Canada websites, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), Joint Venture and Ramsar websites will be linked through WetlandNetwork.ca. In addition, websites exist specifically for the NAWMP (www.nawmp.ca), and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (www.wetlandscanada.org).

In addition, many governments (federal, provincial, territorial, municipal), non-government organizations, academia and private organizations maintain websites that provide information on Canada's wetlands.

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? KRA 3.4.ii

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

For example, Canada recently provided input on a selection of its Ramsar Sites for the publication, *Wetlands in the Americas: The role of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the benefits of Ramsar Site designation*.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

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

3.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

One example is through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan priorities and Joint Venture Implementation Plans.

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {2.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

C - Partly

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

- The Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Consortium is a binational multi-partnership funded through the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Program and is responsible for assessing and monitoring coastal wetlands across the entire Great Lakes Basin to provide decision-makers with information regarding relative coastal wetland condition and identify shoreline reaches with high biodiversity as well as those of ecological concern
- The Red River Basin Commission was formed in 2002 to initiate a grass roots effort to address land and water issues in a basin-wide context. It maintains offices in Moorhead, Minnesota, USA, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and is dedicated to innovation in the management of the Red River Basin's water resources.
- Cooperative wetlands management is also facilitated through the Joint Ventures under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? KRA
3.5.iii

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) is a tri-national partnership among Canada, the United States and Mexico. This partnership has successfully secured 4.0 million hectares in wetland and associated upland waterfowl habitat across Canada.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
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<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>a) At the national level</p> <p>b) Sub-national level</p> <p>c) Catchment/basin level</p> <p>d) Local/site level</p> | <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> |
|---|---|

<p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)</p>	
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<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>	
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<p>Although no formal Action Plans have been established, CEPA values are included in broader planning activities:</p>	
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- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>a) The redevelopment of WetKit.net as WetlandNetwork.ca (in progress) will raise the profile of wetlands-related work and information across Canada and internationally.</p> <p>b) - The Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan has several strategies to increase public awareness and commitment to protecting wetlands and the continues to publicize wetland values to society, to water, and to wildlife in order to encourage wetland conservation.</p> <p>- The Nova Scotia Wetland Policy calls for the development of wetlands awareness and education programs which target the general public, students and landowners and other private sector stakeholders.</p> | |
|--|--|

<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	<p>21 centres</p>
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4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)):

The centres above represent those on Ramsar Sites only. Many other centres exist across Canada at non-Ramsar wetlands in a variety of formats. Ramsar Sites with centres in development include Columbia River Wetlands and Minesing Wetlands.

The Ramsar Sites with some form of a visitor centre include: Alaksen, Baie de l'Isle Verte, Cap Tourmente, Chignecto, Creston Valley, Delta Marsh, Grand Codroy, Hay-Zama Lakes, Lac Saint-François, Last Mountain Lake, Mary's Point, Matchedash Bay, Oak Hammock Marsh, Old Crow Flats, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Point Pelee National Park, Quill Lakes, Shepody Bay, Southern Bight-Minas Basin, Tabusintac, Whooping Crane Summer Range

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

A - Yes

A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):

- a) For many jurisdictions, public participation is an integral part of the policy development and regulatory process. The public may be invited to comment on or provide input to draft proposals. For example, in Alberta, regional, multi-stakeholder Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils bring public and private sector stakeholders in a watershed together to assess the conditions of their watershed and to develop a plan and activities to address watershed issues. In addition, volunteers, such as those who participate in the Coastal Waterbird Survey (British Columbia) with Bird Studies Canada collect valuable data that assists partner organizations with conservation planning. In the Yukon, the public provides input into land use planning, resource planning and environmental assessment. In Ontario, the public are provided an opportunity to review and comment on new or updated policies posted on the Environmental Registry.
- b) Many Ramsar Sites involve local stakeholders in site management through major input from the local communities and interest groups (Columbia River Wetlands), the establishment of management committees (Hay-Zama Lakes, McConnell River, Polar Bear Pass, Queen Maud Gulf), through participation in site-specific activities, such as restoration (Minesing Wetlands, Delta Marsh), to fulfill various on-site functions (Baie de l'Isle Verte, Cap Tourmente, Lac Saint-François, Last Mountain Lake, Mer Bleue) and signing of stewardship agreements (Grand Codroy Estuary). Other sites involve local stakeholders through consultation related to specific activities, such as environmental assessments.

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?
{4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

A - Yes

4.1.4 Additional information:

A 2007 survey of site managers was completed that identified many opportunities to improve the capacity of Canadian Ramsar Site Managers for the sustainable management of Ramsar Sites. The 2009 Ramsar Site Managers Training course built on the findings of the 2007 survey and led to further recommendations to offer the course a second time to site managers unable to participate in the first course and to offer the course to other managers responsible for Ramsar and wetlands conservation in other countries, particularly the Americas. This recommendation has not yet been followed up.

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv

1 opportunities

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

In 2009, the First Canadian Ramsar Site Managers Training Course was offered at the Creston Valley Ramsar Site. The Senior Advisor for the Americas was an instructor at the workshop and a number of Ramsar Documents and Guidelines were referred to or used during the course, including: A Conceptual Framework for the Wise Use of Wetlands and the Maintenance of Ecological Character; Guidelines for the Implementation of the Wise Use Concept; and, Additional Guidance for the Implementation of the Wise Use Concept.

4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}

B - No

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

There is no National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee. The Canadian Wildlife Service at Environment Canada acts as an expert science and advisory agency. Nationally, a variety of wetland initiatives are considered through the programs and meetings of organizations such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada).

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) is an Advisory Body established under the Canada Wildlife Act. It provides a national mechanism for the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and takes a leadership role in wetland policy and awareness. Its members include federal, provincial and non-government wetland agency partners including Wildlife Habitat Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ramsar Sites managers? b. other MEA national focal points? c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies? <p>{4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>D - Planned A - Yes A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Environment Canada and Ramsar Site Managers are in the process of developing a Ramsar Site Manager Network that will facilitate communication, stimulate the sharing of ideas and collaborative problem solving. b) Communication between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other MEA national focal points occurs as a function of the day-to-day obligations of reciprocal information exchanges c) There are a number of committees through which Ramsar-related information may be shared from Environment Canada to other relevant ministries, departments and agencies, including the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee (Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments) 	
<p>4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

4.1.8 Additional information:

- In 2011, Environment Canada tweeted on World Wetlands Day and it became the Department's most retweeted tweets ever and appeared as a top tweet in the WWD hashtag stream. The Minister of the Environment also gave a statement on World Wetlands Day:
(<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FFE36B6D-1&news=5B273EA6-E5D4-4E61-81F9-7E81F84CB79F>)
- At the awards ceremony for the World Wetlands Day 2011 event in Huatulco, Mexico, Tantamar Regional High School in Sackville, New Brunswick, and Elgin School in Alymer, Ontario were presented first and second prize respectively in the school competition for their experiences in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- Nova Scotia - A special community event was organized for WWD in 2011 that included booths from Nova Scotia Environment, Nova Scotia Natural Resources, and many other departments, and a presentation -- In Praise of Sogginess -- on the value of wetlands.
- Ducks Unlimited Canada worked with the Pacific Coast Joint Venture partners to designate new conservation areas on WWD 2011
(<http://www.ducks.ca/aboutduc/news/archives/prov2011/index.html>)
- Alberta supported a general wetlands awareness campaign
(<http://wetlandsalberta.ca/news/2009/feb/02/celebrate-world-wetlands-day>) and, in 2010, circulated a newsletter with a backgrounder and awareness piece.
- In 2010, Round 1 of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan revision consultations were held in Edmonton in conjunction with World Wetlands Day -- magnets and posters were presented to participants.
- The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority offered free World Wetlands Day kits (2009) as well as winter trail hikes (2009, 2010) through their conservation areas with interpretative signage
- In Quebec, a press conference was held on wetlands during WWD 2011
- British Columbia celebrated WWD 2009 by the designation of the Bert Brink/Serpentine Wildlife Management Area

NOTE: Because World Wetlands Day falls during mid-winter, many Ramsar Sites do not host activities.

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this):

In addition to signage and interpretive centres, many Ramsar Sites in Canada host awareness-raising campaigns, programmes and projects such as hosting school groups, summer camps, commercial interpretive trips, wildlife festivals, etc. Some examples include:

- Grand Codroy Estuary - annual spring 10-day Feather and Folk Festival which celebrates the diverse avian species of the area and engages the public in diverse learning experiences, including public presentations on the ecological importance of the Ramsar Site.
- Oak Hammock Marsh - hosted an open house in 2010 and the Manitoba Water Council undertook a public education campaign culminating with a public survey on the importance of wetlands to Manitoba.
- Whooping Crane Summer Range - regularly participate in the Gulf of Mexico Foundation's multicultural outreach program, during which updates and descriptions of the site and associated activities are provided via video conferences
- Mer Bleue - In 2010, the National Capital Commission, responsible for the management of Mer Bleue marked the 15th anniversary of Ramsar designation and a half century of conservation success at Mer Bleue with the presentation of Mer Bleue Wetland Conservation Awards to recipients who made a significant contribution to wetland conservation and research, in addition to hosting a public celebratory event.
- Ontario recently released an animated CD, Wetlands - the Workhorses of our Watersheds, which provides information on the benefits provided from wetlands, threats to wetland health and protection tools (http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/resources/multimedia/animated_wetlands_cd/index.html)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. *Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.*

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.6.2} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
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<p>4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$63,000 CAD in 2010-2011 to the Ramsar Secretariat to support the participation of 55 individuals in regional workshops (Africa-15, Asia-22 and Americas-18) to articulate regional perspectives in preparation for the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and contract consultants to plan and prepare workshop material for the Africa and Americas regions. - \$19,000 CAD in 2011-2012 in funds through a contribution to the CBD Secretariat to enable the establishment of an expert working group to review available information, and provide key policy relevant messages, on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle (Decision X/28 of CBD COP10, implicating the Ramsar Secretariat). - \$23,200 CAD in 2011-2012 to the Ramsar Secretariat to support the translation and printing of the French publication Wetlands in the Americas: The role of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the benefits of Ramsar Site designation.
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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness. *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii □	B - No
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<p>4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):</p> <p>Fiscal constraints have limited Canada's ability to monitor its implementation of the Convention.</p>

4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i	Z - Not applicable
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4.3.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
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4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

Environment Canada recently produced a map of Canadian Ramsar Sites delineated as polygons with assistance from Wetlands International.

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
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4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

Canada has provided financial assistance for a variety of undertakings to four of the five Convention IOPs, including:

- BirdLife International
- Wetlands International
- World Wildlife Fund Canada
- IUCN

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

Section 4 (www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).