



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.

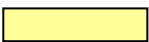
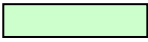
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: SWEDEN

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Maria Ågren, Director General
Mailing address:	S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone/Fax:	+46 10 698 15 08
Email:	Maria.Agren@naturvardsverket.se

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Jenny Lonnstad, Advisor
Mailing address:	S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone/Fax:	+46 10 698 15 92.
Email:	Jenny.Lonnstad@naturvardsverket.se.

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

Name and title:	Lena Tranvik, Head of Programme for Habitat Types
Name of organisation:	The Swedish Species Information Centre
Mailing address:	Box 7007, S-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden
Telephone/Fax:	+46 18-67 24 78
Email:	Lena.Tranvik@slu.se

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

Name and title:	Jenny Lonnstad, Advisor
Name of organisation:	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Mailing address:	S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone/Fax:	+46 10 698 15 92
Email:	Jenny.Lonnstad@naturvardsverket.se

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

Name and title:	Lennart Gladh, Baltic project coordinator
Name of organisation:	WWF-Sweden.
Mailing address:	Ulriksdals Slott, S-170 81 Solna, Sweden
Telephone/Fax:	+46 8 624 74 00
Email:	lennart.gladh@wwf.se; lennart.gladh@swipnet.se

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) In 2013, there was a governmental decision about establishing 15 new Ramsar sites and enlarging two existing ones. Now Sweden has 66 Ramsar sites, altogether 658646 hectares.

2) In 2013 a new report about guidance for localisation of peat extraction sites was published. The content has been useful for authorities working with permits for exploitation. The report is one step further to wise use of peatlands.

3) In 2014 there was an "e-newsletter" started about wetlands. The newsletter is published on www.naturvardsverket.se/bladdran and updates can be reached by RSS.

4) In 2011 the first reports from the new monitoring programme for open mires started to be published. There has also been a new monitoring programme made for palsa mires.

5) The restoration of mires in the Life-project "Life to (add)mire" and the re-establishment of wetlands in areas with a lot of arable land has had positive effects not only on biodiversity but on other ecosystem services as well. There have also been a number of Life-projects about restoration of water courses, for example Vindelälven and Fyleån.

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

1) One of the main difficulties is insufficient resources for measures. Protecting wetlands is time-consuming and dependent on long-term work and sustainable financing. The possibilities (conditions and budget) to do measures in wetlands co-financed by the Swedish Rural Development Programme are still unclear for the next programme period. Threats against wetlands are often considered to be smaller compared to natural forests and most national resources for nature conservation are therefore mainly used to protect forests.

2) In some aspects, the legislation has become weaker. It is now easier to get dispensation to destroy small wetlands for agricultural use. Change in other legislation makes it easier to get an exemption for building houses close to small lakes and water courses. This will have consequences for the management of the riparian zone and the water in these areas and may cause negative effects on wetland biodiversity and water quality.

3) Achieving wise use, (sustainable use of wetlands and their ecosystem services) and favourable conservation status, is an on-going challenge.

4) Integrated River Basin and Coastal Zone management needs to be implemented more widely.

5) Most nature reserves include freshwater habitats, there are however, needs to investigate the reserves further for aquatic values and subsequently strengthen regulations. Sweden has a very long coastline and even though marine protection has increased, the work is going slowly.

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

1) Consideration for the wetlands, rivers, lakes and coastal areas in conjunction with the use of land adjacent to wetlands needs to get better. Two main threats are intensive forest management and ditch cleaning in management of arable land and forests. The driving forces are largely increased demand for wood/biomass and the risk that crops will be damaged by too wet soils.

2) Adequate funding for continued conservation and restoration of wetlands is also needed. Interest in wetland restoration and construction need to be further stimulated among landowners. Efforts to restore drained areas and maintenance of previously claimed wetlands are necessary.

3) How to cope with a changed climate and the effect it will have on the distribution of water in the landscape.

4) There is a big need in Sweden to make new and modern permits that include environmental conditions for a number of plants (dams etc) built in watercourses before there was any environmental legislation. New permits may include measures that reduce the environmental impact of hydropower without hazarding the production of energy needed to meet future energy demands. Continued work to eliminate obstacles in order to let fish and other aquatic organisms migrate freely along the watercourses.

5) There is on-going work with quality assurance about the borders and data about the Ramsar sites and changes in the legislation about Ramsar sites. This is planned to be finalised before COP12.

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

Continue to provide information about ecosystem services and their values. It's important that the Ramsar secretariat take an active part in the Climate convention. Some measures suggested for climate adaptation are good for wetlands and others are not, and it is recommended if Ramsar take part in the discussions and negotiations. Resolutions about how to cope with such matters are recommended in both conventions and in the CBD.

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)

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

The Swedish EPA plan to work with establishing structures etc for better co-operation between persons in Sweden working with MEAs during the next triennium.

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 knowledge of the Ramsar Convention could increase within a lot of sectors. The newsletter may be one way, guidance from governmental authorities another.

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

In Sweden, the environmental quality objectives apply to all sectors of society and set the framework for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. In particular, the objectives 'Thriving wetlands' and 'Flourishing Lakes and Streams', concern wetlands but other objectives are also important for them. In 2012 the government decided about clarifying specifications for each objective. Through the environmental quality objectives, and their focus on conservation, sustainable use, ecosystem services and restoration etc, the aims of Ramsar Convention are satisfyingly implemented in the objectives of the society.

Every four years, an in-depth evaluation is made of the progress towards achieving the environmental quality objectives, and the results are presented to the Government and Parliament as a basis for Sweden's environmental policy in the years to come. There was an in-depth evaluation of 'Thriving wetlands' and 'Flourishing Lakes and Streams' reported in 2012. The evaluation covered state for wetlands, how the society copes with the environmental issues and the conditions and possibilities to reach the objectives. The results show that there is still a lot to do to reach the objectives.

The 2020 interim targets of the protection of land, freshwater and marine areas include at least 20 % of Sweden's land and fresh water areas and 10 % of Sweden's marine areas by 2020. This will be achieved through protection or other conservation measures in areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The formal protection of wetlands will be increased by about 210 000 hectares by the protection of marshes with high conservation value in the national mire protection plan. The formal protection of lakes and rivers will be increased by at least 12 000 hectares and the formal protection of marine areas will be increased by at least 570 000 hectares. Through the development and strengthening of green infrastructure, the ecological relationships are strengthened so that sheltered and preserved areas and habitats are connected and integrated into the landscape, including the marine environment.


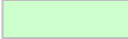
I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

The Agency for Marine and Water Management, WWF and The Wetland Fund.

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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:

There are a number of surveys and inventories about wetlands in Sweden.

The Swedish wetland survey (not including all kind of aquatic habitats) was initiated in 1981 and completed in 2004. It covers the whole country except the alpine zone. Individual County Administration Boards with support from the Swedish EPA have conducted the survey. Approximately 35 000 wetlands, generally larger than 10 hectares (50 hectares in the northernmost part of the country), have been studied on aerial photographs and 12 % of the objects have been visited in the field. The objectives for the survey included mapping the distribution of wetlands throughout the county, as well as studying their environmental assets and the extent to which they have been affected by human activities. In 2014 a compilation of the final results was published in English. From september 2014 the report will be available at <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/978-91-620-6618-5>

Furthermore, complementary inventories of alkaline fens (rich fens) have been done in the framework of an action programme for rich fens and associated threatened species which was established by the Swedish EPA. The state and trends of alkaline fens with respect to the impact of human activities on hydrology and biodiversity will be monitored in the Swedish national environmental monitoring programme in the years to come.

The project 'Base survey of Natura 2000 and protected areas' lasted from 2004 to 2008. The aim was to collect information about habitats, structures, functions and species within Sweden's Natura 2000 areas and protected areas. For wetland habitats, this inventory was based on the national wetlands survey and partly uses the same methodology. It gave updated information for some of the areas with high conservation values, as well as additional information about mountainous wetlands and some of the smaller habitat types, such as springs and rich fens.

Results from a detailed survey about palsa mires were published in 2014 and are available at http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/norrbottn/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/publikationer/miljo%20och%20klimat/Tillst%c3%a5ndet%20i%20milj%c3%b6n/4_2014_Kartering%20av%20Sveriges%20palsmyrar.pdf

Both marine and inland waters lack a comprehensive national inventory. The database "Valuable water" is a compilation of valuable freshwater environments based natural, fish, fishing and cultural values.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

C - Partly

1.1.2 Additional information:

In June 2014 it was discovered that the wetland database was corrupt. Luckily, there is a back-up from 2010. The coming year efforts will be made to make quality controls and re-install data more recent than 2010 in a non-corrupt state.

Information from the inventory has been communicated to and used by a wide range of stakeholders. There is an on-going project to make all reports from the survey available in a digitalised format. The reports and some unpublished manuscripts are now digitalised but they still have to be made available on the internet.

Data from the survey of alkaline fens (rich fens) is available at the county administrative boards concerned. The data will be maintained in the Swedish national environmental monitoring programme in the years to come, by monitoring the state and trends of hydrology and biodiversity.

Data from the monitoring programme for open mires will be made available on the internet.

There is a website VISS (Water Information System Sweden), where many of the results from surveys are available. <http://www.viss.lansstyrelsen.se/>.

The information in the database "Valuable water" is accessible to all stakeholders (<https://www.havochvatten.se/hav/samordning--fakta/kartor--gis/karttjanster-fran-hav/karttjanster/vardefulla-vatten.html>).

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, Available information does not indicate that the ecological character of Ramsar Sites has changed notably during the last triennium, except the sites Åsnen (water quality/number of birds staying during winter), Helgeån (changes in vegetation probably due to grazing by geese). Investigations about the changes are on-going. The palsas in some of the northern Ramsar sites are slowly deteriorating, due to warmer conditions the last years.

b, Since COP11 the first results from the satellite monitoring programme for open mires have been published, and these reports cover the four most northern counties, except the Alpine zone, so more than a third of the country has been surveyed. The results show that there is a change in vegetation detectable by satellite images on open mires of 0-1 % of the total area in a period of app. 10 years. There are indications in the preliminary results from the most southern parts of two counties further south that the degree of impact and changes are higher in some areas up, to 5 % of the total area changed. It has probably to do with the on-going densification of trees. The main explanation for the overgrowing of wetlands is that the old large-scale drainage started a process of change in vegetation that takes a long time and that vegetation changes continuously. Another important cause of changes in vegetation are the changes in management regimes (mowing and grazing), in some wetland types these changes go fast and in others they take a lot of time. Nitrogen deposition may also be a part of the changes in the south west of the country. The satellite monitoring, in combination with the ongoing National Inventory of Landscapes in Sweden (NILS, <http://nils.slu.se/>) and The Swedish National Forest Inventory (RIS, <http://www.slu.se/en/collaborative-centres-and-projects/swedish-national-forest-inventory/>), has and will further improve the monitoring of ecological character of the Swedish wetlands.

Following the EU Habitats Directive, Sweden has an obligation to preserve the included species and habitats. Their status is monitored and assessed in accordance with Article 17 of the Directive. The last evaluation was done in 2013, it includes state and trends. There is a publication presenting the results, (includes English summary and figure texts) available at <http://www.slu.se/sv/centrumbildningar-och-projekt/artdatabanken/om-oss/publikationer/bocker/2014-arter-naturtyper-i-habitatdirektivet-bevarandestatus-i-sverige-2013/>. Only a few wetland habitats have favourable conservation status in the continental region, the situation is a little bit better in the boreal region and in the alpine region, only a few wetland habitats don't have favourable conservation status. Reasons for unfavourable conservation status are river damming, wetland drainage, lack of grazing/mowing, sewage effluents and excessive use of fertilisers that have caused severely disturbed hydrological conditions and eutrophication. The continuous exploitation of coastal regions poses a great threat to the coastal environment. Restoration of watercourses, mires and

other wetland types continues but the pace is slow.

The water quality of lakes, watercourses and parts of the coastal areas of the Baltic Sea has improved in some areas with regard to acidification, eutrophication and toxic substances. The concentrations of certain substances, such as PBDEs and mercury in aquatic biota are still so high that they contribute to a negative environmental impact in many lakes and watercourses. The water has also become increasingly brown in lakes and watercourses due to inflow of humic substances, particularly in southern Sweden.

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

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i
(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

A - Yes

1.3.1 Additional information:

The national environmental quality objectives (EQOs); for example Thriving Wetlands', 'Flourishing Lakes and Streams' and partly some of the other objectives is seen as the fundamental National Wetland Policy. The Swedish Parliament adopted them and they are described further at <http://www.miljomal.se/sv/Environmental-Objectives-Portal/>. The objectives describe the environmental state needed in order to achieve sustainable development (wise use) and favourable conservation status. The EQOs apply to all sectors of the Swedish society.

In addition, there are several policy documents as a part of implementing the EQOs. For example, 'National Strategy for Thriving Wetlands' was established by the Swedish EPA in cooperation with the National Board of Forestry, the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the National Heritage Board, and presented to the Swedish government in October 2005. The strategy is available in English at <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Documents/publikationer/620-1253-3.pdf?pid=2657>.

The Mire Protection Plan, which identifies around 600 mires that are given priority for legal protection, was revised in 2007.

The EU Water Framework Directive is being implemented in Sweden. The Ordinance on Water Quality Management (Förordningen om förvaltning av kvaliteten på vattenmiljön) is the Swedish legislation pursuant to the directive. Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) applied to water bodies were adopted in 2009. River basin management plans and Programme of measures for each river basin district were also adopted in 2009. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is being implemented in Sweden. The directive was transposed into Swedish legislation through the Marine Environmental Regulation in 2010.

<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) A - Yes e) A - Yes f) A - Yes 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: </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: Development projects require EIAs according to the environmental legislation.</p>	

<p>1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: No, on the contrary legislation has become weaker in some wetland aspects.</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>B - No</p>
<p>1.4.1 Additional information: </p>	

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

1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	C - Partly
<p>1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>Cultural values All the sites that include wetlands that are grazed or mowed have such measures included in management plans for the protected area/-s at such sites. For example: Foteviken-Falsterbo, Vassikkavouma, Hornborgasjön, Ottenby, Getterön, Helgeån. The local community is often involved in the management measures that carry on the cultural heritage.</p> <p>In some cases cultural elements that have a negative impact on the biological conservation values are prescribed to be taken away or be replaced by more natural conditions in restoration measures. Such measures have been on going in Vindelälven for example, where a number of dams that have stopped the migration of fish are subject to demolition. The conservation plan for Vindleälven includes such measures and is implemented by a Life-project: http://vindlriverlife.se/?lang=en.</p> <p>Socio-economic values Many Ramsar Sites and other protected wetlands are important for recreation and outdoor activities, which are normally reflected in the management of the sites. Other socio-economic issues are seldom reflected in management plans for protected areas.</p>	

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

<p>1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:</p> <p>a. head of state b. parliament c. private sector d. civil society {1.5.2}</p>	<p>a. B - No b. B - No c. B - No d. B - No</p>
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1.5.1 Additional information:

The content has been included in a number of reports, statement etc, but the resolution itself has not been forwarded. The government got information about the resolution and other outcomes of the COP 10 in 2008.

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

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

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

a. A - Yes

b. A - Yes

c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

a). yes/partly. Research in the agricultural field has been focused on the ability of wetlands to reduce nutrients in the aquatic environment.

b). yes/partly. Different universities and institutions have performed research relating to effects of climate change, e.g. the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, the University of Lund and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

c). yes/partly. This issue is high on the political agenda in Sweden. Different universities and institutions have performed research on valuation of ecosystems. Recently the Swedish EPA has started a special research programme for these issues. One of the research projects is about the value of ecosystem services performed by aquatic habitats, another research project concerns the Ramsar site Helgeån and is focused on the combined management of the interacting ecosystem services.

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:

.....

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

1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins?

{1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

Continued works on wetlands are important measures in water management, to achieve good water status relating to the EU Water Framework Directive. Environmental Quality Standards (EQS), River basin management plans and Programme of measures for each river basin district all link to wetland management.

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

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

Partly, but relating to the EU Water Framework Directive and not Ramsar in particular.

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

C - Partly

1.7.3 Additional information:

The Environmental Quality Objectives and the National Wetland Strategy address climate change mitigation and adaptation, but more detailed decisions and measures are needed. There have been a number of projects about wetlands and climate change, for example effects of restoration and if counting according to LULUCF wetlands and rewetting is to take place in Sweden etc.

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

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

The creation of wetlands in agricultural areas helps to achieve the aims of water management. During 2011-2013, approximately 1500 hectares of wetlands have been established or restored in the agricultural landscape with support from the Swedish Rural Development Programme. The budget and conditions for the programme's funding for new restoration measures are under consideration.

The work with wetland restoration needs to be enhanced and accelerated, to achieve national environmental objectives, reduce losses of plant nutrients and enhance the biodiversity, especially 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:

Yes, partly. The Swedish county administrative boards have developed planning documents for restoration of wetlands in the agricultural landscape. Areas where wetland restoration will be particularly important to increase biodiversity and/or reduce the loss of plant nutrition are pointed out. Landowners and other relevant parties are involved throughout the process of planning and restoration. There are still no restoration sites identified for the other wetland types, even if we know some hotspot areas for restoration. 'Valuable waters' (Värdefulla vatten) is a national database used for prioritizing restoration actions in streams.

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:

Yes/Partly. Some wetland types have restoration programmes or strategies, but not all. During 2011-2013, approximately 1500 hectares of wetlands have been established or restored in the agricultural landscape. The implementing of action plans for threatened species often include restoration measures. Restoration measures have been performed in many rivers in accordance with the national strategy for the restoration of valuable rivers.

The LIFE+ project Life to ad(d)mire (2010-2015) will restore 35 (3581 hectares) drained and overgrown wetlands and marshes from Skåne in the south of Sweden to Jämtland in the north of Sweden. There are a number of other Life-project that also include restoration measures, for example restoring watercourses to their natural state, for example Vindelälven and Fyleån.

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

B - No

1.9.1 Additional information:

.....

1.9.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRa 1.9.iii	C - Partly
<p>1.9.2 Additional information: The environmental quality objectives that concern wetlands and aquatic state include clarifications that alien species and genotypes should not be a threat to biodiversity and that GMO that may affect the biodiversity isn't introduced. The Environmental Code contains provisions concerning the release of alien species, in line with Sweden's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, although the legislation needs to be amended. There is also a policy for introduction and dispersion of alien organisms – intentional as well as unintentional – aims to prevent negative environmental impacts from alien species and genes. Any permission to introduce an alien species shall be based on risk assessments that illuminate the potential impact on biological diversity, the natural environment and human health.</p>	

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
<p>1.10.1 Additional information: The national environmental quality objectives and the Environmental Code, and their implications for sustainable development, apply to all sectors of the Swedish society.</p>	
<p>1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b. Wetlands in general</p> <p>{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii</p>	<p>a. A - Yes</p> <p>b. A - Yes</p>

1.10.2 Additional information:

a, The private sector is often involved in the management measures that carry on grazing and mowing at the sites that require such management.

b, All sectors of society are obliged to take environmental consideration in accordance with the Environmental Code. This is particularly relevant within forestry, as regulated by the Forestry Act. Landowners, especially farmers are relatively active in restoring wetlands.

The Swedish Wetland Fund – a collaboration of WWF-Sweden, the Swedish Ornithological Society and the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management – have involved the private sector among the donors. During 2011-2014 the fund has financed measures at app. 150 wetland sites, altogether 500 hectares. Since 1995 it has co-financed restoration measures at app. 700 sites, altogether 6500 hectares. State-owned Sveaskog, Sweden's largest forest owner have an on-going project about water landscapes, adapting their forestry to conservation values along a number of watercourses. The private sector is also locally involved in different wetland projects and in education for example arranging study circles about wetland management including restoration and re-establishing.

STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information:

There is a governmental budget for establishing new protected areas and to manage the existing ones and to implement the action programmes for threatened species. Unfortunately, the budget is small compared with the needs. For example, the conservation of the sites in the Mire Protection Plan will take more than 25 years if the conservation pace of the latest 5 years continues. LONA is a fund for municipalities that would like to take different measures that promote biodiversity and ecosystem services. The last triennium about 50 wetland and water project has been co-funded by LONA.

The possibilities (conditions and budget) to do measures (restoration, mowing and grazing) in wetlands co-financed by the Swedish Rural Development Programme are still unclear for the next programme period. It is possible to apply for a small financial support for different measures in the forest, including restoration of wetlands, but the total budget is very small.

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

B - No

1.11.2 Additional information:

It is possible for energy plants using peat to get a certificate as renewable energy that is a form a subsidy. The Swedish EPA has proposed to government that it should be removed but without results.

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:

Altogether, Sweden has 66 Ramsar sites. There are no plans nor any strategy for designating more Ramsar sites, except the two described below.

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

2 sites

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

There is an on-going work with quality controls of the borders of Ramsar sites. During this work, it has been possible for the County Administrative Boards to suggest new Ramsar sites. If all preparations are ready at the end of the summer 2014, Sikåsvågorna and Oset-Rynningeviken will be proposed as new Ramsar sites to the government. There might be a governmental decision about that before COP12.

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

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

Sweden has designated 15 new sites in 2013 and 2 more sites may be designated during 2015. There are no plans nor any work on going for designating more Ramsar sites than that. The information is available and the resolution XI.8 with its annexes are distributed to the County Administrative Boards.

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

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

C - Some sites

2.3.1 Additional information:

There is no management plan for Sikåsvågorna. Oset-Rynningeviken on the other hand consists of two nature reserves and management plans exist.

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

65 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

65 sites

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

0 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

All Swedish Ramsar sites are either completely or partly designated Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 covers 80% of the total area of the Ramsar sites. Most of the sites are completely or partly protected as NR (nature reserves) or NP (national parks). One single Ramsar site can contain a number of NRs. Regulations for the NPs and NRs are included in the decision about establishing them.

According to Swedish legislation, a management plan is required for NRs and NPs and a conservation plan is required for Natura 2000 sites. Altogether, there are about 350 management/conservation plans for the 66 existing Ramsar sites. There is no compilation containing information about which of the plans that are under revision for the time being. Mannavuoma lack management/conservation plan.

There are no plans to make management plans for the unprotected areas within the Ramsar sites. For the time being it's considered that the general legislation will be sufficient to protect those parts.

The answers about number of sites in 2.4.1-2.4.2 are estimations. There is no estimation for 2.4.3.

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

60 sites

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

The County Administrative Boards are generally responsible for the management of protected areas, sometimes in cooperation with the Regional Forestry Boards. The tasks of the County Administrations cover a wide span that embraces many sectors of the community, and in this respect management strategies are cross-sectorial. For some Ramsar sites, management responsibility is delegated from the County Administrative Board to e.g. foundations established to convene different stakeholders. Community involvement has high priority in nature conservation in Sweden, and efforts are being made to increase the participation of different stakeholders in the management of protected areas.

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

66 sites

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

Conservation status targets and general ecological descriptions have been established for NRs, NPs and Natura 2000 sites, as described in the management/conservation plans. This is also reflected in the Ramsar Information Sheets for each site.

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):

Yes, partly. Monitoring of protected areas has recently been initiated, and the monitoring is based on a base-line inventory. Many effects of measures or the lack of them will be possible to monitor.

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

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i	A - Yes
<p>2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):</p> <p>All Swedish Ramsar sites are either completely or partly protected as nature reserves and/or Natura 2000 sites. Management plans for nature reserves and Natura 2000 sites shall include monitoring measures, in respect of follow-up of identified conservation status targets.</p> <p>If accidents or other unexpected impacts happen, the counties contact the Swedish EPA.</p>	
2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i	C - Some cases
<p>2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):</p> <p>Information has been written in the RIS for Lundåkrabukten, Helgeån and Skälderviken. The problems at Lundåkrabukten and Skälderviken are solved. The sites with palsa mires all have problem with climate change and this is reflected in the RISs.</p> <p>There are changes in Åsnen that has not been reported yet. It will be included in the RIS in the database during 2015.</p>	
2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii	Z - Not applicable
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
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2.7.1 Additional information:

The state of Sikåsvågorna has not changed. The conservation values of Oset-Rynningeviken have improved due to restoration and management measures.

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

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

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

As long as no such Committee exist, no one can be invited. However, there is a regular exchange with other NFP and others involved in the work about national conventions. The exchange is about what is happening in the different conventions and what kind of issues that are of importance for Sweden.

<p>3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	B - No
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3.1.2 Additional information:

The Ministry of Environment and The Swedish EPA and The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management coordinate international convention work. Other authorities are also involved in the international work. There is no official mechanism for the collaboration, but there in general a good informal exchange of information between officials.

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

Sweden participates in the NorBalWet. The AA has been participating in two NBW-projects and the NBW co-ordinating group during the last triennium.

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):

.....

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i

B - No

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

.....

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

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

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

Z - Not applicable

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

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

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

A - Yes

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

As a member state of the EU, Sweden has many opportunities for knowledge sharing in matters relating to biodiversity matters, among many other things. There are also several active national networks involving national and regional authorities, as well as other stakeholders, concerning e.g. sustainable use, nature conservation and integrated water management.

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

C - Partly

3.4.2 Additional information:

The web-based infrastructure is well developed in Sweden, and national and regional authorities, as well as NGOs provide wetland information. A number of wetland publications are available in print and/or on the Internet. See for example the Swedish EPA website with an on-line bookstore and library service: www.naturvardsverket.se. During the last triennium the Swedish web information about Ramsar sites was taken away due to change of web software, it has to be further developed before being re-installed.

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:

Ramsar Information Sheets are available for all Swedish Ramsar Sites, although all up dating isn't finalised, comment from the secretariat (2013 has not been taken care of yet and the updating of six sites (last reported 2008) isn't started yet.

A publication about Swedish wetlands will be distributed to the secretariat for your information but not for dissemination. The SEPA will distribute the publication and information about where its available on the internet to a number of countries and organisations.

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:

Transboundary wetlands that are Ramsaristes include:

The Ramsar sites of Storkölen (SE) and Kvisleflået (NO),

The Ramsar sites of Mannavouma (SE) and Lätäseno-Hietajoki (FI).

There are a hundreds of shared transboundary wetland systems with Norway in

the form of small lakes and mires to larger watercourses, for example the river Trysil-Klarälven. The river Könkämä-Mounio-Torne älv is the border between Sweden and Finland. There are also two coastal marine areas that are transboundary, but only small parts fulfil the criteria for Ramsar, the depth of the water is usually more than six metres. The first area is the archipelago south of Haparanda (SE) and Tornio (FI), the second is the inner part of the fiord Idefjord shared between (NO) and (SE).

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

C - Partly

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

A revised Finnish-Swedish Frontier Rivers Commission was established in 2010, to promote national co-operation in environmental and water issues in the area of the river Torne älv.

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:

Sweden has an action programme for Anser erythropus. There are international co-operation within the AEWA to develop a common management plan for Anser erythropus and other species for at least some of the countries involved.

Sweden participates in the project Migratory Birds for People, a co-operation for wetland centres along the migration routes for birds between Europe and Africa.

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
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Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

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

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

<p>4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p> <p>.....</p>
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<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
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- a) at Ramsar Sites
- b) at other wetlands

- a) 1 centres
- b) 3 centres

<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p>
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In Sweden, there are 31 naturum (visitor centres supervised by the Swedish EPA). The naturum are often located at nature reserves or national parks, and aim at disseminating information about the area but also about nature conservation, ecology and human impact in general. Ramsar sites with such visitors centres are Hornborgasjön, Tåkern, Ottenby, Åsnen, Getterön, Asköviken-Sörfjärden, Helgeån, Store Mosse-Kävsjön, Dalälven-Färnebofjärden and Vindelälven. Tåkern was established during the triennium 2011-2014.

A new naturum at the World Heritage site Laponia will be inaugurated in a few months' time. The Ramsar site Sjaunja is included in the World heritage site but the site is quite a long distance from the naturum.

There are also at least 90 Nature Schools around the country, some associated to naturum, that work in cooperation with the municipalities in educating children and teachers. During the last triennium, 5 new Nature Schools were established. Most of the naturum and Nature Schools have wetlands nearby. The answer under b, is a guess.

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) C - Partly</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>a) + b) The issue of community involvement has high priority in nature conservation in Sweden. It constitutes a cornerstone in the Swedish government's policy. Local stakeholder involvement is central in the designation of Ramsar sites and protected areas, and in the implementation of Natura 2000 (EU Habitats and Birds Directives).</p> <p>Due to regulations concerning land tenure and the strong position of landowners in Sweden, their involvement is a prerequisite in wetland restoration. Further, the Swedish Environmental Code states that in connection with the consultation process which takes place prior to the drafting of an environmental impact statement, the operator must obtain and compile available data and consult the other local stakeholders, authorities and organizations concerned.</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>There is no assessment made but there is plan for a a training about the new database for RIS.</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) 1</p> <p>b) 10</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>The numbers of opportunities are approximate, not exact.</p> <p>The Swedish Wetland Fund arranged a conference about wetlands in 2013; it included a site visit to the Ramsar site Kvismaren. The Swedish Species Information Centre arranged a conference on water - From the source to the sea, in 2012. National authorities as well as regional and local ones also arrange education opportunities. How many of the wetland site managers that attend is unknown. There have also been a plan to have a training about restoration of mires, but the training was cancelled due to only a few showed interest to participate.</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>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>The former Swedish Ramsar Committee that was constituted by the Swedish EPA and a number of NGOs, is no longer active. However, there are fora where wetland matters may be discussed and handled, primarily within the framework of the Environmental Quality Objectives, where it is possible to involve central government agencies, county administrative boards, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the business sector.</p> <p>Further, concerning the EU Water Framework Directive, The EU Marine Strategic Framework Directive and the Ordinance on Water Quality Management there are five Water Authorities in charge of water work in their respective district, and each Water Authority has a Water Delegation as a governing board. The Water Delegations are comprised of representatives from different sectors of society. There are also water management associations and coastal water management associations coordinating local and regional stakeholders.</p>	
<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>There are mailing lists and networks established and a newsletter on the web.</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>B - No</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>Information on WWD has not been disseminated through the Swedish EPA's web site during the last triennium. The celebration day, February 2 when most wetlands are covered by snow or ice, is not the best one for Sweden. however, there have been celebrations arranged on a local level.</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):

Since 2009 there has been a yearly campaign called Nature's Year, (<http://naturensar.se>). There are about 50 organisations working together, arranging events all over the country with the purpose to raise awareness about nature and offer the public the possibility to spend an enjoyable time in the nature. A lot of these events are arranged at wetland sites and the wetland centres arrange a lot. Every year there is a certain theme. In 2011 Forests (including swamp forest), in 2012 Aquatic environment and in 2013 Outdoors. In 2014 the theme is Outdoors for young people.

The Skagerakk-Kattegatt week (Västerhavsveckan) is an annual recurring theme week for the marine environment in the region of Västra Götaland. The region of Västra Götaland cooperates with universities, organizations, institutions and companies to lift marine environmental issues and spark interest in the sustainable use of marine resources. The week includes lectures, seminars and debates on marine environmental issues to the public. University of Gothenburg, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Chalmers University of Technology, Maritime House, Maritime Museum and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management are some of the contributing actors.

The Baltic Week (Östersjöveckan) is annually arranged in Visby and gathers researchers, politicians, commentators, other stakeholders and the public to discuss issues of sustainable development, nature conservation and democracy in the Baltic region during a week.

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

4.2.1

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

A - Yes

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

.....

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

B - No

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

.....

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

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

A - Yes

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

The national report is compiled from existing information concerning wetland conservation and wise use from many sources, and in this aspect used to monitor implementation of the Convention.

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):

Wetlands International assisted in the NorBalWet-project on CEPA, where Sweden participated.

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):

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