



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.

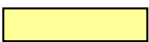
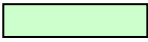
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: ESTONIA

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Nature Conservation Department of the Ministry of Environment
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Taimo Aasma, Head of the Nature Conservation Department of the Ministry of Environment
Mailing address:	Narva mnt 7a, 15172, Tallinn, Estonia
Telephone/Fax:	+372 6262871
Email:	taimo.aasma@envir.ee

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Herdis Fridolin, Senior officer of the Nature Conservation Department
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP)

Name and title:	Kai Kimmel, Nature usage specialist
Name of organisation:	Environmental Board
Mailing address:	Aia 2, 48306 Jõgeva, Estonia
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DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Maris Kivistik, head of the Environmental Education Department.....
Name of organisation:	Environmental Board
Mailing address:	Narva mnt 7a, 15172, Tallinn, Estonia
Telephone/Fax:	+372 7821841
Email:	maris.kivistik@keskkonnaamet.ee

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

Name and title:	Marika Kose, member of the Board
Name of organisation:	Estonian Wetland Society
Mailing address:	Pärnu mnt 40, 86001, Häädemeeste, Estonia
Telephone/Fax:	+372 56561373
Email:	marika.kose@mail.ee

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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) Several rehabilitation and restoration projects have started and been implemented in wetlands in 2011 - 2013.
- 2) In 2013 the Minister of Environment adopted the Action Plan for Semi-natural Habitats (2014-2020), incl restoration and management actions and budget also for semi-natural wetlands (coastal and floodplain meadows). Preparation of a similar action plan for mires has been started in the Ministry of the Environment.
- 3) In 2013 the Supplement: Nature Conservation, was added to the Development Plan of State Forest Management Centre 2011-2014. According the plan the priority sites for wetland rehabilitation (closing of old ditches of wetland edges mainly) are the Ramsar sites (Soomaa, Endla, Alam-Pedja, Muraka).
- 4) Increasing wetland CEPA activities: seminars, conferences, educational programmes, celebration of Wetland Day, working camps in wetlands etc (carried out by the Nature Education department of the Environmental Board, but also by Estonian Fund for Nature, Estonian Wetland Society (EWS) and some other NGO-s).
- 5) After the years of reforms, Environmental Board and State Forest Management Center, the main institutions responsible for planning, monitoring and implementation of management activities in protected wetlands, have developed the corresponding structure and competence ensuring the stability of wetland management. Environmental Board and EWS have participated in CEPA activities and networking.

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

- 1) Cross-sectoral cooperation in wetland related issues is not efficient enough.
- 2) Understanding and valuation of wetland ecosystem services and achieving wise use of all wetlands of the country is an ongoing challenge.
- 3) The monitoring scheme for Ramsar sites and other wetlands is still not sufficiently comprehensive and effective.
- 4)
- 5)

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

- 1) Implementation of the strategic documents and management plans: ongoing conservation, maintenance and restoration of wetlands
- 2) Improvement of the cross-sectorial cooperation
- 3) Developing the proper methodology and implementation plan for the restoration and sustainable use of peatlands
- 4) Designation of new Ramsar sites
- 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

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?

No comment

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 comment

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


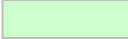
No

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

Estonian Wetland Society, Environmental Board, State Forest Management Centre webpage, Estonian Fund For Nature webpage

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	A - Yes
<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Information about wetlands has been gathered via different inventories since 1950s. For example, the lakes of Estonia were first inventoried in 1960s and 1970s. During the WETSTONIA Project (1993-1996) semi-natural wetland habitats - floodplain and coastal grasslands were investigated.</p> <p>During the project Estonian Wetlands Conservation and Management Strategy in 1997, an inventory of 1,376 wetlands was carried out using unified criteria and a database connected with geographical information system was created.</p> <p>Additional information about wetland habitats (specific inventories, for example the distribution of wetland habitat types, the state and influence of old drainage systems, insect fauna etc.) has been gathered during compilation of management plans for Natura 2000 areas.</p> <p>During the project Estonian Mires Inventory Completion for Maintaining Biodiversity (2008-2011) the inventory was completed. Additional 13,901 areas were studied of which 8,676 were determined as mires and 603 sites including mires as marginal habitats. As a result there is now a total overview about all areas in Estonia covered by mire vegetation.</p>	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Information is maintained in Estonian Nature Information System EELIS (www.eelis.ee) operated by the Estonian Environment Information Centre, and being a working tool for all environmental and planning specialists. For public, data are available on web page www.keskkonnainfo.ee. If data cannot be found on web page, it is possible to send request for information to the Environment Information Centre. The review books have been printed in english (2011) 'Estonian mires: inventory of habitats' and in estonian (2013) ' Eesti soode seisund ja kaitstus'.</p>	

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

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

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Policy goals, targets and measures related to wetlands are included in the National Environmental Strategy (first adopted by the Estonian Parliament in 1997) and relevant Action Plans. In the renewed environmental strategy (until the year 2030), the objective of preserving landscapes and the diversity of biota covers the fields of preserving and protecting natural and biological diversity as well as cultural landscapes. In addition, the strategy specifies the sustainable use of natural resources as one of the objectives covering the following fields: land use, sustainable forest management, sustainable use of mineral resources, sustainable use and restoration of aquatic biota and aquatic habitats.</p> <p>In 2012 the Government adopted the Nature Conservation Development Plan until 2020. This document is incorporating broader perspectives of wetland conservation and restoration.</p>	

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) Z - Not applicable
- b) C - Partly
- c) C - Partly
- d) A - Yes
- e) A - Yes
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

- b) in accordance with EU policies water management plans for 3 river districts are established (2009-2015). Ministry of Environment has ordered the methodology for integrating wetlands with the Water Framework Directive in Estonia (compiled by the Ecological Institute in 2011);
 - c) Only few integrated coastal zone management plans have been drawn up in Estonia. The principles of integrated coastal management are being taken into account in regional planning;
 - d) Forestry Development Plan until 2020 covers wet forests and issues concerning forest drainage;
 - e) Estonian National Sustainable Development Strategy (entitled Sustainable Estonia 21, SE 21, and approved by the Estonian Parliament in 2005), is an integral conception that is focused on sustainability and the long-term development of the Estonian state and society until the year 2030;
 - f) Estonian Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 covers semi-natural wetland habitats (wet meadows, coastal and floodplain meadows) and issues of the agricultural drainage;
 - g) The Environmental Strategy until 2030 includes targets and measures related to wetlands.
- The Nature Conservation Development Plan until 2020 is the most relevant document on wetland conservation and restoration.

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:

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

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

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	B - No
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: Legal norms, regulating protection of wetlands, have been remarkably amended in connection with the membership in European Union (2004).</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	B - No
<p>1.4.1 Additional information: No special assessment.....</p>	

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	Z - Not applicable
<p>1.4.2 Additional information:</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	A - Yes
<p>1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): For all 17 Ramsar sites, also for other protected wetlands.</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.*

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. A - Yes
- 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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

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

1.6.1 Additional information:

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

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

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

.....

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

Estonia is implementing the Water Framework Directive. Water management plans for river basin districts are established (2009-2015). In 2011 the methodology for integrating wetlands with the Water Framework Directive in Estonia was compiled by the order of the Ministry of Environment.

Also Estonia is implementing the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan up to 2021 (the national implementation plan is adopted for 2012-2015 by the Government).

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}

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

People can follow the process of drafting of water management plans (and other legal documents) in web, using the special governmental information system of draft documents (eelnoud.valitsus.ee), they can comment the documents and participate in public consultations.

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

B - No

1.7.3 Additional information:

.....

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

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

Estonian Rural Development Plan

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: For semi-natural wetland habitats the priority sites for restoration are fixed in the Action Plan for Semi-natural Habitats (2014-2020). The same procedure has been started for mire habitats.	

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

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: List of invasive alien species is adopted	

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:	

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	A - Yes
<p>1.10.1 Additional information: In agricultural sector traditional management of semi-natural habitats (floodplain meadows, coastal meadows) by private owners has been promoted and financially supported by state since 2001.</p>	
<p>1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b. Wetlands in general</p> <p>{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii</p>	<p>a. A - Yes</p> <p>b. A - Yes</p>
<p>1.10.2 Additional information: Maintenance and small-scale restoration of semi-natural wetland habitats, offering services for nature tourists, etc.</p>	

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
<p>1.11.1 Additional information: Many of acts and regulative documents and development plans include incentive measures. Use of wetland resources is regulated by system of different licences. The Ecological Tax Reform is under preparation.</p>	
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	Z - Not applicable
<p>1.11.2 Additional information:</p>	

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

4 sites

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

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

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:

.....

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	A - Yes
<p>2.3.1 Additional information: Currently in Estonia only areas that have been nationally protected under the terms of the Nature Conservation Act may be chosen as Ramsar sites. According to the Nature Conservation Act for the purpose of managing of these nationally protected areas - protected areas and the limited conservation areas - management plans shall be prepared. The Environmental Board is responsible for drafting and implementing of these plans.</p>	

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	12 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	12 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	5 sites
<p>2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: Since 2009 drawing up management plans for protected areas (and all Ramsar sites are nationally protected) is the responsibility of the Environmental Board. The revision and updating of management plans is currently under way. For example, in 2010 several Ramsar sites got a new management plan (2011-2020), in 2011 drawing up of a new management plan started for five Ramsar sites (Matsalu, Endla, Puhtu-Laelatu-Nehatu, Emajõe Suursoo and Piirissaar and Käina Bay).</p>	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	1 sites
<p>2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Soomaa National Park Ramsar site has a cooperation body - Soomaa Partnership. The members represent local county and municipality authorities, Environmental Board, State Forest management Center, NGO-s.....</p>	
2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	17 sites
<p>2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Management plans bring out the natural values in the area and indicators for measuring them.</p>	

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):

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

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):

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

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

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

<p>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</p>	<p>Z - No negative change</p>
<p>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):</p> <p>.....</p>	

<p>2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii</p>	<p>Z - Not applicable</p>
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>.....</p>	

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.*

<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>2.7.1 Additional information:</p> <p>A significant proportion of preserved valuable wetlands in Estonia are legally protected and have been included in the integral and united system of protected areas. The implementation of the Natura 2000 network has significantly increased the proportion of protected wetlands.</p>	

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>B - No</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>C - Partly</p>
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3.1.2 Additional information:

Exchange of informaton in the Ministry of the Environment.....

<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>A - Yes</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):

Nordic-Baltic Wetland Initiative (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, and Sweden).

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

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A - Yes
3.4.2 Additional information:	

Information can be found on the website of the Estonian Fund for Nature:
www.elfond.ee

The website of the Estonian Wetland Society www.soo.ee is under preparation.....

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:

Estonian Environmental Board has participated in CEPA activities and reporting during 2011-2013.

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:

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

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {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):

Estonia and Latvia have designated the North-Livonian Transboundary Ramsar Site consisting of Nigula and Sookuninga Ramsar sites in Estonia and Northern Bogs Ramsar site in Latvia. Joint Master Plan was drafted in 2006.

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

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

A - Yes

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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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) B - No
- c) B - No
- d) B - No

(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):

No special Action Plan for wetland CEPA exists. Wetland CEPA tasks and activities are included into Environmental Strategy, Nature Conservation Development Plan and work plans of the Environmental Board. The main services of the Nature Education Department of the Environmental Board are: 1) shaping and implementing educational programs in accordance with the schools; 2) organizing information days, announcing campaigns and events all over Estonia; 3) introducing objects under conservation, production printed and educational materials. The Board has created more than 70 different programs (many of them introducing wetlands) which are supportive to various school subjects. Wetland CEPA issues are included in management plans of protected areas and are part of various wetland projects.

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) 6 centres
- b) 23 centres

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

Estonia is covered with the network of nature centres operated by the Environmental Board ja State Forest Management Centre. Six nature centres with a local nature exhibition and introduction material to the areas key features have been established in Ramsar sites: Alam-Pedja, Endla, Matsalu, Soomaa, Vilsandi and Emajõe Suursoo. However, nearly all the other nature centres of the Environmental Board (alltogether 11 centres)

and of the State Forest Management Centre (altogether 18 nature centres) provide information on wetland habitats and species characteristic for certain region. Additionally there are also some nature schools operated by non-profit groups (for example Palupõhja Nature School in Alam-Pedja).

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

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

a) A - Yes

b) C - Partly

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

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

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?

{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

B - No

4.1.4 Additional information:

.....

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

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

Number of opportunities:

a) 0

b) 0

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

There is no such work position as wetland site manager in Estonia.....

4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

A - Yes

4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):

- a) The Estonian Ramsar Committee has 13 members representing the Administrative Authority, NGO-s (Estonian Fund for Nature, Estonian Ornithological Society, Estonian Wetland Society), research institutions and the Environmental Board; b) the Committee meets unregularly depending on issues, usually 1-2 times a year; c) the Committee is an advisory body of the Ministry of the Environment on Ramsar issues.

<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 {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) C - Partly c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>No special mechanisms fixed. Information on wetland issues is communicated by need via personal contacts, meetings, round-tables or seminars.</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>Estonian Fund for Nature, Estonian Wetland Society and Environmental Board have organised special wetland Day events (seminars and workshops) in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014.</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> <p>In 2013 Environmental Board organised 6 regional environmental education conferences, the main topic being „water and wetlands, incl. wetland ecosystem services“. About 700 teachers took part the conferences.</p> <p>Wetland centres offer regularly educational outdoor programmes for school children.</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.*

<p>4.2.1</p> <p>a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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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):

.....

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):

.....