



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.

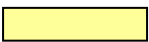

Section 2 is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: HUNGARY

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Deputy State Secretariat for Environment and Nature Protection, Ministry of Agriculture
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Dr. András Rác
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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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DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

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Name of organisation:	Által-ér Szövetség
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Email:	fabalis@gmail.com

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) Wetland restoration projects (the Environment and Energy Operation Programme supported/support 44 projects that contained wetland restorations. Half of these projects (22) consisted/consist purely of wetland restoration. The 44 projects cover 76 602 ha Natura 2000 areas (not all wetlands), the 22 purely wetland projects cover 39453 ha.).
- 2) Organisation of World Wetland Days.
- 3) Listing of all land cadastral numbers of all Ramsar sites in a ministerial decree (higher level of legislation than before).
- 4) Establishment of new visitor centres at wetlands (e.g. Lake Tisza EcoCentre).
- 5) Inclusion of the most important wetland habitats and species in the Natura 2000 Priority Action Framework document and the most important aspects of wetland conservation into the National Biodiversity Strategy.

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

- 1) Removal of perverse incentives and legislation supporting cultivation of regularly flooded areas.
- 2) Lack of capacity of conservation staff to survey wetlands and finalise the national wetland inventory.
- 3) Limited resources for wetland monitoring.
- 4) Difficultien in integrating wetland conservation aspects into flood prevention policies.
- 5) Lack of capacity to produce management plans for Ramsar sites.

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

- 1) Continuation of wetland restoration projects.
- 2) Continuation of nature education work.
- 3) Production of management plans for Ramsar sites or other protected area categories containing Ramsar sites.
- 4) Establishment of conservation management infrastructure at wetlands.
- 5) Eradication of the most harmful invasive species at least in the most sensitive areas of wetlands.

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

Guidance on the recommended scale and detail for the National Wetland Inventory.

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

No recommendation.

F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those

in the 'biodiversity cluster' (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

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

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

Through the joint elaboration, approval (in 2009) and implementation of the country's Water Management Plan; and of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that contains important provisions on wetland management policy and incorporates conservation issues into water policy, energy policy, etc.

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

No general comments.

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

.....

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

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

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	C - In progress
1.1.1 Additional information: The National Wetland Inventory database was established in 2004. The process of data collection stalled in 2005, but database compilation under the Water Framework Directive has partly replaced it.	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	B - No
1.1.2 Additional information:	

<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>Hungary submitted two reports under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (in 2007 and in 2013), including data on the status and trends of Annex I habitats. The condition of the 17 Annex I habitats in Hungary that can be considered as wetlands has not shown any detectable genuine change (neither favourable, nor unfavourable) on a national scale, between the two reports (2007 and 2013).</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>The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, containing relevant provisions on wetland conservation, has been endorsed by the Government in 2014. The Water Framework Directive can be considered the wetland policy of the European Union. The river basin management plan for Hungary was endorsed in 2009. Therefore, this plan includes the management policy for Hungary's wetlands. The Water Framework Directive has been incorporated into Hungary's legislation by three government decrees: 219/2004 on the protection of groundwaters, 220/2004 on the protection of surface water quality and 221/2004 on the rules of water catchment management.</p>	

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Poverty eradication strategies b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans c) Coastal and marine resource management plans d) National forest programmes e) National strategies for sustainable development f) National policies or measures on agriculture g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD <p>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) B - No b) A - Yes c) Z - Not applicable d) C - Partly e) A - Yes f) C - Partly g) A - Yes
<p>1.3.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The National Sustainable Development Framework Strategy was approved in 2013 and it contains two chapters relevant for wetlands (Chapter 9.3.2. on water quality, and Chapter 9.3.5. on wetlands). The second National Biodiversity Strategy was endorsed in 2013, and it has incorporated wetland issues.</p> <p>The river basin management plan for Hungary was endorsed in 2010. This plan includes the management policy for Hungary's wetlands. The Water Framework Directive has been incorporated into Hungary's legislation by three government decrees: 219/2004 on the protection of groundwaters, 220/2004 on the protection of surface water quality and 221/2004 on the rules of water catchment management.</p> <p>The National Forest Programme was endorsed in 2004.</p>	
<p>1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information:</p> <p>Yes, the strategic environmental assessment directive of the Parliament and the Council of the European Union (2001/42/EC) is implemented by Government Decree 2/2005 (I.12.)</p>	
<p>1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The EIA Directive of the EU applies in Hungary and has been transposed into national legislation by Government Decree 314/2005 (XII.25.). Projects that may have an impact on Natura 2000 sites (the Natura 2000 network covers 21% of Hungary, 71.5% of all wetland territory in Hungary and among them practically all the important wetlands) also require an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive (in cases when EIA is not required), transposed into Hungarian legislation by Government Decree 275/2004 (X.6.).</p>	

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

B - No

1.3.5 Additional information:

No amendment specifically for Ramsar commitments has been planned as the above legislations already cover Ramsar aspects adequately.

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

1.4.1 Additional information:

As part of the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, Hungary is preparing to carry out a national mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services, including wetlands and their benefits.

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

B - No

1.4.2 Additional information:

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

A - Yes

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

The cultural values of wetlands are taken into consideration in planning for nationally protected areas (a number of Hungary's Ramsar sites overlap with nationally protected areas).

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

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

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

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

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:

The relations between agricultural management and wet grassland conditions has been studied by the Szent István University, Gödöllő. Research is also carried out for the valuation of ecosystem services at the same university.

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:
In the frame of the national river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive.

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:
In the frame of the national river basin management plan under the 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

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:
The agri-environmental measure of the New Hungary Rural Development Programme introduced schemes (reed management; management of natural wetland habitats, marshes, bogs and sedges; establishment and management of wetland habitats) with the aim of serving environmental and nature conservation purposes in wetland habitats with high biodiversity by creating and maintaining favourable living conditions for endangered animal species connected to wetlands.

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:
The Priority Action Framework for the implementation of the Natura 2000 network was drafted, approved and submitted to the European Commission in 2013. This framework identifies the priority habitat types, including wetland habitats. Priority sites for restoration are identified by the national park directorates.

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

The Environment and Energy Operation Programme supported/support 44 projects that contained wetland restorations. Half of these projects (22) consisted/consist purely of wetland restoration. The 44 projects cover 76 602 ha Natura 2000 areas (not all wetlands), the 22 purely wetland projects cover 39453 ha.).

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:

http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu/ozonfajok-magyarorszagon#lap_teteje

The list of currently and potentially impacting species is found on the above website of the Ministry.

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:

An incomplete list of invasive species affecting wetlands has been compiled in the National Biodiversity Monitoring System. A Transition Facility (EU-funded) project identified sample plots in wetland habitat types of Community importance. However, monitoring has not begun yet.

The following publications have been issued in the last ten years on the subject:

Mihály, B. & Dr. Botta-Dukát, Z. (2004): *Biológiai inváziók Magyarországon.*

Özönnyvények I-II. TermészetBÚVÁR Alapítvány Kiadó, Budapest, 2004. 408+412 p. (a two-volume publication on invasive plant species in Hungary, including guidance on their eradication and description of pilot projects).

Invasive Alien Species in Hungary (leaflet): see:

http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu/_user/browser/File/%C3%96z%C3%B6nfajokkal%20kapcsolatos%20kiadv%C3%A1nyok/Invasive_Alien_Species_leaflet.pdf

Invasive Species of Aquatic Habitats and Wetlands in Hungary (poster): see:

http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu/_user/browser/File/%C3%96z%C3%B6nfajokkal%20kapcsolatos%20kiadv%C3%A1nyok/Invasive%20species%20of%20aquatic%20habitats%20and%20wetlands%20in%20Hungary_finalversion.pdf

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

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i	B - No
1.10.1 Additional information:	

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of: a. Ramsar Sites b. Wetlands in general {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii	a. A - Yes b. B - No
1.10.2 Additional information: In some Ramsar sites, such as the Upper Kiskunság alkaline plains, the private manager/farmer carries out exemplary management in the spirit of wise use.	

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: The Ministry has made available EU grants to the national park directorates and the water management directorates for wetland restoration projects, and investments that make wise use management (for example, creation of fish bypasses) possible. However, regular management measures (for example, wise use of fish pond systems, the regular removal of invasive plants) cannot be financed from this source. Also, this grant is not available to other stakeholders than the mentioned state bodies. Grants are also available from the Regional Operative Programmes of the EU for interpretation of and ecotourism development in wetlands. In the Natura 2000 programme (Hungary's Ramsar sites are almost fully within the Natura 2000 network), farmers get regular payments for their grasslands from 2008 onwards (38 euros/hectare). This entails restrictions, for example farmers may not drain their fields from spring floods. A subsidy system for fishponds is under elaboration.	

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	D - Planned
1.11.2 Additional information: The Ramsar National Committee indicated several times to the Ministry that the legal obligation of water management companies to drain flooded fields is in conflict with nature conservation interests. Dredging of canals is also required even in canals that receive hardly any water (and thus dredging unnecessarily increases draining). The removal of the perverse incentive is planned.	

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, 3rd 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:

After several 'designation waves' (the last ones in 2006 and 2008, with only one site added in the 2009-2011 triennium), the designation of further sites is no longer considered a high priority task in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Hungary. Further designations may take place, but are not planned in such number that a strategy or priorities should be identified (over 2.6 % of the country's territory is already designated to the list of Ramsar sites). The Ramsar National Committee discussed the question in detail at its meeting on 19 February 2008, and agreed that further designations may be possible for sites holding habitat types that are under-represented on the global list of Ramsar sites, as well as sites where major wetland restorations will have taken place. No new designation has taken place since 2011.

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

0 sites

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

.....

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

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

...See above.....

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

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

C - Some sites

2.3.1 Additional information:

No new site has been added to the List of wetlands of international importance during the triennium in Hungary.

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

14 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

14 sites

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

0 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

.....

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

0 sites

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

.....

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

28 sites

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

The publication "A magyarországi vadvizek világa" contains a several-page description of the ecological character of nearly all Ramsar sites (except for the single Ramsar site designated after the publication), including a chapter each on geological history, relief and soil, climate, hydrology, landscape history, geological, botanical and zoological values.

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

A - Yes

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

Management effectiveness is regularly reviewed for all sites under some designation by the national park directorates. The last such review was the 2009-2014 development plan of the national park directorates which provided an overview of the present state of natural areas and assets and identified the strategic objectives and main goals for the named period. The development plans are available at the Ministry of Agriculture in Hungarian.

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):

The national park directorates are responsible for the conservation management of all Ramsar sites in Hungary. They regularly survey the sites and monitor certain features, and are obliged to report to the Ministry of Agriculture any negative change in their condition.

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

Z - No negative change

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

No negative change is known that would have a long-term or permanent effect on the ecological character of the sites.

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

Z - Not applicable

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

No Hungarian Ramsar site is listed on or proposed to the Montreux Record.

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

2.7.1 Additional information:

All such sites are part of the Natura 2000 network (for example the Virágoskúti Fishponds, which is a potential candidate for Ramsar site designation), and as such, are protected by Community law and Hungarian legislation transposing the Community law. Therefore, their ecological character is maintained, for example, by the appropriate assessment procedure.

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

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

<p>3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p>	B - No
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3.1.1 Additional information:

National focal points of other MEAs are not invited to National Ramsar Committee meetings but are informed of developments.

<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>	B - No
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3.1.2 Additional information:

.....

<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>	A - Yes
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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):

Hungary has been involved in the development of and is active in the implementation of the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI). The implementation of the CWI has been transferred to the Carpathian Convention. Collaborating countries: Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia.

<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>	B - No
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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

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

B - No

3.3.2 Additional information:

.....

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}

Z - Not applicable

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

.....

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

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}

A - Yes

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

twinning arrangements are in place on the Austrian and Hungarian side of Lake Fertő/Lake Neusiedl (involving the national park administrations), the

Hungarian and Slovak side of the Baradla - Domica cave system (involving the national park administrations) and along the Upper Tisza/Tisa river (involving researchers), between Kopacki Rit Nature Park in Croatia and the Béda-Karapanca Ramsar site of the Duna-Dráva National Park in Hungary, the conservation managers of the Biharugra Fishponds in Hungary and the Cséffai Fishponds in Roumania.

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:

All Hungarian Ramsar sites have been re-designated by a decree of the Minister of Rural Development in 2011).

Regularly updated information on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Hungary is published on the internet at: www.termeszetvedelem.hu (<http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu/ramsari-egyezmeny>)

In October 2007, a major publication was published after twelve years of preparation, on Hungary's Ramsar sites: Tardy J. (ed.) (2007): A magyarországi vadvizék világa. Alexandra Kiadó, 416 p.

Each national park directorate maintains a website on which Ramsar sites also feature. For example www.dinpi.hu features the Rétszilás Fishponds Ramsar site, the Velence Bird Reserve and Dinnyés Marsh Ramsar site and the Ócsa Ramsar site.

The University of Debrecen launched a new training course in Hungary in September 2009, providing Master of Science degree in hydrobiology.

The Magyar Vízivad Közlemények (Hungarian Wildfowl Bulletin) publishes wildfowl monitoring data from numerous Hungarian wetlands, including many Ramsar sites.

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

B - No

3.4.3 Additional information:

.....

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

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

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

Border-region water management committees have been set up with all neighbouring countries and they identified all transboundary wetland systems (see list of agreements under 3.5.2.). Hungary has presently four transboundary Ramsar sites (Upper Tisza, Aggtelek and river Ipoly), along

the Hungarian/Slovak boundary (the Upper Tisza site extends along the Ukrainian and Romanian borderline, too) and Lake Fertő-Hanság/Neusiedlersee/Waasen on the Austrian-Hungarian border region.

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):

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH HUNGARY'S NEIGHBOURS ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

years in brackets: signature, entry into force

Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Austria on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1956, 1959)

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Co-operation in the Field of Water (1994, 1996)

Agreement of Co-operation in the field of protection and sustainable use of transboundary waters between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Romania (2003, 2004)

– preceding: Agreement of 1987

Serbia: Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia in the field of water management (1955, 1956)

Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1976)

The new agreement with Slovakia has already been elaborated and is awaiting authorization for signature on Slovakian side

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of Water Management (1994, 2001)

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Ukraine in the field of transboundary water management (1997, 1999)

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:

Hungary is a contracting party of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and is part of the following agreements/MoUs that deal (at least partly) with wetland-dependent species: EUROBATS, AEWA, Aquatic Warbler MoU, Slender-billed Curlew MoU, Birds of Prey MoU.

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) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- 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):

The National CEPA Action Plan was developed and published in 2002: Bőhm, A. & Szabó M. (2002): Országos stratégia a a vizes élőhelyek védelmének kommunikációjáért. In: Vizes élőhelyek: a természeti és a társadalmi környezet kapcsolata. (National strategy for the communication of wetland conservation, In: Wetlands: the interrelation of the natural and the social environment. In Hungarian, 17 pages.).

The national river basin management plan approved in 2010 also has a chapter on public participation.

The national park directorates have identified their CEPA priorities and plans for the 2009-2014 period in their six-year development programmes (subnational level).

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) 9 centres
- b) 6 centres

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

The visitor centres have been established by the ten national park directorates in Hungary.

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>The elaboration of the national river basin management plan was built on a broad public participation procedure in 2010.</p> <p>At present, management plans are being drafted for 243 Natura 2000 sites, many of which contain wetlands. It is compulsory to involve stakeholders in the planning process.</p> <p>Local stakeholders were involved in the designation of the latest Ramsar site designated in 2011 (Fishponds and marshlands south of Lake Balaton). Local stakeholders are also involved in the management of Ramsar sites, for example in the environmental permitting procedures environmental NGOs are involved on request.</p>	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many 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) 0</p> <p>b) 0</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>The National Ramsar Committee is an advisory body of the Ministry, and is involved in all kinds of Ramsar-related issues: designation, management, CEPA, species action plans, WWD etc. The Committee consists of representatives from the Ministry, from national park directorates, scientists, NGOs, the water sector, the hunting sector and a farmer who manages a Ramsar site. There are two meetings each year.</p>	

<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>Management is discussed with site managers by the national park directorates. Implementation guidelines are shared by MEA focal points within the Ministry of Agriculture as they work in close collaboration. New legislation undergoes an interministerial consultation procedure before passed.</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>WWD is celebrated each year throughout the country by various organisations (national park directorates, NGOs such as Nimfea and WWF). The Ministry of Rural Development organised national celebrations each year in the triennium.</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>The Wild Geese Festival is held annually at Lake Tata (Ramsar site), with very high attendance. The number of visitors is in the range of 7000-14 000 on the peak day of the festival. The festival features presentations on wetland values, an ecomarket, a bird race as well as the spectacular flighting of thousands of geese to the lake at dusk.</p>	

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

4.2.1 a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
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	B - No
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):	

.....