



## **NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

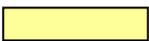
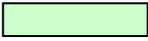
**Section 2** is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**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

<b>IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT</b>
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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](http://www.ramsar.org/contacts_en).

**NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: BELGIUM**

#### DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	<p><b>Flemish Region: Agency for Nature &amp; Forests, Ministry of Environment, Flemish Government</b>  <b>Walloon Region: European Policy and International Agreements Department</b>  <b>Brussels Region: Division for Nature, Water and Forests, Brussels Instituut for environmental management</b>  <b>Federal authorities: FOD Public Health, Food Safety and Environment , DG Environment</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT NOTICE:</b>  <b>ANSWERS ARE GIVEN SEPARATELY FOR FEDERAL OR REGIONAL AUTHORITIES</b>  <b>WHERE REQUIRED:</b>  <b>1) RW = WALLOON REGION</b>  <b>2) RF = FLEMISH REGION</b>  <b>3) BCR = BRUSSELS Capital REGION</b>  <b>3) FED = FEDERAL AUTHORITIES</b></p>
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	<p>Flemish region: Mr. Jeroen Nachtergaele, int. Head of Policy Division          Walloon Region : Ir. José Renard, European Policy and International Agreements Department          Brussels Region: Dr. Machteld Gryseels, Head of Division for Nature Water and Forest          Federal: R. Moreau, General Director for Environnement</p>
<b>Mailing address:</b>	<p>Flemish Region: Koning Albert II Laan 20, 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM          Walloon Region: Avenue Prince de Liège 15, 5100 Jambes, BELGIUM          Brussels Region: Gulledele 100, 1200 Brussels, Belgium          Federal: Place Victor Horta 40/10 , 1060 Brussels, Belgium</p>
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	<p>Flemish Region: Tel: +32 2 553 76 83, Fax: +32 2 553 76 85          Walloon Region: Tel: +32 81 335804, Fax: +32 81 335822          Brussels Region: Tel: +32 2 7757561          Federal: Tel: +32 2 5249675, Fax: +32 2 5249643</p>
<b>Email:</b>	<p>jeroen.nachtergaele@lne.vlaanderen.be          jose.renard@spw.wallonie.be          mgr@ibgebim.be          roland.moureau@health.fgov.be</p>

#### DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

<b>Name and title:</b>	<p>Walloon Region : Ir. Catherine Debryne          Flemish region: Dr. Els Martens          Brussels Region: Machteld Gryseels          Federal: Geert Raeymaekers</p>
<b>Mailing address:</b>	same as above
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	same as above
<b>Email:</b>	<p>Catherine.DEBRUYNE@spw.wallonie.be          els.martens@lne.vlaanderen.be          mgr@ibgebim.be          geert.raeymaekers@milieu.belgie.be</p>

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

<b>Name and title:</b>	Dr. Els Martens
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Flemish Region: Agency for Nature & Forests, Ministry of Environment, Nature & Energy, Flemish Government
<b>Mailing address:</b>	same as above
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	same as above
<b>Email:</b>	same as above
<b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	.....
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	.....
<b>Mailing address:</b>	.....
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	.....
<b>Email:</b>	.....
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	FL: Wim Van den Bossche;
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	FL: BirdLife Belgium
<b>Mailing address:</b>	
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	



## 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) Continued efforts for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Birds and Habitats Directives (the official adoption of the designation arrest for 59 Natura 2000 sites in the Walloon Region, the adoption of the Vlaamse Banken at the federal level- which includes the RAMSAR site 'Westelijk Kurtbanken', for Flanders formal adoption of the designation acts and conservation objectives for all 38 Habitat sites and overlapping Bird sites June 2014 including the 4 Ramsar sites ) and the adoption of the Marine Spatial Plan in 2014.

2) Finalize the first version of the River Basin Management Plans in all River Basin Districts (june 2013) - second version is in preparation with public consultations in Flanders starting in 2014.

3) - The Sustainable Management Programme for Nitrogen in Agriculture (or PGDA) are currently being revised in 2013 and should be soon adopted. It aims to reduce water pollution due to agricultural practices and to enhance a sustainable use of nitrogen and humus in agriculture. <http://www.nitrawal.be/agriculteurs/legislations/PGDA>

4) - In 2012 the Walloon authorities have drawn up a pesticide reduction programme (PWRP) including measures involving professionals having to gain a licence to use Phyto Pharmaceutical Products (PPP), a ban on the use of PPPs in public spaces by 2019, the creation of buffer zones to protect aquatic habitats or the promotion of integrated pest management and alternative methods. <http://www.wallonie-reductionpesticides.be/fr>  
FL: adoption of Decree for sustainable use of pesticides on 8 February 2013 and the action plan for implementation on 8 March 2013 including certification of professional users, codes of good practices, integrated protection measures for agro-cultural production, bufferzones for nature protection sites:  
<http://www.lne.be/themas/beleid/actieplanpesticiden>

5) In Wallonia, we have installed waste water treatment for all cities above 10 000 inhabitants according to the Directive 91/71 concerning urban waste water treatment.

Flanders: The Flemish Environment Agency starts actions for water management from an integrated vision concerning water. The ambitious objective of the European Water Framework Directive - a good general status of the surface water and ground water in Flanders - serves as a guiding principle. The agency measures and controls the quantity and the quality of surface water, groundwater and sediments and reports about the results, follow up of urban water treatment reports. Through their recommendations concerning the granting of environmental permits, they try to prevent surface water pollution as much as possible and to manage the groundwater supplies.  
<http://en.vmm.be/water/an-integrated-look-at-water>

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

1) Finalising the River Basin Management Plans according to the Water framework Directive. In the Walloon region, due to the complex consultation process these were ready in 2012.

In the Flemish region the river basin management plan for the Schelde river basin and the Maas river basin were adopted on 8 October 2010.

2) RW: only 20/36 bathing sites are reported to have a good or very good water quality (implementation of the Bathing Water Quality Directive)

FL: Based on the water analyses of the last four years, most (67 %) Flemish bathing waters are rated as 'excellent' (resp. 20 coastal zones and 38 inland bathing waters), 27 bathing waters as 'good' (resp. 21 coastal zones and 6 inland bathing waters), and one as 'acceptable' (Noodstrand in Ostend). No Flemish bathing water is rated as 'poor'.

3) Federal: in the marine environment the complex decision process resulting from the division of competences between regions and federal state.

4) .....

5) .....

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

1) RW/FL: the second cycle River Basin Management Plans for all River Basin Districts should be ready by december 2015, according to the European Water framework directive.

2) Flood management plans should be ready by 2015 according to the Flood Directive.

3) RW: Official adoption of the designation arrest of all Natura 2000 in the Walloon region : discussions are taking place with the agricultural sector with a priority for those that are the more impacted by Natura 2000.

FL: Implementation of nitrogen reduction programme in cooperation with agriculture sector to restore and enhance the water quality especially in and with impact on Natura 2000 sites.

4) The new Directive on Industrial Emissions, integrated pollution prevention and control, which has been transposed recently has now to be implemented.

5) Federal: the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (in particular the programme of measures) and the further implementation of the Marine Spatial Planning.

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

None

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)

further info and communication on work plans and mandates of IOPs could be stimulating for networking between Parties and IOPs

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?

Stronger cooperation between focal points of the MEAs - as priority action of overall biodiversity planning, integrated and collaborative implementation programmes between the MEAs established by the cooperating secretariats and communicated throughout;

In Belgium, the environmental policy competences are shared between the federal government and the regions. The regions have jurisdiction for land-use planning, nature protection and conservation, and the protection of the environment. The latter is extremely wide and includes the protection of soil, water and air and the fight against noise pollution. Policy on waste management, water production and the provision and control of industrial activities also falls under the jurisdiction of the regions. The federal government has control over product standardisation policy, protection against ionising radiation, including radioactive waste, the transit of waste, animal welfare, the import/export and transit of non-indigenous plant and animal species and their remains, and the protection of the marine environment. All these authorities ensure that international environmental agreements in their areas of jurisdiction are implemented. Therefore, they must all be closely involved in the preparation of Belgian position points with respect to international policy. Although competences for environmental policy in Belgium are shared between the federal and regional levels, Belgium should nevertheless speak with one voice when negotiations take place in international organisations or the European Union. In order to achieve this and to ensure all parties are equally participating, four important cooperation agreements are used in the field of the environment. Three of these agreements apply to all policy domains; the fourth specifically concerns the environment.

the Coordination Committee for International Environmental Policy (CCIEP) exists since 1995 and ensures that Belgium brings well-argued opinions on environmental policy to the international scene. These coordinated standpoints require a preceding debate both at technical and political level.

<http://www.sante.belgique.be/eportal/Environment/Inspectionandenvironmentalright/international/CCPIE/10972455?ie2Term=CCIM&ie2section=83&&fodnlang=en>

- 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)?

Enhance to integrate overall objectives of Ramsar implementation into overall biodiversity objectives covered in the Belgian National Biodiversity Strategy (updated in November 2013).

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

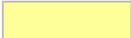
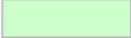
None

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

FL: Institute for Nature & Forest Research, reports of Flemish Environment Agency  
RW: SPW DGO3

## 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

B - No

1.1.1 Additional information:

RW:

- Walloon Natura 2000 sites are categorized by habitats, which include wetlands.
- Wetlands of biological interest are one of the strict nature conservation protected area in the Walloon Region. Their listing is kept up to date.
- The Walloon Region has registered all "protected areas" according to the Water framework Directive. This register includes : natura 2000 sites, areas designated for the abstraction of water intended for human consumption; recreational waters; nutrient-sensitive areas;

RBC :

<http://geoportal.ibgebim.be/webgis/eau.phtml?langtype=2060>

[http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/NARABRU\\_20120910\\_FR\\_150dpi.pdf?langtype=2060](http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/NARABRU_20120910_FR_150dpi.pdf?langtype=2060)

Federal – all protected areas are indicated in the annexes of the Royal Decree of Marine Spatial Planning (20 March 2014); see [www.environnement.belgique.be](http://www.environnement.belgique.be) > milieu marin > aménagement des espaces marins.

FL: For Flanders, detailed ecological mapping exists at scale 1/25000 with indication of habitat types including wetlands; additional inventories exist on ad hoc basis or as contribution to specific plans (restoration, management of nature reserves etc.) Maps are accessible on <http://geo-vlaanderen.agiv.be/geo-vlaanderen>. There is also a habitat monitoring as part of the Water Framework Directive and of Habitats and Birds Directives for which a Natura 2000 habitat monitoring has been started up. The information sheets of each Ramsar site are being updated based on the 2013 reports for Natura 2000.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
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## 1.1.2 Additional information:

## RW:

Information on habitats is available on the wallon internet site on biodiversity.

<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6>

Information on the Natura 2000 sites have been collected and are available through the Natura 2000 website. Article 17 report of the Habitats Directive assessed the implementation of this Directive. As many Natura 2000 sites are wetlands, they have been assessed through this report.

(<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6>). A page on static and flowing water habitat types is available : <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/plans-et-cours-d-eau-c.html?IDC=813>

Information on the state of water courses: <http://spw.wallonie.be/dce/spip.php?rubrique4>

The atlas of all Walloon water courses is available online

<http://environnement.wallonie.be/cartosig/atlasceenn/>.

Every year, the Environmental Outlook for Wallonia (EOW) provides an update on Wallonia's environmental situation, based on a collection of environmental, social, health and other indicators which may be able to shed some light on the pressure put on the different elements of the environment (air, water, soils, fauna, flora, natural habitats, etc.) and their impact. By looking at the responses that have already been implemented, it also is a valuable part of an evaluation of environmental policies. A more detailed report is produced every five years (the "Rapport analytique sur l'état de l'environnement wallon", last edition: 2006-2007), which provides a more comprehensive and details analysis of environmental issues. <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/> Through this EOW, the ecological and morphological characters of watercourses are monitored on a regular basis and the results are available through the dashboard of the wallon environment. Other components the wetlands state are also monitored such as : main water flows, pollution released, organic pollution, eutrophication, sediments, micro-pollutants, nitrate and pesticides in groundwater, collective and individual treatment of wastewater...

assessment of the physical and chemical quality of surface water bodies:

<http://aquaphyc.environnement.wallonie.be>

Assesment of the biological quality of watercourses has been persued by the diversity of macroinvertebrates, macrophytes, diatomea and fishes.

Four data collecting stations have been selected to be included in an european network of stations on waterway's biological quality.

RBC : see 1.1.1

Federal: relevant 'wetland data' for marine RAMSAR and other protected areas are stored in the Belgian Marine Data Centre (<http://www.mumm.ac.be/datacentre/>) – see also [www.vliz.be](http://www.vliz.be) for additional marine data.

## FL:

Yearly updates of biodiversity indicators, including data on wetland habitats and species: [www.natuurindicatoren.be](http://www.natuurindicatoren.be)

Every two years the Environment Report gives an update on the ecological and qualitative state of water courses : <http://en.vmm.be/>

Reports on bird populations in certain specific Natura 2000 sites, coast area and river basins: [http://www.inbo.be/content/page.asp?pid=EN\\_PUBLICATIONS\\_startnew](http://www.inbo.be/content/page.asp?pid=EN_PUBLICATIONS_startnew)

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)  - No change

b)  - No change

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

b)

RW: The most recent evaluations reveal that for the ecological status, 196/354 surface water bodies and for the chemical status 52/354 surface water bodies, and 40% of groundwater bodies (13/33) are not in an overall good status in Wallonia. The problems are mainly to be found in the Scheldt river basin district and in a few Meuse sub-basins (Sambre, Vesdre, the downstream Meuse) where the biological quality of the water courses is generally less good. The physicochemical deteriorations most frequently encountered are related to the presence of nitrogenous and/or phosphorous substances (3/4 of cases) and pesticides (1/3 of cases). The predictive risk analysis indicates that the measures set forth in the current draft Management Plans should help 51% of surface water bodies and 70% of groundwater bodies to achieve a good status by 2015, at least if they are all implemented in the short term. For the remaining water bodies, deadline extensions (2021-2027) have been requested for technical, economic or nature-related reasons.

<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/index.php?mact=tbe,m588bb,default,1&m588bbalias=Status-of-water-bodies&m588bbreturnid=46&page=46>

Concerning the biological quality of water courses, and according to the Walloon environmental outlook 2012: in 2010, 55% of sites controlled within the Walloon water courses quality monitoring network reported water in a good or very good biological quality (with regard to the diatom and macroinvertebrate indicators). Water quality is not so good in the Scheldt basin, in cultivated, residential and industrial areas, where land take and the low flow rates of water courses are exacerbating factors. Nonetheless, the number of sites where the specific index of sensitivity to pollutants (IPS) indicates a water of good to very good quality has gone up over the past 10 years, mainly reflecting the drop of pollutant discharges (whether isolated or diffuse), the higher rate of waste water treatment and the ecological restoration of some water courses. Despite the slow speed at which ecosystems recover, steady improvement is expected throughout the network as a result of the implementation of additional measures foreseen in the draft river basin district management plans.

<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/index.php?mact=tbe,m588bb,default,1&m588bbalias=Biological-quality-of-watercourses&m588bbreturnid=46&page=46>

BCR: In 2013, none of the sampling points reached the general Good Ecological Potential. The water bodies in the BCR however show variable overall ecological assessment (from bad to moderate EQR) and variable evolutions in this assessment. The ponds for example have shown a temporary good response to biomanipulation while rare birds and dragonflies have been observed in the restored swamp of Ganshoren.

Federal: See the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) "Initial Assessment" report of Belgium: [www.de-Noordzee.be](http://www.de-Noordzee.be) or [www.lamerdunord.be](http://www.lamerdunord.be)

FL: Of the 499 monitored water bodies (measurements 2010-2012) 54 % are in a bad

ecological status, 30 % scored insufficient and 16 % moderate status. None of the water bodies complied with all criteria for a good or very good ecological status. Looking at the biological quality criteria a good status was shown in 43% of the water bodies for phytoplankton, in 26% for macro-invertebrates, in 7% for fish and 5% for macrophytes. Especially nitrogen and phosphorus impact from agricultural land use, improvement of public water treatment systems and improvement of hydromorphological quality need more attention.

<http://www.milieurapport.be/en/facts-figures/environmental-themes/surface-water-quality/>

**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)

B - No

## 1.3.1 Additional information:

RW: the Walloon Water Code (code de l'eau) aims to orient water management by hydrological bassins in a coherent way. 15 sub-bassin have been identified and are considered as the management units to define quality objectives, waterways schemes (contrat de Rivière), fisheries management, water treatment. Other action plans have also been developed on floodings and on sustainable management of nitrogen in agriculture.

BCR: Ord. NAT

An Ordinance was issued on October 19th 2006 that transposes the WFD (Water Framework Directive) and reorganizes the water sector in Brussels, aiming to reach a better environmental quality and more efficient management of the water cycle. It includes aspects of wetland management.

The Directive 2009/128 of the Parliament and the Council of 21 October 2009, establishing a framework for community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticide has been transposed in the Brussels-Capital Region by the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development. In addition to the development of an action plan, this legal framework includes among other measures related to the protection of high-risk areas, among which protected areas and catchment areas.

Federal: as far as the marine environment policy is concerned, the 'Good Environmental Status' and the related objectives as part of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive are the basis of the "wetland policy". With respect to the protected areas, the Habitats and Birds Directive form the basis for policy setting.

FL: Through the decree for Integral Water Policy- managed by the Flemish Environment Agency that includes the Water Division - many programmes have been set up to develop water management plans, improve water quality and quantity and the biological status. Via the Integrated Water Policy Coordination Commission the Agency coordinates the consultation on the integrated water policy between all the parties concerned at Flemish level: <http://en.vmm.be/water/an-integrated-look-at-water>.

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

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
- b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
- c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
- d) National forest programmes
- e) National strategies for sustainable development
- f) National policies or measures on agriculture
- g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

- a) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes
- e) B - No
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

## 1.3.2 Additional information:

RW:

- The Walloon social fund for water is a financial mechanism to help customers that encounter financial difficulties to pay their water invoices. <http://www.spge.be/fr/fonds-social-de-l-eau.html?IDC=2039>
- Wetlands protection and conservation measures are included in the Water Code, in the Forest Code, in agricultural cross compliance, in agri environmental measures,...
- The Sustainable Management Programme for Nitrogen in Agriculture (or PGDA) are currently being revised in 2013 and should be soon adopted. It aims to reduce water pollution due to agricultural practices and to enhance a sustainable use of nitrogen and humus in agriculture. <http://www.nitrawal.be/agriculteurs/legislations/PGDA>
- In 2012 the Walloon authorities have drawn up a pesticide reduction programme (PWRP) including measures involving professionals having to gain a licence to use Phyto Pharmaceutical Products (PPP), a ban on the use of PPPs in public spaces by 2019, the creation of buffer zones to protect aquatic habitats or the promotion of integrated pest management and alternative methods. <http://www.wallonie-reductionpesticides.be/fr>

BCR: The Brussels project RBSAP also foresees the protection and improvement of the condition of Brussels wetlands, essentially through the consolidation of the regional ecological network. See :

<http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/ProjetNAPLAN-fr.PDF?langtype=2060>

FL: Wetlands protection and conservation measures are included in the Integral Water Policy Decree, nature management plans, in agricultural cross compliance, and in agri environmental measures with focus on Natura 2000 sites that include wetlands.

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

A - Yes

## 1.3.3 Additional information:

RW: Environmental assessments of plans and programs are under the Walloon environmental code.

BCR: European directive 2001/42/CE of 27 June 2001 ensure that plans and programmes likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation. Consultation with the public is a key feature of environmental assessment procedures. This directive has been transposed in the BCR in the order of 18 March 2004.

FL: Environmental assessment of plans and programs is foreseen by the environmental assessment decree in the Flemish law.

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	A - Yes
<p>1.3.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The European Union has established a mix of mandatory and discretionary procedures to assess environmental impacts. European Union Directive on Environmental Impact Assessments (known as the EIA Directive) has been codified in Directive 2011/92/EU of 13 December 2011. Under the EU directive, an EIA must provide certain information to comply. This Directive has been transposed in Regional policy, and is applied through the environmental and the urbanistic permit procedures.</p> <p>Assessment of the plans and projects in relation to NATURA 2000 sites is provision of the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), in particular its article 6(3) and 6(4). The aim of these articles is to reveal negative impacts of plans and projects to coherence of NATURA 2000 network through appropriate assessment (AA) of their possible effects on integrity of the NATURA 2000 sites and in particular in regards to their effect on species and habitats that are sites target features. If impacts are detected such plans and projects have to be either avoided or amended, or if imperative reasons of overriding public interest are proved compensatory measures in favour of NATURA 2000 have to be taken to ensure overall coherence of the NATURA 2000 network.</p> <p>RW / FL: EIA are required under the Environmental code or regional decree (environment and urban permits required).</p> <p>BCR: Transposed in the order of 1st March 2012, this principle of the directive has been extended in the BCR to the nature and forest reserves.</p>	

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	C - In progress
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: see above PWDR, PGDA, management plans...</p>	

**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
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#### 1.4.1 Additional information:

Ecosystem services in general, no special focus on wetlands.

BE:

The Belgium Ecosystem Services (BEES) Community is an open and flexible network that will interface between different societal actors. The BEES Community has the following aims:

- Develop ecosystem services concepts, tools and practices that help to adapt human activity and clarify ecosystem thresholds in order to preserve the actual and potential well-being of present and future generations; and to stop ecosystem and biodiversity degradation, and improve their status.
- Develop mainstreaming & policy tools to promote the integration of ecosystem services concepts in policy and management, business and society.
- Facilitate capacity building, exchange of expertise and experience: including methodologies and transfer of knowledge on Belgian ecosystem services to policy and share the needs from policy makers on this issue, to enable involvement of Belgian actors in national and international initiatives and build the capacity to conduct assessments of ecosystem services.
- Provide overviews of state of the art knowledge and best practices

- Related research project: ECOFRESH (ECOsystem services of FRESHwater systems, <http://www.belspo.be/belspo/ssd/science/projects/ecofresh.e.pdf>, final report: [http://www.belspo.be/belspo/ssd/science/Reports/ECOFRESH\\_FinRep\\_2012\\_AD\\_2.pdf](http://www.belspo.be/belspo/ssd/science/Reports/ECOFRESH_FinRep_2012_AD_2.pdf))

RW:

- A Walloon platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services has been put in place at the regional level.
- For most Ramsar sites: leisure value recognized but not quantified.

FL:

- The website <http://www.natuurwaardeverkenner.be>, called the "nature value explorer", is a calculation tool to value ecosystem services and can help everyone who wants to map the socio-economic importance of ecosystems. The calculated figures inform policy makers of the gain or loss of welfare resulting from the impact of a project or policy on the delivery of ecosystem services, including services delivered by wetlands.

- The Flemish Institute for Technological Research and the universities of Antwerp and Ghent investigated the value of the Natura 2000-network in Flanders. They found out that the 166,000 hectares of protected areas in Flanders had among others the following benefits: more than 34 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> stored each year, 4,000 to 8,000 tons of fine dust eliminated from the air each year, 16 million m<sup>3</sup> of water purified each year and a gain of 2100 healthy life years (for about 1.8 million people), between 26 and 43 million visitors yearly. The experts concluded that the Natura 2000-areas in Flanders have a total value of 800 million to 1.2 billion euro for society. And this is still an underestimation given the fact that only 11 of the known 36 ecosystem services were taken into account. The report (in Dutch) is available at: [http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Natuurbeleid/Natuur%20en%20Natura%202000/Natura\\_2000/Waarom/Voordelen.aspx](http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Natuurbeleid/Natuur%20en%20Natura%202000/Natura_2000/Waarom/Voordelen.aspx). For the summary in English: <http://www.natuurenbos.be/~media/Files/Themas/Natuur/Natura%202000/abstract%20estimate%20benefits%20Natura%202000%20-%20EN.pdf>.

Federal: no such assessment made for the marine Ramsar site.

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	A - Yes
<p>1.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>RW: At the end of 2012, Wallonia had 4 surveillance zones and 205 prevention zones, nearly all of which (96%) are aimed at protecting water intended for the public water supply. The 408 protected water intakes account for +/- 40% of all drinking water abstracted from groundwater each year. This coverage rate is expected to grow considerably over the next few years. Moreover, budgets earmarked for protecting abstraction sites are constantly increasing, in particular those for compliance measures targeting activities causing point-source or diffuse pollution. The SPGE 2010-2019 protection programme foresees to complete the delimitation of prevention zones and to implement actions within them. The work will give priority to water intakes showing nitrate and/or pesticide problems, with a view to enabling the water bodies concerned to achieve the good status required by the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).</p> <p>FL: Sigma plan in de Schelde basin includes goals: flood protection, accessibility for boats, and nature development and recreational possibilities and infrastructure.</p>	

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
<p>1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>RW: not at national level, but communication material is available on the cultural values of some wetlands (for ex Ramsar site Haute Sûre). A study done in the context of the water framework Directive assessed the non market value linked to recreative activities but also the economic value both resulting from the achievement of the good ecological status of surface water in Wallonia.</p> <p>FL: for the Zwin area in coastal wetlands, and the Schelde river system</p>	

**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.*

<p>1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:</p> <p>a. head of state b. parliament c. private sector d. civil society {1.5.2}</p>	<p>a. B - No b. B - No c. B - No d. B - No</p>
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## 1.5.1 Additional information:

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**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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

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

1.6.1 Additional information:

RW:

A general study has been conducted to identify ecosystems services in the walloon Region.

A study done in the context of the water framework Directive assessed the non market value linked to recreative activities but also the economic value both resulting from the achievement of the good ecological status of surface water in Wallonia.

For most Ramsar sites: leisure value recognized but not quantified.

Agriculture: A model "qualvados" has been developed to evaluate the interdependence between agricultural practices and surface and ground water management in the Walloon Region.

FL:

Studies have been carried out on the ecosystem values of the Schelde river natural systems and natural developments to restore the ecological status of the flooding areas along the river to enable flooding control.

Other studies are being carried out on the ecosystem values of other river systems and of Natura 2000 network: see under 1.4.1

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:

BCR: Complementary to the WMP, the BCR have developed a specific Pond Management Plan mainly based on scientific research cofinanced by Innoviris.

Federal: the marine spatial plan is based upon scientific data. As far as the preparation of fishery measures in marine protected areas (incl. RAMSAR site) the various fishery metiers were mapped in detail.

## FL:

Management plans for Natura 2000 sites, including the Ramsar sites, are being reviewed/developed based on the scientific data compiled to establish the site conservation objectives which take into account the specific requirements for the wetlands.

The nature restoration project and management plan for the Blankaart and IJzerbroeken are based on large scale inventories of vegetation and birds and on studies about the causes of bad water quality - implementation showed improvement of overall water quantity and quality of the site.

**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.*

<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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## 1.7.1 Additional information:

RW / FL: The Water framework directive is based on the river basin. Surface water bodies defined by the Walloon water code or Flemish Decree for Integral Water Policy, in accordance to the WFD, means a discrete and significant surface water such as lake, reservoir, river or canal, part of a stream, river or canal, a water transition or a stretch of coastal water;

BCR: The Water Management Plan of the Region of Brussels-Capital aims to develop an integrated and comprehensive response to all challenges in water management. It is also an active contribution to international planning that has to be implement across the international river basin district of the Scheldt. It is accompanied by a program of measures (PrM) with preferred concrete actions to be implemented through various policy levers. Writing the WMP is an obligation of the Framework Directive (WFD, art. 13 and 14) and its transposition in Brussels regulation.

Fed: Integrated Coastal Zone Management: Federal add: Both the federal authority competent for the marine environment and the Provincial and regional authorities (competent for land based activities and fisheries, ports, ..) are in line with international conventions and guidelines.

<p>1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see <a href="#">Resolution X.19</a>)? {1.7.3}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.7.2 Additional information:</p> <p>RW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- River contracts are participatory tools that include many CEPA activities; These River Contracts are part of the water code. River Contracts bring together all the actors of the river basin with the aim to reach a consensus on an action programme for the restoration of the water course, the river banks and surroundings and the water resources. It applies the participatory approach principle. Synergies are created to meet all concerns. Invited are representatives of the political, administrative, socio-economic, educational, scientific and associative worlds; Many local integrated management examples show that implementation of EU Directives are related to water protection.</li> <li>- More generally, owners of river sides are involved in management projects having an impact on their properties.</li> <li>- Public consultations are regularly being carried out.</li> <li>- A Walloon Commission on Water aims to inform, discuss and give opinion on main legislative tools concerning water.</li> <li>- Priority zones have been identified for domestic waste water sewage (these priority zones include Natura 2000 habitats, recreational waters...).</li> </ul> <p>Federal: Stakeholders are consistently involved in the implementation of the marine environmental policies (MSFD, Natura 2000, Marine Spatial Planning and targeted brochures have been prepared to inform the public at large. This is also a legal obligation. Additionally, brochures on MSFD, Natura 2000, Marine Spatial Planning have been prepared: see <a href="http://www.de-noordzee.be">www.de-noordzee.be</a> and <a href="http://www.lamerdunord.be">www.lamerdunord.be</a></p> <p>FL:</p> <p>Via the Integrated Water Policy Coordination Commission the Flemish Environment Agency - division Water coordinates the consultation on the integrated water policy between all the parties concerned at Flemish level. Public consultations and communications are carried out on regular basis and have been more extensive by the development of online-information systems.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>

## 1.7.3 Additional information:

RW: the Regional adaptation strategy is being prepared and will have special focus on water management and biodiversity.

- An action plan Air Climate and Energy is currently under consultation; Water is considered as a transversal theme in adaptation. <http://lavenirestdanslair.be/fr>

- The Walloon Rain Plan aims to reduce the risks due to floods :

[http://environnement.wallonie.be/de/dcenn/plan\\_pluies/](http://environnement.wallonie.be/de/dcenn/plan_pluies/)

BCR : The importance of the preservation of wetlands for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change is recognized in the draft of the new regional integrated plan for air, climate and energy. Action 108 foresees the reinforcement of the integration of this theme when revising the regional plan for water management.

FL: Regional adaptation strategy has been adopted in 2013 and gives special focus on water management and biodiversity.

For the Schelde river system strategies have been established related to the flooding control and are being implemented on site specific project basis.

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

B - No

## 1.7.4 Additional information:

FL: Will be considered when developing the Natura 2000 management plans. Knowledge basis is being enhanced through studies on ecosystem services related to wetlands to highlight their importance for agricultural practices.

**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:

RW:

- restoration of 15% of degraded ecosystems is part of the EU biodiversity strategy as well as part of the Belgian biodiversity strategy. In this regard, the Walloon region is reflecting on how to prioritize restoration in order to best implement these objectives.

- 2 main objectives of the water framework directives are the non degradation and the restoration of water bodies.

- A Life project WALPHY aims the hydromorphological restoration of the Bocq valley ended in 2013. [http://www.walphy.be/index.php?page=cont\\_projet\\_life](http://www.walphy.be/index.php?page=cont_projet_life)

Federal: fishery measures to protect the benthic fauna have been adopted – the programme of measures for the MSFD is currently being prepared – draft proposal of programme of measure foreseen to be made public by in 04/2015.

BCR: In the BCR, the Blue Network of the IBGE-BIM has more than 10 years of experience with regard to the restoration and management of unnavigable watercourses. It also works on wetland restoration which is executed with priority in Natura 2000 sites. Indeed, most of the wetlands are part of the Natura 2000 network.

FL: priority sites coincide with Natura 2000 areas for which restoration programmes are being developed.

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:

RW: see 1.8.1

Restoration measures will be part of the management plans for all Natura 2000 sites. The Sustainable Management Programme for Nitrogen in Agriculture (or PGDA) has been revised in 2013 and it aims to reduce water pollution due to agricultural practices and to enhance a sustainable use of nitrogen and humus in agriculture.

BCR: The Ganshoren swamp, lots of ponds and segments of unnavigable watercourses have been restored within the framework of the Blue Network.

FL: Restoration measures are being carried out through LIFE and Interreg projects for the Zwin site, Scheldt river, coastal zone, Nete river, and some sites along river Maas.

**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

A - Yes

## 1.9.1 Additional information:

There is a national inventory of invasive vascular plants and vertebrates available at: <http://ias.biodiversity.be>.

Although it is not entirely dedicated to wetlands, IAS like *Rana catesbeiana* or *Ludwigia grandiflora* that may impact those habitats are listed. There are 37 species out of that list that live in freshwater habitats and may cause detrimental environmental impact (black or watch list status).

BCR: Nothing specific for the RBC. More actions are to be taken soon in the framework of the RBSAP

Federal: The IAS target for marine wetlands is the same as the MSFD target.

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

A - Yes

## 1.9.2 Additional information:

The management of IAS is a regional competence (no national guideline). There is so far no action plan dedicated to the management of IAS in wetlands although specific actions are undertaken in the different regions of the country against IAS found in this environment like giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, Canada goose, muskrat or American beaver.

RW: On top of this, a regional survey of invasive aquatic plants has been launched in Wallonia to prepare future action plans against those species (<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/plantes-aquatiques.html?IDC=5722>).

BCR: Nothing specific for the RBC. More actions are to be taken soon in the framework of the RBSAP

## FL:

- Implementation of Interreg IV project INVEXO in cooperation with Netherlands for the inventories and control and development of prevention-control-eradication measures for the priority species bull frog, water pennywort and other invasive aquatic plants, summer geese: <http://www.invexo.eu/nl-BE/Eindrapporten>
- Based on expertise from such projects a strategy and action plan is being developed and will also include invasive species in wetlands.
- studies and inventories to support the development of early warning system

**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

C - Partly

1.10.1 Additional information:

RW:

The private sector has to apply all the legislative instruments mentioned above in this report.

The Walloon Consultative Commission on Water aims to gather all stakeholders to notify on legislative projects related to water.

FL: Via the Integrated Water Policy Coordination Commission the Flemish Environment Agency - division Water stakeholders are being informed and consulted on legislation and actions related with water policy and wetland management.

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

a. Ramsar Sites

b. Wetlands in general

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

a. A - Yes

b. A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

FL: main projects including cooperation with the private sector are: implementation of projects for coastal wetlands and in the Zwin site with tourism sector; the strategy for the Scheldt river with the Port Authority of Antwerp, management actions in Ijzereboreken and Blankaart with agricultural sector.

An example of cooperation with local stakeholders and local authorities is shown in the Life project 3WatEr for the ponds area in province of Limburg - this project received a Natura 2000 Award 2014 for cooperation and reconciliation of objectives:

[http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/topmenu/Pers/2014/20140522\\_natura2000award](http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/topmenu/Pers/2014/20140522_natura2000award)

**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:

RW:

Incentives in favor of wetlands are available through:

Cross compliance measures that, among others, forbids herbicides use and drainage in Natura 2000 sites to benefit from other agricultural subsidies.

Subsidies given to participatory "tools" such as the Municipality plans for nature conservation (they conduct many projects on wetlands), River Contracts, Nature Parcs. Subsidies given to create new nature reserves (some of which are wetlands),

Financing of several measures of the Walloon rural development program has a direct positive effect on biodiversity:

- measures in relation to agri-environmental subsidies (pond creation, winter field cover, etc)

- Natura 2000 remunerations for the farmers

- Natura 2000 remunerations for the forestry sector

- conservation and valorisation of the rural patrimony

- . Supplementary subsidies for agri-environmental measures in Natura 2000 sites and in the main ecological structure areas (SEP).

- .Subsidies for the acquisition of land that will be designated as nature reserve.

- . Dispensation of property tax and of succession and donation rights within Natura 2000.

- . Natura 2000:

- agricultural compensations are available to farmers; they can be cumulated with agri-environmental measures

- compensations are also available to forest owners

- restoration and acquisition subsidies are available for all Natura 2000 sites and SEP sites, for all owners and farmers

- subsidies for the management of open spaces are also available

- . Non financial incentives:

- PEFC label

- BIO label

Federal: "Fishing for Litter" is a voluntary programme with incentives for fisherman to keep litter caught in nets on board and to dispose this litter at specific collection points.

FL:

Incentives in favor of wetlands are available through:

The regional rural development plans and the agri environmental measures that give subsidies for pond creation, winter cover of fields, restoration of habitats of European concern in Natura 2000, ..

Cross compliance measures that, among others, forbids herbicides use and drainage in Natura 2000 sites to benefit from other agricultural subsidies.

Subsidies given to Nature Conservation organisations create and manage new nature reserves (some of which are wetlands).

Other Natura 2000 subsidies include exemption of property tax, inheritance and donation tax.

On the basis of the new type of 'integrated management plans for nature' subsidies for the management of Natura 2000 sites will be the same for all cooperating partners and related to the level of ambition to implement the conservation objectives of the respective

site.

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:  
RW / FL: through cross compliance (see above)

## 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<sup>rd</sup> 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

B - No

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

0 sites

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

.....

**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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

.....

**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

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## 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	0 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: RW: Management plan for all 4 Ramsar Sites.  FL: there will be no Ramsar-specific management plan - alle Ramsar sites are included in Natura 200 - the specific conservation requirements for the wetland characteristics will be included in the respective Natura 2000 site management plan.	

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	8 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): RW: all except the "grotte des émotions" as it is not accessible.  FL: all 4 Ramsar sites through the Natura 2000 site management in which they are located.	

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	0 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): .....	

**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	B - No
--	--------

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

.....

**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

A - Yes

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

Z - No negative change

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

A - Yes

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

FL: actions for restoration of ecological characteristics have been carried out

**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:

.....

### GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

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

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

C - Partly

3.1.1 Additional information:

The Ramsar national committee is taken by the Coordination Committee for International Environmental Policy (CCIEP) Working group on Nature which ensures that Belgium brings well-argued opinions on environmental policy to the international scene. These coordinated standpoints require a preceding debate both at technical and political level. Representatives from all Régions and the federal for all international or european nature related agreements are present (CMS (and its daughter agreements), CITES, Ramsar, CBD, ...)

<http://www.sante.belgique.be/eportal/Environment/Inspectionandenvironmentalrigh/international/CCPIE/10972455?ie2Term=CCIM&ie2section=83&&fodnlang=en>

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

A - Yes

3.1.2 Additional information:

For UNEP, this is done through the CCIEP (see 3.1.1);

For the others, no formal mecanism but collaboration on demand.

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

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

A - Yes

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

FL:

- cooperation Flanders-Netherlands for the Scheldt estuary restoration and conservation measures: <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/over-ons/projecten/scheldeproject>
- transboundary cooperation with Netherlands for the 'transboundary park Kalmthout-De Zoom' that includes wetland site Kalmthout - common sit management vision and action plan to restore and conserve the natural values in the area, including the wetlands: <http://www.grensparkzk.nl/>
- Life 2012 project for the coastal zone Flanders-North of France: for restoration and conservation of coastal habitats including coastal wetlands: <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/over-ons/projecten/Flandre>

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}

B - No

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):

FL: several support actions related to 'water' but not specifically on 'wetlands'

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

A - Yes

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}

Z - Not applicable

3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):

.....

**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

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

The Maas , the Rhine and the Schelde International Comissions are international agreement which were signed in 2002. They aim to meet the effective obligation to multilaterally coordinate at the river bassin scale, as stipulated by the European Water Framework Directive; this included knowledge sharing.

Sharing of experiences for wetlands issues in Natura 2000 sites, and Natural parks also occurs at the national level and at the european level.

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

C - Partly

3.4.2 Additional information:

RW:

The Ramsar site of the Hautes Fagnes is included in the natural park of the same name which has a wed site accessible to all  
[http://www.botrange.be/pn/site/index.php?id\\_surf=&surf\\_lang=en](http://www.botrange.be/pn/site/index.php?id_surf=&surf_lang=en)

The Ramsar site of the Haute Sûre is included in the Natural park of the same name. The natural park has a monthly journal distributed to all the citizen living within its boudaries.

As for the Harchies Ramsar site: <http://www.crie.be/CRIE-d-Harchies.html>

Other information is available on several websites such as  
<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6>

Federal: see brochures and reports made available on the website [www.de.noordzee.be](http://www.de.noordzee.be) and [www.lamerdunord.be](http://www.lamerdunord.be)

FL: site specific websites, various publications:

<https://www.mercator.vlaanderen.be/zoekdienstenmercatorpubliek/srv/nl/metadata.show?c>

urrTab=simple&id=155

- Scheldt river: <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/over-ons/projecten/scheldeproject>  
<http://www.marineregions.org/gazetteer.php?p=details&id=30667&from=rss>  
[http://www.inbo.be/content/page.asp?pid=MON\\_waaslandhaven](http://www.inbo.be/content/page.asp?pid=MON_waaslandhaven)  
<http://scheldeschorren.be/cms/vroeger-en-nu/beschermingen-en-statuu>  
[http://www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=\\*ECOB&n=76397](http://www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=*ECOB&n=76397)  
[http://www.gs-esf.be/maier/maier-GSNB-58/NL/GSNB58\\_T6.htm](http://www.gs-esf.be/maier/maier-GSNB-58/NL/GSNB58_T6.htm)
- Zwin: [http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/domeinen/west-vlaanderen/zwin/eigendom\\_situatie](http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/domeinen/west-vlaanderen/zwin/eigendom_situatie)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n\\_proj\\_id=3867](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=3867)  
[http://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vj7kkh1am4t8/mede\\_mogelijk\\_gemaakt\\_door\\_de\\_eu\\_28](http://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vj7kkh1am4t8/mede_mogelijk_gemaakt_door_de_eu_28)
- Kalmthout: [www.kalmthout.be/125827.fil](http://www.kalmthout.be/125827.fil)  
[http://www.natuurpunt.be/nl/vereniging/campagnes-en-acties/biodiversiteit\\_1618.aspx](http://www.natuurpunt.be/nl/vereniging/campagnes-en-acties/biodiversiteit_1618.aspx)  
<http://www.grensparkzk.nl/>
- IJzerbroeken; [http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Domeinen/West-Vlaanderen/IJzer\\_en\\_Handzamevallei.aspx](http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Domeinen/West-Vlaanderen/IJzer_en_Handzamevallei.aspx)  
[http://www.natuurpunt.be/natuurgebied-de-blankaart\\_42.aspx](http://www.natuurpunt.be/natuurgebied-de-blankaart_42.aspx)  
[http://www.vlm.be/SiteCollectionDocuments/OO/081001\\_blankaart/RAPP\\_BLA\\_Projectuivoeringsplan%20fase%201.pdf](http://www.vlm.be/SiteCollectionDocuments/OO/081001_blankaart/RAPP_BLA_Projectuivoeringsplan%20fase%201.pdf)

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

A - Yes

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:

Yes, according to the Water framework Directive, we work on international hydrological district basis.

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

A - Yes

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

RW: for some Natura 2000 sites, for transboundary Ramsar site (Haute Sûre).

BE.

According to the Water framework directive, we work on the hydrological district basis. In Wallonia, we have the Maas, the Rhine, the Scheldt and the Seine hydrological districts.

We have the International Commissions for the Maas, the Scheldt, and the Rhine that aims at the coordination of the implementation of the water Framework Directive, give advices to Parties for a better prevention and a better protection against floodings and pollutions.

Cooperative management against floodings occurs on several water bassins.

FL: transboundary cooperation - see above

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

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:  
in frameweork of AEWA

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

<p><b>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.</b> <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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4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

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

(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)

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):

.....

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

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

- a) 4 centres
- b) 12 centres

4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):

RW: No new ones since 2011 which were:

11 regional center for environmental education (CRIE), several of them are oriented on wetlands such as the one of Harchies: <http://www.crie.be/CRIE-d-Harchies.html>

Centre Nature de Botrange <http://www.botrange.be/naccueil/fr/>,

Natural parcs have their information centers, several of them have a section on wetlands like for the Haute Sûre :

<http://www.parcnaturel.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=339> ; <http://www.fpnw.be/>

Virelles Nature and its aquascope: <http://www.aquascope.be/>

<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>RBC:</p> <p>a) yes, through public consultation on the water basin management plans.</p> <p>b) no</p> <p>Public consultation and information campaigns for biodiversity action are organised (e.a. on the extension of protected areas in forests).</p> <p>The Regional Nature Plan (in development) foresees the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promote the participative management of public green spaces</li> <li>- develop a global communication strategy in relation to nature and biodiversity</li> <li>- install a 'nature facilitator' service aimed towards the developers of plans and projects</li> <li>- promote good management practices of the green spaces</li> <li>- improve the support to NGOs that are active in the field of public awareness and education</li> <li>- install a 'nature task force' to strengthen the partnerships and coordination with the field actors</li> <li>- formalise the 'nature partnerships' between the field actors and the Brussels-Capital Region by the signing of targets contracts</li> </ul> <p>Federal: local communities are involved through general public awareness and stakeholder participation process and through meeting with mayors of coastal communes.</p> <p>FL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- participation in decision-making to wetland management through the Natura 2000 committees and processes.</li> <li>- new Ramsar sites are not being planned at this moment</li> <li>- public consultation through the Integrated Water Policy Committee action and processes</li> </ul>	
<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 &amp; 4.1.viii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	

<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities 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) 1</p> <p>b) 1</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>Training sessions on the management of sensitive areas are included in the annual training programmes of the regional managers/</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>The Ramsar national committee is taken by the Coordination Committee for International Environmental Policy (CCIEP) Working group on Nature which ensures that Belgium brings well-argued opinions on environmental policy to the international scene. These coordinated standpoints require a preceding debate both at technical and political level. Representatives from all Régions and the federal for all international or european nature related agreements (CMS (and its daughter agreements), CITES, Ramsar, CBD, ...) and other stakeholders are represented.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sante.belgique.be/eportal/Environment/Inspectionandenvironmentalrigh/international/CCPIE/10972455?ie2Term=CCIM&amp;ie2section=83&amp;&amp;fodnlang=en">http://www.sante.belgique.be/eportal/Environment/Inspectionandenvironmentalrigh/international/CCPIE/10972455?ie2Term=CCIM&amp;ie2section=83&amp;&amp;fodnlang=en</a></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</p> <p>b) other MEA national focal points</p> <p>c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) C - Partly</p> <p>b) C - Partly</p> <p>c) C - Partly</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>through above mentioned Coordination Committee, and on site level with relevant administrations and stakeholders.</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>Yes, by the Ramsar Site Haute Sûre;</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}	A - Yes
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>RW: Yes, by the Ramsar Site Haute Sûre;</p> <p>RBC: Yes, at the yearly Environment Festival.</p>	

**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
<p>b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p> <p>.....</p>	

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
<p>4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):</p> <p>.....</p>	

**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
<p>4.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):</p> <p>.....</p>	

**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

B - No

4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):

.....

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

B - No

4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):

.....