



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.

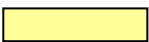
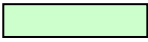
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: FINLAND

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

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

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

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Name of organisation:	Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services
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DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Mr. Hannu Klemola
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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) Development of plans that take into account wetlands issues:
 - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (Government Resolution on the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Finland for the years 2012–2020, ‘Saving Nature for People’ Saving Nature for People; National action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Finland 2013–020, http://www.ym.fi/en-US/Nature/Biodiversity/Strategy_and_action_plan_for_biodiversity),
 - the supplementation programme for mire conservation,
 - the river basin management plans and their action plans as implementation of the European Union Water Framework Directive,
 - the work to integrate water management and protection issues with nature conservation
- 2) Establishment of the National Ramsar Committee
- 3) Establishment of the Liminganlahti Wetland Centre (<http://www.outdoors.fi/customerservicepoints/visitorcentres/Liminganlahti/Pages/Default.aspx>)
- 4) Implementation of projects involving wetlands, restoration and management actions, improvement in how wetlands are valued and CEPA work
- 5) Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative: CEPA project, cooperation in general (<http://www.norbalwet.org/>)

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

- 1) Lack of leadership, networking, coordination and common working methods
- 2) Lack of human and financial resources (for example lack of financial support for management and restoration of bird lakes) and changes in the regional environmental administration
- 3) The concept of wetland is wide and involves many stakeholders and processes
- 4) Lack of basic (open) data of wetlands
- 5) Role and meaning of the Ramsar Convention is not clear and valued

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

- 1) To halt more species and habitats becoming threatened and endangered, to promote sustainable wise use of wetlands, to implement management and restoration actions
- 2) To promote strategic networking and cooperation at a national, regional and international level, to cooperate within the European Union
- 3) To promote river basin/catchment area planning, to promote urban wetlands as natural infrastructure, to take wetlands better into account in land use planning, to use Ramsar sites as pilot and model areas for these issues
- 4) To increase knowledge on wetlands
- 5) To further develop CEPA actions

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

To enhance Standing Committee meetings to increase the know-how and commitment, to enhance networking, to enhance STRP and CEPA work at national level

- 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)

Cooperation in planning and implementation of international projects, joint planning and implementation of CEPA activities and actions, important that IOPs and other NGOs (national units) participate in National Ramsar Committees and Regional Initiatives.

- 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?

Establishment of a cooperation group at a national level, thematic cooperation with regional environmental agreements, cooperation forum for NGOs

- 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)?

After the new Ramsar Strategy is approved through updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan and related governmental resolutions.

Networking and cooperation through e.g. the National Ramsar Committee, a check list tool on implementation of the Ramsar Convention, to take better into account Ramsar principles in water protection and management planning, to go through the Ramsar guidelines and to compare with national plans and strategies

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

To enhance the way how well Ramsar COP decisions and strategy is implemented in national legislation. Enhance the value and use of world wide Ramsar Site network (research, monitoring, quality of management etc.).

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

The National Ramsar Committee, including the following organisations: Ministry of the Environment, Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, Finnish Forest Centre, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, North Ostrobothnia Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Finnish Environment Institute, Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations, Council of Oulu Region, Finnish Wildlife Agency, Finnish Peatland Society, Forestry Development Centre TAPIO, Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, BirdLife Finland, Finnish Association for Environmental Education, WWF Finland and Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute. In addition information was provided by the following Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment: South Savo, North Karelia, Central Finland, Pirkanmaa and Häme.

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
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1.1.1 Additional information:

There is comprehensive understanding of the situation of wetlands as a whole but there is a lack of geo-referenced data and information in certain areas. On the other hand, there is long-term, exact monitoring data from certain areas. On a general level, assessments of endangered species and habitats have been done in different wetland types. Also information on cultural heritage related to wetlands has been gathered. There is a lack of data on inland waters that needs to be addressed although there is biological information from roughly 50 % of water bodies (approx. 7000 rivers and lakes).

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 that exists is dispersed. The aim is for open data accessible to all stakeholders but more work is needed.</p> <p>More information: http://www.ym.fi/download/DocumentsNettisivuudistusymfiThe_2010_Red_List_of_Finnish_Species_pages/d39e7eda-cb3b-4e84-b15c-dee3b269aa65/58998 http://www.ymparisto.fi/en-US/Nature/Natural_habitats/Assessment_of_threatened_habitat_types_in_Finland</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) <input type="radio"/> - No change b) <input type="radio"/> - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>a) and b): Situation of wetland bird species has deteriorated somewhat based on the findings of the 2010 Red List of Finnish species and reporting for the European Union Birds Directive in 2013. Rehabilitation and restoration efforts have been made in wetlands areas that are the most important for birds; these areas with active management actions have fared better than areas where no active management has been conducted. All Ramsar sites in Finland are also in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas. In mire areas, no new drainage ditches are constructed which has improved ecological state of the certain sites. The ecological assessment of the status of Finnish waters was updated in 2013 and it shows that there are areas in which water quality in relation to chemical, physical and biological factors have improved but also areas where there is deterioration of the quality.</p> <p>The time period is short, there have been no drastic changes within this time period. There are long-term trends that show that some ecological conditions have deteriorated. The timeframe of a triennium is too short to capture these changes. It would be good to have a question on long-term changes.</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>	A - Yes
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1.3.1 Additional information:

There are several strategies and action plans that are relevant to wetlands such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2020, the supplementation programme for mire conservation (in preparation), the river basin management plans and their action plans (under revision), the European Union Habitat, Birds and Water Framework Directives, Finland's marine strategy (in preparation), programme for restoration of small water bodies, programme for prioritisation of restoration sites in relation to EU Biodiversity Strategy and the CBD Strategic Plan and their targets on restoration of ecosystems (in preparation).

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) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes
- e) A - Yes
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

b, c: National legislation such as legislation on water, EU Directives, e.g. Marine Strategy Framework Directive

d: Mires are included in national forest programmes

e: Included in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

f: Included in the rural development programmes

g: Wetlands are included under many headings

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

C - Partly

1.3.3 Additional information:

Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) are done, for example, in relation to river basin management planning and marine planning. More effort is needed to take into account the results of SEAs. Also cultural heritage issues should be better considered as a part of SEA.

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 Assessments are made for all development projects as decreed in the legislation. The authority in charge of granting the permit handles the matter and decides on the permit. If a project or plan is likely to have significant adverse effects on the ecological value of a site included in the Natura 2000 network (all Ramsar sites in Finland), an assessment of its impact needs to be conducted. The same applies to any project or plan outside the site which is liable to have a significantly harmful impact on the site (as decreed in the Nature Conservation Act of Finland).</p>	
1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	A - Yes
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: Recent renewal of legislation such as Forest Act, Environmental Protection Act, Water Act.</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
<p>1.4.1 Additional information: There is an on-going project, the National Assessment of the Economics of Ecosystem Services in Finland (TEEB Finland), which is a project that aims to initiate a systematic national process to incorporate ecosystem services into all levels of decision-making. The goal of the project is to identify Finland's most important (key) ecosystem services and propose methods to assess their current status and future trends. This project will provide information on wetlands as well. There is a Nordic-Baltic Peatbog Ramsar Initiative, the project PEAT, that contributes to assess the importance of Nordic-Baltic peat for climate regulation and suggests sites for restoration and for potentially future Ramsar designation based on a criterion for climate regulation. The local economic impact of national parks through nature tourism and recreational use of nature is evaluated every year in Finland by Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services. On average, for each Euro invested by the State in visitor services in national parks, visitors inject 10 Euros into the local economy.</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	D - Planned

1.4.2 Additional information:

Act on Water Resources Management : protection of groundwater resources.

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

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

In the management planning process socio-economic and cultural values are taken into account.

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. A - Yes
- c. A - Yes
- d. A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

The issues addressed in the Changwon Declaration are included in the following documents and actions: the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the establishment of the National Ramsar Committee, the Business and Biodiversity Initiative, the Liminganlahti Wetland Centre, Day for Finnish Nature, the Gulf of Finland Year 2014, the Finnish Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development.

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:

a: Research and monitoring actions are carried out continuously by e.g. such institutions as the Finnish Environment Institute, the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, MTT Agrifood Research Finland, etc.

b: Research is carried out in relation to peatlands.

c: Research is carried out in relation to e.g. multiple use of shores, health issues, tourism and recreational use of nature, etc. There is also the on-going project of National Assessment of the Economics of Ecosystem Services in Finland (TEEB Finland) coordinated by the Finnish Environment Institute.

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

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Management plans are based on basic inventories of species and habitat types and include an analysis of threats and can also include hydrological monitoring and inventorying 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

D - Planned

1.7.1 Additional information:

The Finnish Government has approved seven regional river basin management plans. These plans and the related action plans include information on the condition of water bodies, the factors affecting them and measures which will restore inland and coastal waters in these regions to good condition by 2015. Flood risks are assessed and managed. There are attempts to better integrate objectives of nature conservation and water usage. Water accounts are being constructed.

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

D - Planned

1.7.2 Additional information:

Members of the National Ramsar Committee participate in cooperation groups and organs that work for water protection. The Committee prepares an action plan and a communication plan for its activities. Cooperation networks are established through implementation of Water Framework Directive.

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	A - Yes
1.7.3 Additional information: Finland's National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change is under preparation. In the river basin management plans, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are taken into account, including management of flood risks. In land use plans, the possibility of rising of sea level is taken into account.	

1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v	C - Partly
1.7.4 Additional information: Grazing of wetlands in seaside shorelines, agri-environmental support by the Government to farmers and organisations.	

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: Programme for prioritisation of restoration sites in relation to EU Biodiversity Strategy and the CBD Strategic Plan and their targets on restoration of ecosystems (in preparation) Supplementation programme for mire conservation (in preparation) Study on restoration of peatlands and protected areas Assessment of wetlands that are important for birds Act on financing of sustainable forestry: support for management actions	

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	A - Yes
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1.8.2 Additional information:

Boreal Peatland LIFE project:

(<http://www.metsa.fi/SIVUSTOT/METSA/EN/PROJECTS/LIFENATUREPROJECTS/BOREALPEATLANDLIFE/Sivut/BorealPeatlandLife.aspx>)

Programme for prioritisation of restoration sites in relation to EU Biodiversity Strategy and the CBD Strategic Plan and their targets on restoration of ecosystems (in preparation)

Supplementation programme for mire conservation (in preparation)

Study on restoration of peatlands and protected areas

Restoration of streams, e.g. Flisik project

Restoration of wetlands that are important for birds, e.g. project in Nurmesjärvi

Return of Rural Wetlands LIFE project

Agri-environmental support by the Government to farmers and registered associations, rural development programme of the European Union.

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:

Implementation of Finland's National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species, Finnish Advisory Board for Invasive Alien Species, studies on small alien predators, Management of invasive Raccoon Dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) in the North-European Countries (MIRDINEC) LIFE project, web pages on invasive alien species, e.g. by the Finnish Environment Institute, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Finnish Museum of Natural History, and the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, the Baltic Sea Portal (by the Finnish Environment Institute).

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

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information:

Finland's National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

Proposal for Regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species of the European Union (in preparation)

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

1.10.1 Additional information:

The Finnish legislation gives guidance. Now there is also a voluntary initiative Business & Biodiversity (<http://www.fibsry.fi/fi/teemat/business-biodiversity>). Landowners are encouraged to leave peatland sites with low forest production as peatlands.

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

a. Ramsar Sites

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

Management of shoreline meadows, sustainable nature-based tourism, organisations for voluntary work, the activities of the Finnish Forest Centre that serves private forest owners (e.g. wetland issues are taken into account in forest plans and river basin plans), foundations receive funding from the private sector, hunting organisations and societies work in game management issues, including e.g. water bird assessments.

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:

Agri-environmental support system for farmers and registered associations, act on financing of sustainable forestry: environmental management projects and financial support, The Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO 2008–2016 for voluntary protection (<http://www.metsonpolku.fi/en/index.php>), the programme is to be continued until 2025.

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:

Report on Environmentally harmful subsidies in 2013 ([http://www.ym.fi/fi-FI/Ajankohtaista/Julkaisut/YMra132013_Ympariston_kannalta_haitallis\(10428\)](http://www.ym.fi/fi-FI/Ajankohtaista/Julkaisut/YMra132013_Ympariston_kannalta_haitallis(10428))), documentation page in english).

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

C - Partly

2.1.1 Additional information:

There are currently 11 Ramsar sites in the pipeline to be designated. The role of Ramsar site network is under discussion.

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

11 sites

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

Sites are anticipated to be designated in 2014-2015:

Oukkulanlahti Bay

Lake Koskeljärvi Area

Lake Otajärvi

Mietoistenlahti Bay

Kokemäenjoki Estuary and Preiviikinlahti Bay

Puurijärvi-Isosuo National Park

Bird Wetlands of Alavus

Kesonsuo Mire - River Syväsjoki

Bird Lakes of Maaninka

Elimyssalo Mires

Urho Kekkonen National Park, Sompio Strict Nature Reserve and Kemihaara Wilderness Area

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

D - Planned

2.2.1 Additional information:

The National Ramsar Committee will assess the need for further designations when the already planned designations are finished.

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

2.3.1 Additional information:

As established by legislation.

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

33 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

33 sites

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

4 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

Management plans exist for the following sites: Martimoaapa-Lumiaapa-Penikat Mires (site number 11), Koitelainen Mires (12), Lätäseno-Hietajoki Mires (1520), Lemmenjoki National Park (1521), River Luiro Mires (1529), Sammuttijänkä-Vaijoenjänkä Mires (1531), Sotkavuoma Mires (1533), Teuravuoma-Kivijärvenuoma Mires (1535), Oulanka National Park (1525), Bird Wetlands of Hanko and Tammissaari (1506), Kauhaneva-Pohjankangas National Park (1511), Levaneva Mires (1522), Salamajärvi National Park (1530), Siikalahti Bay Area (1532), Söderskär and Långören Archipelago (3), Torronsuo National Park (1536), Valkmusa National Park (1537), Vanhankaupunginlahti-Laajalahti (9), Porvoonjoki Estuary - Stensböle (8), Pernajanlahti Bay (1526), Lake Kirkkojärvi and Lupinlahti Bay (1513), Kirkon-Vilkkiläntura Bay (1512), Bird-Lakes of Rantasalmi (1503), Suurenaukeansuo-Isosuo Mires and Lake Pohjalampi (1534), Lake Kutajärvi Area (1515), Lake Sysmäjärvi (1517), Bird Wetlands of Hailuoto Island (1505), Liminganlahti Bay Area (1523), Quark Archipelago (6), Kainuunkylä Islands (1510), Olvassuo Mires (1524), Riisitunturi National Park (1528) and Veneneva-Pelso Mires (1539).

The following sites have their management plans in preparation: Patvinsuo National Park (10), Bird Wetlands of Vanajavesi Area (1509), Lake Kirkkojärvi Area (1514) and Bird-lakes of Rääkkylä and Kitee (1502).

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

2 sites

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

Cross-sectoral management committees are formed for the development of management plans for all sites.

Vanhankaupunginlahti Bay-Laajalahti Bay (site number 9) areas has a cross-sectoral management committee as does Quark Archipelago.

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

37 sites

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

All sites that have a management plan have also a description of their ecological character.

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):

BirdLife Finland has made assessment in some international bird areas. Also for management effectiveness assessment, information has been gathered from national parks. It is common to assess and monitor impact of management actions. Also actions to assess management effectiveness are being taken. In peatland areas, there is monitoring of results of restoration activities.

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
<p>2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):</p> <p>Citizens have internet-based mechanisms for contacting authorities if sites are threatened. Permits for any development actions are under monitoring. Montreaux Record has not yet been used in Finland.</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	B - No
<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>	
2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreaux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii	Z - Not applicable
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</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.*

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	A - Yes
<p>2.7.1 Additional information:</p> <p>In Finland, there is a comprehensive network of nationally designated protected areas and areas that are part of the Natura 2000 network. Natura 2000 network is under revision.</p>	

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

B - No

3.1.1 Additional information:

Other focal points can be invited to participate as experts if need be.

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

C - Partly

3.1.2 Additional information:

Collaboration actions are through regular contacts between e.g. ministries.

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):

Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative: Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Russian Federation (north-western regions).

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}

D - Planned

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

Planned actions with other countries in the Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative.

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

B - No

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

A - Yes

3.3.2 Additional information:

This is required for all development proposals.

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):

Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative.

Twin parks within Finnish-Russian transboundary cooperation, the Green Belt of Fennoscandia (http://www.ym.fi/fi-FI/Kansainvalinen_yhteistyo/Fennoskandian_vihrea_vyohyke)

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: Information is available through the internet. Dissemination of information is promoted through the National Ramsar Committee.	

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	D - Planned
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:	

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): There are transboundary water commissions. For example, the Finnish Russian Transboundary Water Commission handles all kinds of measures which may have a transboundary impact and it also supervises and monitors the transboundary watercourses. Twin parks within Finnish-Russian transboundary cooperation, the Green Belt of Fennoscandia (http://www.ym.fi/fi-FI/Kansainvalinen_yhteistyö/Fennoskandian_vihrea_vyohyke)	

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

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

STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. *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.*

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) A - Yes
- b) B - No
- c) B - No
- 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):

The National Ramsar Committee has developed a national CEPA plan with the leadership of the CEPA NFPs. Member organisations of the Committee are committed in the implementation of the plan. At the site level, planning of CEPA actions is part of the management planning process.

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) 14 centres
- b) 41 centres

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

The Liminganlahti Bay Visitor Centre is the Ramsar Wetland Centre in Finland. 13 visitor centres are in the vicinity of the following Ramsar sites: Lemmenjoki National Park (site number 1521), Oulanka National Park (1525), Bird Wetlands of Hanko and Tammisaari (1506), Kauhaneva-Pohjankangas National Park (1511), Patvinsuo National Park (10), Salamajärvi National Park (1530), Siikalahti Bay Area (1532), Torronsuo National Park (1536), Vanhankaupunginlahti-Laajalahti (9), Lake Kirkkojärvi Area (1514), Bird Wetlands of Hailuoto Island (1505), Liminganlahti Bay Area (1523), Quark Archipelago (6) and Riisitunturi National Park (1528).

There are altogether 41 visitor centres (including the 14 mentioned above) close to protected areas that are on state-owned land. In all of the sites, there are some type of wetlands.

<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) C - Partly</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>Management planning process always involves stakeholders.</p>	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>One of the actions in the action plan for the National Ramsar Committee. The action plan is under preparation.</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) 20</p> <p>b) 20</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>These include national wetlands days, training given in various projects, among others. There are many training opportunities.</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>a) Ministry of the Environment, Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, Finnish Forest Centre, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, North Ostrobothnia Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Finnish Environment Institute, Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations, Council of Oulu Region, Finnish Wildlife Agency, Finnish Peatland Society, Forestry Development Centre TAPIO, Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, BirdLife Finland, Finnish Association for Environmental Education, WWF Finland, Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute.</p> <p>b) 3 meetings</p> <p>c) 1. To coordinate implementation, evaluation and reporting regarding the Convention, strategic plans and COP decisions; 2. to formulate a national</p>	

action plan for Ramsar and to participate in the development of the strategic plan; 3. to formulate a national CEPA plan and to coordinate and promote its implementation; 4. to work towards ensuring sustainable financing for wetland management, 5. to coordinate and promote scientific and technical work regarding wetlands and to provide recommendations for implementation of the Convention and for identification, selection, designation, conservation and management of sites; 6. to coordinate and promote participation of Finns in the regional Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative; 7. to promote information exchange and networking activities at a regional, national and international level; 8. to give guidance on Finland's actions regarding the Convention.

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:

- a) Ramsar Site managers
- b) other MEA national focal points
- c) other ministries, departments and agencies

{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

- a) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes

4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):

Normal communication channels between ministries and between the Ramsar site managers and the AA.

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}

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information:

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year. For each World Wetlands Day a wetland seminar has been organised at the Liminganlahti Wetland Centre. For the Nordic Wetlands Day (2 September) there are wetland activities at the Liminganlahti Wetland Centre.

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

4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):

Finnish Wildlife Agency and Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment have organised wetland tours for landowners and other stakeholders to raise awareness of human-made wetlands.

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

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

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

2012: EUR 10 000 the Ramsar Convention for the project to develop the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS), support for COP11 and 7th ERM

2013: EUR 15 000 to WCMC for enhancing synergies with MEAs

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):

The previous reports provide a basis for each cycle of reporting.

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):