



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.

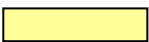
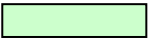
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: THE NETHERLANDS

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Economic Affairs
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Drs. R.P. van Brouwershaven, Director of the Department Nature and Biodiversity, Ministry of Economic Affairs.
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Drs. A.J. Pel, Policy Officer
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Email:	a.j.pel@minez.nl

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

Name and title:
Name of organisation:	Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands
Telephone/Fax:
Email:

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

Name and title:	Drs. A.J. Pel, Policy Officer
Name of organisation:	Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, the Netherlands
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Email:	a.j.pel@minez.nl

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

Name and title:	Vacant
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	

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) All Ramsar sites in the Netherlands have also been designated as EU Natura 2000-sites, the cornerstone of EU biodiversity and nature conservation. In 2014 the Ramsar secretariat approved the plan of The Netherlands to adjust the naming and delineation of Ramsar-sites to its corresponding Natura 2000-sites. The number of Ramsar sites thereby increased with two (from 41 to 43) while an additional approx. 71.000 ha also received the Ramsar status. A successful aspect also concerns the fact that all actions like nature management plans and monitoring programs, now apply to both Natura 2000 and Ramsar. This increases the efficiency. The Ramsar Information Sheets have been updated accordingly.

2) The Benelux decision (M2009) states that anadromous and catadromous migratory fish must be free to migrate in all river basins. All obstacles are to be removed by 2027. Besides all other efforts, the Dutch decision to ‘open up’ the Haringvlietdam can be considered a major step. This dam is currently the main obstacle for migratory fish species between the North Sea and the large European rivers Meuse and Rhine and the many Ramsar sites within their catchment area. This so-called ‘Kierbesluit’ was agreed upon in 2011 and the measures will be finalised in 2018.

3) On 5-2-2014 the responsible ministers of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands have signed the Tonders Declaration, which aims for a joint vision and strategy for the Wadden Sea on following themes: sustainable tourism, flyway, sustainable fisheries, climate change adaptation, PSSA (Particular Sensitive Sea Area) Wadden Sea Operational Plans and Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program.

4) The Climate Buffer Coalition consists of seven big Dutch nature organisations: Ark Nature, Natuurmonumenten, National Forest Service, Bird Life International The Netherlands, the Wadden Sea Society, De Landschappen and the World Wide Fund for Nature. The Coalition advocates employing nature in dealing with the consequences of climate change and works on the realization of so called natural climate buffers. Climate buffers are nature areas specially designed to reduce the consequences of climate change. In these areas both water and nature are given more room. Climate buffers will not only guard us against flooding but will also store water for dry periods. In this way, these areas can offer the Netherlands security, attractive natural settings for plants, animals and people, and a healthy economic climate. By the end of 2014 some 20 climate buffers had been realised.

5) The Netherlands Governments ongoing financial support to organisations like Wetlands International or the Wageningen University and Research Centre (research and training) aiming at the sustainable management of wetland areas abroad.

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

1) The statutory basis for nature conservation in Natura 2000 sites (all Ramsar sites are also designated Natura 2000-sites), has given nature a stronger position in these areas. This has delayed the multistakeholder processes for the development of management plans. The arguments put forward are that the provinces are awaiting developments concerning the Programmatic Approach Nitrogen, the outcome of the discussion on socio-economic aspects and hydrological situation. Furthermore, the provinces need time to adapt to changes in the legal Natura 2000-designation for the area as well as there is uncertainty about funding, monitoring of typical species and the Nature Conservancy Act. Besides nitrogen deposition all kinds water-related environmental problems occur like drought, water logging, deep extraction and planning of the Water Framework Directive versus those of Natura 2000. See management plan progress at: <http://www.natura2000.nl/pages/kaartpagina.aspx>.

2) Management of invasive species: new water connections and international transport and trade cause the introduction of new species in the Netherlands. The Danube-Rhine canal for instance connected the Danube and Rhine flora and fauna. Nowadays, alien species outnumber the native species in the large Dutch rivers. Native species still occur though, and it is not clear yet to what extent alien species are invasive and replace native ones. Climate change is one of the factors which enable species to settle in the Netherlands.

3) The progress on the defragmentation of habitat through the construction of ecological corridors and mitigation of obstacles advances slowly. The Netherlands defragmentation program runs until 2018, and the expectation is that finally 78% of bottlenecks (terrestrial and aquatic) will be solved. The other 22% are robust corridors which were cancelled by the present government. Many waters and rivers in the Netherlands remain isolated for migratory fish.

4) Decreasing environmental pressures: substantial efforts to decrease environmental pressures past decades, like atmospheric nitrogen deposition, acidification and desiccation, have made a significant contribution to slowing down the rate of biodiversity loss in the Netherlands. However, a further decrease is needed in order to be able to stop biodiversity loss on land and in the water. The level for sustainable nature conservation has not yet been reached. This is partly due to the economic crisis. Rijkswaterstaat, ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment for instance pushed the Water Framework Directive goals forward.

5) The monitoring of the desiccation of nature has stopped in 2004. Also the support point on desiccation was abolished per 1-1-2012. It's unclear now what the status and trend is on the desiccation of nature in the Netherlands.

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

- 1) Finalisation of the nature management plans for the Natura 2000/Ramsar-sites.
- 2) Ecosystem services: The Netherlands currently put lots of effort in the elaboration of the 2013-policy document 'Towards a Nature Ambition Great Waters 2050-2100'. The 'great waters' are mainly all Ramsar sites. Giving room to natural processes is the core of this policy document. This will lead to resilient and robust nature, which not only conserves biodiversity but which is also beneficial to many other ecosystem services like: protection against flooding (climate change induced sea level rise and increasing peak rainfall patterns are threatening the Netherlands, half of which lies below sea level), recreational use, agriculture etc. Plausible scenarios are: more room for the large rivers to be able to manage increasing peak rainfall patterns; restoration of tidal systems and fresh water-salt water gradients in the Southwestern Delta, dynamic coastal management and gradual transition zones from land to water in the IJsselmeer area. Realisation of these ambitions is expected to give a boost to the biodiversity values of many Ramsar sites concerned.
- 3) Decreasing pollution: The environmental conditions in the Netherlands have substantially improved since the 1990's. However, pollution by agricultural nutrients is still above critical levels and is detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. The Dutch government and the provincial governments prepare the Programmatic Approach Nitrogen (PAS) in order to reduce nitrogen pollution. Also, member states of the EU are obliged to renew their action programme under the Nitrates Directive every four years. The Nitrates Directive aims to prevent or decrease water pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. The renewed (5th) Dutch action programme will become effective in the beginning of 2014. This programme aims to establish, on average, equilibrium fertilisation as regards phosphate, and aims to achieve, on average, the target value of 50 mg/l in groundwater in all areas of the country. Thus, the programme will also contribute to the achievement of Water Framework Directive (WFD) goals. However, to actually achieve these goals, an intensified effort is necessary. The WFD River Basin Management Plans which will be established in 2015 are the framework for this effort.
- 4) Defragmentation of wetland areas: The National Nature Network (NNN), which includes all Ramsar sites, is the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation in the Netherlands. The development of the NNN began in 1990 and it is still increasing in size. In the last three years the Dutch government decentralised responsibilities of realization and management of nature to the provinces. In 2013 ambitions towards 2027 were agreed upon in the so called Nature Pact between the national government and the provinces, including among others extension of the NNN and defragmentation of wetland areas.
- 5) Creation and management of bufferzones around wetland areas in order to mitigate negative impacts.

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

The Netherlands have gone through a substantial reversion of the Ramsar Information Sheets, by adjusting the naming and delineation to the corresponding Natura 2000-sites. Unfortunately the process towards the acceptance of the new Ramsar Sheets by the Ramsar Secretariat turned out to be a (very) lengthy process.

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)

Not particularly. There is already a good cooperation with Wetlands International and Birdlife International. There is a close cooperation with the Dutch Birdlife partner Vogelbescherming Nederland, e.g. as a member of the National Ramsar Committee and a NGO CEPA focal point.

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?

Better linking of MEAs and increasing the efficiency can among others be achieved through making sure that:

- the different MEAs apply to equal delineated sites, meaning that the data collected per site are applicable to all other MEAs.

- the questionnaires coming with all MEAs are better coordinated, meaning that the information provided to an MEA is also equally applicable to other MEAs. If possible, digital questionnaires should be merged and timing of national reports should be close to each other allowing that the MEAs can be updated using same data.

In anticipation thereof, the Netherlands adjusted the borders of the Ramsar sites to the respective Natura 2000 sites. All Natura 2000-measures, like management plans and monitoring of species, now also apply to Ramsar and other MEAs like CMS and AEWA. This will substantially increase the efficiency and savings on budget.

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)?

The Ramsar obligations are generally well integrated in national, regional and local policies and strategies, like the implementation of Natura 2000, the Water Framework Directive, the National Nature Network or the work of the Water Boards (Waterschappen) which combine water quality and water quantity management.

The impacts of climate change request safety measures as laid down in the Delta Program 2014, to protect the Netherlands from flooding by the the sea or rivers. Besides technical measures. This can also be measures to 'build with nature' making use of natural processes, like sedimentation. The policy document 'Towards a Nature Ambition Great Waters 2050-2100' is an elaboration on this and is in line with the Ramsar goals.

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

The Ramsar obligations are generally well integrated in policies and strategies (see G).

The Ramsar sites in the Netherlands, as well as important non-Ramsar wetlands, are well protected sites, designated under Natura 2000 and part of the National Nature Network.

The impact of all these measures on the condition of wetlands can generally however not be observed within a triennium or three years period. This requests long-term monitoring.

As all wetlands in the Netherlands are generally well managed The Netherlands currently concentrate on wetlands of international importance abroad, especially wetlands within the AEWA flyway and Wetlands in the Dutch Caribbean.

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

Staatsbosbeheer, Vereniging Natuurmonumenten, Vogelbescherming, Waddenvereniging.

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:

The inventory of wetlands was started in 1996 and completed in 1998. 100% of the country is covered in the inventory and (currently) 43 wetlands of international importance (according to Ramsar criteria) have been designated as Ramsar sites. Other important wetlands are designated under Natura 2000 and or part of the National Nature Network (NNN).

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:

The Netherlands has a long history of ecological monitoring. With the increased national and European juridical obligations in relation to nature conservation it became clear that the collected data did not always meet the knowledge required by government and others. Therefore in 1999 the Ecological Monitoring Network (NEM) was set up. The NEM is a cooperation between government organisations on the monitoring of nature in the Netherlands that aims to adjust the collection of data to government needs. The NEM follows the trends of nearly all important species groups like (water)birds, butterflies and plants. As such the NEM can be considered as the backbone of the monitoring of nature in the Netherlands. The NEM mainly commissions Private Data Collecting Organisations (PGO's) to carry out the monitoring schemes. To date ten specialised PGOs coordinate field survey, train citizens and control standardised field forms. About 23.000 citizens are affiliated with the PGOs and this number increased over the last 5 years by ca. 1000 citizens a year.

In order to guarantee quality the data are collected according to standard field monitoring protocols or manuals. Cooperation with the organisation Netherlands Statistics (CBS) leads to monitoring of the required status and trends of habitats and species in the Netherlands. In order to prevent that all data end up in scattered databases the former Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (now Ministry of Economic Affairs) set up the National Database Flora and Fauna in 2007 (NDFF). The NDFF can be considered a data warehouse which contains the distribution data of plants and animals that have been collected by many organisations over previous decades. It brings together the data collected by PGO's, Waarneming.nl, provinces, waterboards, and nature conservation organisations. All data entering the NDFF are validated using a quality filter on input. To date the system contains over 70 million records on the distribution of flora and fauna, which is the result of combining over 100 different databases. Each year some 10 million new data are added to the database. The database is managed by the organisation BIJ12 (www.BIJ12.nl) and being used by many stakeholders like the government, municipalities, provinces, districts, conservationists, construction industries and many more.

Besides that all Dutch wetlands are part of the Critical Site Network (CSN), which was launched in 2010. The CSN Tool is an online resource for the conservation of 294 species of waterbirds and the important sites upon which they depend in Africa and Western Eurasia. Leading global conservation organisations working for the protection of waterbirds and their habitats joined forces to develop this tool, strengthening the implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. See: <http://csntool.wingsoverwetlands.org/csn/default.html#state=home>

The monitoring of the desiccation of nature has stopped in 2004, which makes the status and trend of desiccation of nature and wetlands unclear.

1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}

a) Ramsar Sites

b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

a) - No change

b) - No change

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

A three year period is too short to observe obvious changes in condition of wetlands.

There are however some longterm trends which illustrate the condition of wetlands, for example:

The environmental conditions in the Netherlands have substantially improved since the 1990's. The acidification problem for instance has more or less been solved, while nitrogen deposition and eutrophication of surface waters has substantially decreased (though pollution by agricultural nutrients is still above critical levels).

The trends for target species characteristic for marshlands is stable or even shows slight improvements. The group that shows an overall strong positive population trend are the wintering and migrating (water)birds, which almost doubled over the past 30 years, showing most rapid increases in the 1990s and around 2000. Several goose species, Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) dominate this increase, whereas ducks only slightly increased and waders fluctuated without a clear common trend. During the past decade, 31% of the water bird species were still increasing, whereas 25% remained stable and 25% declined (Hornman et al., 2012).

Recent publications (2014) on the long-term monitoring of fish at one location indicated that the fish population in the Dutch Wadden Sea had changed dramatically during past 50 years. <http://www.waddenzeevismonitor.nl/nieuws/nieuwe-website-laatachteruitgang-visstand-waddenzee-zien-7661.html>. However, more structured research is needed on this matter.

The ecological system of the IJsselmeergebied, including four Ramsar sites, is changing. A publication (2010) on long term monitoring data indicates seven trends, which may lead to changes in the ecological system of the IJsselmeergebied and the Ramsar sites concerned. These trends are: decrease in eutrophication of the water, mainly due to strong decreasing phosphate levels; improvement of the chemical contamination of the water since the eighties; increase of submerged vegetation; continued changes in fish community, though the decrease in fish biomass seems to have stopped; the biomass of the Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) in the bigger lakes, IJsselmeer, Markermeer and IJmeer decreased, while it increased in the smaller lakes. New exotic species may replace former sites of the Zebra mussel; birds follow the availability of food. Fish eating birds are highly dependent on Smelt, which availability decreased in the bigger lakes IJsselmeer, Markermeer and IJmeer. Mussel eating birds moved from the bigger lakes to the smaller lakes, where the availability of mussels increased. The development of submerged vegetation, especially in the smaller lakes, attracts herbivorous bird species; reed lands decrease due to the permanent water level. This also has a negative impact on reed breeding birds. Nature development created new habitat for breeding birds like gulls and terns. A Masterplan for the IJsselmeer has been published in 2014 aiming to restore the fish populations.

The report on the Habitat Directive (data up to 2012) shows that the conservation status of Habitat Directive species and habitat types has remained more or less stable.

The status improved for four (wetland) species: Tree Frog (*Hyla arborea*), Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), Large White-faced darter (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*) and Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*). However, the status worsened for three other (wetland) species: Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*), Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior*) and Bullhead (*Cottus perifretum*). Despite a positive population trend the impacts of planned developments like wind parks and mining are probably unfavourable for the seal. The snail is impacted from large scale dune restoration measures, while the Bullhead has to compete with exotic species. Because of the worsened conservation status of these three species, the Netherlands does not meet the EU-objectives to halt biodiversity loss.

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:

In the Netherlands wetland policy is a prominent and integrated part of general nature and biodiversity policy.

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

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
 - b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
 - c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
 - d) National forest programmes
 - e) National strategies for sustainable development
 - f) National policies or measures on agriculture
 - g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD
- {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

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

1.3.2 Additional information:

The Netherlands does not have a poverty reduction strategy (not applicable). On the other hand, poverty alleviation has been at the heart of Dutch international development policies, including its biodiversity component, for many years.

1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: To ensure the integration of water aspects into the spatial planning process, 'Water Assessment' has been introduced in 2001. Water Assessment is a process in which water managers are actively involved in the development of any spatial plan from the earliest stages. When EIA or Strategic Environmental Assessment (as prescribed by the EU) has to take place as well, both assessments partly take place in parallel and provide each other with information.</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	A - Yes
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: The Nature Protection Act regulates the establishment and the management of nature reserves and other protected areas. The Flora and Fauna Act obliges EIAs for any development project. But the Netherlands also cooperate on EIA's internationally. The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) for instance regularly cooperates on Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA's) around Ramsar sites, like the SEA for the oil and gas activities around the Murchison Falls-Albert Ramsar site in Uganda or the SEA in the Tana Delta in Kenia , aiming for the Ramsar-designation of this wetland (which was achieved by 2012).</p>	
1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	B - No
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: All 43 Ramsar sites in the Netherlands are also Natura 2000-sites. The Ramsar commitments are reflected in the obligations for Natura 2000-sites.</p>	

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly
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1.4.1 Additional information:

Many wetlands still exist thanks to the services they provided like water purification and coastal protection (especially the dunes ecosystem), recreation, fisheries, water storage, reed cultivation, military etc. Specific policy and research on ecosystem services is however quite new in the Netherlands. Substantial efforts are being made though to better understand its impacts for society. TEEB studies (The Economics of Ecosystems and biodiversity) have been carried out and an indicator on the status and trends of the main ecosystem services is foreseen for 2014. This indicator will compare the difference in demand and supply of the service, the portion of sustainable consumption and production and the portion that is produced in the Netherlands or has to be imported from elsewhere. The indicator will integrate many wetland related services like for water storage, barrier, purification and recreation.

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

A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information:

Poverty alleviation is not an issue in The Netherlands itself. The Netherlands is however an important donor, like the Netherlands Embassy in Nairobi (Kenia), which supports (sustainable) development activities around the Lake Naivasha Ramsar Site. The Netherlands are also an important donor for organisations like Wetlands International, which implements the wetland programmes concerned. Besides, special attention is given to poverty reduction in most of the projects in developing countries under the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity of the Netherlands, such as in the Partners for Water programme. This program was established in 2000 and aims to apply Dutch water management expertise for world water challenges. The programme supports projects and activities in 26 target countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam and South-Africa. In the third programme period (2010-2015) extra attention is given to 5 countries with similar delta's as The Netherlands. These are: Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Mozambique and Vietnam. The focus on these 'delta countries' is based on chapter 6 of the Dutch National Water Plan, the formal water policy of The Netherlands. The Dutch government intends to develop long-term collaborations with these delta countries based on knowledge exchange and applying Dutch water related knowledge in delta challenges.

Water management is one of the priority themes of Dutch development cooperation policy. Dutch development programmes focus on 3 goals:

1. safe, clean drinking water, improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation for 25 million people;
2. water management, improved river basin management and safe deltas;
3. raising water productivity in farming by 25%.

The Netherlands is also focusing on transborder water management in 7 international river basins in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Its aim is to promote cooperation between upstream and downstream countries. To achieve it, the Dutch government works together with international financial institutions in implementing projects. In Senegal, for example, measures have been taken to ensure more efficient use of water, by large-scale removal of water hyacinths from irrigation systems in the Senegal River basin. In combination with rehabilitation of irrigation systems and training of local farmers, this has led to substantially improved agricultural yields. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked together in this project with the World Bank, the Rivierenland Water Authority and the Senegal River Basin Authority (OMVS).

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 Natura 2000/Ramsar management plans aim at the sustainable wise use of nature. Socio-economic and cultural values are part of the management plans.

The Netherlands also designated 20 National Parks for the conservation of biodiversity and the (cultural and natural) landscape (see <http://www.nationaalpark.nl/documents/nationale-parken.xml?lang=en>). Most of these sites are wetland areas (some are Ramsar site) or have at least wetlands within its borders.

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

1.5.1 Additional information:

The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands was already brought to attention of the head of state and the parliament by a ministerial letter on March 5, 2009. The process for the development of the Natura 2000/Ramsar management plans includes the participation of all stakeholders involved, which guarantees that human well-being in relation to wetlands is concerned. As such there is no specific need to bring the Changwon Declaration to the attention of the private sector and civil society in the Netherlands.

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> <p>a. agriculture-wetland interactions</p> <p>b. climate change</p> <p>c. valuation of ecosystem services</p> <p>{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>	<p>a. A - Yes</p> <p>b. A - Yes</p> <p>c. A - Yes</p>
<p>1.6.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Netherlands has a well structured system of biodiversity monitoring and data management (see 1.1.2). Besides, the Ministry of Economic Affairs funds three research programs to be carried out by the Wageningen University and Research Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Beleidsondersteunend onderzoek" (Policy Support Research): this research supports the realisation of the societal task of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. - "Wettelijke onderzoekstaken" (Legal Research Tasks): research to support laws and regulations. This cluster includes the monitoring and reporting tasks which are obligatory under EU legislation and MEAs - "Kennisbasisonderzoek" (Knowledgebase Research): research for the development of knowledge that will become relevant on a medium term for the Ministry of Economic Affairs and other social parties. Much work on climate change has been carried out under this facility. 	

<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.6.2 Additional information:</p> <p>All Ramsar sites in the Netherlands are protected through the Natura 2000-legislation which among others requests monitoring to assess the status and trends of the designated species concerned and EIAs of potential threats. (See also section 2B). Many Natura 2000-management plans still need to be approved though.</p>	

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

<p>1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.7.1 Additional information:</p>	
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

1.7.2 Additional information:

In the Netherlands most CEPA-activities are nature-related in general, not wetland, catchment or river basin specific, except in site-related information centres. Some examples of CEPA-activities:

- The nature management organisations "Staatsbosbeheer" (largest site-managing GO), Natuurmonumenten (largest site-managing NGO) and the National Parks provide information and education on nature. In 2012 Natuurmonumenten set up the Oerr club for children. The club aims to stimulate children up to 12 years to play outside and discover nature. Oerr had 150.000 new members in 2013.
- Vogelbescherming Nederland, Dutch partner of Birdlife International, has a system of so-called Wetland Guardians, comparable to Birdlife Internationals IBA-caretakers, who are the eyes and ears in 'their' own wetland. Vogelbescherming Nederland trains and guides these volunteers so that they can participate in processes regarding wetlands. In total, approximately 90 Wetland Guardians are active across the Netherlands.
- Since 2007 Vogelbescherming Nederland also runs the popular webcam project 'Enjoy Spring', in which webcams are installed near the nests of several breeding bird species such as White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) and Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*). It allows the public to enjoy birdlife through internet from the beginning of March till the end of June. The project is a big success. In 2012 the project received 900.000 unique visitors, which increased to 1.1 million unique visitors originating from some 150 different countries in 2013. Over four months the website was visited 49 million times. It's a kind of 'real life soap' of the species concerned. Other organisations like the Dutch Forestry Service (Staatsbosbeheer) contributed to the success with webcams in and near a fox hole (*Vulpes vulpes*) and a beaver lodge (*Castor fiber*).
- Staatsbosbeheer manages the Ramsar site Oostvaardersplassen. In September 2013 the cinema production Nieuwe Wildernis (New Wilderness) was released, which received almost 500.000 visitors in its first month. The movie came along with an education package www.denieuwewildernis.nl/indeklas which was awarded the 'Comenius Siegel', an international award of the GPI (Gesellschaft für Pädagogik und Information) financed by ESEC (European Society for Education & Communication).
- Six national organisations receive subsidy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in 2012 and 2013 through the programme 'Green and Do' (www.groenendoen.nu) to support volunteers. The programme also supports volunteers from other organisations through vouchers for courses and training and organises a contest to honour promising projects.
- Dutch NGO's are very active in organising activities to increase public awareness and to involve citizens in their activities. Public participation in scientific research such as inventories for ecological monitoring is a kind of 'citizen science'. The citizens gather the data that is processed and analysed by professional researchers and used to make essential biodiversity indicators (see 1.1.2).
- An increasing number of citizens is involved at an increasing number of locations during the so-called 'National Nature Work Day', organised by Landscape Management Netherlands and nature management organisations. It allows people to be actively involved in nature management close to their place of residence and to meet people with similar interests in their neighbourhood. The number of volunteers active in Landscape Management Netherlands increased in 2012 from 62.000 to 66.000. Those volunteers together worked 1,4 million hours.

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:

The predicted sea level rise and greater fluctuations in river discharge force The Netherlands to look far into the future. The national 'Delta Programme 2014' is a programme in which governments, water boards, societal organisations and businesses cooperate to prepare the Netherlands for this future. The sea level rise and greater river fluctuations can have undesirable impacts on wetlands, but also provide opportunities for nature development. The 'Nature ambition great waters 2050-2100' (2014) elaborates on this. Furthermore, the ongoing work since 1990 to establish a National Nature Network (NNN) by 2027, including all important wetlands, can be seen as a measure to mitigate climate change, and to allow species migration north-south and east-west.

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:

After a merging process The Netherlands have 24 water boards since 1st of January 2014. These are responsible for water management across the country, also for the provision of water for agricultural purposes. Many wetlands, also Ramsar sites, play a crucial role for the storage and provision of fresh water. Especially rivers and the large IJsselmeer Ramsar site in the centre of the Netherlands play a crucial role as fresh water reservoirs during dry periods and drainage systems during wet periods.

In 2007 the European Commission approved the first version of the Catalogue on green-blue services. This Catalogue has been developed by the IPO (Interprovinciaal Overleg) and the (former) Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I). The Catalogue gives an overview of financial compensations which land owners may receive from government for the provision of green-blue services. These can be services in relation to nature, landscape, cultural history, recreation or water management.

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:

So-called 'sence-of-urgency' sites have been recognised. These are Natura 2000-sites which face irreparable damage if nature management measures are delayed. These measures need to be implemented by 2015 the latest.

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:

Restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands has been achieved through (a) improved nature management, (b) enlargement and (c) defragmentation:

ad a): Nature management plans are being prepared or implemented for all Natura 2000/Ramsar sites and protected areas within the National Nature Network (NNN). Many restoration projects have been carried out as for the 'sense of urgency' area. Also, the field analysis of the Programmatic Approach Nitrogen (PAS) includes many (hydrologic) restoration measures.

ad b): Many hectares of agricultural land were acquired for nature development purposes in the NNN, much of which concerns wetland area, and handed over to nature management organizations. From 2011 onwards another 80.000 hectares of new nature has to be developed/restored in order to complete the NNN by 2027.

ad c): Defragmentation of nature, also waterways, is important to establish a well-connected NNN. In order to increase the possibilities for fish migration, water managers in the Netherlands construct fish ways to allow fish to pass barriers such as dams in rivers and canals. Between 2000 and 2008 some 27 fish migration facilities were constructed each year; between 2008 and 2011 the number increased to 50 fish ways a year. By 2012 more than 20% of the problems with barriers in rivers and canals had been solved. From 2012-2015 another 80 fish ways a year are planned to be constructed.

A good example of wetland restoration/rehabilitation is the programme 'Towards a healthy Wadden Sea Ecosystem for nature and man' ('Naar een rijke Waddenzee') which was launched to keep this very important Ramsar site healthy, resilient and robust to face future impacts like climate change.

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:

The "Team Invasieve Exoten" (team invasive alien species) supports the Ministry of Economic Affairs on the implementation of its policy to control invasive species. One of the main activities of the team is to (let) carry out risk analysis and to monitor invasive species.

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 number of alien species in the Netherlands is still increasing. Recognizing the increasingly serious problem of invasive alien species in Europe, in September 2013 the European Commission published a dedicated legislative instrument (regulation) on Invasive Alien Species (IAS). The Netherlands support this initiative as it is a typical cross-border problem.

In October 2007, the Dutch Policy Memorandum Invasive Alien Species was published and sent to Parliament. The policy, with an emphasis on prevention, is in line with agreements made in the framework of the Convention of Biological Diversity (three-stage hierarchical approach). The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) is the central coordinating authority when it comes to the implementation of many elements of the IAS policy in the Netherlands. An annual budget is available to carry out the tasks. The most important task of the NVWA is to advise the competent ministry on the risks of introduction, establishment and spreading of IAS and feasible management options/ tools to be taken against IAS. NVWA is also assigned the following tasks: detection and monitoring, risk assessment, alien hotline, creating public awareness and coordinating eradication campaigns.

The Dutch Flora and Fauna Act prohibits the release of animal and plant species in the wild as well as prohibiting the possession and trade of certain alien species. The law makes it possible to act if invasive alien species are introduced.

Control and eradication of invasive alien species is much more difficult in the water than on land, which emphasizes the need for prevention. In order to prevent the introduction of marine alien species via the ballast water of ships, in 2010 the Netherlands signed the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM) set up by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

In 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety (currently Economic Affairs), the Association of Regional Water Authorities and organizations representing producers, importers, retailers and garden centres agreed on a code of conduct on ornamental aquatic plants. The code requires that several invasive ornamental aquatic plant species are no longer sold (listed in Annex 1 of the code). Furthermore, the code requires the sale of other aquatic plant species to be accompanied by user recommendations regarding their appropriate use and disposal (Annex 2).

Many actions have been taken to eradicate or control potentially invasive alien species. The number of exotic species still increases though. Especially alien species in the water are a major management challenge. Once settled, it is difficult to eradicate alien species; they are therefore controlled to minimise their impact.

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

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information:

The formulating of management plans for the Ramsar sites (also Natura 2000 sites) is based on a multi-stakeholder approach including private parties like the recreational sector, farming and fisheries sector (including shellfish and sport fishing). Sustainable or wise use is the key word. An example is the 'IJsselmeeraanpak' (2012), which is an agreement between government and the recreation sector for wise use of the Ramsar site IJsselmeer.

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

a. Ramsar Sites

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

In wetland areas such as the Weerribben, the Biesbosch, Nieuwkoopse Plassen and in many other areas a cooperation exists between e.g. restaurants and nature management organisations. This for example in combination with the renting of canoes, rowing boats and electric boats.

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:

Actions to make the fishery sector more sustainable are ongoing. The 'Masterplan IJsselmeer' (2014), for instance, is the result of a multi-stakeholder process aiming to have a reduced but sustainable fishery sector in 2021 as well as obviously recovering fish populations.

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 Netherlands gives a high priority to greening of the EU common policies on agriculture and fisheries. This will eliminate, phase out or reform incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, while positive incentives are developed and applied. Large environmentally harmful subsidies are especially found in the energy, transport (red diesel) and agricultural sectors (low VAT on meat and dairy). The Dutch Government could abolish certain environmentally harmful subsidies at a national level, but for competition reasons this would require agreements at a European or global scale.

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note: An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP12 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on each of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”; use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. *Apply the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance' (Handbook 14, 3^d edition).*

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the *Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?* {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

B - No

2.1.1 Additional information:

All wetlands of importance in the Netherlands are part of the National Nature Network and many have been designated as Ramsar site and/or Natura 2000 site.

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):

All important wetlands in The Netherlands are protected and managed. Current focus is not on The Netherlands but on the Caribbean Netherlands (Nature Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2013-2017), with an inventory of all wetlands and an evaluation of the management of current Ramsar sites.

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

2.2.1 Additional information:

No further designations are planned.

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	---
2.3.1 Additional information: Not applicable. No further designations planned.	

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	43 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	43 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	41 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: Management plans or strategies of the site managing organisations are in place and applied in the Ramsar sites. However, these are not all uniform, since different nature and water management organisations usually have their own kind of management plan. The (updated) management plans of all Natura 2000/Ramsar sites, except for the already approved Natura 2000-management plans of the 'Voordelta' and 'Broekvelden, Vettenbroek en Polder Stein' are currently being prepared.	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	43 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): The Netherlands do have cross-sectoral advisory committees for the Natura 2000 management plans, and therefore also for the Ramsar sites.	
2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	43 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): These have been prepared for the Natura 2000-sites as well as in the updated Ramsar Information Sheets.	

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):

Long-term monitoring research (see 1.1.3) reveals if the management of Natura 2000/Ramsar sites is successful or whether it should be revised. Also the site managing organisations have an internal quality assessment system. These programmes were not set up especially for Ramsar, but they are supportive to the Ramsar objectives.

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 Netherlands has an intense and broad ecological monitoring and research framework. This is among others needed to assess the status and trends of Natura 2000 (and Ramsar) habitats and species.

Also intense monitoring schemes are implemented for the estuaries of the Westerschelde (www.scheldemonitor.org) and Eems-Dollard. For the Waddensea one is referred to the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP): <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/monitoring-tmap/about-tmap>. See also the additional information provided under 1.1.2 and 1.1.3.

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

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):

Any changes observed have been recorded in the recently updated Ramsar Information Sheets. By implementing Natura 2000, the conservation obligations under the Ramsar convention are considered to be fulfilled as well.

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):

.....

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 important wetlands in The Netherlands have been protected under Ramsar and/or Natura 2000 and are part of the National Nature Network.

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:

This is not necessary, because most focal points work in the same department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs; one in the ministry of Foreign Affairs-CBD- and one in the ministry of Infrastructure & Environment - UNFCCC) and therefore have regular contacts.

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:

Yes, to a certain extent, depending on the nature of the issues at stake (e.g. with permanent representation with FAO on the GAWI (Guidelines on Agriculture and Wetlands Interactions) and GIAHS projects (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems); ITTO issues are coordinated in the same department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

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

B - No

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

The Netherlands is not involved in one of these official initiatives in the framework of the Convention, though the Caribbean part of the Kingdom is (see Caribbean part of the national report).

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):

Internationally:

Training of Trainer courses are run by the Centre for Development Innovation, part of the Wageningen University & Research Centre (WUR). Funding is drawn from different sources, inter alia research funds of the ministry of Economic Affairs and Dutch embassy funds and external funds as well.

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):

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii

A - Yes

3.3.2 Additional information:

Such assessments have been included in development cooperation for about 30 years.

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):

Wetland conservation was part of broader objectives, notably poverty alleviation.

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> <p>On 5-2-2014 the responsible ministers of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands have signed the Tonders Declaration, which aims for a joint vision and strategy for the Wadden Sea on following themes: sustainable tourism, flyway, sustainable fisheries, climate change adaptation, PSSA (Particular Sensitive Sea Area) Wadden Sea Operational Plans and Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program.</p> <p>Outside Europe several projects have been implemented by Wetlands International with financial support from the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>Birdlife Partner 'Vogelbescherming Nederland' assists international conservation activities to partners abroad, especially in Eastern-Europe, Western Africa and countries with a historical bond like Indonesia and the Dutch Caribbean. See: http://www.vogelbescherming.nl/vogels_beschermen/internationaal.</p> <p>The Migratory Birds for People programme consists of 20 partner wetland visitor centres across Europe and West Africa, forming a network that follows the flight path of many migratory wetland birds species. These centres are working together to share best practice and develop new approaches to delivering wetland messages to their visitors. We have a MBP action plan that will help you understand what the programme aims to do. The lead group for the project consists of the Dutch Staatsbosbeheer, WLI, and Wetlands International.</p> <p>A number of Ramsar sites were/are twinned (see www.eurosite.org).</p>	
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
<p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about the Ramsar sites are collected in the EU Natura 2000-database. - Organisation BIJ12 (http://www.bij12.nl/) manages the National Databank on Flora and Fauna which to date contains some 70 million data (see 1.1.2). - The Dutch Species Catalogue provides a current and comprehensive overview of Dutch biodiversity. It is based on the data gathered by experts in various aspects of flora and fauna (http://www.nederlandsesoorten.nl/node/374). - For protected areas, among which wetlands, another website is available http://www.synbiosys.alterra.nl/natura2000/gebiedendatabase.aspx - The Environmental Data Compendium (www.compendiumvoordeleefomgeving.nl) provides many indicators on the actual quality of our living environment, among which wetlands. - The Ministry of Economic Affairs is also working with a system called "Wettelijke Onderzoeks Taken Informatievoorziening Natuur" (Legal Research Tasks Information provision Nature under development) to carry out the obligations within the framework of national and international legislation and requirements. 	

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: The Ramsar Information Sheets have recently been updated and are available for dissemination.	

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: Four Ramsar sites: Westerschelde (Scheldt estuary), Wadden Sea (including Eems-Dollard), North Sea Coastal Zone, Bargerveen. Furthermore the rivers Rijn (Gelderse Poort), Meuse (Grensmaas) and other smaller rivers and streams.	

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): In 1982, the Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea was signed, which established the cooperation between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. The Cooperation aims to promote the coordination of the activities and measures of the three countries with regard to the protection of the Wadden Sea region as a whole including its fauna (marine, terrestrial and avian) and flora. Special emphasis is put on resting and breeding areas for seals, and on areas important as resting, feeding, breeding, or moulting grounds for water birds. To support this cooperation, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat was established in 1987 (http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/trilateral-cooperation/common-wadden-sea-secretariat). On 5-2-2014 the responsible ministers of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands have signed the Tonders Declaration, which aims for a joint vision and strategy for the Wadden Sea. The North Sea Coastal Zone north of the Wadden Sea forms part of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation Area. It has been elaborated in the framework of the trilateral cooperation for management purposes. The Bargerveen is part of the Dutch-German "Internationale Natuurpark Veenland" (International Peatland Nature Park; see http://www.natuurpark-moor.eu/nl/natuurpark/index.php). International cooperation for the river Meuse has been arranged by the International Commission for the Protection of the Meuse, which was launched in 2002 (see	

icbm.be/page.asp?id=35&langue=NL).

The cooperation with Belgium on the Schelde estuary has been arranged in several treaties.

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:

Among others, the Netherlands provided financial support to the Wings over Wetlands project (<http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org/>) through Wetlands International and to the International Waterbird Census (IWC).

The Caribbean part of the Kingdom actively participated in regional networks, see for more information the Caribbean part of this report.

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.*

4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

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

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

(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)

4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):

In the Netherlands most CEPA-activities are nature-related in general, not wetland-specific, except in site-related information centres. See also 1.7.2.

In addition, the overall goal of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) is to enhance the awareness on the Wadden Sea as a shared natural and cultural heritage and to support the understanding for a long-term protection and sustainable management of the Wadden Sea as a whole by translating the ideas behind the cooperation on the Wadden Sea into the education of the future generation.

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) ca.15 centres

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

In total there are some 100 centres listed, many of which provide wetland-related information (see: <http://www.ertussenuit.com/uitgids/bezoekerscentra/>).

Some 15 centres are located at sites with substantial wetland area.

Current Education centres at Ramsar sites in The Netherlands are: Oosterschelde (2), Wieden, Weerribben, Westerschelde (Saeftinghe), Wadden Sea together with Waddeneilanden / Noordzee kustzone (location Schiermonnikoog, Texel, Terschelling, Vlieland, Ameland), Biesbosch (3), Alde Feanen, Lauwersmeer, Groote Peel, Grevelingen, Oostvaardersplassen.

<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) B - No</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 Natura 2000 management plans have to be developed in close cooperation with the stakeholders. This is not developed especially for Ramsar, but will support the Ramsar objectives.</p> <p>Many nature managers work with volunteers to carry out nature management measures. To a certain extent they even depend on it.</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>No specific number of training opportunities. However, regarding the wetlands in the Netherlands themselves, the nature managers are well trained by education (Wageningen University, Larenstein University of Professional Education), which are financially supported by The Ministry of Economic Affairs (Green education). The nature management organisations have their own well equipped education opportunities. The same goes for other organisations in the field of water management.</p> <p>Vogelbescherming Nederland also provides courses for IBA-caretakers bound to wetlands, about the Dutch Nature Conservation Act and Natura 2000.</p>	
<p>4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>a) In the Netherlands the National Ramsar Committee includes delegates from different NGO's, the scientific community and observers from the</p>	

government.

- b) The frequency of meetings differs from 1-4 meetings a year depending the need.
- c) The subjects in the meeting discussed include the National Ramsar Report, the SC and CoP -agenda and World Wetlands Day.

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

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

{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

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

Within the Natura 2000 implementation process extensive communication and sharing of information amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies and other stakeholders on wetland issues takes place. For Ramsar issues the Dutch National Ramsar Committee was established for this purpose.

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:

Staatsbosbeheer, Natuurmonumenten and Vogelbescherming Nederland for instance celebrated the 40th birthday of Ramsar by organizing a special week in October 2011, called World Wetland Week. In this week, several field excursions were organized in wetlands, with a special focus on Ramsar and its goals. A leaflet was handed out to the participants. Next to that, during this week information was distributed via visitor centers in wetlands. Social media were used to announce and advertise activities.

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):

Among others:

- TEEB studies have been carried out and an indicator on ecosystem services, among which wetland services, is being prepared (see 1.4.1).
- The aim of the Wadden Sea World Heritage strategy 2014-2020 contributes to ensuring effective conservation, strengthening the credibility of World

Heritage, increasing awareness and support through communication, promoting effective capacity building and enhancing the important role of the community (the 5 Cs).

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):
However, considerable project support has been given to IOP activities on wetlands.

Apart from Wetlands International, also some other organisations received project support.

STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness. *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

A - Yes

4.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

The whole former report has been checked and the answers have been updated.

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
<p>4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):</p> <p>There is a good cooperation with the (Dutch branches of) IOPs; Vogelbescherming (the Dutch partner of Birdlife International), IUCN and the National Committee for IUCN, WWF and with Wetlands International HQ.</p>	
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
<p>4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):</p> <p>The cooperation mentioned in the previous question is mutual.</p> <p>Assistance to IOPs: The Netherlands has funded many nature conservation projects implemented by NGO's. Most wetland projects were implemented by Wetlands International but a number also by other IOPs such as Birdlife International. Wetlands International in turn has contributed to activities of the Dutch government also.</p>	