



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.

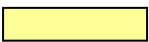

Section 2 is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: JAPAN.

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Keiji Nakajima, Director
Mailing address:	1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, Japan
Telephone/Fax:	Tel:+81-3-5521-8284 / Fax:+81-3-3581-7090
Email:	shizen_yasei@env.go.jp

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Hiroki Sato, Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Bureau Ministry of Foreign Affairs Reiko Iitsuka, The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
Mailing address:	2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, Japan 3, Chemin de Fins, Case Postale 337, 1211 Genève 19, Suisse
Telephone/Fax:	Tel: +81-3-5501-8245 / Fax: +81-3-5501-8244 Tel: +41-022-717-3111 / Fax: +41-022-788-3811
Email:	hiroki.sato@mofa.go.jp reiko.iitsuka@mofa.go.jp

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

Name and title:	Yuki Iwashina, Researcher
Name of organisation:	Japan Wildlife Research Center
Mailing address:	3-3-7 Kotobashi, Sumida-ku, Tokyo 130-8606, Japan
Telephone/Fax:	Tel: +81-3-6659-6331 / Fax: +81-3-6659-6333
Email:	yiwashina@jwrc.or.jp

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

Name and title:	Kaori Tsujita, Section Chief
Name of organisation:	Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
Mailing address:	1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, Japan
Telephone/Fax:	Tel:+81-3-5521-8284 / Fax:+81-3-3581-7090
Email:	KAORI_TSUJITA@env.go.jp

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

Name and title:	Miki Sasaki, Secretary General
Name of organisation:	Non-Profit Organization Wetlands International Japan
Mailing address:	6F, NCC Ningyocho Building, 3-7-3 Ningyo-cho, Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0013, Japan
Telephone/Fax:	Tel:+81-3-5614-2150 / Fax:+81-3-6806-4187

Email:

miki_sasaki@wi-japan.org



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) The voluntary measures for the conservation and wise use of wetlands were promoted centering around 6 Ramsar sites designated on the occasion of COP11.
- 2) The networks at national and local levels were established and/or expanded centering around 6 Ramsar sites designated on the occasion of COP11.
- 3) Toward the designation as Ramsar sites, the preparation for taking conservation measures under national laws was advanced at some wetlands.
- 4) Public awareness of the importance of wetlands was promoted through the evaluation and publication of the economic value of wetlands in Japan as well as by the continuous efforts to raise awareness on the conservation of wetlands.
- 5) Pursuant to Rice Paddy Resolution (Res.X31), measures contributing to the conservation of biodiversity such as ‘Winter-flooded Rice Paddies’ were promoted at some rice paddies surrounding Ramsar sites.

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

- 1) Some difficulties prevented from advancing the wise use at some wetlands, because there existed conflicts among living creatures at wetlands and the life of people.
- 2) Some plans of human interference which likely to affect the biodiversity was proceeded at some wetlands.
- 3) Effective control of alien species was difficult at some wetlands.
- 4) Blue tides and other natural phenomena occurred at some wetlands. There are other concerns that the flora at some wetlands likely to change due to feeding by deer.
- 5) Further promotion of communication, education and participation awareness of the basic concepts of the Ramsar convention such as the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

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

- 1) Additional designation of Ramsar sites where the conservation activities by local communities are likely to be promoted smoothly through their designation.
- 2) Expansion of Ramsar sites where necessary, on the premise of obtaining the support and cooperation from local communities.
- 3) Further updates of Ramsar Information Sheets.
- 4) Promotion of monitoring surveys, organization of information and restoration on Ramsar sites in cooperation with relevant local governments, local residents, NGOs, experts and other bodies concerned.
- 5) Promotion of conservation and wise use of Ramsar sites by tapping into the local natural features and cultures of each Ramsar site, through supporting the development of plans for conservation and wise use, providing information on successful cases of wise use, and raising public awareness.

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

No.

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

No.

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

The policy on promoting implementation of the Ramsar Convention including the contents described in C is described in the 'National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020' based on the CBD, which is regarded as the national wetland policy.

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)?

Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (March 2011) aims to conserve and sustainably use the biodiversity of oceanic ecosystems including tidal flats, seagrass beds and coral reefs to which the Ramsar convention applies.

Basic Plan on Ocean Policy (approved by the Cabinet in April 2013) mentions as one of directions of the measures under the Plan that measures for conserving marine biodiversity should be steadily promoted in accordance with the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the National Biodiversity Strategy.

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

It is important to address the qualitative improvement of the conservation and management of Ramsar sites worldwide.

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

Ministry of the Environment developed this report in consultation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare; Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Secretariat.

Public comments were invited for two weeks from 11th to 24th of July, 2014 in order to collect a wide range of opinions.

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

1.1.1 Additional information:

We selected '500 Important Wetlands in Japan' in view of biodiversity conservation in 2002. We are now reviewing '500 Important Wetlands in Japan' and the review will be completed by March 2015.

We also have the list of potential candidate Ramsar sites, reports of the surveys on wetlands, rivers and neritic sea areas (seagrass beds and tidal flats) conducted within the framework of the National Survey on the Natural Environment, and reports of Monitoring Sites 1000 on inland water ecosystems, Anatidae, shorebirds and coastal areas.

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
1.1.2 Additional information: Publicly available on the website.	

1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3} a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s). * 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention	a) O - No change b) O - No change
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1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b): We have conducted quantitative and qualitative surveys in some wetlands (lakes, marshes, rocky shores, tidal flats, eelgrass beds, seagrass beds, coral reefs) within the framework of 'Monitoring Sites 1000' which is the long-term project of collecting basic environmental information in ca. 1000 sites all over Japan. The results indicate no remarkable change in the past three years. Conditions of wetlands in the area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake (2011) have drastically changed due to land subsidence and loss of tidal flats in coastal areas and inflow of sea water and rubbles into rice paddies. On the other hands, recovery of some devastated tidal flats to the former shape, increase of benthic organisms and emergence of new seedlings in eelgrass beds flowed out once by Tsunami are observed by the monitoring conducted since 2012 on wild fauna and flora of wetlands such as tidal flats, eelgrass beds and seaweed beds in the disaster area. In addition, endangered species are also observed in some wetlands which were emerged newly by Tsunami and/or land subsidence. (As for the disaster area, the answers of 1.1.3 a) and b) are 'States improved'. As for the other area, the answers are 'No change'.)	
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STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)	A - Yes
1.3.1 Additional information: The description on the wetland conservation in 'The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020' approved by the Cabinet in September 2012 is regarded as a National Wetland Policy.	

<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) Z - Not applicable b) A - Yes c) A - Yes d) A - Yes e) Z - Not applicable f) A - Yes g) A - Yes
<p>1.3.2 Additional information:</p> <p>b) Issues on wetlands including rivers are incorporated in the river improvement plan.</p> <p>c) In the Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystem, concrete measures are described with the aim of promoting the conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems and the sustainable development of local communities. In addition, Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy mentions the necessity for promoting the measures in consideration of characteristics of coastal areas.</p> <p>d) The Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry mentions that conservation and management of waterside forests such as a riparian forest will be promoted. In addition, the National Forest Plan states that forests which are expected to fulfill a particular function, such as riparian forests which stretch over land and water and are natural habitats of specific wildlife, shall be conserved as forests which the function contributing to biodiversity conservation should be maintained and improved. The Basic Plan for Administration and Management of National Forests mentions that national forests which have a primitive forest ecosystem or a wetland as a habitat of endangered species shall be designated a protected forest which is thoroughly conserved and managed.</p> <p>g) The description on the wetland conservation in 'The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020' approved by the Cabinet in September 2012 is regarded as a National Wetland Policy.</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>C - Partly</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information:</p> <p>As for the projects to which the Environmental Impact Assessment Act applies, environmental consideration shall be paid from the planning stage on the location and the scale of the project, according to the amendment of the Act in April 2013.</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	C - In some cases
1.3.4 Additional information: Prior to the construction of power plants, railways and others which exceed a certain scale, Environmental Impact Assessments including the assessment of the influence on the neighbour wetlands are conducted by the business entities.	

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:	

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly
1.4.1 Additional information:	
<input type="checkbox"/> The information on the practices of wise use in Ramsar sites including fishery, agriculture and tourism were collected, and booklets were developed with the information and distributed to raise public awareness.	
<input type="checkbox"/> A booklet describing the blessing of Arao-higata (tidal flat; designated as a Ramsar site in July 2012) such as the production of clam and laver was developed and distributed.	
<input type="checkbox"/> A bookelet describing the effort of 'Winter-flooded Rice Paddies' at 'Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies' were revised in March 2013.	

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i	Z - Not applicable
1.4.2 Additional information:	

1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	C - Partly
<p>1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Management plans of Kushiro-shitsugen, Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies, Nakaumi and others describe such values. <input type="checkbox"/> 43 landscape areas such as terraced paddy fields, natural environments with water and river basin were selected as Important Cultural Landscapes. Cultural values and the direction to maintain the values were described in the cultural landscape conservation plans. 	

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

<p>1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. head of state b. parliament c. private sector d. civil society <p>{1.5.2}</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. B - No b. B - No c. B - No d. B - No
<p>1.5.1 Additional information: The parliament and civil society were informed on the 'Changwon Declaration' before COP11.</p>	

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.*

<p>1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. agriculture-wetland interactions b. climate change c. valuation of ecosystem services <p>{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A - Yes b. A - Yes c. A - Yes
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1.6.1 Additional information:

□ As for a, 'Survey on living creatures in rice paddies' continues to be conducted by farmers, citizens and researchers in Japan. 5668 species distributed in rice paddies were identified by the survey of NPOs and its list was made public. The result of similar survey in Korea was shared through NGOs of both countries. In addition, knowledge about agriculture (mainly rice cultivation) and wetlands were accumulated especially at 'Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies' (Greater White-Fronted Goose), Sado Island (Crested Ibis), 'Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies' (Oriental Stork) and other sites which are the habitats of migratory birds and endangered species utilizing rice paddies.

(Reference: 'List of all living creatures in rice paddies' (revised): Agriculture and nature research center.)

□ As for b, researches on wetlands taking into account of the influence of climate change are being conducted with the support of the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund which is a competitive research fund offered by Ministry of the Environment.

□ As for c, Ministry of the Environment evaluated the economic value of moors and tidal flats in Japan, and the value was estimated as 1,500 billion Yen. This result was made public in May 2014.

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

C - Partly

1.6.2 Additional information:

Management plans of Ramsar sites are formulated with reference to research reports on each site.

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

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:

Issues on wetlands including rivers as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management are incorporated in the river improvement plan.

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:

The promotion of environmental education is incorporated in most of the implementation plans for nature restoration projects conducted in such wetlands as rivers, moors and tidal flats, including Kushiro-shitsugen.

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:

To strengthen the contributions of biodiversity to resilience of ecosystem and their storage of carbon dioxide by conserving and restoring ecosystems including wetlands, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation is mentioned as one of the goals in 'The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020' approved by the Cabinet in September 2012'.

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:

'Action Plan for the Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade Project 2013' was developed mainly by NPOs with the aim of promoting the implementation of Resolution X.31.

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:

Surveys and reviews on wetlands with high priority for nature restoration have been conducted continuously.

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:

At Katano-kamoike, conservation projects under the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Management Law were implemented.

At Kushiro-shitsugen, Sarobetsu-genya, Izu-numa and Uchi-numa, Mikata-goko, and Nakaumi, the implementation plans for nature restoration projects were formulated by the Nature Restoration Committees which consists of a variety of stakeholders, and the nature restoration projects are being conducted under the implementation plans. Specific examples of those projects are as follows;

- At Kushiro-shitsugen, projects for the restoration of an old meandering river as well as wetlands, lakes and forests and the prevention of soil erosion have been conducted.
- At Sarobetsu-genya, projects for the prevention from aridification of Kami-Sarobetsu moor, the decrease of soil flowage to lakes, the improvement of river water quality, the restoration of extracted peat bog, and the prevention of drawdown of lakes in the dune forest zone have been conducted.
- At Izu-numa and Uchi-numa, projects for the improvement of water quality such as growing submersed plants, planting Manchurian Wild Rice, cutting out lotus and reeds, breeding and transplanting domestic fishes and shellfishes, trial water transmission, and adjustment of water level have been conducted. In addition, a project for the control of Large mouse bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) has been conducted.
- At Nakaumi, taking into account the fact that the natural functions of water purification has been deteriorated, 'Projects for the Recovery of Natural Purification Function at Nakaumi' have been conducted, which include a project planting eelgrass beds which contribute to the purification, thereby aiming to restore the environment with natural function of purification.

At Oku-nikko-shitsugen, projects for the prevention from damage caused by increased deer (e.g. setting up fences, capturing deer), the control of alien plants, the installation of water shuttering board, monitoring on the ground water, and the introduction of devices of nitrogen removal for the improvement of water quality have been carried out.

At Oze, projects for the recovery of vegetation have been conducted.

At Yatsu-higata, conservation projects have been conducted since 2010. In addition, the control of sea lettuce which causes dysoxic condition and bad odour has been conducted.

At Sakata, 'Sakata clean up activity' has been carried out by local communities. This activity includes discharging mud at the bottom of the lake and collecting dead aquatic plants.

At Hotokenuma, the repair of the pump fields has been conducted as a project of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

At Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies, reeds have been burned off in order to prevent from the aridification. Besides, the introduction of equipment for manufacturing reed pellet fuel, and manufacturing and marketing of the pellets have been addressed by NPOs.

At Kejo-numa, the control of alien fishes has been conducted with the grant of private sectors since 2011.

At Kucharo-ko, measures for water purification have been taken at one of the inflowing rivers.

At Kanashozushotaku Plant Communities (a state's natural monument), a committee for the promotion of Conservation Programs has been organized with the participation of experts. Projects for the wetland restoration such as supplying groundwater contributing to the prevention from aridification have been conducted.

At Manko, the restoration of tidal flats has been addressed by deforesting of mangrove which had been artificially planted and expanded and removal of the seedlings, as a conservation project under the 'Wildlife Protection and Hunting Management Law'. In addition, the control of Small Indian Mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*), which is an alien species of Japan, have been conducted.

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:

'Invasive Alien Species Act' (enacted in June 2004) was amended to add the regulation on crossbred species in June 2013.

As of September 2014, 112 species have been designated and listed on an inventory as invasive alien species which currently or potentially cause damage on the ecosystems under the Act.

Moreover, Ministry of the Environment are developing another inventory of alien species which are likely to cause damage on the ecosystems in Japan, including those species to which the Act does not apply at the present. This inventory under development includes many species whose habitats are wetland.

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

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information:

The 'Basic Policy for Preventing Adverse Effects on Ecosystems caused by Invasive Alien Species' has been established in accordance with the 'Invasive Alien Species Act'. In addition, with regard to 95 invasive alien species, the project plans on their control have been formulated and publicly announced.

Based on above mentioned measures, at Ramsar sites such as Kushiro-shitsugen, Izu-numa and Uchi-numa, Biwa-ko, and Imuta-ike, the consideration of the effective methods for the control of invasive alien species and the development of a system for the control based on local initiatives have been addressed as national projects

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:

It seems that this guidance cannot necessarily apply to all the cases in consideration of specific conditions in Japan.

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

a. Ramsar Sites

b. Wetlands in general

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

a. A - Yes

b. A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

There are many cases of activities for the management of Ramsar sites and wetland in general, which are carried out as business activities or as a part of CSR by private sectors.

In addition, collaboration among grass-roots NGOs, local governments and private sectors has been progressed.

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:

There are some cases of rice cultivation with consideration for migratory birds and other endangered species, brand naming of those rice and selling of them at higher price. Supportive measures for such efforts have been taken. Among Ramsar sites in Japan, similar efforts have been addressed at Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies (in Osaki city), Watarase-yusuichi (in Oyama city), Biwa-ko (in Takashima city), and Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies (in Toyooka city)

Activities for the conservation of biodiversity including wetlands by local communities have been promoted through the support program for the promotion of biodiversity conservation.

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:

The review of '500 Important Wetlands in Japan' will be completed and the results will be made public by March 2015. It is expected that the results encourage ones to give consideration to the future human interference in the Important Wetlands in Japan.

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

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

The list of potential candidate Ramsar sites which can satisfy the criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance was developed in 2010.

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

some sites

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

Additional designation will be considered as for the sites which is found to meet the criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance and where the conservation activities by local communities are likely to be promoted smoothly through its designation.

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

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

.....

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

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i	A - Yes
<p>2.3.1 Additional information:</p> <p>In Japan, all Ramsar sites are designated beforehand or have been already designated as National or Quasi-National Parks, National Wildlife Protection Areas and/or Natural Habitat Conservation Areas. On the occasion of these designation, Park Plans of Natural Parks, Designation Plans for Wildlife Protection Areas and/or Guidelines for the conservation of Natural Habitat Conservation Areas which include the contents on the conservation and management of the wetlands will be developed.</p>	

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

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	46 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	46 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
<p>2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	16 sites
<p>2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):</p> <p>Nature Restoration Committees have been established at Kushiro-shitsugen, Sarobetsu-genya, Izunuma and Uchi-numa, and Nakaumi. Moreover, committees or councils for wetlands conservation have been established at Kucharo-ko, Tofutsu-ko, Furen-ko and Shunkuni-tai, Hotokenuma, Sakata, Katano-kamoike, Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies, Watarase-yusuichi, Fujimae-higata, Biwa-ko, Kuju bogatsuru and Tadewara-shitsugen, and Manko.</p> <p>In addition, differently from individual committees at respective sites, there exist coordinating organizations covering wide areas including several Ramsar sites such as Hokkaido Ramsar Network and Kushiro International Wetland Centre.</p>	

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

46 sites

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

It has been prepared for all Ramsar sites including Kushiro-shitsugen (no.205).

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):

As for Ramsar sites designated as National Wildlife Protection Areas, or National or Quasi-National Parks, where necessary, the assessments have been conducted on the occasion of revision of management plans at Wildlife Protection Areas and the check of park plan at National or Quasi-National Parks.

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

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

A - Yes

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

In such cases that any negative change is or likely to be found, Regional Environment Offices under Ministry of the Environment which are responsible for respective Ramsar Sites will inform the Administrative Authority (Ministry of the Environment).

In addition, Biodiversity Center under Ministry of the Environment informs the Administrative Authority of the results of National survey on the Natural Environment and Monitoring Sites 1000 which include wetlands such as lakes, tidal flats and coral reefs in the survey areas.

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	A - Yes
<p>2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):</p> <p>We have already reported to the Ramsar Secretariat about the case that the ecological character is possibly likely to change at Nakaikemi-shicchi (no. 1551) designated in July 2012.</p>	

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii	Z - Not applicable
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>No Ramsar site in Japan has ever been listed on the Montreux Record.</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	C - Some sites
<p>2.7.1 Additional information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Conditions of wetlands in the area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake (2011) have drastically changed due to land subsidence and loss of tidal flats in coastal areas and inflow of sea water and rubbles into rice paddies. On the other hands, recovery of some devastated tidal flats to the former shape, increase of benthic organisms and emergence of new seedlings in eelgrass beds flowed out once by Tsunami are observed by the monitoring conducted since 2012 on wild fauna and flora of wetlands such as tidal flats, eelgrass beds and seaweed beds in the disaster area. In addition, endangered species are also observed in some wetlands which were emerged newly by Tsunami and/or land subsidence. <input type="checkbox"/> Although some plans of human interference which likely to affect the biodiversity have been proceeded at some wetlands with rich biodiversity, efforts such as Environmental Impact Assessment and the consideration of necessary measures for the conservation have been taken in order to minimize the changes in ecological character of those wetlands. 	

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:	
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: Wildlife Division of Nature Conservation Bureau under Ministry of the Environment, as appropriate, have been offering and sharing the necessary information to responsible agencies of United Nations and other bodies as a Ramsar Administrative Authority of Japan.	

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):	
<input type="checkbox"/> We have promoted actively the implementation of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).	
<input type="checkbox"/> In addition, we have promoted Asia Wetland Symposium (Resolution IX19) which is considered as a quasi-Regional Initiative.	
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}	A - Yes

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

- Project for Sustainable Development and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation based in Saba district of Malaysia has been conducted. As a part of the project, training courses were held with the participants from Botswana, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Tanzania and Vietnam in 2013 and with participants from Cambodia, India, Kenya, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda and Vietnam in 2014.
- A training course for the 'Integrated management of lake and river basin for the conservation of lake environment' was held mainly at Biwa-ko in Japan in 2012 for the persons in charge of environmental conservation from Argentina, Brazil, Malawi, Morocco, Myanmar, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.
- Mainly at Ramsar sites in Kushiro area in Japan, a training course for the 'Conservation and wise use of wetlands relating to the Ramsar Convention and Convention on Biological diversity' was held in 2012 for the persons in charge of the conservation of wetlands and biodiversity from Philippines, Mongolia and Malaysia. Also, another training course for the 'Conservation and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity in local areas' was held in 2013 for the persons in charge of the conservation of wetlands and biodiversity from Uganda, Mexico, Malaysia and Costa Rica.

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

A - Yes

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

- Government of Japan has contributed voluntarily to Ramsar Small Grants Fund. Donated countries are Myanmar (FY2013), Bhutan (FY2013; this is additional donation to the project of FY2012).
- Government of Japan has also provided the technical supports for Malaysia, Vietnam, Albania, Iran, Oman, Costa Rica, and Uganda, including the support for the designation of the first Ramsar site in Oman. Moreover, Japan has provided Iran with technical support focusing on the integrated wetland management including waste management and sewage/drainage management as well as monitoring on water quality and zoning.

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
<p>3.3.2 Additional information:</p> <p>In order to pay the environmental and social consideration appropriately, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provides supports and conducts examination at each level of the projects according to 'JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations' (April 2010). JICA works for the appropriate implementation of projects with environmental and social consideration through conducting Environmental Impact Assessments and monitoring at each stage of planning, screening and implementation of projects.</p>	
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
<p>3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):</p> <p>.....</p>	

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

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}	A - Yes
<p>3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> There are Twinning arrangements between <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kushiro-shitsugen and Hunter Estuary Wetlands (Australia) - Kiritappu-shitsugen and Hunter Estuary Wetlands (Australia) - Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-shitsugen and Hunter Estuary Wetlands (Australia) - Yatsu-higata and Boondall Wetlands (Australia) - Fujimae-higata and wetlands in Geelong City (Australia) <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, workshops with the aim of formation of MPA(Marine Protected Areas) networks in East Asia have been held based on the ICRI(International Coral Reef Initiative) East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA networks 2010. We have actively involved in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) activities under the ICRI also. 	

- Moreover, Japan has promoted actively EAFP activities, and Arao-higata newly became a Flyway Network Site in 2013.

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

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

- The information of '500 Important Wetlands in Japan' (both in Japanese and English) is posted on 'Internet Nature Information System' operated by Ministry of the Environment.
- In addition, results of National Survey on the Nature Environment which include information on wetlands are posted on 'Japan Integrated Biodiversity Information System (J-IBIS)'.
- The information about Ramsar sites in Japan is published as brochures and is posted on the websites of Ministry of the Environment and the Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities.
- The information of nature restoration projects conducted in such wetlands as Kushiro-shitsugen, Sarobetsu-kenya, and Izu-numa and Uchi-numa under the Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration is published as brochures and is posted on the websites of relevant Ministries.

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

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

Reports of CEPA Activities and others have been sent.

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

Z - Not applicable

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

Z - Not applicable

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

.....

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii	A - Yes
<p>3.5.3 Additional information: We have promoted actively the EAAFP.</p> <p>Japan has concluded the bilateral treaties and agreements for the protection of migratory waterbirds with the United States of America, Australia, China and Russia. Under these frameworks, information sharing and joint studies for the conservation of migratory birds have been carried out. In addition, Japan has cooperated with Korea for the conservation of migratory birds based on the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection.</p>	

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.*

<p>4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i</p> <p>a) At the national level b) Sub-national level c) Catchment/basin level d) Local/site level</p> <p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) C - In progress c) C - In progress d) C - In progress</p>
<p>4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPANFPs):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> As for a), the related description in 'The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020' approved by the Cabinet in September 2012 is regarded as a national action plan for wetland CEPA. Involvement by government CEPA National Focal Point (Ministry of the Environment) is clearly written in the said description.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> As for b), some 'comprehensive environmental plans' and 'regional biodiversity strategies' developed by each local government include related contents.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> As for c), the Small Group on Awareness Raising under Kushiro-shitsugen Nature Restoration Committee has established the 'Action Plan for Awareness Raising on Kushiro-shitsugen Nature Restoration'.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> As for d), Kami-Sarobetsu Nature Restoration Committee has established the 'Action Plan for Awareness Raising on Kami-Sarobetsu Nature Restoration'. Moreover, 'Master Plan for Sekisei-shoko Nature Restoration', 'Grand Design for Sekisei-shoko Nature Restoration', 'Grand Design for Nakaumi Nature Restoration', and 'Grand Design for Izu-numa and Uchi-numa Nature Restoration' include related contents.</p>	
<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>a) 30 centres b) xxx centres</p>

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

- 'Tofutsu-ko Waterfowl and Wetland Center' newly opened in 2012.
- Tsuruoka City opened 'Hotoria', which is a community nature study center, at adjacent area of Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike in 2012.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

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

a) C - Partly

b) C - Partly

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

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

- At such wetlands as Ramsar sites which include rice paddies, the livelihood of local residents and wetland conservation have close relationships. Therefore, it is necessary to seek the appropriate direction of the wetland management based on the intention of local community. At Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies, Osaki City and other related groups actually have been considering the appropriate direction of wetland management.
- Nature Restoration Projects have been conducted at rivers, moors and tidal flats including Kushiro-shitsugen, based on their respective Grand Designs and Implementation Plans developed by respective Nature Restoration Committees which consists of governments, experts, NPOs, local residents and others related.

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?
{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

B - No

4.1.4 Additional information:

.....

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

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

Number of opportunities:

a) >5

b) 0

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

- Hokkaido Ramsar Network has held lectures, workshops and excursions as wetland site manager trainings on the occasion of its annual general meeting. In addition, the facilitation of communication programmes for children who live around the Ramsar sites contributes to the exchange of

technics on interpretation and CEPA. For example, ceremonial lecture 'Ramsar sites in future', workshop on wetland and culture in Hokkaido, and communication programme for children were held on the occasion of 2012 general meeting. Ceremonial lecture 'Boardwalk gaps contributing to the protection of Uryu-numa', workshop on wetland and culture in Hokkaido, and communication programme for children were held on the occasion of 2013 general meeting.

- The Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities has held seminars on the conservation, wise use and CEPA of Ramsar sites, on the occasion of the triennial meeting of chief of municipalities and the annual meeting of responsible persons of municipalities.

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

A - Yes

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

There is a Liaison Conference for the Promotion of Ramsar Convention in Japan.

- a) each representative of relevant ministries, relevant local governments and Wetland International Japan (NGO CEPA National Focal Point)
- b) none
- c) information sharing on the implementation of Ramsar 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) C - Partly
b) A - Yes
c) A - Yes

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

- a: The Administrative Authority (Ministry of the Environment) shares relevant information with responsible persons of municipalities where Ramsar sites exist through the focal point of the Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities.
- b: The Administrative Authority shares relevant information and, where necessary, consult and coordinate with Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is the diplomatic authority of Japan and generally serves as the national focal point of MEAs.
- c: The Administrative Authority shares relevant information with other ministries through the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Ramsar

Convention.

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 Wetland Day kits have been disseminated by NGO and Ministry of the Environment.
- On World Wetland Day in 2014, a memorial symposium 'Wetland and Agriculture – Approaches Growing Biodiversity in Rice paddies' was held by relevant ministries and NGO.

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):

- A symposium for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Ramsar COP5 (1993) in Kushiro was held in July 2013.
- A symposium which marks the visit to Japan by the Secretary General of Ramsar Secretariat was held in April 2014.
- Brochures, posters, and DVDs were developed and disseminated.
- A booth titled 'Bless of wetlands ---Tourism and Products in Ramsar sites' was exhibited at 'Eco Life Fair' which is an annual event on June when it is called as the Environment Month.
- Various nature observation field trips, forest seminars, symposiums and other programmes were held by relevant ministries, local governments, local elementary schools and NGO/NPOs.

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:	
Japan has made full payment for the annual contribution to the Ramsar Convention in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Respective amounts of these contributions are as follows: FY2012: 611,363CHF; FY2013: 529,954CHF; FY2014: 528,668CHF. (The payment of 81,419CHF was made in March 2014, and the rest will be paid in the near future.)	
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): Japan provided 41,535CHF for the project of Myanmar and 9,957CHF for the project of Bhutan in 2013.	

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): Contents of previous Reports were reviewed in the process of developing this Report.	

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

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received): The Asian Waterbird Census conducted by Wetlands International (WI) and Birdlife International (BLI) and their information enable us to identify 1% of individuals in a waterbirds population used in Criterion 6 and the fluctuation of waterbirds individuals.	

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Japan became a member of WI in 1995 and has paid the membership dues annually. At the moment, Japan is a government member with the largest amount of contribution. <input type="checkbox"/> Japan became a State Member of IUCN in 1995 and has paid the membership dues annually. In addition, as a member of government organizations, Ministry of the Environment has provided contributions separately. Furthermore, to promote the implementation of the 'Action Plan for Protected Area in East Asia', Japan has made voluntary contribution for the related projects.	