



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.

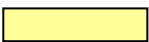
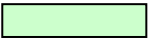
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: NORWAY

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

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

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

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

Name and title:	Not identified
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) Inclusion of wetlands issues into national plans and strategies. International cooperation on wetland projects.
- 2) CEPA - national authorization of 5 wetlands information centers. CEPA actions in general.
- 3) Awareness of the importance to restore wetlands. A national wetland restoration plan has been developed - starting with 10 priority areas.
- 4) Designation of 14 (2011) + 12 (2013) = 26 new Ramsar sites
- 5) Identification of threatened nature types of which half of them are different wetland habitats.

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

- 1) It has been limited capacity to communicate the implementation Convention with other sectors.
- 2) There is a challenge to raise awareness of the importance and values of wetlands both towards the sectors and the public.
- 3) Available resources to follow up on the Convention have increased the last years, but there is still needs to be covered.
- 4) It is a challenge that the scope of the Convention is quite broad. This requires involvement of a very broad range of stakeholder (Norway has not established any National Ramsar Committee).
- 5)

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

- 1) Develop management plans for all the 63 Ramsar sites
- 2) There is a need to improve the knowledge and gather experience concerning restoration of wetlands in Norway. Increased funding for action is also required.
- 3) Consider to authorize more wetlands information centers
- 4) Consider to establish a National Ramsar Committee (or similar) to improve the coordination / cooperation between all sectors involved in wetland management
- 5)

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

Contribute/advice on projects initiated in developing countries by a donor country.
Consider to establish a fund (or similar) that could make the Secretariat able to carry out RAMS in countries that can't afford covering the expenses for such missions,

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

Cooperation on planning and implementation of action items from the CEPA plan. Contribute in inventories and monitoring of e.g. bird populations in RS and other protected wetlands. Participate in planning and implementation of international projects as appropriate.

- 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?

We believe there are good linkages between these conventions already. However, more aligned reporting between the MEAs on common issues would facilitate improved cooperation nationally and internationally.

- 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)?

A guide on how to handle threats from physical planning /constructions close to or into Ramsar sites or other protected wetlands has been worked out and is being used by the Road Authority and others. Also The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) has been given information about Ramsar. However, in general the knowledge of the Ramsar Convention could be increased within many sectors.

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

Consider to discuss with the contracting partners to identify a National Focal Point for the Wise Use Pillar to increase the awareness of this element of the convention.

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

Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), The Ministry of Climate and Environment, selected County Governors.

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

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

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A - Yes
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1.1.1 Additional information:

A National Wetland Inventory has not been compiled and launched as one document, but the elements that normally would constitute a NWI are to be found in a set of high quality data bases operated by NEA and partners.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>All data bases containing wetlands. other nature or environmental data are open and accessible to the public. The maintenance of most of these data bases are also generally very good.</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) <input type="radio"/> - No change</p> <p>b) <input type="radio"/> - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>The Nature index of Norway shows that the state of biological diversity is good in the marine areas, in coastal waters in freshwater and in the mountains. While mires-spring-floodplain is in poorer state (NI - 0,55). Some types of mires are particularly vulnerable to nitrogen (air pollution), climate change and motorised transport (when no snow cover).</p> <p>In the Norwegian Habiata Red List (2011) palsa mire is considered as endangered, mainly due to climate changes.</p>	

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

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i</p> <p>(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	A - Yes
<p>1.3.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Several instruments could be seen as part of a NWP - e.g. the implementation of the EUWFD. According to the Nature Diversity Act, in addition to protected areas, selected nature types (including wetlands) could be identified and given a special "conservation" status. Wetlands will be included in the NBSAP that is under development.</p>	

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <p>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> <p>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<p>a) Z - Not applicable b) A - Yes c) A - Yes d) C - Partly e) A - Yes f) C - Partly g) A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.2 Additional information:</p>	

<p>1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: To the extent SEA is carried out, impacts concerning wetlands are being assessed.</p>	

<p>1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: Legislation according to the Planning and Building Act</p>	

<p>1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: Nomination of Ramsar Sites are mentioned in the Nature Diversity Act.</p>	

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

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

No specific assessments have been conducted of the ecosystem services provided by Ramsar sites, but studies have been conducted on ecosystem services from wetlands. One major assessment was published in 2013 by an expert Commission which was appointed by the Norwegian Government in October 2011 to assess and study the value of ecosystem services. The Commission was asked, among other things, to describe the consequences for society of the degradation of ecosystem services, to identify how relevant knowledge can best be communicated to decision makers, and to make recommendations about how greater consideration can be given to ecosystem services in private and public decision making. The Commission submitted its recommendations to the Minister of the Environment in August 2013 (Norwegian Official Report entitled NOU 2013: 10 Natural benefits – on the values of ecosystem services).

In summary, the Commission concludes that the ecosystem services approach can be a useful supplement to Norway's environmental and resource management in order to show more clearly why protecting nature is important to our own well-being. The Commission argues that the values of ecosystem services must be better demonstrated and reflected in decision making, and that values in nature must be communicated through policy instruments and framework conditions.

In the Commission's opinion the state of Norwegian ecosystems in summary is relatively good, but Norway's biological diversity and Norwegian ecosystems are also under pressure from many directions. Key factors include land use and land use change, as well as climate change and ocean acidification, pollution, environmental toxins and invasive species.

Important ecosystem services from Norwegian freshwater ecosystems include drinking water, flood control and recreational purposes. According to the commission the most important threats to the ecosystems in rivers and lakes are agricultural run-off, fish farming, municipal sewage systems and industry, physical encroachments and changes in land use or water flow, and the introduction and spread of invasive organisms.

Important ecosystem services from Norwegian wetlands include flood control, carbon storage and nature experiences. In its assessment the commission shows that changes in land use have had a significant impact on Norwegian wetlands, including through use for roads, sports grounds, building land and hydropower development. The commission also reviews important ecosystem services and ecosystem impacts related to the coastal zone, Arctic ecosystems and urban ecosystems, which all also include wetland elements.

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

A - Yes

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

For some of the Ramsar sites /wetlands, often sites with an information center, this has been focused as a part of the management plan.

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:

Elements of the Changwon Declaration and Ramsar COP decisions have in particular been used for developing Norwegian positions to the CBD, in particular its programme on inland water biodiversity and the inclusion of water related elements in the CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011 - 2020.

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
 - b. climate change
 - c. valuation of ecosystem services
- {1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

- a. A - Yes
- b. A - Yes
- c. D - Planned

1.6.1 Additional information:

Little specific research has been conducted on valuation of ecosystem services aimed at informing wetland policies and plans. However, some research has been undertaken to valuation of ecosystem services in general and for wetlands in particular.

The Report NOU 2013: 10 Natural benefits – on the values of ecosystem services (see presentation in 1.4.1 above), includes discussions on highlighting values and economic valuation and on socio-economic analysis as decision-making support and provides an overview of economic estimates of values of ecosystem services in Norway. Their review shows that only a relatively small number of studies have been carried out that have valued ecosystem services in Norway in monetary terms and that we have relatively few examples of use of economic valuation methods. The expert commission concludes that demonstrating values in quantitative and qualitative terms will be the most important for many services, but also conclude that there is a need for better quantitative and qualitative assessments.

There are some established research programs and projects relating to ecosystem services, including the program for Norwegian environmental research towards 2015 (MILJO2015) under the Norwegian Research Council. Reference should also be made to the report on future environment research (“Environment 21 – environment in everything”) which in January 2014 was published by the Norwegian Research Council. The report gives an analysis and provides recommendations on future environmental research needs, including on ecosystem services in general and on economic valuation in particular.

Relevant efforts have also been made regarding implementation of the EU Framework Directive, including through the Working Group on Economics. (A comprehensive overview over research and assessment efforts related to valuation of (wetland) ecosystem services has not been compiled yet).

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:

All the management plans are based on inventory of natural conditions e.g biodiversity, hydrology done by experts. Strict scientific research is only executed when it is considered necessary.

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

1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

D - Planned

1.7.1 Additional information:

Wetlands are considered as an integral part of River Basin Management Planning. However, in the first planning cycles the main focus has been on the aquatic ecosystems, and we see the need to improve guidance on wetlands for the river basin planners and managers.

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}

B - No

1.7.2 Additional information:

Wetland restoration has been on the agenda in annual, national river restoration seminars for several years, thereby raising awareness on the issue among the river basin planners and managers.

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

D - Planned

1.7.3 Additional information:

1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v

C - Partly

1.7.4 Additional information:

Almost 1000 constructed wetlands have been made in the agricultural areas of Norway during the last 20 years. Approximately 200 of those have been constructed since Norway implemented the WFD. Some restoration measures have also been implemented by reopening of creeks in the agricultural landscape.

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:

Based on a report ordered by NEA describing several hundred potential wetland restoration objects, a national plan for restoration has been developed (2012), with an implementing period from 2014-2018. Priority has so far been given to ten described projects, covering wetland types like oxbow lakes, meandering rivers, inland lakes and bogs. As the ecosystem as a whole is in focus, many different wetland habitats will be covered in each restoration project).

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:

This far Norway has focused the restoration in watersheds and rivers, for instance if there has been a negative impact on the river environment by previous protection works or by hydro power plants. As of today a handful wetland ecosystems only - like inland lakes and bogs, have been restored. However, the report referred to in 1.8.1 are now a main tool for the restoration of such habitats today. In accordance with the time schedule, Norway has started to implement the plan. The two top priority projects are now being restored, covering wetland habitats like alkaline fens, an inland lake, several ponds and a small river.

In addition to the priority projects, a local initiatives have made it possible to start the process of rehabilitating a great inland lake close to the Ørlandet Ramsar site.

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:

Alien species in Norway – with the Norwegian Black List 2012 presents an overview of alien species in Norway and of ecological impact assessments of alien species which reproduce in Norwegian territories. The List was conducted by The Norwegian Biodiversity Information Center (Artsdatabanken). English version: <http://www.artsdatabanken.no/Article/Article/133437>

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

B - No

1.9.2 Additional information:

Wetlands are included in national and regional control policies against alien species, but there are no specific policies or guidelines for wetlands other than "Significant negative impacts concerning biodiversity in wetlands due to alien species should be avoided."

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 overall national environmental goals apply to all sectors, including e.g. forestry, agriculture, and they are obliged to take environmental consideration.

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

a. Ramsar Sites

a. B - No

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

Statoil supports the development of a "Norwegian Seabird Center" at Gjesvær (bird cliffs) in Finnmark county.

Private landowners are often engaged to follow up on management plan efforts like grazing in wetlands.

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:

"Norway has a number of incentives to encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including both legal instruments and economic incentives. Key legal instruments on mainland Norway include the nature diversity act (including protected areas, endangered species and conservation of selected nature types), the water regulation, the planning and building act (including spatial planning and EIA), the pollution control act, the water resources act and the water course regulation act (including hydropower licenses). In Svalbard key legislation is embedded in the Svalbard environment act.

Key economic incentives include government grant schemes for protected areas, conservation of endangered species, wetlands restoration, flood control efforts, conservation of selected nature types, and conservation and wise use of wetlands in relation to agriculture and cultural landscapes. Important efforts are also being undertaken on communication and outreach (including wetland information centres) and mapping and geographical information systems. A review of the use of incentives related to wetlands and other key ecosystems will be included in the Norwegian national action plan for biodiversity, which will be presented in 2015 as part of our follow-up of the CBD."

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:

“A review of state subsidies for business and industry in relation to ecosystem services is provided in the report NOU 2013:10 (cf. question 1.4.1), which also includes a set of recommendations on economic policy instruments in general and on state subsidies to industries in particular. The review includes aspects related to agricultural subsidies and to schemes designed to promote the production of renewable energy, including the Norwegian-Swedish green certificates scheme.

A green tax shift is characterized by the refocusing of taxes onto environmentally harmful activities, and to provide input on this the Norwegian government in August 2014 established a Green Tax Commission which is to provide its report by December 2015. The commission is mandated to evaluate whether and how a green tax reform can be used to promote improved resource utilization and the achievement of the objectives contained in the cross-party broad agreement on climate policy. In this regard the term “improved resource utilization” also covers the question of how environmental taxes can be used to reduce local environmental problems such as local pollution of air, water and earth, noise, the use of chemicals hazardous to the environment and human health, undesirable interventions in nature and activities that negatively impact the enjoyment of nature.

(The mandate of the commission is available in English at <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fin/press-center/press-releases/2014/Ny-gronn-skattekomisjon/Mandate-for-a-new-green-tax-commission.html?id=764701>.”).

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:

NEA conducted a survey (2005) concerning potential new RS. this resulted in 14 areas included in the Ramsarlist in 2011 and another 12 RS included in 2013. Additional nominations (beyond the 63 existing RS) are likely, even though a concrete "shadow list" has not yet been developed. It will be evaluated whether sites to be protected as part of the national plan for MPAs should be nominated as RS.

NEA is preparing for inclusion of areas that has been added to existing PAs/RS after these sites were originally included on the Ramsar list. Also a survey of existing RS is being conducted to assess whether the existing borders are satisfactory to fully include the habitats/ecosystems meant to be protected.

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):

There are no concrete plans for new RS nominations at present, but extension of selected RS due to added areas protected (see 2.1.2) will most likely take place in this period. Potentially nomination could be made based on the National Plan for MPAs, but this will depend on the progress concerning implementation of this plan.

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

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

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:
E.g. Handbooks, classification and criteria.

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

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i	C - Some sites
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2.3.1 Additional information:
All the 63 Norwegian RS (wetland systems) are protected according to the Nature Diversity Act (former Nature Protection Act) or the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act. Priority is given to develop management plans for RS.

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	25 sites
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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	25 sites
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2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	6 sites
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2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:
The goal is to develop management plans for all 63 RS. Additional management plans will be prepared/finalized in 2014 and 2015. (For some of the RS - e.g. in Svalbard 'simplified' management plans may be developed due to their location (remoteness) or ecological character).

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	0 sites
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2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

This is seen less relevant as all the RS are designated as protected areas and managed by the environment authorities. Drafts for new or revised versions of management plans for RS are always sent on a broad hearing to cross-sectoral institutions/stakeholders, and meetings arranged with land owners and stakeholders as appropriate. Any proposals or action items could be included in the plan within the limits of the regulation of the protected area.

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

63 sites

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

All Norwegian RS are protected according to national law. As a part of these protection-processes there is done a core biodiversity inventory. All sites have RIS and most of the 63 Ramsar sites has updated RIS. The management plans also describe ecological character. Most of the data is available but the Ramsar wetland ecological character description sheet has not been taken in use yet.

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):

Mainly carried out as part of developing or revision of management plans.

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):

Mandatory reporting is in place, and NEA should receive immediate reports from the county governors or from the State Nature Inspectorate concerning negative impact that could affect RS. Also environmental NGOs are much aware of any threats to the RS/other wetlands and take contact with NEA quite often.

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):

For nine sites reports on possible change in the ecological character has been sent to the Secretariat.

Three cases have been sorted out without any change in ecological character: Øra RS No 305 – 1985 (oil spill accident - some dead seabirds/ducks), Kurefjorden RS No 306 - 1985 (deicing liquid from civil airport could reach a nearby into creek flowing out in the reserve – case solved – no pollution to influence the area), and Giske Wetlands System No 805 – No 1996 (expansion of security area/fence around Ålesund Airport and relocation of local road outside the fence - the site was not affected.

For five 3.2- cases the situation is still not sorted out as different (planning) processes are still going on; Åkersvika RS No 13 – 1974 (road expansion), Nordre Tyrifjord RS No 802 – 1996 (new main road and railway line), Ilene and Presterødkilen No 308 - 1985 (new road system), Nordre Øyeren RS 307 – 1985 (road expansion from two to four lines), and Froan Nature Reserve and LPA RS No 809 – 1996 (fishfarming

A report on Orlandet Wetland System No 310 – 1985 (Expanded Air Force Base – noise) was sent to the Secretariat 10th September 2014.

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):

Norway has never listed sites for the Montreux Record, but listing of some of the sites described in 2.6.2 was considered.

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:

In principle the ecological character is maintained as any nomination of Ramsar sites will be based on areas designated as protected areas already.

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

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

<p>3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
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3.1.1 Additional information:

There is no formal National Ramsar/Wetland Committee established, but there is a regular exchange of information between NFP and other working with biodiversity conventions through a "Convention Team" established in NEA.

<p>3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
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3.1.2 Additional information:

A formal mechanism for collaboration is not established, but in general there is good exchange of information between responsible persons/institutions.

The responsibility in Norway for MEAs and biodiversity related conventions largely fall under the Ministry of Climate- and Environment (MCE), and we believe there are good linkages between these as it comes to national implementation and coherent and supportive positions in international fora.

The Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) is the national authority for most of the relevant MEAs (e.g. Ramsar, CMS, CITES, UNESCO, Bern, Ospar, Polar Bear Agreement) and it is easy to coordinate and collaborate.

MCE has the main responsibility for CBD, but collaboration is very good as NEA both is strongly involved as a directorate under MCE. Likewise cooperation is good with MFA who is responsible for UNCCD using NEA as scientific and technical partner.

<p>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i></p>
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<p>3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

Norway initiated the establishment of the Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative (NorBalWet) in 2005 as a follow up of the 1st Nordic Wetland Conference arranged in Norway in 2004.

The following countries participate in the collaboration: Denmark (including the Faroe Islands), Estonia, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia (north-western regions), and Sweden. Norway chaired NoBalWet 2010-2012, and has participated in almost all the initiatives activities. (It should be further investigated whether Poland and Germany could be included in NorBalWet).

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}

B - No

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

Plans for actions/activities have been discussed only - with some of the countries taking part in NorBalWet.

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.*

<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11):</p> <p>Norway has supported wetland projects in six countries through donations via Ramsar's Small Grants Fund (SGF).</p> <p>In Myanmar funding has been made available to upgrade the information center in Moeungyi Wetland outside the capital Yangon - The only Ramsar site in Myanmar. (This is part of a larger cooperation on wetland management between Norway and Myanmar).</p> <p>Norway signed an agreement in December 2013 with Juba University for the project "Ecology and Management of Sudd Wetland, South Sudan" The financial frame is NOK 17.885.000 and the project will run from 2013-2017.</p> <p>Wetland components will also often be integrated in more general biodiversity projects. The just started cooperation with Myanmar on – among other issues – protected areas – is a good example.</p> <p>Norway also gives semi-earmarked support to UNEP (NOK 100 mill per year) and IUCN (NOK 21 mill per year) and some of this support will most likely be used for wetland-purposes.</p> <p>Norway supports several regional water management initiatives like Nile Basin Initiative and Lake Viktoria Basin Commission and wetland activities will be integrated in the activities of such bodies.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.3.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Environment is a cross-cutting issue for all Norwegian development projects. Norway also supports partner countries through competence building – including environmental safeguards - to energy authorities in countries where for example oil exploration or hydropower development is planned.</p>	
<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}</p>	<p>Z - Not applicable</p>
<p>3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):</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

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

A multiyear cooperation project on implementing of (selected topics) of the Ramsar Convention in the Czech Republic and Norway has been agreed and is now being conducted.

Under the bilateral environment agreement between Russia and Norway wetland conservation and management is a priority item, especially in the border area.

The Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative (NorBalWet)

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 websites of NEA, the 18 County governors and the Governor of Svalbard include such information.

We also inform about wetlands and the Ramsar Convention at '<http://www.miljostatus.no/>' - an official website presenting the latest information and status on the environment (target groups: pupils and

Brochures/booklets have been developed for many of Norway's 63 Ramsar sites and for many of the other protected wetlands as well.

More comprehensive books on some of the RS have been launched - e.g. Nordre Øyeren RS, Balsfjorden Wetland System RS

Some of the NGOs provide comprehensive wetland information - e.g. Birdlife and SABIMA

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

C - Partly

3.4.3 Additional information:

Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) are updated for 58 of Norway's 63 Ramsar sites.

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
<p>3.5.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Norway-Russia: along the border river Pasvik: The Ramsars site of Pasvik nature reserve (NO) and Pasvik zapovednik (RU) - not a Ramsar site yet</p> <p>Norway-Finland: Tana river and wetlands in Øvre Annarjokka (NO) and Lemmenjokki (FI) national parks,</p> <p>Norway-Sweden: There is one transboundary wetland having Ramsar status in both countries - Kvisleflået RS (NO) and Storkjølen RS (SE). Else there are very meny shared wetlands system with Sweden - covering a braod range of wetland types.</p>	
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
<p>3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):</p> <p>There is e g a water commission established for the Tana river between Finnmark county (NO) and Lapland county (FI).</p> <p>Ytre Hvaler National Park (NO) and Kosterhavets National Park (SE) consist of large coastal and marine wetlands and cooperation efforts concerning management has been established.</p>	
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:</p> <p>E g within AEWA there is international cooperation to develop management efforts for Anser erythropus (Lesser white-fronted goose). See also Portal to the Lesser White-fronted Goose - by the Fennoscandian Lesser White-fronted Goose project - http://www.piskulka.net/</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.*

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):

An CEPA Action Plan for Norway is in place. (<http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/Documents/publikasjoner/M76/M76.pdf>). It has been translated into Russian and English. The Gov CEPA FP, the NFP/STRP FP and representatives from wetland information centres, county governors environmental department and the Norwegian Nature State Inspectorate participated in the development of the action plan. It is mandatory to include CEPA in management plans for protected wetlands including all Ramsar site.

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) 4 centres
- b) 1 centres

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

Five wetland information centers have got a national authorization and receive funding annually for five years. Of these, four are in the proximity of Ramsar sites. In addition, there are about ten centers/exhibitions that inform about wetlands.

The authorized centers are part of a larger network of nature information centers (including 15 national park centers and 3 large carnivore centers, and 2 wild reideer centers). Annual workshops.

The ten wetland centers/exhibitions are part of a separate network (where the also the authorized wetland centers take part). Annual meetings.

About half of the 15 wetlands centers/initiatives (5 +10) are members of WLI.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

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

a) A - Yes

b) A - Yes

{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):

Any land use plans proposed according to the Planning and Building Act, or proposed plans that include any kind of water or hydropower development are subjects to wide hearings were all relevant stakeholders are invited to participate.

In Norway all existing / proposed new Ramsar Sites are already protected by either the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act, or the Nature Diversity Act (former the nature protection Act). Prior to selection and establishment of protected areas there are wide hearings were all stakeholder are invited/included.

Norway has applied for Ramsar status for selected sites in several rounds. In this connection the County governors (18) and the Governor of Svalbard, research institutions and NGOs and others have been consulted for candidates (The report on Important Bird Areas (IBA) and Potential Ramsar Sites compiled by Birdlife International et al has been an important background document).

All management plans for PAs are subject to hearings were relevant stakeholders are invited to participate.

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)

b)

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

Training in CEPA activities in relation to wetlands have been provided for wetland center managers, and the Norwegian Nature Inspectorate (which is a part of NEA).

<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>B - No</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>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) A - Yes
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>RS managers, e g the staff at county governor level, are gathered once a year for sharing of information including sharing of relevant Ramsar information. Likewise the Norwegian State Nature Inspectorate has frequent gatherings (rangers) where Ramsar related issues are looked into. Gathering for wetlands centers are conducted annually.</p> <p>Given that most MEAs are organised within NEA or MoCE they all have knowledge and easy access to Ramsar material.</p> <p>A team to co-ordinate the biodiversity conventions and similar agreements has been set up in NEA.</p> <p>The MoCE also undertakes efforts to handle co-operation and coordination between conventions, other agreements, both for national implementation and policy development and for participation in international fora</p>	
<p>4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>Both NEA, some of the county governors and many of the wetlands information centers have had celebration/activities on a yearly basis. There has also been activities in connection with the Nordic-Baltic World Wetlands Day the 2nd of September. (For WWD-Nordic 2nd September 2014 see: http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/no/Nyheter/Nyheter/2014/September-2014/Okende-press-mot-vatmarksomradene-i-Norge/)</p> <p>As part of the conditions all the authorized wetlands information centers are required to celebrated the WWD.</p>	

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}

A - Yes

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

Many of the wetland information centers celebrate other biodiversity relevant days, like International day for Biological diversity, International Bat night, International Migratory bird day and others.

The wetland information centers also organize activities on a local level - e g local "wetland days". The activities includes activities, workshops and events including a wide range of topics. The activities are mainly focused on the local population, children and school children.

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

4.2.1

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

A - Yes

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

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

A - Yes

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

Travel support for participants from developing countries (and others) has been provided to the Secretariat annually for many years.

Support to e g the SGF (six projects), STRP activities, the TEEB report on water and wetlands

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):

Former National Reports provide a nice basis for the next cycle of the 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):

Birdlife International - providing information and awareness concerning RS at risk.
Consultation concerning development cooperation - e.g. Myanmar

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):

Wetlands International, Birdlife International Norway, WWF-Norway and IUCN all receive funding for projects in developing countries.