



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.

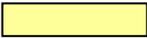
Section 2 is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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 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: ESTONIA	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Nature Conservation Department of the Ministry of the Environment
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Taimo Aasma, head of the Nature Conservation Department of the Ministry of the Environment
Mailing address:	Narva mnt 7a, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia
Telephone/Fax:	+372 6262871
Email:	taimo.aasma@envir.ee
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Herdis Fridolin, senior officer of the Nature Conservation Department
Mailing address:	Narva mnt 7a, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia
Telephone/Fax:	+372 6262879
Email:	herdis.fridolin@envir.ee
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Kai Kimmel, nature usage specialist
Name of organisation:	Environmental Board
Mailing address:	Aia 2, 48306 Jõgeva, Estonia
Telephone/Fax:	+372 7762418
Email:	kai.kimmel@keskkonnaamet.ee
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Maris Kivistik, head of the Environmental Education Department
Name of organisation:	Environmental Board
Mailing address:	Narva mnt 7a, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia
Telephone/Fax:	+372 7821841
Email:	maris.kivistik@keskkonnaamet.ee
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Marika Kose, member of the Board
Name of organisation:	Estonian Wetland Society
Mailing address:	Pärnu mnt 40, 86001, Häädemeeste, Estonia
Telephone/Fax:	+372 56561373
Email:	marika.kose@mail.ee

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?

Ongoing activities in Ramsar sites and in other protected wetlands: implementation of conservation and restoration measures, research and monitoring, educational activities.

The Environmental Board was founded in 2009. The area of activity of the Board is the use of environment and nature conservation and the implementation of relevant action plans, policies and programs. The Board is responsible for drawing up and implementation of management plans for protected areas (incl Ramsar sites).

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

1. Five new sites have been designated as Ramsar sites and forwarded by the Minister of the environment to the Ramsar Secretariat in 2011; 2. The inventory of all mires in Estonia was completed (2008-2011); 3. Several restoration and rehabilitation projects have been started in wetlands.

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

1. Cross-sectoral cooperation in wetland related issues has not been sufficient. Understanding and valuation of wetland ecosystem services and achieving wise use of all wetlands of the country is an ongoing challenge. 2. The monitoring scheme for Ramsar sites and other wetlands is still not sufficiently comprehensive and effective.

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

1. Implementation of strategic documents and management plans: ongoing conservation, maintenance and restoration of wetlands. Improvement of cross-sectoral cooperation. 2. Drawing out the development plan together with the implementation plan on the protection and sustainable use of peatlands. 3. Designation of new Ramsar sites.

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

No

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

No

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

No

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?

No comment

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)?

No comment

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

No

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box.
2. If you wish to add any additional information on 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

A - Yes

1.1.1 Additional information:

Information about wetland resources has been gathered via different inventories since 1950s. For example, the lakes of Estonia were first inventoried in 1960s and 1970s. During the WETSTONIA Project (1993-1996) semi-natural wetland habitats - floodplain and coastal grasslands were investigated. During the project Estonian Wetlands Conservation and Management Strategy in 1997, an inventory of 1,376 wetlands was carried out using unified criteria and a database connected with geographical information system was created. During the project Estonian Mires Inventory Completion for Maintaining Biodiversity (2008-2011) the inventory was completed. Additional 13,901 areas were studied of which 8,676 were determined as mires and 603 sites including mires as marginal habitats. As a result there is now a total overview about all areas in Estonia covered by mire vegetation.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Information is maintained in Estonian Nature Information System EELIS (www.eelis.ee) operated by the Estonian Environment Information Centre, and being a working tool for all environmental and planning specialists. For public, data are available on web page www.keskkonnainfo.ee. If data cannot be found on web page, it is possible to send request for information to the Environment Information Centre.</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium? {1.1.3 & 1.1.4}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>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).</p> <p>* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>O - No change O - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 a) Additional information: In the Ramsar sites according to the management plans maintenance and restoration activities are going on.</p>	
<p>1.1.3 b) Additional information: Although a large proportion of wetlands have been converted to agricultural land and drained for forestry, and are continuously destroyed for peat and oil shale mining, Estonia is still rich in wetlands, both in terms of their total area and the great variety of habitats. There is a legislative and administrative framework in place that supports the sustainable use and conservation of wetlands. The main threats affecting wetlands are addressed in several strategies. The compensation network where legally protected areas are supplemented by areas included in the green network ensures the maintenance of the provision of the main wetland ecosystem services.</p>	

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.*

<p>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)</p>	A - Yes
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1.3.1 Additional information: Policy goals, targets and measures related to wetlands are included in the National Environmental Strategy (first adopted by the Estonian Parliament in 1997) and relevant Action Plans. In the renewed environmental strategy (until the year 2030), the objective of preserving landscapes and the diversity of biota covers the fields of preserving and protecting natural and biological diversity as well as cultural landscapes. In addition, the strategy specifies the sustainable use of natural resources as one of the objectives covering the following fields: land use, sustainable forest management, sustainable use of mineral resources, sustainable use and restoration of aquatic biota and aquatic habitats.

For the application of Environmental Strategy, the Estonian Environmental Action Plan for 2007-2013 has been drawn up and approved by the Government.

In 2008 the Government approved the drawing up of the Nature Conservation Development Plan until 2020 (based on the draft of the development plan until 2035, and replacing it). The Ministry of Environment is currently working on it. This will be a most relevant document incorporating broader perspectives of wetland conservation and restoration.

In the Ministry of Environment the Peat Concept (The Basis of the Protection and Sustainable Use of Estonian Peatlands) has been prepared with the purpose of finding a consensus between the interests of peat extraction and conservation. In the Peat Concept necessary means and planned research works are foreseen, in order to guarantee the protection and the sustainable use of the peat areas. The Peat Concept should become the basic document, on the ground of which the proposal to draw out the development plan together with the implementation plan on the protection and sustainable use of peatlands to the Government can be made.

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}

A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

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

C - Partly

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information:

b) in accordance with EU policies water management plans for 3 river districts are established. Ministry of Environment has ordered the methodology for integrating wetlands with the Water Framework Directive in Estonia (compiled by the Ecological Institute in 2011);

c) Only few integrated coastal zone management plans have been drawn up in Estonia. The principles of integrated coastal management are being taken into account in regional planning;

d) Forestry Development Plan until 2020 covers wet forests and issues concerning forest drainage;

e) Estonian National Sustainable Development Strategy (entitled Sustainable Estonia 21, SE 21, and approved by the Estonian Parliament in 2005), is an integral conception that is focused on sustainability and the long-term development of the Estonian state and society until the year 2030;

f) Estonian Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 covers semi-natural wetland habitats (wet meadows, coastal and floodplain meadows) and issues of the agricultural drainage;

g) The Environmental Strategy until 2030 includes targets and measures related to wetlands. The strategy provides a basis for the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) for 2007–2013.

The Nature Conservation Development Plan until 2020 (in work) will be a most relevant document on wetland conservation and restoration.

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

A - Yes

1.3.4 Additional information: Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (adopted in 2005) regulates strategic impact assessment (SEA), which is carried out to strategic planning documents (development plans and spatial plans). The Act provides the rules of procedure of SEA and the requirements of the content of reports.

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?

A - Yes

1.3.5 Additional information: Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (adopted in 2005) regulates environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the development projects, which may have significant environmental impact. The Act provides the cases when environmental impact shall be assessed, the rules of procedure of EIA and the requirements of the content of reports.

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?

B - No

1.3.6 Additional information: Legal norms, regulating protection of wetlands, have been remarkably amended in connection with the membership in European Union (2004).

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
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1.4.1 Additional information:

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
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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	A - Yes
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1.4.3 Additional information: Cultural values are protected by Estonian legislation. Cultural values are taken into account in management planning of protected wetland areas. Management plans include valuation and needed actions. Maintaining and protection of cultural heritage is one of the main tasks of national parks. Of Estonias five national parks, Soomaa, Matsalu and Vilsandi are Ramsar sites. State Forest Management Centre (RMK) has undertaken an extensive inventory of heritage culture (the traces of the activities of previous generations in the landscape). More than 28 700 heritage culture objects are currently mapped, many of them in wetlands.

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
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1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): For all 12 Ramsar sites, also for five additionally proposed sites and for other protected wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

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	C - Partly
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1.5.1 Additional information:

1.5.2 Have you brought the “Changwon Declaration” (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:	
a. head of state	B - No
b. parliament	B - No
c. private sector	A - Yes
d. civil society	A - Yes

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
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1.5.3 Additional information:

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?	B - No
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1.5.4 Additional information:

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	A - Yes
b. climate change	A - Yes
c. valuation of ecosystem services	A - Yes
KRA 1.6.i	

1.6.1 Additional information: Relevant research activities are carried out mainly by the researches of the excellence centre FIBIR (Frontiers in Biodiversity Research) and of Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences of Tartu University, Institute of Ecology of Tallinn University and of Estonian University of Life Sciences.

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:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

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: Estonia is implementing the Water Framework Directive. Water management plans for three river basin districts are established. In 2011 the methodology for integrating wetlands with the Water Framework Directive in Estonia was compiled by the order of the Ministry of Environment. Also Estonia is implementing the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan up to 2021 (the national implementation plan is adopted for 2008-2011 by the Government).

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}

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

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}

C - Partly

1.7.4 Additional information: Only few integrated coastal zone management plans have been drawn up in Estonia. The principles of integrated coastal zone management are being taken into account in regional planning.

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

B - No

1.7.5 Additional information:

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: Estonian Rural Development Plan 2007-2013

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: Identification of restoration needs is the responsibility of the Environmental Board. The priority sites are identified in the process of management planning.

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: Several large or smaller scale projects co-financed by funds of EU or by the National Environmental Foundation (KIK) include wetland restoration or maintenance activities. For example, ongoing (2009-2012) LIFE+ project HAPPYFISH (Saving life in meanders and oxbow lakes of Emajõgi River on Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 area) is implemented to restore and to preserve the unique ecosystems of River Emajõgi with its oxbows and floodplain meadows. Estonia is a partner of the LIFE-BALTICOAST project (2005-2011) Rehabilitation of the Baltic coastal lagoon habitat complex. Several mire habitat restoration projects have been launched by the State Forest Management Centre, Estonian Fund for Nature and some other institutions.

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:

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: List of invasive alien species is adopted

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:

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

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information: In agricultural sector traditional management of semi-natural habitats (floodplain meadows, coastal meadows) by private owners has been promoted and financially supported by state since 2001.

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: Maintenance and small-scale restoration of semi-natural wetland habitats, offering services for nature tourists, etc.

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

B - No

1.10.3 Additional information:

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

1.11.1 Additional information: Many of acts and regulative documents and development plans include incentive measures. Use of wetland resources is regulated by system of different licences. The Ecological Tax Reform is under preparation.

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

Z - Not applicable

1.11.2 Additional information:

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:	
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	C - Partly
2.1.2 Additional information: The boundaries and area of most of the nominated Ramsar sites have been revised and Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) updated. The boundaries and area of most of the nominated Ramsar sites have been revised and Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) updated. Currently in Estonia only areas that have been protected under the terms of the Nature Conservation Act (2004) may be chosen as Ramsar sites. Consequently, all the territory of the Ramsar site has to be nationally protected as protected area or limited-conservation area or combination of them. A special note that the area is a Ramsar site must be added to the protection rules or to the decree about the establishment of limited-conservation areas. As new protection rules for four areas designated in 1997 have still not been adopted, the information sheets are not updated and this causes problems in reflection of information in Ramsar Data Base and in Estonian Environmental Register	
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	5 sites
2.1.3 Additional information: Five additional sites (Agusalu Nature Reserve, 11 000 ha, Leidissoo Nature Reserve, 8 178 ha, Lihula Landscape Reserve, 6 620 ha, Luitemaa Nature Reserve, 11 240 ha and Haapsalu-Noarootsi, 27 240 ha) have been designated as Ramsar sites and forwarded by the Minister of Environment to the treaty secretariat.	
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	9 sites

2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation): Several suitable areas listed in the National Programme on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention are still waiting the designation. It has been decided by the National Committee that in the first order the following areas will be proposed as Ramsar sites: Puhatu Nature Reserve, Väike Väin Limited Conservation Area and Struuga Landscape Reserve.

In the second order Avaste Nature Reserve, Nätsi-Võlla Nature Reserve, Paope Nature Reserve and Kõrgessaare-Mudaste Limited Conservation Area, Rahuste Nature Reserve and Kaugatoma-Lõu Limited Conservation Area will be proposed.

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

2.2.1 Additional information:

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: Currently in Estonia only areas that have been nationally protected under the terms of the Nature Conservation Act may be chosen as Ramsar sites. According to the Nature Conservation Act for the purpose of managing of these nationally protected areas - protected areas and the limited conservation areas - management plans shall be prepared. The Environmental Board is responsible for drafting and implementing of these plans. Up to 2013 all Natura 2000 sites (incl. all Ramsar sites and other protected wetlands) must have a approved management plan.

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	12 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	12 sites
2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i	5 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	5 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information: Since 2009 drawing up management plans for protected areas (and all Ramsar sites are nationally protected) is the responsibility of the Environmental Board. The revision and updating of management plans is currently under way. For example, in 2010 several Ramsar sites got a new management plan (2011-2020), in 2011 drawing up of a new management plan will started for five Ramsar sites (Matsalu, Endla, Puhtu-Laelatu-Nehatu, Emajõe Suursoo and Piiressaar and Käina Bay). Up to 2013 all Natura 2000 sites (it means also all Ramsar sites and potential Ramsar sites) must have a approved management plan.	
2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii	A - Yes
2.4.5 Additional information: According the Nature Conservation Act the management plan shall bring out the natural values in the area and indicators for measuring them, the significant environmental factors and their impact to the natural object and the objectives of protection.	
2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv	0 sites
2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):	
2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v	12 sites
2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number): Management plans bring out the natural values in the area and indicators for measuring them.	

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): The assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of management measures has to be carried out as a part of updating of the management plan.

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): In Estonia monitoring of Ramsar sites is carried out according to the management plans of national protected areas. The Environmental Board is responsible for drafting and implementing of these plans. Monitoring is carried out by specialists of the Board.

Ramsar sites are also used as baseline areas for the National Environmental Monitoring Programme. Since 1994 the monitoring of breeding birds of mires has been part of the Programme. In 1996 monitoring of landscape changes on the ground of satellite based remote sensing data was initiated as an integral part of the Programme. Among the monitoring areas there are five Ramsar sites (Alam-Pedja, Endla, Soomaa, Nigula and Emajõe Suursoo). In 2005 methods for state monitoring of plant communities were modified. For obtaining a more general overview of the status of Natura 2000 habitats, a simplified monitoring method (without permanent plots) was implemented also for monitoring Natura 2000 wetland habitats.

During the past decade some pilot studies based on different high-resolution data sources (including LiDAR) have been carried out in the bogs of Endla and Nigula Ramsar sites. At present the Estonian land Board is regularly producing high-resolution aerophotos and LiDAR data, which is a very promising basis for application of the remote sensing technique for mapping and monitoring of wetlands.

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

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):

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: A significant proportion of preserved valuable wetlands in Estonia are legally protected and have been included in the integral and united system of protected areas. The implementation of the Natura 2000 network has significantly increased the proportion of protected wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i>
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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	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information: Mainly it means personal contacts and exchange of information in the Ministry of Environment
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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	B - No
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3.1.2 Additional information:

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	C - Partly
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3.1.3 Additional information:

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	Z - Not applicable
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3.1.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i>

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
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3.2.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Planned”, please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative): Nordic-Baltic Wetland Initiative (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, and Sweden).

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}

B - No

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

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.*

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

Z - Not applicable

3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10):

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

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

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}

C - Partly

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

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:

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

B - No

3.4.3 Additional information:

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: Lake Peipsi shared with Russia. North Livonian wetland complex shared with Latvia.

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): Estonia and Latvia have designated the North-Livonian Transboundary Ramsar Site consisting of Nigula and Sookuninga Ramsar sites in Estonia and Northern Bogs Ramsar site in Latvia. Joint

Master Plan was drafted in 2006.

The Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission promotes cooperation in the field of the wise use of the Lake Peipsi resources.

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:

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): No special Action Plan for wetland CEPA exists. Wetland CEPA tasks and activities are included into Environmental Strategy, Nature Conservation Development Plan and work plans of the Environmental Board. The main services of the Nature Education Department of the Environmental Board are: 1) shaping and implementing educational programs in accordance with the schools; 2) organizing information days, announcing campaigns and events all over Estonia; 3) introducing objects under conservation, production printed and educational materials. The Board has created more than 70 different programs (many of them introducing wetlands) which are supportive to various school subjects.</p>	
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<p>Wetland CEPA issues are included in management plans of protected areas and are part of various wetland projects.</p>	
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<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>	
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	<p>6 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)): Estonia is covered with the network of nature centres operated by the Environmental Board ja State Forest Management Centre. Six nature centres with a local nature exhibition and any introduction material to the areas key features have been established in Ramsar sites: Alam-Pedja, Endla, Matsalu, Soomaa, Vilsandi and Emajõe Suursoo. However, nearly all the other nature centres of the Environmental Board (altogether 11 centres) and of the State Forest Management Centre (altogether 18 nature centres) provide information on wetland habitats and species characteristic for certain region. Additionally there are also some nature schools operated by</p>	
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non-profit groups (for example Palupõhja Nature School in Alam-Pedja).

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

C - Partly

{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): Decisions are made mainly via regional and local planning which are public processes. When drawing up management plans for protected areas, the Environmental Board has to cooperate closely with local authorities and local stakeholders.

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

B - No

4.1.4 Additional information:

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

0 opportunities

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

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

A - Yes

4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): a) The Estonian Ramsar Committee has 13 members representing the Administrative Authority, NGO-s (Estonian Fund for Nature, Estonian Ornithological Society, Estonian Wetland Society), research institutions and the Environmental Board; b) the Committee meets unregularly depending on issues, usually 1-2 times a year; c) the Committee is an advisory body of the Ministry of the Environment on Ramsar issues.

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

- a. Ramsar Sites managers?
- b. other MEA national focal points?
- c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?

A - Yes

C - Partly

A - Yes

{4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi

4.1.7 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please describe what types of mechanism are in place): No special mechanisms fixed. Information on wetland issues is communicated by need via personal contacts, meetings, round-tables or seminars.

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}

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information: In recent years a lot of various events to mark World Wetlands Day have been organised by NGO-s, the Environmental Board and State Forest Management Centre: various seminars, outdoor activities like field trips, educational programmes and other activities for schools (for example drawing competitions, etc).

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): For example, in 2010, Estonia celebrated 100th anniversary of its nature conservation. Many events were organised aiming to introduce and appreciate current nature conservation activities. In May 2010 Tallinn hosted a scientific conference (New directions in nature conservation), a new nature conservation brochure for schools was prepared, etc. In the course of a whole year, especially in May which is the month of nature conservation, the Environmental Board and State Forest Management Centre organised relevant excursions, competitions, trainings and workshops. Wetland topics formed a prominent part in these activities.

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

B - No

4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):

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

A - Yes

□

4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

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

A - Yes

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

B - No

4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation: