



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 12th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Uruguay, 2015**

Please submit the completed National Report in Microsoft Word format (.doc, 97-2003), as an electronic file (not a printed copy) and preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org) by **1 September 2014**.

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

The COP12 National Report Format (NRF) is in four sections:

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

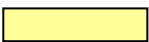
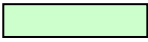
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional 'free-text' section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

Section 4 is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

1. All Sections of the COP12 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
2. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **1 September 2014**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP12.
3. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
4. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.
5. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word. You are only able to submit replies and information in the yellow or green boxes, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the structure and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties.
6. To select a yellow or green field you wish to complete, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
7. To move down through the sequence of fields, you can also use the 'Tab' key on the computer keyboard.

8. For a 'free-text' field, you can type in whatever information you wish. Note that there is only limited facility within the Microsoft 'form' format to make editorial changes in the 'free-text' box once text has been entered. Therefore, if you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate document, make all the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the box.
9. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic entry of data into the Secretariat's database. For that reason, please **do not use double quote marks " "** in the 'free-text' fields. Please **only use single quote marks ' '**. For the same reason, please **only use simple text in the 'free-text' fields: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
10. For each of the 'indicator questions' in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: 'Yes', 'No', 'Partly', 'In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
11. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).
12. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
13. An NRF is not usually completed by one person alone: for many indicators it is best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP11 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.
14. After each session, **remember to save the file** in Microsoft Word, .doc, 97-2003 format. A recommended filename structure is: COP12NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP12NRFSpain13July2014.doc
15. After the NRF has been completed, please **send it in this format to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (dufour@ramsar.org).**
16. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP12 National Report.**
17. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at www.ramsar.org/contacts_en.

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: BELARUS

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Igor M. Kachanovsky (The deputy of Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Protection)
Mailing address:	Kollektornaya Str. 10, Minsk, 220048, Belarus
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Email:	minproos@mail.belpak.by

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Tatiana F. Trafimovich (Consultant at the Protected Areas)
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Telephone/Fax:	(+375 17) 200 72 42
Email:	tmatsur@tut.by

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

Name and title:	Dr Alexander V. Kozulin (Senior Researcher)
Name of organisation:	Scientific & Practical Centre for Bioresources, National Academy of Sciences
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Email:	kozulin@tut.by

DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Natalia V. Minchenko (the Head of Biological and Landscape Biodiversity Department)
Name of organisation:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Mailing address:	Kollektornaya Str. 10, Minsk, 220048, Belarus
Telephone/Fax:	Tel (+375 17) 200 53 34, Fax (+375 17) 200 72 42
Email:	n_minchenko@tut.by

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

Name and title:	Mr. Yuri V. Solovjev (Chairman of Council)
Name of organisation:	Ecological Initiative
Mailing address:	Kollektornaya Str. 10, office 537, Minsk, 220048, Belarus
Telephone/Fax:	Tel (+375 17) 306 53 67, Fax (+375 17) 306 53 67
Email:	ecoin@tut.by

**SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION
PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES**

REMINDER: Please do not use double quote marks “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP11 reporting):

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

- 1) 7 new Ramsar Sites were designated:
'Duleby Islands-Zaozerye' - Hydrological Reserve, Protected Landscape;
'Morochno' - Biological Reserve of Local Importance;
'Stary Zhaden' - Protected area with Sustainable Use of Natural Resources;
'Kozyansky' - National Landscape Reserve;
'Pripyatsky National Park' - National Park;
'Vigonoshchanskoe' - National Landscape Reserve;
'Vydritsa' - National Landscape Reserve.
- 2) Management plans are being implemented for the 8 Ramsar sites ('Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve', 'Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik', 'Osveiski', 'Pripyatsky National Park', 'Sporovsky Biological Reserve', 'Vigonoshchanskoe', 'Yelnia', 'Zvanets')
- 3) Elaboration of a National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation of Belarus' Wetlands for 2008-2013
- 4) Spring hunting for waterfowl was forbidden at the 32 wetland areas (including 13 Ramsar sites)
- 5) Developing National management plans for globally threatened bird species (waterbirds and birds connecting with wetlands). Management plans for 3 bird species was updated (Great Spotted Eagle, Great Snipe, Aquatic Warbler) and 3 new plans was prepared (Bittern, Smew, Roller)

B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

- 1) The degradation of wetlands due to changing of agriculture activity
- 2) The degradation of mires and peat deposits are activated in the country.
- 3) Insufficient resources for carrying out wetland monitoring
- 4)
- 5)

C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

- 1) Continuation of on-going activities, such as wetland restoration projects and nature education work
- 2) Proclaim 5 new territories as the Ramsar sites
- 3) Preparation management plans for all Ramsar sites (preparation new management plans and updating existing management plans)
- 4) Development management plan for prevent degradation of open habitat caused by overgrowing
- 5)

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

No

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

No recommendation.

F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the 'biodiversity cluster' (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

Close collaboration with CBD on integrating conservation issues into various policy areas, consultation of national focal points on reporting.

G. How can implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., on sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

No comments

H. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?


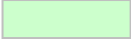
No comments

I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Scientific & Practical Centre for Bioresources (former Institute of Zoology), National Academy of Sciences
Institute of Experimental Botany, National Academy of Sciences
United Nations Development Programme in Belarus
APB-BirdLife Belarus

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

1. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the 'drop-down' list in the yellow box. 
2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green 'free-text' boxes below the indicator questions. 
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database National Reports. For that reason, **please do not use double quote marks “ ” in the free text boxes. Use single quotes ‘ ’. Text in the ‘free text’ boxes should be simple text only: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
5. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP11, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP11 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties implementation in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	C - In progress
<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Currently the basic sources of the information on wetlands condition are: the State water cadastre; the State cadastre of peat fund; the State land cadastre; the State wood cadastre; the SPNAs Register; Condition of environment of Belarus (ecological bulletin) published annually .</p> <p>In 2009-2010 in the framework of the international project 'Climate and Biodiversity' (RSPB, APB-BirdLife Belarus) were performed the first stage of inventory of borders and the areas of natural mire , the degree of their degradation with use of methods of space sounding. The total area of natural mires had made 862 000 hectares.</p> <p>An inventory of water objects in Belarus (rivers, channels, lakes, artificial water reservoirs) is completed within the framework of the State Scientific and Technical Programme 'Ecological Security'</p>	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>In frame of developing and implementation of management plans by Ramsar sites there is a scheme of providing with information for decision-making of all organizations involved in process of protection and use of wetlands.</p>	

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

- a) Ramsar Sites
- b) wetlands generally

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

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

- a) P - Status improved
- b) N - Status deteriorated

1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):

- a) In the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project on renatiralisation of gedraded mires, GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP/GEF Project on biodiversity conservation in the Polesie region, activities have been implemented on reconstruction of hydrological regimes of the Ramsar Sites 'Yelnya', 'Osvejsky', 'Zvanets' and thus considerably improved an ecological situation on these wetlands. Nevertheless there are certain problems with overgrowing of open fens and inundated meadows by shrubs and bushes at the Ramsar sites 'Sporovsky', 'Zvanets' and 'Middle Pripyat'. The project on mowing of the 'Sporovsky' Reserve fens was approved with following use of biomass for manufacture of fuel pellets. Besides within the State Programme on SPNAs similar works on removal of bushes on mires and inundated meadows are planned at the 'Zvanets', 'Middle Pripyat' Ramsar sites.
- b) The main problem for all open territories is the overgrowing because of change of agricultural use. Process of degradation and distrophication of lakes continues as a result of unsustainable use and climate changes, a process of a mineralization of peatlands, which are unsustainably managed for agriculture also is underway.

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

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

A - Yes

1.3.1 Additional information:

Strategy of implementation of the Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat was adopted. The Strategy is designed for 6 years period and is aimed to address challenges in the sphere of environmental protection and sustainable management of wetlands in Belarus in accordance with the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2014, adopted at the 10th COP (Changwon, Republic of South Korea, 2008). The objective of the Strategy is of an integrated character and will be achieved by implementation of Action Plan on the Convention realization.

In 2013 the Government of the Republic of Belarus introduced changes into the Law on the Environment Protection according to which wetlands fell into the category of natural zones subject to special protection and special protection and utilization conditions

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <p>a) Poverty eradication strategies b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans c) Coastal and marine resource management plans d) National forest programmes e) National strategies for sustainable development f) National policies or measures on agriculture g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD</p> <p>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<p>a) C - Partly b) C - Partly c) Z - Not applicable d) C - Partly e) C - Partly f) C - Partly g) A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.2 Additional information: Principles of protection and sustainable use of wetlands are included into various national programmes and strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2020. - Scheme of the rational location of SPNAs in Belarus up to 2015. - State Programme 'Conservation and use of ameliorated lands for 2000-2010'. - National Strategy for Development and Management of the Protected Territories System up to 1 January 2015. - State Programme for SPNAs System Development for 2008-2014. - Strategy of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity for 2011-2020. - Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Belarus on Land Degradation. 	
<p>1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: In 2010, a new statutory wording of the Law on Ecological Expertise was adopted. The document envisages environment impact assessment (EIA) procedure. In the Republic of Belarus, according to the Article 58 of the Law on "Environmental Protection" it is stated that EIA is conducted in the case of planned commercial or other type of activity, which could have harmful impact on the environment. Regulations for the EIA conduction, requirement to materials and reports on the results of such assessment are determined by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus o State Ecological Expertise. Various commercial projects undergo the State Ecological Expertise.</p>	
<p>1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: In accordance with the instruction for EIA conduction of planned commercial or other activity in the Republic of Belarus EIA is conducted at pre-project and project stage and is aimed to define types of environment impacts in the result of the planned commercial or other activity, as well on definition of respective changes in the environment and forecast of its condition.</p>	

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

A - Yes

1.3.5 Additional information:

The following amendments and newly developed regulations were introduced:

- Regulatory legal act, which establishes requirements on structure and content of schemes for integrated use and protection of water.
- Regulatory legal act establishing the requirements in the field of environmental protection when developing peat deposits.
- Regulatory legal act establishing methodology for estimation of absorption and allocation of greenhouse gases from mire ecosystems.
- Regulatory legal act 'Rules for SPNAs management plans development'.
- Regulatory legal act 'Rules for the development of action plans on preservation of rare and endangered species'.
- Regulatory legal act 'Procedures and rules on renaturalisation of degraded mires'.

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

C - Partly

1.4.1 Additional information:

During development of management plans for the Ramsar sites the characteristic of the reserves' potential value was given, including are identified ecosystem services, which could be provided by the mentioned above Ramsar sites, potential directions of the reserves ecosystem resources are identified, advisory possibilities, and also possibilities of trade, education and involvement of local communities.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i

B - No

1.4.2 Additional information:

.....

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

C - Partly

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

The 'Cultural and Historical Information' section included in Management Plans. Work is done to prepare such sections and to include them in the management plans for the Ramsar sites 'Yelnya', 'Osvejsky', 'Middle Pripjat' and 'Prostyr', as well as during the update of the management plans for the Ramsar sites 'Zvanets' and 'Sporovsky' each territory was given a characteristic of historical and cultural objects, which are located at the reserves' territory or in a close vicinity to them.

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

1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
 - b. parliament
 - c. private sector
 - d. civil society
- {1.5.2}

- a. B - No
- b. B - No
- c. B - No
- d. A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

.....

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

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

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

- a. A - Yes
- b. A - Yes
- c. A - Yes

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

1.6.1 Additional information:

In accordance with the Strategy on implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity for 2011-2020 in 2012-2013 it is planned to develop and approve the methodology on value assessment of ecosystem services and value assessment of biological diversity.

Additionally, in accordance with the Action Plan on the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat it is planned to develop methodology on nature potential assessment (ecosystem services) of wetlands.

The project 'Restoring peatlands and applying concepts for sustainable management in Belarus - climate change mitigation with economic and biodiversity benefits' financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW Entwicklungsbank in the framework of the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) was conducted between 2008 and 2011. It is coordinated by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK, in collaboration with APB- BirdLife Belarus and the Michael Succow Foundation, Germany. It is carried out with support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Belarus and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

UNDP/GEF 'Landscape approach to management of peatlands aiming at multiple ecological benefits' project launched activities to convert degraded peatlands, formerly managed for intensive agriculture, to meadows that will be further used for mowing and pasture in the Brest Region.

EU/UNDP project 'Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus to Minimize Carbon Emissions and Help Ecosystems to Adapt to Climate Change'. This project is implemented within the European Union programme Clima East: Support to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in the Eastern Neighbourhood Countries and Russia and aims at solving the most urgent issues of conservation and management of peatlands in Belarus to showcase innovative ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation for marsh ecosystems.

UNDP project 'Management of the Niemen River basin with account of adaptation to climate change' aims to increase the capacity of Belarus in implementation of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the sustainable management of water resources taking into account aspects of climate change impacts on Neman River basin. The assessment and forecast of water resources, taking into account the different climate change scenarios and trends of economic development for transboundary Neman River basin will be developed during the project. Recommendations for improvement of water management with account of adaptation to climate change activities will be developed as a practical result of the project for stakeholders.

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

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Management plans for all wetlands of international importance (the Ramsar sites), which includes protected wetland complex, were grounded on scientific research. During preparation of the management plans data of the previously conducted scientific research was used, and also additional research was conducted. Assessment of potential threats to nature complexes is included into all wetlands management plans in the section 'Assessment of key threats and factors of negative influence on the nature complexes and objects of a reserve'.

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

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

D - Planned

1.7.1 Additional information:

In Belarus there is planned a development of schemes (2009-2014) for integrated management and protection of water basins of the rivers Western Dvina, Neman, Dnepr, Pripyat, Western Bug.

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

D - Planned

1.7.2 Additional information:

The CEPA expertise and tools was used only in the development of management plans for the Ramsar sites.

1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

C - Partly

1.7.3 Additional information:

Results of the project 'Restoring peatlands and applying concepts for sustainable management in Belarus - climate change mitigation with economic and biodiversity benefits' published in English and Russian languages

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

C - Partly

1.7.4 Additional information:

UNDP/GEF 'Landscape approach to management of peatlands aiming at multiple ecological benefits' project launched activities to convert degraded peatlands, formerly managed for intensive agriculture, to meadows that will be further used for mowing and pasture in the Brest Region.

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

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified?

{1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

Based on cadastre data general areas of degraded mires with high priority for renaturalisation were composed and published. Including 25 000 ha damaged by forest reclamation, 18 000 ha of degraded peat soils, used for agricultural purposes, 250 000 ha depleted peatlands, 500 000 ha of natural mires with damaged hydrological regime. Currently there are works on inventory of depleted peatlands and definition of their further use. It is also planned to conduct integrated inventory of forest improvement systems with identification of peatlands, which have high priority for renaturalisation.

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

The project of the UNDP, GEF, and the Ministry of Forestry of Belarus 'Renaturalization and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus to Combat Land Degradation, Ensure Conservation of Globally Valuable Biodiversity and Mitigate Climate Change' aims to restore wetland ecosystem of 17 drained and degraded peatlands with a total area of over 40 000 ha, to reduce the incidence of peatlands fires, to create conditions for flora and fauna restoration.

UNDP/GEF 'Landscape approach to management of peatlands aiming at multiple ecological benefits' project launched activities to convert degraded peatlands, formerly managed for intensive agriculture, to meadows that will be further used for mowing and pasture in the Biaroza Districts of the Brest Region in Belarus. During the first stage of the project's activities around 200 ha of former arable lands were restored to grassland at two pilot sites.

In 2010 were completed projects on restoration of a hydrological regime of Yelnya and Dokudovsky with the financial support from GEF SGP and implementation from the side of BirdLife Belarus. In the framework of the project at the territory of Yelnya mire Miory Reclamation Systems constructed a number of overflow dams at the main waterways, which drainage the central part of the mire. Throughout two years volunteers also actively participated in works on restoration of a hydrological regime in the central part of Yelnya mire. During this time volunteers with the support from Coca Cola Belarus Beverages Company, on the drainage channels there were constructed more than 30 dams.

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

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

C - Partly

1.9.1 Additional information:

A Center of invasive alien species of plants and animals in Belarus was created as department of Scientific & Practical Centre for Bioresources, National Academy of Sciences.

List of invasive alien species of plants and animals in Belarus include 306 plant species and 35 animal species (without insects).

Information about aquatic aliens species (invertebrates and fish) published in: Semenchenko V., Rizevsky V., Mastitsky S., Vezhnovets V., Pluta M., Razlutsky V. and Laenko T. 2009. Checklist of aquatic alien species established in large river basins of Belarus. Aquatic Invasions Volume 4, Issue 2: 311-320

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

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information:

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Belarus 'On Wild Life' (10 July 2007) invasive alien wild animals are subject to control of numbers and distribution. By the Decree of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus 'On some issues concerning regulation of distribution and numbers of wild animals' an Instruction was adopted on procedures for regulation of distribution and quantity of wild animals, including invasive alien wild animal species.

Monitoring of invasive species carried out by Scientific & Practical Centre for Bioresources, National Academy of Sciences. The monitoring system include 14 sites for animals and 14 sites for plants monitoring.

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

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

B - No

1.10.1 Additional information:

.....

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

a. Ramsar Sites

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

a) Fifteen local initiatives located at the territories and around of Sporovsky, Zvanets, Middle Pripyat reserves had been supported in the framework of the Programme for financial support of ecological tourism development in the region of the Belarusian Polesie. In the result of micro project realisation there were improved tourists accomodation facilities, as well as the number of accomoadtion places was also increased. The Programme also facilitated the organisation of camping sites at ecological trails, created at the reserves' territories and also along river banks of the water trails.

b) During the last time many wetlands are transferred to rent for commercial fishing economy, lands of forest fund (which include wetlands) are transferred for commercial hunting. Conduction of commercial fishing is carried out by renters on the basis of a fish and biological rationale, and conduction of commercial hunting activities is carried out on the basis of the project (plan) for hunting, the specified documents are subject to obligatory state ecological expertise that provides observance of principles of steady use of wetlands.

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

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands?
{1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus supported development and realization of management plans as a method of wetlands protection, as well as creation of structures for SPNAs management. The method was included received compulsory status (the method was integrated into the law on SPNAs) for all Ramsar sites and for other the most important SPNAs.

GEF Small Grants Programme is implemented in Belarus. The initiative support mini projects, aimed to wetlands sustainable management and use.

Certification of the forest management according international and national standards received a wide support in Belarus. 27% of forestries were certified according international standards, 80% in accordance with national standards. The measure is aimed to ensure introduction of a new principle for sustainable management at the biggest part of the wetlands territories in Belarus

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

An assessment of impact of flood protection programme on the condition of the Pripjat River bed was conducted.

Currently there is a research activity underway on possible influence on wetlands conditions from the side of the cascade of waterpower plants are being constructed on large and small rivers of Belarus (Western Dvina, Berezina, Dnepr etc.)

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note: An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP12 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on each of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " "; use single quotes ' ' instead.

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

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the *Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?* {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

.....

2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii

5 sites

2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):

Descriptions of 5 potential Ramsar Sites are prepared and submitted to the Convention Secretariat:

- 'Dnieper River Floodplain',
- 'Drozbitka-Svina',
- 'Golubitskaya Puscha',
- 'Polesye Valley of River Buh',
- 'Servech'

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

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

Based on the data, received during description of Ramsar sites, decisions have been made on the necessity to develop management plans and on the necessity to organize integrated monitoring of SPNAs ecosystems, including all Ramsar sites. The results of the monitoring allow to update information about condition of Ramsar sites and take timely managerial decisions.

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

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

C - Some sites

2.3.1 Additional information:

.....

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

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

8 sites

2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

8 sites

2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

2 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

Management plans are being implemented for the 8 Ramsar sites ('Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve', 'Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik', 'Osveiski', 'Pripyatsky National Park', 'Sporovsky Biological Reserve', 'Vigonoshchanskoe', 'Yelnia', 'Zvanets')

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv

0 sites

2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

.....

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v

16 sites

2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

Descriptions of ecological character of wetlands have been prepared for all Ramsar Sites during preparation of management plans and description new territories.

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

2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i

C - Some sites

2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):

Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on the example of the Ramsar site 'Zvanets' assessed implementation efficiency of the management plan of this territory. The outcome was made that economic efficiency of the planned and conducted activities of the 5-year period management plan of Zvanets Reserve could constitute from 20 to 200 % from the spending on conduction of these activities, depending on applied calculation method.

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

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

B - No

2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

.....

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

B - No

2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

.....

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

.....

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

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

C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information:

Some such sites are Important Bird Areas (for example the Beloye Fishponds). Therefore, their ecological character is maintained, for example, by the appropriate assessment procedure.

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " ": use single quotes ' ' instead.

<p>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p>

<p>3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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3.1.1 Additional information:

.....

<p>3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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3.1.2 Additional information:

Cooperation has been established between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and UNDP Office via signed agreement. UNDP Office implements a number of international projects, initiated by the Ministry.

<p>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i></p>
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<p>3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

.....

<p>3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

.....

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i

Z - Not applicable

3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11):

.....

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

.....

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	A - Yes
<p>3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):</p> <p>The main financial support to the activities on sustainable use of wetlands was provided in the framework of various state programmes.</p> <p>During last trillenium international organizations were also involved into the activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project 'Restoring peatlands and applying concepts for sustainable management in Belarus - climate change mitigation with economic and biodiversity benefits' financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW Entwicklungsbank in the framework of the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) was finished in 2011. - UNDP/GEF 'Landscape approach to management of peatlands aiming at multiple ecological benefits'. - EU/UNDP project 'Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus to Minimize Carbon Emissions and Help Ecosystems to Adapt to Climate Change'. - UNDP project 'Management of the Niemen River basin with account of adaptation to climate change'. 	

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

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}	A - Yes
<p>3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>Exchange in experience on fen mires management in Belarus is established on a regular basis (Ramsar sites Zvanets, Sporovsky), in Poland (Ramsar site Biebrza), also in the Ukraine and Hungary by participation of groups of experts in annual meetings of the Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team.</p>	
3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A - Yes
3.4.2 Additional information:	

The information about the Ramsar Convention is posted at the Web site of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (www.minpriroda.by).

Information on some Ramsar sites is posted at www.interfax.by in the section 'Green Tourism'. Pages with information about the reserves are created at the Web sites of the District Executive Committees.

A documentary film 'Mires Will Live!' was created in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project 'Renaturalisation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus, to Combat Land Degradation, Ensure Conservation of Globally Valuable Biodiversity, and Mitigate Climate Change'.

A documentary film 'The Pearl of the Belarusian Land' was created in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project 'Catalyzing Sustainability of the Wetland Protected Area System in Belarusian Polesie through Increased Management Efficiency and Realigned Land Use Practices'.

Web sites were developed for UNDP/GEF 'Peatlands' Project (www.petalands.by) and UNDP/GEF 'Polesie' Project (www.polesie-wetlands.by), where updated information on the Ramsar sites Middle Pripyat, Prostyr, Zvanets, Sporovsky and etc.

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

B - No

3.4.3 Additional information:

.....

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

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

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

The following territories were designated as the transboundary Ramsar sites:

'Kotra-Chakpelay' (Belarus-Lithuania) in 2010

'Prostyr-Pripyat-Stokhid' (Belarus-Ukraine) in 2009

The creation of transboundary territory 'Vileyti-Adutishkis' (Belarus-Lithuania).

Earlier inventarisisation of the most important wetlands on the border of Belarus and Lithuania was conducted. Seven transboundary territories were identified and described. Materials and recommendations were submitted to the relevant ministries for organization of protection activities at these territories.

Transboundary wetland complexes were marked in Belarus-Latvia near-border strip. It was done for perfection of a transboundary nature protection network and working out of recommendations on their protection. The complexes are of a great significance for preservation of biological diversity.

Map charts and recommendations have been prepared on creation of a network of near-border wetland complexes in the region.

Activities have been completed to submit a request for designation of the National Park 'Braslavsky Lakes' for the Ramsar site. The concept of the draft proposal was prepared on creation on the basis of National Park 'Braslavsky Lakes' (Belarus) and Landscape territory 'Augshdaugava' (Latvia) of transboundary SPNA.

Potential transboundary wetlands are defined between Belarus and Ukraine, the plan of their joint management is developed.

Potential transboundary wetlands are defined in the border areas of Vitebsk, Mogilyov, and Gomel Regions of Belarus and the Pskov, Smolensk and Bryansk Regions of the Russian Federation.

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

C - Partly

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

.....

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

B - No

3.5.3 Additional information:

.....

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
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Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

- a) B - No
- b) B - No
- c) B - No
- d) C - In progress

(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)

<p>4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p> <p>.....</p>
--

<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
--	--

- a) at Ramsar Sites
- b) at other wetlands

- a) 6 centres
- b) 1 centres

<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p> <p>Ecological and educational centres are opened in the Ramsar sites 'Sporovsky Biological Reserve' (Bereza District), 'Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik' (Luninets District), 'Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik' and 'Olmany Mires Zakaznik' (Stolin District), 'Zvanets' (Drogichin District) 'Vigonoshchanskoe' (Hantsavichy District) and 'Yelnia' (Miory District) at the base of state nature protection units, with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and UNDP/GEF 'Polesie' Project.</p>

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>Representatives of the local communities were involved at all stages of mangement plans development and implementation. People from local villages participtaed in the mangement activities at the territories of the Ramsar sites.</p>	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many oppourtunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a) xxx</p> <p>b) xxx</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>National Ramsar Committee is established at the end of 2004; in 2007 the Committee was renewed.</p> <p>Members of National Ramsar Committee are represantatives of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Forestry, the State Property Committee, the State Concern 'Belmeliovodhoz', National Academy of Sciences, Belarusian State University, Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources, NGO 'APB-BirdLife Belarus', NGO 'Ecological Initiative,</p> <p>Meetings of National Ramsar Committee are held as required, but at least once a year.</p>	

<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) C - Partly b) C - Partly c) C - Partly</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>Meetings and discussion of planned actions are organized during preparation and realisation management planes for the organization of conduction sustainable forest, rural and a water management with all interested parties (local authorities, land users, representatives of services of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, mass-media).</p> <p>Directors of the state nature protection institutions, established for the management of the Ramsar sites, annually submit reports to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.</p>	
<p>4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>Each year on 2 February, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection prepares and disseminates press-releases concerning the World Wetlands Day, organizes press conferences, presentations and other activities.</p>	
<p>4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national TV demonstrated movies (clips) about wetlands importance ; - BirdLife Belarus organized campaign 'The Bird of the Year'; - poststamps and anniversary coins, dedicated to the Ramsar sites are issued; - state nature protection institutions, which conduct SPNAs management, including Ramsar sites with wetland protected complexes, published with the support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and District Executive Committees booklets with information about touristic and nature potential of these territories; - information on the reserves, with have status of the Ramsar sites, also is presented at the exhibitions of touristic resources. 	

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

4.2.1	
a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	
.....	

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i	B - No
4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):	
.....	

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

4.3.1 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii	A - Yes
4.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):	
Based on the analysis of the Ramsar Convention implementation reports activities were formulated on integration of the National Strategy on SPNAs Network Development for the period up to 2022, the State Programme of SPNAs Network Development for 2008-2012 into the national Strategy of Implementation of the Convention on wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat.	

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

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
<p>4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):</p> <p>BirdLife International provided Belarus with the following support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organisation of international conference on wetlands protection and climate change; - co-financing of the UNDP/GEF Project on renaturalisation of degraded mires; - implementation of the international project on mapping of forest of a special nature protection importance; - conduction of a pilot project on assessment of degraded mires area and their renaturalisation costs. 	
4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
<p>4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetlands International: participation in international mid-winter waterbird counts; - BirdLife International: participation in conduction of international actions and initiatives, organisation of international bird watching days to attract of wider communities, participation in the project on monitoring of common bird species. 	