



**NATIONAL PLANNING TOOL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**(And the approved format for National Reports to be
submitted for the 9th Meeting of the Conference of
the Contracting Parties, Uganda, 2005)**

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SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION (OPTIONAL)

Please, include a summary on the implementation of Ramsar Convention in your country during the last triennium

Japan has implemented wetland conservation measures based on the targets and specific actions related to wetlands conservation that are listed in “The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan” (March 2002). Our major efforts on wetland conservation are as follows:

- In line with *the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VII.11), which sets the global short term target to increase the number of Ramsar sites to at least 2000 by COP9, Japan has taken necessary measures to select and designate the new Ramsar sites in Japan in order to achieve the national target that is to at least double the number of Japan’s Ramsar sites from 11 (as of COP7) to 22 by COP9.
- The Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration was enacted in December 2002 to promote the

implementation of nature restoration through bottom-up approach and facilitating consensus among various local actors. Nature restoration project has been implemented in accordance with the Law at Kushiro-shitsugen (Ramsar site). Also, nature restoration projects have been conducted at many other wetland ecosystems such as rivers, marshes, tidal-flats and seagrass/seaweed beds.

- The Invasive Alien Species Act was enacted in June 2004 to restrict importing and transference of Invasive Alien Species that were designated under the Law considering the adverse effects to ecosystems including wetland ecosystems. In addition, control and eradication against invasive alien species that have damaged the wetland ecosystems are carried out in accordance with the Law.
- Japan has been promoting international cooperation on wetlands conservation, through Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) projects and others.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1.1: Describe the extent of wetland resources, especially at global and national (or, where appropriate, provincial) scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the convention and in particular the application of the wise use principle

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to use the standard wetland inventory methodologies following the output from COP8. • Seek to update and add information on the national inventories of important wetlands compiled in December 2001. • Make efforts to introduce necessary measures to ensure that wetland inventory data and information are readily accessible to the full range of stakeholders. • Encourage the inclusion of a metadata record for national and provincial wetland inventories. • Encourage the use of relevant information from wetland inventories by decision-makers, wetland managers and wetland users in the development and implementation of national wetland policies and national and local wetland programmes. • Make efforts to give high priority in the Operational Guidelines of the Small Grants Fund to support for inventory activities.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the possibility to apply the standard wetland inventory methodologies on the process to revise national inventory of important wetlands. • Update and add information on the national inventories of important wetlands (including potential Ramsar sites, wetlands of national importance in the territory) which was compiled and published in December 2001, as appropriate, through field survey and information gathering. • Consider the necessary measures to obtain information from related stakeholders, in addition to gather/arrange updated and comprehensive information on important wetlands, concerning the national inventory on important wetlands published via Internet. • Consider the inclusion of a metadata record for national wetland inventory using Japan Biodiversity Information System which is currently under operation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote dissemination of information and public awareness using Internet devices to make available the relevant information from wetland inventories from decision-makers, wetland managers and wetland users. Provide necessary advises to the Standing Committee and Bureau to fully consider the support to actions for inventory activities in the development process of the Operational Guidelines of the SGF.
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 1.1.1.- Promote and encourage the use of standard wetland inventory methodologies following the *Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6)*, to undertake, update and disseminate national (or, where appropriate, provincial) scientific inventories of wetlands.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: By COP9, all Parties without completed inventories to have initiated action in line with the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory, and as far as possible to have completed and disseminated comprehensive national wetland inventories.

1.- Country has a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory (<i>if inventory exists, please include the number of sites</i>)	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites 500 wetlands
2.- Methodologies recommended in the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6) were used for National Wetland Inventory	C		

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [*Please include information on the application of inventory methodologies, the status of the inventory - end date or expected timeframe, contents of the inventory - and other additional comments you consider relevant.*]

Although a comprehensive national wetland inventory that covers all the wetlands in Japan is yet to be developed, Japan developed a national inventory of important wetlands (“500 Important Wetlands in Japan”) in December 2001 based on Resolution VII.11, using the following criteria.

1. A typical or considerably large area of mires/salt marshes, rivers/lakes and marshes, tidal flats/mangrove forests, seaweed/seagrass beds, or coral reefs that provides the habitat/spawning ground for living organisms
2. An area that provides the habitat/spawning ground for rare or endemic species
3. An area with rich biota
4. An area that provides the habitat for a considerably large population of a specified species
5. An area that is indispensable (feeding and spawning grounds, etc.) in the life history of a living organism

As “500 Important Wetlands in Japan” was developed prior to COP8, it does not directly reflect the methodologies recommended in Resolution VIII.6. However, we are planning to review it as needed based on the Resolution.

Action 1.1.2.- Include in national wetland inventories information which identifies: a) potential Ramsar sites; b) wetlands of national, provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party; and c) wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation, with a list of priorities, giving particular priority to inventories of karst and caves, intertidal wetlands, coral reefs, peatlands, sites supporting globally threatened species, and other wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All national wetland inventories initiated after COP8 to include information on wetland importance; potential Ramsar sites; wetlands for restoration; location of under-represented wetland types; and values and functions, in particular in relation to poverty eradication strategies.

<i>See actions 3.2.1, 3.3.1, r4.1.1, and Operational Objective 10.1</i>		
<i>Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:</i>		N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites
1. The inventory assesses and documents potential Ramsar Sites	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
2. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands of national, provincial or local importance	B	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i>
3. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation	C	<i>E = In progress;</i>
4. The inventory assesses and documents wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List	B	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status</i>
5. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply	C	<i>(explain below); I = No answer</i>
6. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of coastal protection	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
7. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of flood defense	C	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i>
8. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of food security	C	<i>E = In progress;</i>
9. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of poverty alleviation	C	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>
10. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of cultural heritage	C	<i>H = Other status</i>
11.- The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research	C	<i>(explain below); I = No answer</i>
12.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Comments on the information included in the wetland inventory in light of the items indicated above]		
"500 Important Wetlands in Japan" includes 31 sites of coral reefs, 129 sites of seagrass/seaweed beds and 36 sites of mangrove forests, which are under-represented wetland types in the Ramsar List.		

Action 1.1.3.- Ensure that national arrangements for the custodianship, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data and information, including metadata, are in place and introduce the necessary measures to ensure that this resource is both as comprehensive as possible and readily accessible to the full range of stakeholders.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All wetland inventories to have full data management, custodianship, and metadata records in place.

1. National arrangements established for the custodianship, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data and information, including metadata	D	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Under "Neritic Ecosystem Survey - Seagrass/Seaweed Beds Survey and Tidal Flats Survey-" as part of the National Surveys on the Natural Environment, field surveys and data collection have been conducted at 129 seagrass/seaweed beds and 145 tidal flats including the sites selected for "500 Important Wetlands in Japan". Also, we are planning to review "500 Important Wetlands in Japan" as needed.		

Action 1.1.4.- Make available a web-based wetland inventory meta-database and encourage the inclusion of a metadata record for all national (including provincial) wetland inventories.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: By COP9, a Web-based metadatabase in place and populated with information on all national wetland inventories.

1. National (including provincial) wetland inventory metadata record provided for inclusion in Ramsar's Web-based wetland inventory metadatabase

C

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;
F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

The data of "500 Important Wetlands in Japan" are posted on the website and we are planning to update and revise it as needed. Meanwhile, the information including personal data and habitat of rare species are not open to public.

Action 1.1.6.- Encourage the use of relevant information from wetland inventories by decision-makers, wetland managers and wetland users in the development and implementation of national wetland policies and national and local wetland programmes.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: By COP9, all Parties with wetland inventories to have made these available to all stakeholders.

1. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among decision makers

D

Choose an answer for each indicator

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned;
G = Being updated; H = Other status
(explain below); I = No answer*

2. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among wetland managers

D

3. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among other wetland users

D

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

"500 Important Wetlands in Japan" is posed on the website so that all the stakeholders have access to the information. As a result, the related information is utilized for environmental impact assessments, formulations of various plans, and others.

Action 1.1.7.- Give high priority to developing projects for inventory activities for the *Small Grants Fund*.

1. Wetland inventory project proposals were submitted to the Small Grants Fund and were funded

A

Choose an answer for each indicator

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;
F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2. Wetland inventory project proposals were submitted to the Small Grants Fund and were not funded

A

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1.2: Assess and monitor the condition of wetland resources, both globally and nationally (or, where appropriate, provincially), in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention and in particular the application of the wise use principle

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively contribute to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project. Make efforts to update and make comprehensive the global assessment of wetland resources and their condition. • Publish the summarized national assessments of changes in the status of wetland resources, and provide Ramsar Bureau of this information. • Undertake assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character at Ramsar sites. 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan has already participated to the Board and Executive Committee and its various working groups of the MEA. Continue to provide contribution to the work of the MEA through this mechanism. • Publish the result of national surveys on wetland resources including the National Survey on Natural Environment, regularly conducted by the Ministry of the Environment, through upload of this information on the web-site and dissemination of the reports. In addition to that, provide Ramsar Bureau of this information. • Gather the relevant information on the methodologies for assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character at Ramsar sites, and consider the implementation. 	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 1.2.1.- Actively contribute to the work of the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)* project (<http://www.millenniumassessment.org>) by serving on its Board and Executive Committee and on its various working groups; analyze the MA's methodologies, results and findings at Ramsar COP9, and review the necessary actions, if any, to update and make comprehensive the global assessment of wetland resources and their condition. (Refer also to Action 1.1.5)

1. Contribution made to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project (MA)

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution made to the work of the MA.]

Action r1.2.i.- Make available to Contracting Parties and other interested organizations the findings and guidance developed by the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)* for their use, as appropriate, of the MA guidance and methods for sub-global ecosystem assessments in the assessment of wetland ecosystems at the local, national and regional (supra-national) scale, including through international cooperation on the assessment of transboundary aquatic ecosystems. (Resolution VIII.7).

1. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at national scale

C

Choose an answer for each indicator

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at regional (supranational) scale

C

3. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at local scale

C

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the use of MA guidance and methods.]

Action 1.2.2.- Establish a repository for the contribution by Contracting Parties of summarized national (or, where appropriate, provincial) assessments of changes in the status of wetland resources, as the basis for regular analysis and improved reporting on the status of wetland resources.

1. Repository of assessments of changes in wetland status established

H

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the repository of assessment of changes in wetland status, its contents and uses.]

Biodiversity Center of Japan has been conducting the surveys at the major tidal flats and seagrass/seaweed beds nationwide under “Neritic Ecosystem Survey - Seagrass/Seaweed Beds Survey and Tidal Flats Survey-” as part of the National Surveys on the Natural Environment, and has started to provide information through the internet. Also, the trial surveys for “monitoring-site 1000” are now implemented and the results will be provided in the future.

Action 1.2.5.- Undertake assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character, including their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: SC/Bureau to identify at least 20 Parties willing to undertake vulnerability assessments and report to COP9.

1. Assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character were undertaken

E

Choose an answer for each indicator

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;

D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;

F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =

Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2. The assessments include impacts of climate change

E

3. The assessments include impacts of sea-level rise

C

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessments undertaken.]

The research on “System construction of vulnerability assessment for alpine and sub alpine ecosystems based on biological interactions” is conducted under the Global Environment Research Fund from 2005 to 2007. The sub-theme 1 of this research studies the high moor ecosystems at Hakkouda mountain range. It assesses which ecological characters affect on the vulnerabilities to temperature and CO2 concentration rise.

Action r1.2.iv.- Continue to document the past losses and current status and trends of coastal wetlands, including in national wetland inventories, and report on their conservation status in National Reports to COP9. (Resolution VIII.4)

1. Past losses and current status and trends of coastal wetlands documented

D

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands.]

Under “Neritic Ecosystem Survey” as part of National Surveys on the Natural Environment, the surveys at the Japan’s major tidal flats and seagrass/seaweed beds has been conducted since 2002 to check the condition of coastal wetlands. The results of the surveys are gradually provided on the website. Also, the trial surveys for “monitoring-site 1000” are now implemented and the results will be provided in the future.

3.- Summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands [Please provide here a summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands and provide reference citation to any relevant publication, reports or analysis.]

142,459 ha of seagrass/seaweed beds were identified during the National Surveys on the Natural Environment in 1998 (water shallower than 10 meters was surveyed. The survey was conducted except Hyogo and Tokushima prefectures.). The major reasons of the loss are reclamation and rocky-shore denudation. Also, 49,389.3 ha of tidal flats were identified (The survey was conducted except Hyogo and Tokushima prefectures)

and 1,870 ha of tidal flats were lost between 1994 and 1998.

Action r1.2.v.- Update information on mangrove forest cover and conservation status and levels of use of mangroves, and provide this information to the Bureau and STRP. (Resolution VIII.32).

1. Information on mangrove forest cover has been compiled	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Information on conservation status of mangroves has been compiled	C	
3. Information on levels of use of mangroves has been compiled	C	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information compiled related to mangroves.]		
The survey on mangroves forest was conducted as part of National Surveys on the Natural Environment in 1998, and information on locations and areas of the mangrove forests were compiled. However, this information has not been revised since COP8.		

Action r1.2.vi.- Report on the impacts of dams on wetlands in the territory of each Contracting Party, in National Reports to COP9. (Resolution VIII.2).

1.- The impacts of dams on wetlands have been assessed (if available, please include number of sites affected)	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the impacts of dams on wetlands, sites affected, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
In Japan, under Environmental Impact Assessment Law, environmental impact assessment should be carried out in the case where proposed dams are above a certain scale. From 2003 to 2005, assessments of the impacts on wetlands were conducted in accordance with the Law for 2 dam construction projects.			
3.-Impacts of dams on wetlands [Please provide here a summary of impacts and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]			
The assessments conducted in accordance with Environmental Impact Assessment Law showed that the impacts were generally small. The results of environmental impact assessments for the dam construction projects based on the Law are described in the environmental impact assessment report of the respective project.			

Action r1.2.vii.- Monitor and assess the impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, and on the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples dependent on these wetlands, and report this information to the Ramsar Bureau and STRP. (Resolution VIII.35).

1.- Impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands have been assessed (if available, please include number of sites assessed)	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites
2.- Impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples dependent on these wetlands have been assessed	C		
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the impacts of drought and other natural disasters on wetlands and people dependent on them, with any other information you consider relevant.]			

Action 1.2.6.- Assess the contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries, including utilizing information available from the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)* and other assessment programmes, and recommend sustainable management practices which can contribute to the WSSD target of, where possible by 2015, maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield.

1. The contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries has been assessed	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below) ;I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]		
3. Recommendations on sustainable management practices of fish stocks in wetlands have been transmitted to relevant authorities/stakeholders	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the recommendations and their transmission to relevant authorities/stakeholders.]		

Action 1.2.7.- Undertake assessments of water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands, to support the implementation of the *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands* (Resolution VIII.1), as a contribution to the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: At least 50 CPs to have undertaken water quality and quantity assessments.

1. The water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands has been assessed	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]		
Regarding water quality, the Water Quality Conservation Plans for Lakes and Reservoirs are established for the lakes including Biwa-ko, Naka-umi, and Shinji-ko. In addition, surveys on water quality and water level have been conducted as part of Nature Restoration Projects at Kushiro-shitsugen, Utonai-ko, and Man-ko and others.		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION, INCLUDING IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND VALUATION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2.1. Specify the most appropriate policy instrument(s) to be used in each country to ensure the wise use of wetlands

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a National Wetland Policy, and ensure that policy goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible. Ensure that wetland policies included in the National Strategy on Biological Diversity are adequately integrated into other national strategic or planning 	

	processes and documents.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement adequately the new National Strategy on Biological Diversity developed in March 2002, which includes a national wetland policy. • The national wetland policy is integrated into the new National Strategy on Biological Diversity decided in March 2002, as part of this Strategy. In addition to that, coordinate and exchange information with relevant organisations and ministries/agencies to include wetland issues adequately into planning processes and documents related to desertification and climate change.

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 2.1.1.- If not yet done, develop and implement a National Wetland Policy using the guidelines adopted by COP7 for this purpose (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2), and ensure that policy goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument initiated by all Parties not having it, incorporating WSSD targets and actions, as appropriate.

1. A National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) is in place	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible	D	
3. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporates WSSD targets and actions	C	
4- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the status of the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument, its contents, and any other information you consider relevant.]		

Principles, targets, and specific actions related to wetlands conservations are listed in the New National Biodiversity Strategy established in 2002.

WSSD targets are not incorporated in the New National Biodiversity Strategy, as its development was prior to WSSD. However, when the Strategy is reviewed for the next phase, other ecosystems, in addition to wetlands, and WSSD targets will be considered as well.

Action 2.1.2.- Ensure that wetland policies are fully integrated into and harmonized with other strategic or planning processes and documents, in particular those related to biodiversity, desertification, climate change, agriculture, trade in endangered species, water resource management, integrated coastal zone management and environmental planning in general including national strategies for sustainable development called for by the WSSD. When these other documents include chapters or sections on different ecosystems, ensure that one of them is devoted to wetlands.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument fully integrated into other strategic and planning processes by all Parties, including poverty eradication strategies and water resources management and water efficiency plans and national strategies for sustainable development in line with WSSD targets.

1. Wetland issues have been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development called for by WSSD	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies	A	
3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans	C	
4. Wetland issues (conservation, wise use, restoration/rehabilitation) have been integrated into other sectoral strategic or planning processes and documents at any of the following levels: national, regional, provincial, and local	B	
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the incorporation of wetland issues into other sectoral strategic or planning processes.]		
<p>National Wetland Policy is integrated into the New National Biodiversity Strategy established in March 2002. Also, Nature Restoration Projects on wetlands were incorporated into the park plans of Sarobetsu area, Rishiri Reibun Sarobetsu National Park in 2003 and Kushiro-shitsugen National Park in 2005.</p> <p>Conservation and proactive creation of important seagrass/seaweed beds and tidal flats for reproduction of fishery fauna and flora are stipulated in Fishery Master Plan established in March 2003. Projects such as “Developing Rich Sea Forest” including creation of seagrass/seaweed beds or tidal flats and sediment modification are implemented.</p> <p>Public Infrastructure Development Plan established in 2003 sets the national target to restore approx. 2,100ha lost wetlands and tidal flats by 2007, and accordingly, projects are implemented in Matsuura-gawa, Mikawan and other places.</p>		

Action r2.1.i.- When reviewing land tenure policies consider, where appropriate, wetland tenure systems and user rights in a manner that promotes fair, transparent and sustainable management of wetlands and their resources. (Resolution VIII.34).

1. Wetland tenure systems and user rights have been considered in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland tenure systems and user rights in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management.]		

Action r2.1.ii.- Give priority to reviewing legislation, policies and incentives directly or indirectly related to high Andean wetlands and prepare additional national strategies designed to ensure their wise use and conservation, duly integrated into National Wetland Policies, National Biodiversity Strategies, National Development Plans, and other similar instruments. (Resolution VIII.39)

1. A review of legislation, policies and incentives directly or indirectly related to high Andean wetlands has been completed	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. The conservation and wise use of high Andean wetlands has been incorporated into relevant national strategies / processes	A	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the actions taken in relation to high Andean wetlands.]		

Action 2.1.3.- Ensure best practice examples of integration and harmonization of policies and legislation are made available to the Ramsar Bureau and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, so as to contribute to the development of good practice guidance to assist Contracting Parties.

1. Examples of best practice related to the integration and harmonisation of policies and legislation have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau/STRP	C	<p><i>Choose an answer</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [<i>Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.</i>]		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION, INCLUDING IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND VALUATION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2.2. Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supra-national policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the Convention, and especially the wise use principle, is being fully applied

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a review and amendment of legislation and institutions, as necessary, making reference to the guidelines for <i>Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands</i>. • Seek to apply the methodology named Strategic Environmental Assessment when reviewing national and provincial policies, programmes, and plans that may impact upon wetlands. • (In line with additional guidance adopted by COP8,) implement Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA) adequately in accordance with relevant laws, at wetlands including Ramsar sites. Also, consider these impact assessments include appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic (and cultural) impacts. • Promote the continuing development, wide dissemination and application of methodologies to undertake valuations of the economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands, in collaboration with the Bureau and other related organizations. 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translate the guidelines for <i>Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands</i> into Japanese by 2003 and disseminate them to relevant organizations. Also, carry out and encourage a review and amendment of legislation and institutions as necessary, making reference to the guidelines. • Collect existing information on the methodology named Strategic Environmental Assessment and its related practices done by the central/local governments and in foreign countries, and evaluate its effectiveness. Based on these results, develop the guideline on practice to give consideration for environment conservation in the process of policy and programme planning. Also, consider the establishment of institutional framework following the result of such discussion if necessary. • Translate additional guidance adopted by COP8 into Japanese and disseminate it to related organizations to consider possibility to apply this guidance. Also, collect information on the methodologies of EIAs to include appropriate consideration of the social, economic (and cultural) impacts in these assessments. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect related information on methodologies to undertake valuations of the economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands; and exchange information and views with the Bureau and other related organizations.
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 2.2.1.- Apply the *Guidelines for Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 3) to carry out a review of legislation and institutions and, as necessary, amend or modify legislation and institutional procedures to preclude unwise use of wetlands.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: SC/Bureau to identify at least 100 Parties to initiate and if possible complete by COP9 comprehensive reviews of their laws and institutions.

1. The Party is one of the 100 CPs identified by the Ramsar Bureau to initiate and if possible complete by COP9 a comprehensive review of wetland-related legislation and institutions	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. A review of legislation and institutions to promote the wise use of wetlands has been completed	A	
3. Legislation and institutional procedures have been modified to preclude unwise use of wetlands	A	

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the review of legislation and institutions and the amendments made to preclude unwise use of wetlands.]

In Japan, many laws related to conservation and wise use of wetlands has been in operation; such as the Nature Conservation Law, the River Law...etc. Each law is to be reviewed individually by respective governing ministries and agencies, if necessary. When a law needs to be revised, consultations among relevant ministries and agencies are conducted as needed. The summary of recent review of laws are as follows;

- Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties was amended and cultural landscapes became subject to protection. (April, 2005)
- The Invasive Alien Species Act was enacted to restrict importing and transference and to control invasive alien species. (June, 2004)
- The Landscape Law was enacted to establish the fundamental principles for development and conservation of landscapes and to clarify the responsibilities of citizens, the private sector, and government. (June, 2004)
- The Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration was enacted to promote the implementation of nature restoration through bottom-up approach and facilitating consensus among various local actors. (December, 2002)
- The Natural Parks Law was amended to add biodiversity conservation to its rules of responsibilities, and to establish Regulated Utilization Zones for controlling visitors.
- The Law concerning Special Measures for Preservation of Lake Water Quality was amended to reduce contamination loading flow from non-pointed-source and to protect lakeside vegetation that contribute to improve lake's water quality .(June, 2005)

Action r2.2.i.- Where not already undertaken, initiate intra- and inter-ministerial dialogues including, as appropriate, institutions represented in Ramsar/ National Wetland Committees where these have been established, with a view to enhanced integration of relevant policies related to the conservation of water resources, wetlands and biodiversity. (Resolution VIII.34)

1. Intra- and/or inter-ministerial dialogues have been established	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee to the National Biodiversity Strategy conducted the review of the National Biodiversity Strategy.

Action r2.2.ii.- Recognize cultural and heritage values relating to wetlands in existing heritage protection, legal frameworks and policies. (Resolution VIII.19)

See action r3.3.iii

1. Cultural and heritage values related to wetlands have been incorporated into existing heritage protection, legal frameworks and policies

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties was amended in April 2005, and cultural landscapes including paddy fields, small reservoirs, and channels became subject to protection as cultural properties.

Action r2.2.iii.- Give priority to assessing the conservation status of mountain wetlands, to reviewing the legislation, policies and practices that may be impacting negatively on these important ecosystems, and to taking the necessary actions for stopping and reversing such impacts. (Resolution VIII.12)

See action r3.1.i

1. The conservation status of mountain wetlands has been assessed

D

Choose an answer for each indicator

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2. A review of legislation, policies and practices that may be impacting negatively on mountain wetlands has been completed

A

3. Actions have been taken for stopping and reversing impacts on mountain wetlands

E

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on assessment, reviews and other actions taken in relation to mountain wetlands.]

A number of mountain wetlands were listed in “500 Important Wetlands in Japan”, which is the national inventory of important wetlands, and we are preparing to designate some of these wetlands as Ramsar sites.

Action r2.2.iv.- Make use, as appropriate, of the *Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/ or processes and in strategic environmental assessment*, as adopted by Decision VI/7 of CBD COP6, with the assistance of the guidance prepared by the STRP and embedded in the text of the CBD Guidelines (Resolution VIII.9); and encourage full participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in impact assessments. (Resolution VIII.9)

1. The Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment annexed to Resolution VIII.9 are being applied

D

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (annex to Resolution VIII.9).]

‘Biodiversity’ is one of the elements to be assessed under the Environmental Impact Assessment Law. The establishment of rules for Strategic Environmental Assessment is under consideration at national level, however, it has been institutionalized in some local governments at prefectural level.

3. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in impact assessment processes

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in impact assessment processes.]*

The mechanism of citizen participation is ensured in the Environmental Impact Assessment Law.

Action 2.2.2.- Apply Strategic Environmental Assessment practices when reviewing national and provincial policies, programmes, and plans that may impact upon wetlands.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: SC/Bureau to identify at least 50 Parties to have in place Strategic Environmental Assessment for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands.

1. The Party has been identified by the Ramsar Bureau as one having in place Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to wetlands	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. A review of policies, programmes, and plans that may impact upon wetlands has been completed	C	

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the review of policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands.]*

4. Strategic Environmental Assessment practices have been applied while reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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5.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the way Strategic Environmental Assessment practices have been applied while reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands.]*

The establishment of rules for Strategic Environmental Assessment is now under consideration.

Action 2.2.3.- If not yet in place, develop and implement Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation so as to ensure that an EIA is carried out, as appropriate, in wetlands, including Ramsar sites, where adverse impacts may occur due to a proposed development, change in land/water use, invasive species, etc., in line with additional guidance adopted by Resolution VIII.9 and enlisting the collaboration, if required, of the *International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA)*. Ensure that these impact assessments include full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All CPs to have required EIA, as appropriate, for proposed projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands.

1.- Legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applicable to wetlands is in place	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands /Ramsar sites
2.- EIA is carried out for projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	B		
3.- EIAs have included full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts	D		

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include comments on Environmental Impact Assessment implementation at national level.]*

In Japan, under Environmental Impact Assessment Law, environmental impact assessment must be carried out in the case where proposed development projects are above a certain scale.

Action r2.2.vi.- Establish contact with the relevant national contact points from within the networks of the *International Association for Impact Assessment* with a view to identifying sources of expertise and advice for assisting with wetland-related impact assessment. (Resolution VIII.9)

1. Experts from the International Association for Impact assessment have been involved in EIA processes in the country	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the involvement of IAIA experts in EIA processes in the country.]</i>		

Action r2.2.vii.- Provide impact assessment materials relevant to wetlands, including case studies indicating lessons learned, guidelines, sources of advice, and other relevant materials, to the Bureau for incorporation into the *IUCN Biodiversity Economics Web site*. (Resolution VIII.9)

1. EIA materials, including case studies, have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau for loading in the EIA-dedicated Web site	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on EIA materials.]</i>		

Action 2.2.4.- Promote the continuing development, wide dissemination - primarily through the Internet-based resource kit (<http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/assessment/ramsar-503-01.htm>) and application of methodologies to undertake valuations of the economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands, in collaboration with the *International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA)*, Ramsar's International Organization Partners, and interested Parties and organizations.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: STRP to have made progress on methodologies for economic, social and environmental valuation, and all CPs with experience in this area to have engaged in the STRP work.

1. Progress has been made in the development and/or application of methodologies for the valuation of economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work on methodologies for economic, social and environmental valuation of wetland benefits and functions	C	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on progress made and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]</i>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.1. Develop and disseminate methodologies to achieve the conservation and wise use of wetlands

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to review the Wise Use concept, its applicability, and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development, in collaboration with related organizations including STRP. Compile advice, methods and best practice studies for the wise use of 	

	<p>wetlands, and disseminate these to wetland managers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to ensure that the principle embodied in the Convention's new management planning guidelines (adopted at COP8) are applied to decision-making about wetlands. • Seek to disseminate and encourage the use of the Convention's guidance on the wise use concept to governments, responsible agencies and bilateral and multilateral donor organizations, in order to assist their development and implementation of sustainable development funding policies that fully address the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate in necessary actions to review the Wise Use concept, its applicability, and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development, through providing advice and information exchange to the work by the Bureau and STRP. • Translate relevant documents adopted by COP8 regarding methodologies on the wise use of wetlands, and disseminate these to stakeholders such as related ministries/agencies, local governments and NGOs. Also, compile best practices on the wise use of wetlands, if exists, and provide related stakeholders of this information. • Translate the new management planning guidelines (adopted at COP8) into Japanese and disseminate it by distributing reports or by Internet devices to related stakeholders including ministries/agencies and local governments. Also, consider applicability of the guidelines in the territory. • Translate the Convention's guidance on the wise use concept into Japanese, and disseminate it to related central/local governments and bilateral donor organization etc.

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 3.1.1.- Review the wise use concept, its applicability, and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: STRP to spearhead process of reviewing and updating guidance on the wise use concept, including the ecosystem approach, in particular in line with the outcomes of WSSD.

1. Work has been done to review the wise use concept, its applicability and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work to review and update the guidance on the wise use concept, including the ecosystem approach	C	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the revision of the wise use concept and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]		

Action 3.1.2.- Compile advice, methods and best practice studies for the wise use of wetlands, including the application of the ecosystem approach, and disseminate these to wetland managers

1. Advice, methods and best practice studies on the wise use of wetlands, including the application of the ecosystem approach, have been compiled and distributed to wetland managers	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

Resolutions on methodology of wise use of wetlands adopted at COP8 were translated into Japanese and

distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet.

Also, case studies were carried out to develop the brochure on “Ramsar Convention and Ramsar sites”.

Action 3.1.3.- Ensure that the principles embodied in the *Convention’s new management planning guidelines* adopted by Resolution VIII.14 are applied to decision-making about, and the wise use of, all wetlands.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All CPs to consider how to adapt and to incorporate, as necessary, into national practice the new management planning guidelines to the wise use of all wetlands.

1. Ramsar’s new management planning guidelines (Resolution VIII.14) have been adapted and incorporated into national practice

D

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

The new management planning guideline adopted at COP8 were translated into Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet.

Also, in some cases, the guideline was referred when Management Plan of National Wildlife Protection Area was formulated.

Action 3.1.4.- Disseminate and encourage the use of the Convention’s guidance on the wise use concept to governments, responsible agencies and bilateral and multilateral donor organizations, in order to assist their development and implementation of sustainable development funding policies that fully address the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

1. Ramsar guidance on the wise use concept and its application has been made available to appropriate decision-makers, institutions and processes

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in

some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;

G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);

I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Ramsar guidance on the wise use was translated to Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, and NGOs and also provided through the internet.

Action r3.1.i.- Share information, expertise and experience concerning the study, conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands, and develop, as appropriate, national, regional or local strategies and plans for their conservation and wise use, particularly with a view to strengthening coordination of Ramsar implementation with work underway in the framework of bilateral and multilateral environmental agreements, especially the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and those agreements dealing specifically with mountains, as well as with the initiatives of international organizations, including the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*, with the Bureau to report on progress to COP9. (Resolution VIII.12)

<i>See action r2.2.iii</i>		
1. Actions have been taken to improve the awareness and understanding of values and functions of mountain and high altitude wetlands	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;
2. Information, expertise and experience concerning the study, conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been shared with other interested Parties	C	F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
3. National, regional or local strategies and plans for the conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been developed	D	
4. Ramsar work on mountain wetlands has been coordinated with other environment-related and mountain-related agreements and institutions	D	
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on information available and strategies developed concerning mountain and high altitude wetlands.]		
Resolutions adopted at COP8 were translated into Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet. A number of mountain wetlands were listed in “500 Important Wetlands in Japan”, which is the national inventory of important wetlands, and we are preparing to designate some of these wetlands as Ramsar sites. Principles, targets, and specific actions related to wetland conservation including mountain wetlands are mentioned in the National Biodiversity Strategy.		

Action r3.1.iii.- Establish, with the support of IOPs and other partners and collaborators of the Convention, specific work programmes for high Andean wetlands and the basins fed by them, in order to preserve their valuable biodiversity, their function as regulators of water, and as living space of many local and peasant communities and indigenous peoples. (Resolution VIII.39)

1. Specific work programmes for the wise use of high Andean wetlands and the basins fed by them have been established	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

Action r3.1.v.- Exchange information relating to the conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems, especially where this involves the full participation of local communities and indigenous peoples. (Resolution VIII.32)

1. Information relating to the conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems, especially in relation to the participation of local communities and indigenous people, has been exchanged with other Parties and institutions	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
ISME (International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems) carried out development, integrated management and information exchange of database through GLOMIS (Global Mangrove Database and Information System) and also conducted researches on mangrove ecosystems. Utilizing the results, development of mangrove work plans, establishment of mangrove nursery and tree-planting program for coastline conservation in the Republic of the Maldives, researches on tree planting methodologies in UAE were implemented.		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.2. Ensure the conservation and wise use of peatlands as a demonstration of the ecosystem-based approach under the Convention

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the <i>Guidelines for global action on peatlands</i> as adopted by Resolution VIII.xx of COP8. And seek to implement the actions for conservation and restoration/rehabilitation of wetlands such as existing Ramsar sites and other wetlands which include peatlands. Report to COP9 on the progress in implementing the <i>Guidelines for global action on peatlands</i> adopted at COP8.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate the guideline on peatlands adopted at COP8, and disseminate it to related organizations. Consider the applicability of this guideline in the territory. Collect and analyse further information on peatland, such as the cases of marshes in Eastern-Hokkaido region. It should be noted that Japan has already designated peatlands as Ramsar sites. (ex. Kushiro-marshland) Review the progress in implementing the <i>Guidelines for global action on peatlands</i>. Compile national report for COP9 based on the results of such review.

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action r3.2.i.- Establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands and prepare an implementation plan for global action on peatlands. (Resolution VIII.17)

1. The Party has participated in the Ramsar Bureau-led process to establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action 3.2.1.- Implement the *Guidelines for global action on peatlands* as adopted by Resolution VIII.17, noting the priority sought therein for inventories of peatlands, the protection and possible designation of peatlands as Ramsar sites, the transfer of peatland restoration technology, and the maintenance of the cultural significance of peatlands, and implement those actions identified as national priorities.

1. Action has been taken to implement at national level the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)

D

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

The Resolution adopted at COP8 (the *Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands*) was translated into Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet. Nature Restoration Projects have been implemented at peatlands including Kushiro-shitsugen and Sarobetsu-gennyu.

Action r3.2.ii.- Identify and make available sources of funds in order that the activities identified in the implementation plan for global action on peatlands can be undertaken. (Resolution VIII.17)

1. Funds have been made available at national level for the implementation of the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands

D

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Nature Restoration Projects have been implemented at peatlands, including Kushiro-shitsugen and Sarobetsu-gennyu, under close collaboration among relevant ministries.

Action r3.2.iii.- Include information on the status and trends in national peatland resources in National Reports to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the *Ramsar Convention*, and other conventions, as appropriate. (Resolution VIII.17)

1. Summary of the status and trends in national peatland resources is available

D

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Status and trends in national peatland resources [Please include information on the conservation status and trends of peatland resources and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]

The survey on 2,196 wetlands including peatlands were conducted in 1993 as part of National Surveys on the Natural Environment, and information on the location, area, water quality, inhabitation of major fauna and flora of these wetlands were compiled. However, this information has not been updated since COP8.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.3. Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, and scientific research

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of national wetland inventory, make efforts to assess and document wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply, cultural heritage and/or scientific research etc. , and, where appropriate, seek to have these sites protected in recognition of these values. Seek to promote (through the application of the guidelines adopted by COP8) full recognition of the social and cultural heritage of wetlands, and ensure that this is fully appreciated and taken into account in their wise use and management. Promote the implementation of the wise use wetland programmes and projects that contribute to food and water security plans at local and national levels. Promote research into the role of wetlands in water supply, coastal protection, flood defense and cultural heritage etc.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect information on wetlands which are of significance for reasons of water supply, cultural heritage and/or scientific research etc., and consider

	<p>additional documentation of such information on the national inventory on important wetlands. Also, seek to have these sites protected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate the Japanese version of the guidelines adopted by COP8 to related organization, to encourage its application. • Promote the implementation of the wise use wetland programmes and projects that contribute to food and water security plans at local and national levels. • Promote research into the role of wetlands in water supply, coastal protection, flood defense and cultural heritage etc.
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Action 3.3.1.- As part of national (or, as appropriate, provincial) wetland inventories, assess and document wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, and/or scientific research, and, where appropriate, seek to have these sites protected in recognition of these values.

See action 1.1.2

1. Measures have been taken to protect wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, and/or scientific research

D

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

“Shidekobushi (*Magnolia stellata*) and wetland plant community of Tabika” that possess high academic value, was designated as a natural monument in 2005 to promote conservation. Also, Cultural Properties Protection Law was amended in April 2005 and cultural landscape including paddy fields, small reservoirs, and channels became subject to protection.

Action 3.3.3.- Consider using the guiding principles in Annex I of Resolution VIII.19 to promote full recognition of the social and cultural heritage of wetlands, and ensure that this is fully appreciated and taken into account in their wise use and management.

See actions r2.2.ii, 6.1.6

1. Actions have been taken to promote the recognition of the social and cultural heritage of wetlands

B

Choose an answer for each indicator

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2. The social and cultural heritage of wetlands is being taken into account in their wise use and management

D

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the on recognition of social and cultural heritage of wetlands.]

The Resolution adopted at COP8 (the cultural values of wetlands) was translated into Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet.

Briefing meetings were held to widespread cultural landscape that became new protection subjects including paddy fields, small reservoirs, and channels by the amendment of Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in April, 2005, and also brochures were developed and distributed.

Action r3.3.ii.- Urge public institutions to ensure that a more decisive effort be made with regard to groundwater, placing emphasis on the hydro-geological, social, economic and environmental aspects within the framework of communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) regarding wetlands. (Resolution VIII.40)

1. Actions have been taken to ensure that public institutions place emphasis on the hydrogeological, social, economic and environmental aspects of groundwater	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The Resolution adopted at COP8 (utilization of groundwater and wetlands conservation) was translated into Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet.		

Action r3.3.iii.- Within national and legal frameworks and available resources and capacity, consider *inter alia* the compilation and assessment of both material and non-material cultural elements related to wetlands and water, taking into account, as appropriate, intellectual property rights, customary law, and the principle of prior informed consent, in accordance with CBD and WIPO rules; promoting the appreciation and revitalization of these cultural values among populations close to wetlands, and in general among the wider public; including all relevant aspects of cultural heritage in the design and implementation of wetland management, carrying out such efforts with active participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders; and consider using the cultural values of wetlands as a tool to strengthen this involvement, particularly in wetland planning and management. (Resolution VIII.19)

1. Compilation(s) and assessment(s) of both material and non-material cultural elements related to wetlands and water have been undertaken	E	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
2. Actions have been taken to promote the appreciation and revitalization of cultural values related to wetlands and water	B	D = Partly/ in some cases;
3. All relevant aspects of cultural heritage have been incorporated in the design and implementation of wetland management	E	E = In progress; F= Being planned;
4. Cultural values of wetlands have been used as a tool to strengthen involvement of local stakeholders, particularly in wetland planning and management	D	G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the actions made to take into consideration cultural heritage and values of wetlands.]		
The research projects on the cultural values and management methods and other projects of wetlands designated as natural monuments including “Narutou and Togane insectivorous plant community” and “Komado moor” have been continuously supported financially. Also, pilot research projects on the cultural values and management methods have been implemented in wetlands that possess cultural values such as terrace paddy fields and small reservoirs, including “Oyama Senmaida” and “Inami reservoirs”.		

Action 3.3.4.- Develop and implement wise use wetland programmes and projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and food and water security plans at local, national and regional levels.

1. Wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and food and water security plans have been developed	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

Action 3.3.5.- Promote research, including through the establishment of national and regional research and training centres, into the role of wetlands in water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, and cultural heritage.

<i>See action 20.1.8</i>		
1. Research has been promoted on the role of wetlands in any of the following areas: water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, and cultural heritage	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

Action r3.3.v.- Secure the wise use of temporary pools through ensuring, as a high priority, that their management is sustainable, respecting their specific characteristics and addressing root causes of their loss and degradation, taking into consideration the guidance in Resolution VIII.33, and including by:

- i) undertaking, as far as possible, baseline inventory of temporary pools;
- ii) raising awareness of their presence and their specific values and functions;
- iii) ensuring the maintenance of their specific hydrological functioning;
- iv) ensuring that their natural resources are sustainably used and not overexploited;
- v) recognizing the commitment to, and importance of, temporary pools to local communities and indigenous peoples, and supporting their management and protection; and
- vi) undertaking regular surveillance of temporary pools so as to identify and avert any threat to their values and functions, always considering the traditional uses and management. (Resolution VIII.33)

1. Actions have been taken to secure the wise use of temporary pools	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The Resolution adopted at COP8 (the Guidance for identifying, sustainable managing, and designating temporary pools as Wetlands of International Importance) was translated into Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet.		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.4. Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties, and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to ensure the inclusion of wetland conservation, wise use and restoration/rehabilitation in general sectoral planning at national, regional, provincial and local levels, including[, as far as possible,] the necessary budgetary provisions to enable their implementation. • Apply the guidelines in <i>Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> and, where appropriate and feasible, participate in the related CBD/Ramsar project entitled the “River Basin Initiative”. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management</i> as adopted by COP8. In decision-making processes related to freshwater resources, apply the <i>Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</i>, as adopted by COP8. Ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, not to lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the inclusion of wetland conservation, wise use and restoration/rehabilitation in general sectoral planning, and to secure the necessary fiscal budget related to these issues. Implement pilot projects on the application of guideline in <i>Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> to promote integrated management in river basin at some areas including Kushiro-river basin. Cooperate with the Bureau of River Basin Initiative through exchange of information and views. Disseminate Japanese translation of the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management</i> as adopted by COP8 to related organizations, to consider the applicability in the country. Disseminate Japanese translation of the <i>Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</i>, as adopted by COP8, and consider the applicability in the country. Note to give full consideration of maintenance of the ecological character of wetlands in the development of national policy responses.

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Action 3.4.2.- Apply the Guidelines in *Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) and, where appropriate and feasible, participate in the related CBD/Ramsar project entitled the “*River Basin Initiative*” so as to support the WSSD agreement to increase understanding of the sustainable use, protection and management of water resources.

1. The <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) have been used/applied	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on application of the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management.</i>]		
Nature Restoration Projects have been implemented at Kushiro River, Ara-kawa(river) and other rivers. At Kushiro-shitsugen (Ramsar site), a nature restoration committee based on the Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration was established with the participation of various stakeholders such as government, experts, and NGOs. The framework for the nature restoration project at Kushiro-shitugen has been prepared and discussed by the committee.		
3. The Party has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the participation in the <i>Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.</i>]		
Japan has joined the mailing list of River Basin Initiative.		

Action r3.4.i.- Ensure that due attention is given to the role of mountain and high-altitude wetlands, and the importance of their conservation and wise use, in the preparation and implementation of river basin management plans. (Resolution VIII.12)

1. Due attention has been promoted / given to the role of mountain and high altitude wetlands in the preparation and implementation of river basin management plans	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			
When issuing the permission for intake from Oze-numa, attention has been given to endure that the water intake would not give considerable impact on the wetland's water quantity.			
Action r3.4.ii.- Use, where appropriate, in managing or assessing the impact of dams on sensitive riverine and wetland ecosystems, all available information, including information provided by the World Commission on Dams (WCD), in association with the guidance adopted by the Ramsar Convention, to inform and guide local and national processes for allocation of water resources and decision-making, in order to ensure that wetlands and their values and functions are fully taken into account in decision-making on large dams. (Resolution VIII.2)			
1. Wetland values and functions have been taken into account in decision-making on large dams	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			
Action r3.4.iii.- Take the necessary steps, wherever possible and appropriate, in order to maintain the migration access for indigenous fish and other species past dams. (Resolution VIII.2)			
1. Steps have been taken to ensure that dams are not impeding the migration of indigenous fish and other species	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			
‘Handbook for Promoting Rivers that Fish can Easily Rise’ was produced and publicized.(March, 2005)			
Action r3.4.iv.- Undertake the systematic implementation of environmental flow assessments, where appropriate, to mitigate socio-economic and ecological impacts of large dams on wetlands, and encourage the development of appropriate centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation, and in doing so apply the <i>Guidelines on water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</i> (Resolutions VIII.1, VIII.2)			
1. Assessments of environmental flow have been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the assessments of environmental flow undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams.]</i>			
3.- Centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation have been encouraged <i>(if available, please include number of centres)</i>	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N^o centres
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[If applicable, please include information on the centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation that have been encouraged.]</i>			

Action 3.4.5.- Apply the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management (ICZM)</i> as adopted by Resolution VIII.4.		
1. The <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management (Resolution VIII.4)</i> have been used/applied	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The Resolution adopted at COP8 (integrated coastal zone management) was translated into Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet.</p> <p>Based on the guideline, coastal wetlands including tidal flats, seagrass/seaweed beds, coral reefs and sand beaches were selected as candidate sites for designation as Ramsar sites by COP9. These sites will be designated sequentially when approval of local governments and other necessary criteria are met.</p>		
Action r3.4.vi.- Document case studies of good practice in the integration of wetlands into ICZM and make these available to the Convention for review by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) as the basis for preparing further guidance on wetlands and ICZM under the Convention. (Resolution VIII. 4)		
1. Case studies of good practice examples on the integration of wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Action 3.4.6.- In decision-making processes related to freshwater resources, apply the <i>Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</i> , as adopted by Resolution VIII.1.		
GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All CPs to have made available the guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision-making on water resource management in all CPs, as a contribution to achieve the WSSD target on water resources management and water efficiency plans.		
1. The <i>Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1)</i> have been used/applied in decision-making related to freshwater	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The Resolution adopted at COP8 (the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands) was translated into Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet.</p>		
Action r3.4.viii.- Bring the <i>Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</i> and the additional guidance on tools and methodologies to the attention of national ministries and/or agencies (at different levels of territorial organization) responsible for water resource management; encourage these bodies to apply the guidance in order to ensure appropriate allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands in their territory; ensure that the principles contained in the Ramsar Guidelines are incorporated into national policies on water and on wetlands; and include representatives of national water management ministries and/or agencies in the membership of National Ramsar/Wetland Committees. (Resolution VIII.1)		

See action 18.1.2

1. Representatives of national water management ministries and/or agencies are included in National Ramsar/Wetland Committee

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport are the members of National Ramsar Committee.

Action r3.4.ix.- Develop projects and other activities that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, make such good practice examples available to others through the information exchange mechanisms of the *Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative*, and report to COP9 on the successes achieved and lessons learned from these activities. (Resolution VIII1)

1. Projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands have been developed

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant projects.]

Restoration of meandering rivers to recover the original conditions of the rivers has been carried out at Kushiro river and Ara-kawa(river) as part of Nature Restoration Projects.

3.- Summary on successes achieved and lessons learned in developing this type of projects [Please provide a summary on the relevant projects, successes achieved, and lessons learned in their development.]

Action r3.4.x.- Develop mechanisms to better plan and manage for the wise use of water in the Andean region. (Resolution VIII.39)

1. Mechanisms to better plan and manage the wise use of water in the Andean Region have been developed

A

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action r3.4.xi.- Seek to maintain, as far as practicable in countries affected by drought, the continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands, so as to ensure that they can continue to provide their full range of values and functions for people and biological diversity. (Resolution VIII.35)

1. Efforts have been made to maintain continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands in situations of drought

A

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action r3.4.xiv.- Study, from an interdisciplinary point of view and with the participation of civil society, the impact of the use of groundwater on the conservation of the wetlands in those territories where these impacts exist. (Resolution VIII.40)

1. Interdisciplinary studies on the impact of the use of groundwater on the conservation of wetlands have been undertaken	C	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

Action r3.4.xv.- Promote proposals for the participation of civil society, both public and private, related to the management of groundwater within the framework of integrated management of water resources. (Resolution VIII.40)

1. The participation of civil society in the management of groundwater resources has been promoted	C	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

Action 3.4.9.- Ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the *Kyoto Protocol*, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All relevant CPs to have assessed implications of *Kyoto Protocol* implementation on wetlands (including applying COP8 restoration guidelines).

See action 4.1.4

1. The implications of implementation of the Kyoto Protocol for wetland conservation have been assessed	C	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

Action r3.4.xvi.- Make every effort, when implementing UNFCCC and, where appropriate, its *Kyoto Protocol*, including revegetation and forest management, afforestation and reforestation, that this implementation does not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of their wetlands, using, where appropriate, strategic and other forms of environmental impact assessment and risk assessment, taking account Resolutions VII.10, VII.16 and VIII.9, as well as Article 4.1 of the UNFCCC and Article 2.1 of the *Kyoto Protocol*, as appropriate. (Resolution VIII.3)

1. Efforts have been made to avoid serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands due to the implementation of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol	C	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

Action r3.4.xvii.- Consider, and use as appropriate, the information on climate change and wetlands in the background papers Ramsar COP8 DOC. 11 and COP8 DOC. 40 when integrating climate change considerations into national policy pertaining to the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.3)

1. The information provided in COP8 documents related to climate change has been considered and used in national policies pertaining to wetlands	C	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

Action r3.4.xviii.- Take action to minimize the degradation, as well as to promote restoration, and improve management practices of those peatlands and other wetland types that are significant carbon stores, or have the ability to sequester carbon and are considered as mitigation factors, as well as to increase the adaptive capacity of society to respond to the changes in these ecosystems due to climate change. (Resolution VIII.3)

1. Actions have been taken to minimize degradation, restore and improve management of peatlands and other wetland types that are significant carbon stores, or have the ability to sequester carbon	D	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Some of peatlands are designated as National Parks and conserved based on Natural Parks Law. Also, Nature Restoration Projects have been implemented at peatlands such as Kushiro-shitsugen (Ramsar site) and Sarobetsu-gennya.		

Action r3.4.xix.- Recognize the important role of mangrove ecosystems in mitigating climate change and sea-level rise, especially in low-lying areas and Small Island Developing States, and plan their management, including required adaptation measures, so as to ensure that mangrove ecosystems may respond to impacts caused by climate change and sea-level rise. (Resolution VIII.32)

1. Management planning measures have been taken to preserve the role of mangrove ecosystems in mitigating climate change and sea-level rise	D	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Some of mangrove forests are designated as National Parks based on the Natural Parks Law and Forest Ecosystem Protection Reserve in National Forests to be managed and conserved appropriately. 36 mangrove forests are listed in “500 Important Wetlands in Japan”, the national inventory of important wetlands, and designation of Ramsar sites from these wetlands is now under consideration.		

Action r3.4.xx.- Undertake, where possible, studies of the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration and in mitigating the impacts of sea-level rise and make their findings available to the Convention. (Resolution VIII.3)

1. Studies on the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration and in mitigating the impacts of sea-level rise have been undertaken	C	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

Action r3.4.xxiv.- Contribute information on wetlands and agriculture to the *Wise Use Resource Centre* maintained by the Ramsar Bureau, to the *River Basin Initiative* and to the *Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment*, and future meetings of the *World Water Forum*. (Resolution VIII.34)

1. Information on wetlands and agriculture has been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau and others	C	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Paddy fields, which are the typical artificial wetlands in Japan, are not only used for agricultural production but also habitats for rich wildlife. At Kabukuri-numa, an important mitigating site for *Anser albifrons* (White-fronted Goose), surrounding paddy fields are used as feeding sites and roosting site for Anatidae species. In this regard, attempts have been made to designate the site including the surrounding paddy fields as a Ramsar site. Also, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and Ministry of the Environment implemented joint case studies on semi-natural environment including paddy fields where wildlife habitat management are promoted. The results were published as a brochure called “Initiating Nature Rehabilitation Projects in rural landscapes and paddy fields” in 2002. Also, a brochure about “Winter-Flooded Rice Fields”(creating wildlife habitats such as roosting area for migratory birds) was produced in 2005.



OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4.1. Identify priority wetlands where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use national scientific inventories of wetlands to identify those where restoration or rehabilitation would be appropriate because of their present and/or former values and functions using the guidelines on this matter adopted by COP8. Implement wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, where feasible, at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in those associated with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value, in line with Recommendation 4.1 and Resolutions VII.17 and VII.20. Compile information on new research and methodologies for the restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands, and disseminate this information. Apply the guidelines on wetland restoration adopted by COP8 to ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation, do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands. 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate Japanese translation of related resolutions and guidelines adopted at COP8 to related organizations, and use national inventory of important wetlands and results of existing wetland surveys to identify those where restoration or rehabilitation would be appropriate, making reference to the guideline. Continue to implement the wetland restoration /rehabilitation programmes as part of national nature restoration projects at some wetlands including Kushiro-river basin, making reference to related and existing 	

	resolutions/recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile information on new research and methodologies for the restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands and disseminate this information. • Disseminate Japanese translation of the guideline on wetland restoration adopted at COP8, and consider the applicability in the territory.
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Action 4.1.2.- Establish wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, where feasible, at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in those associated with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value, in line with Recommendation 4.1 and Resolutions VII.17 and VII.20.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All CPs with lost or degraded wetlands to have identified priority sites for restoration; restoration projects underway or completed in at least 100 CPs.

1. Wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects have been developed	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Nature Restoration Projects have been implemented in rivers, marshlands, tidal flats, seagrass/seaweed beds and other wetlands including Ramsar sites.		

Action r4.1.i.- Report on progress in implementation of Actions 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 in triennial National Reports to the COP (Resolution VIII.16).

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>			
1.- Actions have been taken to restore / rehabilitate those wetlands defined as priority for restoration (if available, please include number of sites)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F=</i> <i>Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other</i> <i>status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
Nature Restoration Projects have been implemented in wetlands such as Kushiro-shitsugen and Biwa-ko.			

Action r4.1.ii.- Integrate fully the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* (Resolution VIII.16) into National Wetland Policies and plans, paying particular attention to issues of legislation, impact assessment, incentive measures, and the mitigation of impacts of climate change and sea-level rise. (Resolution VIII.16).

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been integrated into the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument(s)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in</i> <i>some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Principles, targets, and specific actions related to wetlands conservations are listed in the New National Biodiversity Strategy established in 2002. This strategy will be reviewed after 5 years to endure flexible and appropriate reflection of changes in natural environment and social economy. When the strategy is reviewed, “ <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> ” will be taken into consideration as needed.		

Action r4.1.iii.- Pay particular attention to the role of wetland restoration in management at the catchment and river basin level in relation to the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions (Resolution VIII.1), integrating the conservation and wise use of wetlands into river basin management (Resolution VII.18), and transboundary action (Resolution VII.19). (Resolution VIII.16).

<p>1. The role of wetland restoration has been taken into account in river basin management</p>	<p>D</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>Nature Restoration Projects have been implemented in Kushiro-shitsugen with recognition that the mire has important values and functions such as important habitats for wildlife, water retention and purification and flood adjustment.</p>		

Action 4.1.3.- Compile information on new research and methodologies for the restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands and disseminate this information.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Continue to add new case studies and methods to Ramsar wetland restoration Web site.

<p>1. Information and/or case studies on wetland restoration and rehabilitation is available</p>	<p>D</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i></p>
<p>2. Information on new research and methodologies for wetland restoration/rehabilitation has been compiled and disseminated</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information on restoration/rehabilitation of wetlands and its dissemination.]</p>		
<p>References, reports and GIS data regarding Kushiro-shitsugen (Ramsar site) were compiled to a database, which is accessible through the internet. Also, the information about progress and activities of Nature Restoration Projects in different sites including Kushiro-shitsugen and Sarobetsu-gennyu are provided by the newsletters and on the website.</p> <p>“Handbook on how to understand Brackish River Environment” was developed and publicized in May 2005.</p>		

Action 4.1.4.- Apply the guidelines on wetland restoration adopted by Resolution VIII.16 to ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the *Kyoto Protocol*, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation, do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands.

<p><i>See action 3.4.9</i></p>		
<p>1. The <i>Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been used in the assessment of the implications of the implementation of the <i>Kyoto Protocol</i> for wetland conservation</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		

Action r4.1.iv.- Apply the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* when considering the provision of compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention, using the guidelines for such provision of compensation adopted by Resolution VIII.20. (Resolution VIII.16)

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been applied in relation to the provision of compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention has not been implemented.		

Action r4.1.v.- Ensure, when implementing the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration*, that the cultural and archaeological heritage significance of wetlands being considered for restoration is fully recognized so as to ensure that this significance is maintained, taking into account the *Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites*, annexed to Resolution VIII.19. (Resolution VIII.16).

<i>See action r3.3.iii</i>		
1. Cultural and archaeological heritage significance of wetlands has been considered in restoration actions	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

Action r4.1.vi.- Identify, as part of national training needs assessments, training needs in wetland restoration, identify training opportunities and expertise in wetland restoration, and create relevant training modules as part of the *Ramsar Wetland Training Initiative*, once established. (Resolution VIII.16). (Refer also to Action 20.1.5)

<i>See action 20.1.5</i>		
1. Training needs in relation to wetland restoration have been assessed	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
2. Training opportunities and expertise in relation to wetland restoration have been identified	B	H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on training needs and opportunities in relation to wetland restoration.]</i>		
National Environmental Research and Training Institute provides the Nature Restoration Course that targets field officers for nature conservation of the Ministry of the Environment in response to Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration enacted in 2002. River Environment Course provided by College of Land, Infrastructure and Transport includes the subject related to wetland restoration.		

Action r4.1.vii.- Investigate opportunities to link poverty relief to wetland restoration, by incorporating the provision of work, skills and opportunities into restoration projects and by focusing on the restoration of ecosystem goods and services upon which communities depend. (Resolution VIII.16).

1. Restoration projects linked to poverty relief have been developed and implemented	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Most of the Nature Restoration Projects implemented in wetlands such as rivers, moors, tidal flats and seagrass/seaweed beds including Kushiro-shitsugen and Biwa-ko (Ramsar sites) have contributed to community revitalization through eco-tourism and environmental education. In Kushiro-shitsugen, Nature Restoration Public Awareness Action Plan was developed; and based on this plan, public awareness and		

environmental education activities have been promoted with the involvement of various local bodies.

Action r4.1.viii.- Disseminate the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* (Resolution VIII.16) to community stakeholders who have an interest in wetland restoration; and involve local communities and indigenous peoples in restoring and maintaining wetlands, in line with the guidance in Resolution VII.8 concerning establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.16).

1. The *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* have been disseminated to community stakeholders

D

Choose an answer for each indicator

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;

D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;

F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =

Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in wetland restoration activities

D

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the dissemination of the Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration and the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in wetland restoration.]

Various stakeholders such as governments, experts, NGOs and local people are engaged in Nature Restoration Projects that have been conducted in wetlands such as rivers, moors, tidal flats and seagrass/seaweed beds including Kushiro-shitsugen (Ramsar site).

Action r4.1.ix.- Utilise the information and resources of *Ramsar's restoration Web site*, and contribute relevant additional information on wetland restoration projects and experience to this Web site, so as to increase the wide availability of such information, and particularly to provide demonstration projects that illustrate the application of the principles and guidelines adopted by Resolution VIII.16. (Resolution VIII.16)

1. The Ramsar Web site on wetland restoration has been used and materials have been provided to it

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the use of Ramsar web site on wetland restoration and the materials provided to it, if applicable.]

Action r4.1.xi.- Prepare guidance on compensation for wetland losses in response to Resolution VII.24, and report on these matters to COP9. (Resolution VIII.16)

1. Contribution has been made to preparation of guidance on compensation for wetland losses, in response to Resolution VII.24

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5.1. Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems

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PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		• Implement the guidelines relating to the prevention, control and eradication

	<p>of alien species, adopted at COP8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to continue to develop and disseminate practical guidance for the prevention, control and eradication of alien species, in collaboration with related organizations. • Seek to ensure that national action plans for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species fully incorporate wetland issues.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate Japanese translation of the guideline on alien species adopted at COP8, and consider the applicability in the country. • Collect information on case studies and documented experiences for the prevention, control and eradication of alien species, and provide the Bureau of such information. Based on the "policy on alien species" which was compiled by the Ministry of the Environment in August 2002, take necessary actions including consideration of the measure to prevent introduction of alien species, establishment of database on alien species, and public awareness for related stakeholders. • Seek to include the consideration of wetland conservation into development process of national policy and institution concerning the measures on alien species.

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Action r5.1.ii.- Work closely with counterpart national focal points for the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, the *UN Convention to Combat Desertification*, the *UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)*, the *International Maritime Organization (IMO)*, and others in the development and implementation of national policies, strategies and management responses to threats from invasive alien species, and ensure that prevention, eradication and control of such species are fully incorporated in national legislation and national wetland and biodiversity policies, strategies and action plans, applying the *Ramsar Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands* (Ramsar Handbook 3) and *Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies* (Ramsar Handbook 2). (Resolution VIII.18)

1. National policy, strategy and management responses to threats from invasive species have been developed and implemented	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
2. Prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species have been fully incorporated in national legislation and national wetland and biodiversity policies, strategies and action plans	B	D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;
3. Actions related to invasive species have been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organizations/processes	D	G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on incorporation of invasive species matters in national legislation and policies, actions taken, and cooperation in this field.]		
Invasive Alien Species are designated and their importation and transference has been regulated in accordance with the Invasive Alien Species Act enacted in June 2004. Also, measures are taken to control Invasive Alien Species living in the field.		

Action r5.1.iii.- Undertake risk assessments of alien species which may pose a threat to the ecological character of wetlands, taking into account the potential changes to ecosystems from the effects of global climate change, and applying the guidance available in Ramsar's *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* (Resolution VII.10). (Resolution VIII.18)

1. Risk assessments of alien species that pose a threat to wetlands have been undertaken	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

37 alien species have been designated in accordance to the Invasive Alien Species Act in April 2005.

Action r5.1.iv.- Identify the presence of invasive alien species in Ramsar sites and other wetlands in the Party's territory, the threats they pose to the ecological character of these wetlands (including the risk of invasions by such species not yet present within each site), and the actions underway or planned for their prevention, eradication or control; for Ramsar sites, report on this to the Ramsar Bureau without delay in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention, so that this information may be included in the *Ramsar Sites Database* (refer also to Operational Objective 11.2); and make information provided by Contracting Parties available to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and others in support of the implementation of the *CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2002-2006*. (Resolution VIII.18)

1.- Problems of invasion by alien species in Ramsar sites have been assessed and communicated to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant Article 3.2 of the Convention (if applicable, please include number of sites)

C

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;
F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below);
I = No answer*

**N° wetlands /
Ramsar sites**

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the problems of invasion by alien species, sites affected and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

The control model projects will be conducted to deal with the damage to surrounding ecosystems by Largemouth bass at Izunuma and Uchinuma (Ramsar site) and other places.

Action r5.1.v.- Cooperate fully in the prevention, early warning in transboundary wetlands, eradication and control of invasive species concerning invasive species in shared wetlands, river systems, and coastal/marine zones, including examining carefully, prior to moving water between river basins, the potential environmental impacts due to invasive species, and applying the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Ramsar Handbook 9) in recognition that many aquatic invasive species, both inland and coastal and marine species, can spread rapidly and repeatedly throughout entire wetland ecosystems, river basins and coastal and marine zones, such that eradication in one place may not prove effective at preventing further invasions. (Resolution VIII.18)

1. International cooperation related to invasive species in transboundary/shared wetlands and water systems has been agreed and implemented

A

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action 5.1.2.- In collaboration with the *Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)*, the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, Ramsar's International Organization Partners, and interested Parties, continue to develop and disseminate practical guidance for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species, based on case studies and documented experiences from around the world.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Guidance for invasives' management prepared.

1. Practical guidance for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species has been developed and disseminated

B

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

"Scheme of Countermeasures Against Alien Species" was developed in 2003 and "Basic Policy For Preventing Adverse Effects on Ecosystems Caused By Invasive Alien Species" in accordance with the Invasive Alien Species Act was developed in 2004. Also, guidelines for control have been developed for some Invasive Alien

Species.

Action r5.1.ix.- In the development and implementation of national strategies and responses to invasive alien species, recognize that terrestrial invasions by alien species can threaten and affect the ecological character of wetlands, including through the lowering of water tables and alteration of water flow patterns, and ensure that appropriate measures to prevent or control such invasions are in place. (Resolution VIII.18)

1. The impact on wetlands of terrestrial invasions by alien species has been assessed

B*Choose an answer**A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;**E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;**H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

With considering the adverse effects of alien species to wetland ecosystems, Invasive Alien Species have been designated in accordance with Invasive Alien Species Act.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 6. LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND CULTURAL VALUES

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 6.1. Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, in particular women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to apply the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands.</i> • In consultation with and with the full support of indigenous people, document and encourage the application of appropriate traditional knowledge and management practices of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly where wetlands are under the traditional ownership of local communities and indigenous people. • Continue to support the Participatory Management Clearinghouse (PMC), a joint service of IUCN–The World Conservation Union, the Ramsar Bureau, and WWF International. • Promote public participation in decision-making processes with respect to wetlands and their conservation and ensure that there is full sharing with the stakeholders of technical and other information related to the selection of Ramsar sites and management of all wetlands. • Elaborate further guidance on the application of the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands.</i> • Seek to [apply the <i>Guiding principles on the incorporation of cultural values of wetlands in wetland management</i> adopted by COP8], and to continue documentation of case studies on social and cultural values of wetlands and how they can be incorporated into the effort to conserve and sustainably use wetland resources. • Apply the <i>New guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> adopted by COP8 at Ramsar sites in the territory.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate Japanese translation of the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands.</i> to

	<p>related organizations etc., and encourage their application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect related information on appropriate traditional knowledge and management practices of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands as appropriate, and provide related stakeholders of these informations. • Support the PMC, a joint service of IUCN, Ramsar Bureau, and PMC, as appropriate, through necessary actions such as providing related informations. • Call for comments from local governments and public citizens widely, where appropriate, in decision-making processes on wetland conservation and procedure on designating Ramsar sites. Also, seek to ensure that there is full sharing with the stakeholders of available information such as results of wetland surveys and status of wetland management. • Collect information on the application of the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands.</i> , and provide the Bureau and other organizations of such information, as appropriate. • Disseminate Japanese translation of related resolution and principle adopted at COP8 to related organizations, and consider the applicability. Collect information on integration of social and cultural values of wetlands into wetland conservation efforts. • Disseminate Japanese translation of the <i>New guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> adopted by COP8 to related organizations, and consider the applicability at Ramsar sites in the country.
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 6.1.1.- Apply the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 5), giving particular attention to the importance of incentive measures (refer to Operational Objective 8.1), the building of trust, the need for flexible approaches, the exchange of knowledge, capacity building and the continuity of resources and efforts.

1. The guidance for the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management has been applied	D	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

- To conserve ecosystems including wetlands, protected areas such as Wildlife Protection Areas and Natural Parks are designated. When developing management plans for such protected areas, the government agencies call for public comments from citizens widely.
- Representatives of relevant local government of Ramsar sites are the members of National Ramsar Committee.
- Volunteer activities such as cleanup and alien species extermination have been conducted in some of the wetlands in Natural Parks and Wildlife Protection Areas.
- Various stakeholders such as governments, experts, NGOs and local people are engaged in Nature Restoration Projects that have been conducted in wetlands such as rivers, moors, tidal flats and seaweed beds including Kushiro-shitsugen.

Action 6.1.2.- In consultation with and with the full support of indigenous people, document and encourage the application of appropriate traditional knowledge and management practices of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly where wetlands are under the traditional ownership of local communities and indigenous people.

1. Traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands has been documented and its application encouraged	D	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>Katano-kamoike (Ramsar site) has functioned as an irrigation pond for surrounding paddy fields in summer more than 300 years. After the rice harvest, paddy fields are filled with water and the open water surface provided habitat for Anatidae. Katano-kamoike has been maintained and used as a hunting field for the traditional cast net hunting. After the designation as a Ramsar site in 1993, the effectiveness of traditional water management practices has been recognized and a liaison committee was set up to coordinate and promote management and conservation activities among organizations concerned.</p> <p>At Biwa-ko(Ramsar site), wise use of wetlands has been implemented for long time through traditional fishing methods on endemic species such as Japanese trout (<i>Plecoglossus altivelis altivelis</i>) and “Nigorobuna”(<i>Carassius auratus grandoculis</i>). Also, lakeside reeds had been important for conservation of traditional landscape, and utilized for traditional building materials in past years. Currently, the conservation measures including the Reed-Community Conservation Ordinance for lakeside reeds are enforced.</p> <p>At wetlands designated as natural monuments, financial support was provided to projects that carry out researches with participation of local people and develop management guidelines.</p>		
Action 6.1.4.- Promote public participation in decision-making processes with respect to wetlands and their conservation and ensure that there is full sharing with the stakeholders of technical and other information related to the selection of Ramsar sites and management of all wetlands.		
1.- Public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands has been promoted	D	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the promotion of public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands.]		
<p>To conserve ecosystems including wetlands, protected areas such as Wildlife Protection Areas and Natural Parks are designated. When developing management plans for such protected areas, the government agencies call for public comments from citizens widely.</p> <p>When protected areas are designated on the premise of designating them as new Ramsar sites, efforts are made to obtain understanding from citizens and NGOs, because their participation is important to conservation and management of the sites after designation.</p> <p>To achieve the national target to increase the number of Ramsar sites to more than 22 by COP9, the political support has been obtained from ‘Japanese Lawmakers’ League for Increasing the Ramsar Sites in Japan’, which is a cross-party group of lawmakers established in 2003 aiming to increase the number of Ramsar sites in Japan.</p> <p>Various stakeholders such as governments, experts, NGOs and local people are engaged in Nature Restoration Projects that have been conducted in wetlands including Kushiro-shitsugen. Their involvement contributes to establishment of well-developed over all plans of the projects and to the awareness-raising of local communities.</p>		
3.- Local stakeholders have been involved in the selection of new Ramsar sites <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
N° Ramsar sites		
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the participation of local stakeholders in Ramsar site selection, the sites involved (if applicable), and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]		
<p>Approvals from relevant local governments are obtained for the designation of new Ramsar sites. Also, when protected areas are designated on the premise of designating them as new Ramsar sites, approvals from local stakeholders are obtained.</p>		

Action r6.1.i.- Implement, where appropriate, Resolution VII.8 on *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* with respect to the planning and operation phases of dams, and extend this principle of participation to wider issues related to water resources management at basin level, utilising Resolution VII.18 on *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management*, and Resolution VIII.14 on *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands*. (Resolution VIII.2)

1. Local stakeholders have been involved in wider issues related to water resources management at basin level

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

When River Development Plans are formulated, measures are taken to reflect views of relevant citizens. For example, a river basin committee is set up in each river system with involvement of relevant citizens to discuss the plan.

Action 6.1.5.- Elaborate for consideration by COP9 further guidance on the application of the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 5), based on experiences gained at the field level, and in particular the experience of Pacific Island States and other Small Island Developing States, and working with the CBD and others in line with the *CBD-Ramsar 3rd Joint Work Plan*.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Elaborated guidelines, developed jointly with CBD, available to COP9.

1. Resource information on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management has been compiled

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the resources compiled about local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management.]

3. The Party has contributed with case studies and other materials to the elaboration of further guidance on the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution to the elaboration of the guidance indicated above.]

Action r6.1.iii.- Report on progress and successful experiences in applying Participatory Environmental Management strategies, in National Reports to COP9. (Resolution VIII.36)

1. Participatory Environmental Management strategies have been applied

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Summary on progress and successes in relation to Participatory Environmental Management strategies [Please provide here a summary on progress and successes and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

Various stakeholders such as governments, experts, NGOs and local people are engaged in Nature Restoration Projects that have been conducted in wetlands including Kushiro-shitsugen. Their involvement contributes to establishment of well-developed over all plans of the projects and to the awareness-raising of local communities.

At Kabukuri-numa, local governments, local farmers, NGOs, and experts have collaborated to coordinate and

promote activities such as environmental education, bird population surveys, and “Winter-Flooded Rice Fields” that aims for achieving coexistence of agriculture and natural environment, have been conducted.

Action 6.1.6.- Consider using the *Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites* (Resolution VIII.19), and continue to document case studies on social and cultural values of wetlands and how they can be incorporated into the effort to conserve and sustainably use wetland resources.

See action r3.3.iii

1. The guiding principles on cultural values (Resolution VIII.19) have been used or applied

D

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guiding Principles on cultural values.]

The research projects on the cultural values and management methods and other projects of wetlands designated as natural monuments including “Narutou and Togane insectivorous plant community” and “Komado moor” have been continuously supported financially.

Also, pilot research projects on the cultural values and management methods have been implemented in wetlands that possess cultural values such as terrace paddy fields and small reservoirs, including “Oyama Senmaida” and “Inami reservoirs”.

3. Resource information and case studies on cultural aspects of wetlands have been compiled

D

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the resource information compiled.]

The research projects on the cultural values and management methods and other projects of wetlands designated as natural monuments including “Narutou and Togane insectivorous plant community” and “Komado moor” have been continuously supported financially.

Also, pilot research projects on the cultural values and management methods have been implemented in wetlands that possess cultural values such as terrace paddy fields and small reservoirs, including “Oyama Senmaida” and “Inami reservoirs”.

Action r6.1.v.- Establish appropriate consultation mechanisms at regional or national levels, in order to consider how the list of Guiding Principles included in the Annex to Resolution VIII.19 might be applied in developing and promoting cultural values of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.19)

1. Consultation mechanisms on the application of the guiding principles on cultural values have been established

C

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action r6.1.vi.- Consider using the cultural values of wetlands as a tool to strengthen active participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders in wetland conservation and wise use, particularly in wetland planning and management. (Resolution VIII.19)

1. Cultural values of wetlands are being used to improve local stakeholders' involvement in wetland planning and management

D

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Katano-kamoike (Ramsar site) has functioned as an irrigation pond for surrounding paddy fields in summer more than 300 years. After the rice harvest, paddy fields are filled with water and the open water surface provided habitat for Anatidae. Katano-kamoike has been maintained and used as a hunting field for the traditional cast net hunting. After the designation as a Ramsar site in 1993, the effectiveness of traditional water management practices has been recognized and a liaison committee was set up to coordinate and promote management and conservation activities among organizations concerned.

At Biwa-ko(Ramsar site), wise use of wetlands has been implemented for long time through traditional fishing methods on endemic species such as Japanese trout (*Plecoglossus altivelis altivelis*) and “Nigorobuna”(*Carassius auratus grandoculis*). Also, lakeside reeds had been important for conservation of traditional landscape, and utilized for traditional building materials in past years. Currently, the conservation measures including the Reed-Community Conservation Ordinance for lakeside reeds are enforced.

At wetlands designated as natural monuments, financial support was provided projects that carry out researches with participation of local people and develop management guidelines.

Action r6.1.vii.- Consider conducting appropriate joint educational and training activities with regard to the cultural values of wetlands and developing pilot projects for testing on a local, regional and national scale further improvement of the application of and/or integration of the Guiding Principles included in the Annex to Resolution VIII.19 in wetland conservation and wise use. (Resolution VIII.19)

1. Educational and training activities have been developed in relation to cultural aspects of wetlands

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action r6.1.ix.- Undertake the necessary measures to retrieve, assess and document for current use all ancestral practices of indigenous peoples that are compatible with the environment in the Andean region. (Resolution VIII.39)

1. The ancestral practices of indigenous people in the Andean region that are compatible with environment protection have been retrieved, assessed, and documented

A

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action 6.1.7.- Apply the *New guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* (Resolution VIII.14) in such a way as to ensure the full incorporation of the cultural features of wetlands in their sustainable use.

1.- Cultural values of wetlands have been incorporated into the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of sites)

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;

D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;

F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =

Other status (explain below); I = No answer

N° wetlands / Ramsar sites

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the incorporation of cultural values into management planning, sites involved, and other comments you consider relevant.]

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7.1. Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle in their activities and investments affecting wetlands. Seek opportunities to involve the private sector, national science academies, and other experts of recognized merit in wetland-related decision-making. Consider the possibility to review, in cooperation with the private sector, domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products. Implement the necessary legal, institutional and administrative measures to ensure that international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products is in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make available the information on the wise use principle in Japanese by every stakeholders including private sector using Internet devices and other tools. Encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle through public awareness activities Take the procedure to call for public comment in the process of decision-making including establishment of wetland-related regulation, to seek opportunities to involve the private sector, experts etc. in these process. Consider the possibility to review, in cooperation with the private sector, domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products. Implement the necessary legal, institutional and administrative measures at national management and scientific authorities to ensure that international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products is in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 7.1.1.- Encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle (Ramsar Handbooks 1 to 6) in their activities and investments affecting wetlands.

1. The private sector has been encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>To raise the awareness of wide range of bodies including private sector about the objectives of Ramsar Convention and wise use of wetlands, number of symposiums were held and information dissemination was encouraged at the waterfowl and wetland centers located at the major Ramsar sites.</p> <p>When protected areas are designated on the premise of designating them as new Ramsar sites, approvals from private sectors as local stakeholders are obtained.</p>		

Action 7.1.2.- Seek opportunities to involve the private sector, national science academies, universities and other professional, scientific, and technical societies of recognized merit in wetland-related decision-making, through vehicles such as National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees, site or river basin management authorities/committees, and outreach activities.

1. The private sector, academia and specialized institutions have been brought into decision-making related to wetlands

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Expert panel meetings were convened for selection of candidate sites for new Ramsar sites.

Th involvement of experts in Nature Restoration Committees is essential for Nature Restoration Projects implemented in wetlands including Kushiro-shitsugen.

Action 7.1.4.- Establish, where appropriate, national and local private-sector “Friends of Wetlands” forums where companies can seek advice on applying wise use practices in their businesses, and can also identify opportunities for supporting the activities of the Convention.

1. A private-sector “Friends of Wetlands” forum or equivalent mechanism has been established

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action 7.1.5.- Review, in cooperation with the private sector, domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products, both exports and imports, and as appropriate implement the necessary legal, institutional and administrative measures to ensure that harvesting is sustainable and in accordance with the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)*.

1. A review of domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products has been carried out

H

Choose an answer for each indicator

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;

D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In

progress; F= Being planned; G = Being

updated; H = Other status (explain

below); I = No answer

2. Legal, institutional and administrative measures are being implemented to ensure sustainable harvesting of wetland products

D

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the measures taken to ensure sustainable harvesting and trade of wetland products.]

To ensure the effective implementation of CITES, domestic and international trade regulations on endangered species have been implemented based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law and the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

At wetlands within the protected areas based on Natural Parks Law and Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law, various regulations against human activities reflecting local environmental and social and economic conditions have been applied based on the management plans.

Also, regulations against human activities such as restriction and prohibition of capturing fishery fauna and flora living in wetlands have been applied, if appropriate, based on Fisheries Law and Fisheries Resources Protection Law.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8. INCENTIVES

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8.1. Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use principle, and the removal of perverse incentives

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use. Continue to develop and improve upon the Internet-based resource kit on incentives prepared and maintained by IUCN–the World Conservation Union. 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect information on the practices on measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and the measures which discourage conservation and wise use, and if necessary, review existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks. Provide the Bureau and IUCN of information on practices relating to incentive measures, as necessary. 	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 8.1.1.- Continue to review existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: SC/Bureau to have identified at least 50 CPs to have reviewed policy and legal and institutional frameworks and sought to remove measures adversely affecting wetland conservation and wise use.

1. A review of positive and perverse incentive measures in relation to the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been completed	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
2. Actions have been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands	D	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>
3. Actions have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands	A	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [*Please include additional comments on the promotion and implementation of incentive measures and removal of perverse ones.*]

At Miyajima-numa (Ramsar site), measures have been taken to mitigate White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) feeding damage and a liaison committee was established among neighboring local governments to coordinate the mitigation measures of the bird-feeding damage, so as to achieve the coexistence of White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) and agriculture. Similarly at Fujimae-higata (Ramsar site), a liaison committee was set up to coordinate the mitigation measures of the bird-feeding damage caused by Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) in the surrounding area and mitigation measures have been taken in order to achieve the coexistence of waterbirds and agriculture.

Also in some cases, paddy agriculture that is conscious of wintering environment of migratory birds has been conducted and the rice harvested from these paddy fields have been branded as “Rice from migratory birds –friendly paddies”. Some of these efforts have been financially supported.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and Ministry of the Environment implemented joint case studies on semi-natural environment including paddy fields where wildlife habitat management are promoted. The results were published as a brochure called “Initiating Nature Rehabilitation Projects in rural landscapes and paddy fields” in 2002.

Action r8.1.ii.- When reviewing agricultural policies, identify possible subsidies or incentives that may be having negative impacts, on water resources in general and on wetlands in particular, in the territory of a Contracting Party and/or elsewhere in the world consistent with their other international rights and obligations, and remove or replace them by incentives that would contribute to wetland conservation, ensuring that these activities and support measures should not support agricultural policies that are inconsistent with trade-related agreements. (Resolution VIII.34)

1. Agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular have been identified	H	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Actions have been taken to remove or replace agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular	H	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on agriculture subsidies and incentives and their impacts on water resources and wetlands.]		
Paddy field is one of artificial wetlands as defined by Ramsar Convention. It is a site for agricultural production and also habitat for rich wildlife. It needs to be recognized that agricultural subsidies have positive impacts in terms of conserving paddy fields as well as negative effects on the environment.		

Action r8.1.iii.- Review programmes of subsidies concerning the use of groundwater in order to guarantee that those programmes do not lead to negative consequences for the conservation of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.40)

1. The programmes of subsidies concerning the use of groundwater have been reviewed in relation to the negative consequences that they may have on wetland conservation	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ¹

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.I. Integrate CEPA processes into all levels of policy development, planning and implementation of the Convention

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure that a suitable national government and non-government focal point for wetland communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) is in place and, as much as possible, with the required resources for action (Resolution VII.9). Ensure that, based on a review of relevant activities, target groups, and threats, a national action plan for wetlands CEPA has been formulated, has been made widely available, and is being implemented (Resolution VII.9). Ensure that the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands</i> (Resolution VII.8) are

¹ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

	<p>fully taken into account in the development of implementation of the Convention's Outreach Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that national wetland CEPA action plans do not overlook communication within the government and among the government and the major private sector stakeholders. • Develop at the national level appropriate mechanisms for ongoing communication, exchange of ideas, and the sharing of knowledge among the actors in wetland management, in particular of Ramsar sites, and endeavour to link this national network with similar networks in other countries and globally through electronic means. • Undertake campaigns linked to World Wetlands Day (2 February), to raise awareness of wetlands conservation and wise use issues. • Provide the Bureau with advice on, and samples of, the effective and available wetlands CEPA materials, so that the Bureau can enhance its clearing house function and facilitate the sharing of this information. • Continue to produce CEPA materials and make use of such materials produced at national or international level in national wetlands CEPA activities. • Provide information to schools and other organizations to extend education on the principle of wetland conservation and wise use. • Seek to establish, or develop further, centres on wetland education and public awareness etc. based at Ramsar sites and other wetlands, and where appropriate, also use these as centres for training in wetland research and management and wetland education and public awareness techniques. • Enlist a range of centres of learning (universities, museums, aquaria, botanic gardens, etc.) in promoting enhanced awareness and understanding of the importance of wetlands. • Encourage the facilities referred to in 9.1.10 and 9.1.11 to participate in the Wetland Link International network of centres as a way to increase the flow of information and the sharing of resource materials among such centres, and to encourage twinning and exchange of expertise between wetland education centres. • Consider feasible efforts on the Voluntary Fund for the Ramsar Outreach Programme, in cooperation with the Bureau and CPs.
<p>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan has already appointed the appropriate CEPA focal points. Seek to ensure the required resources for action. • Develop CEPA national action plan before end of fiscal year 2002 (March 2003), to be done by CEPA national focal points and other stakeholders. Disseminate it widely to promote its appropriate implementation. • Seek the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands</i> (Resolution VII.8) are taken into account in implementing the CEPA national action plan in future. • Take into account the importance of communication within the government and among government and the major private sector stakeholders, in the process of developing national wetland CEPA action plan in 2002. • Seek to consider the possibility and methodology to develop and include at the national level appropriate mechanisms for ongoing communication, exchange of ideas, and the sharing of knowledge among the actors in wetland management, in particular of Ramsar sites, in the process of developing national wetland CEPA action plan. • In February 2003, undertake campaigns linked to World Wetlands Day (2 February), to raise awareness and encourage environmental education of wetlands conservation and wise use issues, in cooperation with NGOs and local governments. Following the results, consider further development of

	<p>such activities in next year (2004).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the Bureau with information on, and samples of, wetlands CEPA materials made by Japan including English pamphlets on wetland conservation. • Continue to produce CEPA materials, make efforts to collect CEPA materials, and disseminate, or make use of, such materials at national level. • Collect good practices and wetland-related information, and disseminate such information to schools and other organizations at national level, to extend education on the principle of wetland conservation and wise use, with support by NGO and other organizations as necessary. • Establish and maintain the core centres based at Ramsar sites to conduct interpretation and public awareness activities using exhibition and video images for visitors, and to promote observation and research activities on waterbirds and wetlands. After 2002, establish and maintain new waterfowl and wetland centres at Man-ko (Ramsar sites) and other wetlands. Also, operate and maintain visitor centres at major wetlands in national/quasi-national parks for visitors. • Disseminate national wetland CEPA action plan to a range of centres of learning, or make available of the plan to the public via Internet, and call widely for their participation to CEPA related activities. • Make available of related information including documents of Convention's resolutions and activities of the Wetland Link International network via Internet, and call for participation from the facilities. • Consider feasible efforts on the Voluntary Fund for the Ramsar Outreach Programme, in cooperation with the Bureau and CPs.
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action r9.i.ii.- Integrate wetland CEPA into all relevant regional (where applicable), national, catchment and local wetland and other appropriate sectoral policies, strategies, plans and programmes, such as those for biodiversity conservation, water management, fisheries, poverty reduction, etc.

1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into sectoral policies, strategies, plans and programmes

D

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

In the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan, it is stated that wetlands conservation needs to be promoted with local endorsement. Awareness-raising on natural environment including wetland ecosystem is also mentioned. National wetland CEPA action plan is currently under consideration based on the discussion of the working group meetings held in 2002.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ²

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.II. Demonstrate that CEPA processes are effective in achieving Ramsar's wetland wise use objectives at the global, national and local levels

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² The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

PLANNING TOOL SECTION		
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PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action r9.ii.i.- Develop pilot projects to evaluate a range of approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands, in particular involving those who make a direct use of wetland resources

1. Pilot projects have been developed to evaluate different approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action r9.ii.ii.- Review existing CEPA programmes and case studies and document the lessons learned regarding effective approaches from these experiences.

1. A review of existing CEPA programmes has been completed	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. Lessons learnt in implementing CEPA programmes have been documented	C	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on implementation of CEPA programmes and information available.]

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ³

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.III. Provide national leadership, networks and cohesive frameworks to support and catalyse CEPA for the wise use of wetlands
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PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

³ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

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Action r9.iii.i.- Contracting Parties (as requested by Resolution VII.9) are urged as a matter of priority to appoint suitably qualified persons to fulfil the roles of national government and non-government Focal Points for wetland CEPA, and to advise the Ramsar Bureau of the persons fulfilling these roles and their contact details.

1. A National Government Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. A National NGO Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed	B	

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information about Government CEPA and NGO CEPA Focal Points].

Ministry of the Environment is registered as the National Government Focal Point to CEPA and Wetlands International Japan is registered as the National NGO Focal Point to CEPA.

Action r9.iii.ii.- Establish a national *Wetland CEPA Task Force* (if no other mechanisms exist for this purpose), ensuring suitable stakeholder and NGO representation, to undertake a review of needs, skills, expertise and options, and to set priorities for the implementation of this programme of work.

1. A National wetland CEPA Task Force has been established	G	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

National wetland CEPA action plan is currently under consideration based on the discussion of the working group meetings held in 2002. The action plan will be developed by gathering comments from various bodies related to CEPA activities including local governments, NGOs, and experts.

Action r9.iii.iii.- Formulate, drawing upon the *Additional Guidance on reviewing and action planning for wetland communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)* developed for this purpose, a national (and, where appropriate, sub-national, catchment or local) action plan for wetland CEPA which incorporates the conclusions to emerge from Action r9.iii.ii above, and provide a copy of this to the Ramsar Convention Bureau so that it can be made available to other Parties and interested organizations and individuals. (The Additional Guidance document is available in hard copy from the Bureau and in html at http://ramsar.org/outreach_reviewsactionplansI.htm)

1. A National Action Plan for wetland CEPA has been developed	F	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

National wetland CEPA action plan is currently under consideration based on the discussion of the working group meetings held in 2002. The action plan will be developed by gathering comments from various bodies related to CEPA activities including local governments, NGOs, and experts.

Action r9.iii.iv.- Review and, where appropriate, integrate wetland CEPA into the business of national wetland, biodiversity, forestry, agriculture, irrigation, power generation, mining, tourism, and fisheries committees, and other relevant policy and planning committees where they exist.

1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into the business of sectoral policy and planning committees	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

In the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan, it is stated that wetlands conservation needs to be promoted with local endorsement. Awareness-raising on natural environment including wetland ecosystem is also mentioned.

Action r9.iii.v.- As part of undertaking actions r9.iii.ii, r9.iii.iii and r9.iii.iv, ensure that attention is given to the efficiency and effectiveness of communication and information-sharing systems between relevant government ministries, departments and agencies, and where necessary develop mechanisms to address any shortcomings.

1. Actions have been taken in relation to communication and information-sharing on wetland issues between relevant ministries, departments and agencies

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee to the Ramsar Convention is set up to provide opportunities to exchange opinions among relevant ministries about the implementation of the Convention.

During the selection procedure of new Ramsar sites, information was provided to relevant ministries as necessary and the latest information was posted on the website.

Action r9.iii.vi.- Collaborate globally and nationally to encourage synergy with the CEPA activities under other international conventions and programmes, including the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and the *UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme*.

1. Actions have been taken to encourage synergies on CEPA activities among international conventions and programmes

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action r9.iii.vii.- Establish and maintain an on-line searchable listing of expertise in CEPA and of the CEPA Focal Points, one which can be accessed to assist CEPA activities at national and international levels, and promote this service to assist CEPA programmes and activities.

1. A roster (or equivalent tool) on wetland CEPA expertise in the country is available

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ⁴

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.IV. Transfer, exchange and share CEPA information and expertise that promotes and results in the wise use of wetlands

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⁴ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

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PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action r9.iv.iii.- Continue to produce, distribute and share resource materials to support wetland CEPA actions

1. Materials to support wetland CEPA have been produced and distributed	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Ministry of the Environment is implementing the project to widespread the environmental educational materials concerning Shorebirds, which was originally developed by US Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with WWF Japan. Also, awareness brochures on Ramsar Convention and Ramsar sites were produced and distributed.

Action r9.iv.iv.- Maintain, and seek to expand, the Ramsar global e-mail networks to include Ramsar Administrative Authorities, Ramsar national wetland CEPA Focal Points, CEPA professionals, Ramsar site managers, those facilities dedicated to environmental education and awareness raising, and local stakeholders. Establish and support similar national e-groups and the linking of these with the global network.

1. A national email network on wetland CEPA has been established	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action r9.iv.v.- Promote and seek to resource the coordination of the *Wetland Link International* programme of the *Wildfowl & Wetland Trust*, UK, in order to allow it to assist wetland education centres to create a global network and national centres of excellence for promoting CEPA, and to facilitate information exchange between centres in developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are part of the Wetland Link International Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are part of the Wetland Link International Programme, and any other comments you consider relevant.]

Action r9.iv.vi.- Promote and seek to resource the twinning of wetland education centres to encourage the exchange and transfer of information and expertise between centres in developed countries and those in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are twinned with similar facilities in other countries (<i>if available, please include number of centres or facilities</i>)	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [<i>Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are twinned with similar ones in other countries, and further comments you consider relevant.</i>]			
The mailing lists have been established nationally for the purpose of information exchange among “Shorebird Site Network” and “Anatidae Site Network”, which are established under “Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy”.			

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ⁵

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.V. Improve the individual and collective capacity and opportunities of people to participate in and contribute to using wetlands wisely, through the recognition of the values of wetland resources

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PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action r9.v.i.- Review the current national needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA, including in relation to the establishment and operations of wetland education centres (see Operational Objective r9.viii) and use this to define capacity-building priorities within the national wetland CEPA action plan (see Action r9.iii.iii)

1. A review of needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA has been completed	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [<i>Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.</i>]		

Action r9.v.ii.- In collaboration with Ramsar’s International Organization Partners, identify sources of expert information and training opportunities in wetland CEPA in order to facilitate the sharing of expertise and knowledge at the local, national, regional and global levels.

1. Sources of expert information and training opportunities in wetland CEPA have been identified	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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⁵ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action r9.v.iii.- Seek resources through appropriate mechanisms to support the capacity building identified as priorities through Action r9.v.i, ensuring that key groups such as women and indigenous and rural communities are not overlooked.

1. Resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA have been sought

B

Choose an answer for each indicator

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2. Progress in obtaining resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA has been made

B

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the activities for resourcing capacity building in wetland CEPA.]

Japan has continuously supported national and regional activities on awareness-raising and training conducted under the framework of Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy.

JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) has been providing training courses for wetland managers from developing countries on conservation and wise use of wetlands, conservation of coral reefs, and conservation of mangroves.

Visitor centers and wetland centers were established and have been managed at Ramsar sites and other important wetlands within National Parks and National Wildlife Protection Areas. After COP8, wetland centers were established at Manko, Utonai-ko and Fujimae-higata (two centers).

Japan supported “Asian Wetland Symposium 2005” held in Bhubaneshwar, India in February 2005, which gained participation of government officials, NGOs and experts on wetland conservation and management throughout Asian region.

Action r9.v.iv.- Review formal educational curricula to ensure that they are incorporating information on the ecosystem services provided by wetlands, promoting the wise use principle, and recognizing the importance of CEPA in pursuing the objective of wise use.

1. A review of formal educational curricula in relation to wetland services and wise use has been carried out

D

Choose an answer for each indicator

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;

D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;

F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2. Changes in the formal educational curricula to incorporate wetland-related issues have been effected

D

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland services and wise use in the formal educational curricula.]

Educational materials and programs concerning wetlands and migratory birds have been utilized, and wetland centers have been visited by some schools.

Ministry of the Environment has been implementing the project to widespread the environmental educational materials concerning Shorebirds, which was originally developed by US Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with WWF Japan. Currently we have been promoting the implementation and utilization of this material and programs in the curriculum at elementary schools, for example in Narashino-city, Chiba prefecture.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ⁶

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.VI. Foster sustained national campaigns, programmes and projects to raise community awareness of the important ecosystem services provided by wetlands as well as their social, economic and cultural values

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action r9.vi.i.- Undertake national campaigns, programmes or projects to raise awareness, build community support, and promote stewardship approaches and attitudes towards wetlands.

1. National campaigns, programmes or projects to increase awareness on wetland issues have been launched

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

All the Resolution adopted at COP8 were translated into Japanese and distributed to relevant ministries, local governments, NGOs and also provided through the internet.

Regarding the selection procedure of new Ramsar sites, the latest information was posted on the website. Also, awareness brochures on Ramsar Convention and Ramsar sites were produced and distributed.

Action r9.vi.ii.- Celebrate *World Wetlands Day* with appropriate national and local events and promotions and the distribution of resource materials, in order to raise awareness of wetland values and functions

1. World Wetlands Day activities have been carried out

B

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the WWD activities that have taken place, if any, at national and local levels.]

World Wetlands Day posters developed by Ramsar Bureau were distributed to relevant ministries, local governments and NGOs. Observation tours in association with World Wetlands Day were conducted in Biwako (Ramsar site), and NGOs organized number of activities such as symposia around Japan in 2005.

Action r9.vi.iii.- Collaborate with the media to inform decision-makers and the broader society about the values and benefits of wetlands.

1. Collaboration with the media has been systematically used to convey the wetland message

D

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

⁶ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Collaboration with medias is pursued concerning wetland conservation issues. For example, information about the selection procedure of new Ramsar sites was provided. Also, information on the Nature Restoration Projects implemented in Kushiro-shitusgen has been provided through newspapers and local FM radios.

Action r9.vi.iv.- Promote appropriate *Wetlands of International Importance* as ‘demonstration sites’ for Ramsar’s wise use principle and ensure that they are suitably equipped in terms of capacity, signage, and interpretive materials.

1.- Actions have been taken to promote and equip Ramsar site(s) as demonstration sites for the wise use principle (if available, please include number of sites)

D

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;
F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°
Ramsar
sites**

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the actions taken, the Ramsar site(s) equipped, and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]

Educational facilities such as visitor centers and wetland centers were established and public awareness activities have been carried out on values and functions of wetlands; and relationships of wetlands with people.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ⁷

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.VII. Support and develop mechanisms to ensure that CEPA processes are incorporated into participatory, multi-stakeholder wetland management

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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Action r9.vii.iii.- Ensure that multi-stakeholder bodies are in place to guide and inform catchment/river basin and local wetland-related planning and management, and that these bodies include appropriate expertise in CEPA.

1. CEPA expertise has been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management tools

C

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action r9.vii.v.- Where they do not already exist, introduce into site management plans the appropriate strategies and actions for complementary communication, education and public awareness

⁷ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

1.- CEPA strategies and actions have been incorporated into the management plans of Ramsar sites (<i>if available, please include number of sites</i>)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [<i>Please include information on the actions taken, the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.</i>]			

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ⁸

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.VIII. Promote and support the role of wetland and other education centres as focal points for global, national and local CEPA efforts

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action r9.viii.i.- Seek to establish education centres at Ramsar and other wetland sites to provide focal points for local and national CEPA activities.

1.- Education centres have been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands (<i>if available, please include number of centres and sites</i>)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres 19 N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites 12
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [<i>Please include information on the centres established and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.</i>]			
<p>Although we haven't collected information on all such education centers, 19 education centers at Ramsar site established by Ministry of the Environment and relevant local governments are recognized.(There are 3 centers at Kushiro-shitsugen, 3 at Izu-numa & Uchi-numa, 1 at Kutcharo-ko, 2 at Utonai-ko, 1 each at Kiritappu-shitsugen, Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-shitsugen, Yatsu-higata, Katano-kamoike, Biwa-ko, Sakata, Man-ko, Miyajima-numa, and 2 at Fujimae-higata.)</p> <p>After COP8, Ministry of the Environment established education centers at Man-ko,Utonai-ko and Fujimae-higata.</p>			
3.- Additional education centres are planned for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (<i>if available, please include number of centres and sites</i>)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres 1 N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites 1

⁸ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the centres planned and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

Ministry of the Environment is now developing an education center at Miyajima-numa.

Action r9.viii.ii.- Where wetland education centres exist, review the information they present and ensure that it is serving to promote in suitable ways the *Ramsar Convention* and its wise use principle, and also that the centres are helping to foster communication and, where appropriate, participation, among the local wetland management 'actors' and stakeholders

1. The information provided at wetland education centres has been reviewed to ensure that it is in line with the Convention's principles and goals

D

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

At Ramsar sites, 19 visitor centers and wetland centers were established that have exhibitions related to awareness-raising on values and functions of wetlands. The exhibited information has been updated as appropriate.

Action r9.viii.iv.- Seek to involve suitable places of learning, education and training (museums, zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens and related institutions) in national CEPA efforts; encourage the development of wetland-related interpretative exhibits and programmes at such venues, and facilitate linkages with wetland-based centres. (see also Operational Objective R9.v).

1.- Places of learning, education and training (museums, zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens, etc.) are involved in national CEPA efforts and activities (if available, please include number of facilities)

C

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**N°
facilities**

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the facilities involved in national CEPA efforts and activities, and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]