



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.

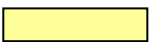
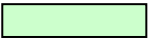
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: SWITZERLAND

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Bruno Oberle, Director
Mailing address:	Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, CH 3003 Bern
Telephone/Fax:	Telephone: +41 58 463 09 18 / Fax: +41 58 462 99 81 (secretariat)
Email:	heidi.vonallmen@bafu.admin.ch (secretariat)

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Dr. phil. nat. Reinhard Schnidrig, deputy head of division, head of section
Mailing address:	Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Species, Ecosystems, Landscapes Division, CH-3003 Bern
Telephone/Fax:	Telephone: +41 58 463 03 07 / Fax: +41 58 463 89 74
Email:	reinhard.schnidrig@bafu.admin.ch

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

Name and title:	Sabine Herzog, deputy head of section, head of Wildlife protection & process management Sector
Name of organisation:	Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Mailing address:	Species, Ecosystems, Landscapes Division, CH-3003 Bern
Telephone/Fax:	Telephone: 41 58 463 03 40 / Fax: +41 58 463 89 74
Email:	sabine.herzog@bafu.admin.ch

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

Name and title:	Sabine Herzog, deputy head of section, head of Wildlife protection & process management Sector
Name of organisation:	Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Mailing address:	Species, Ecosystems, Landscapes Division, CH-3003 Bern
Telephone/Fax:	Telephone: 41 58 463 03 40 / Fax: +41 58 463 89 74
Email:	sabine.herzog@bafu.admin.ch

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

Name and title:
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) National Ramsar Workshop (February 2013): Representatives from federal and cantonal authorities, site managers and NGOs discussed the state of implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Switzerland as well as opportunities and challenges for future implementation.

2) Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (SBS): The Federal Council adopted the SBS in 2012. The Strategy defines 10 objectives to be achieved until 2020 that are supportive to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention; i.e.:

- Sustainable use of natural resources by all relevant sectors;
- Implementation of an ecological infrastructure comprised of protected areas and protected area net-works;
- Conservation status for species of national priority is improved (extinction halted), expansion of harmful invasive alien species is halted;
- Genetic biodiversity loss is halted and, if possible, stopped; preservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, farm animals and cultivated plants, are assured;
- Incentives harmful for biodiversity are identified and avoided and replaced by positive incentive measures where appropriate;
- Ecosystem services are identified and quantified and integrated in the Gross Domestic Product as an indicator of well-being;
- Public awareness has risen to a level where all persons conceive biodiversity to be essential for life and consider it in decision-making processes;
- Development of activities related to biodiversity and cities;
- International assistance provided for global biodiversity conservation is reinforced;
- Monitoring of ecosystem trends, species and genetic diversity is assured.

3) Strategic planning for the restoration of watercourses: Switzerland has revised its legislative basis for the protection of surface waters in the Waters Protection Act and the associated ordinance. To meet the requirements of water protection legislation, the cantons must, by 2014, develop a long-term strategic plan for the restoration of watercourses. This strategic planning should identify those watercourses for which restoration measures will have the greatest benefit for nature and the landscape and which should be prioritised. The objective of strategic planning is the restoration of approximately 4'000 km of watercourses. Around CHF 40 million per year is allocated to these restoration measures. This ambitious objective shall be achieved within a period of 80 years. The first projects are already being implemented.

4) Delimitation of areas aiming at preserving the natural functions of rivers: The revised legislation for the protection of surface waters (see above) imposes the cantons to define areas along rivers so as to preserve their natural functions, specifically the protection against flooding and the use of waters. Within these areas, extensive requirements are imposed for their use/their development.

5) The revision of the Ordinance on Reserves of International and National Importance for Waterbirds and Migratory Birds (1991, SR 922.32) is in process. It will be supplemented with an article that instructs the FOEN to develop implementation guidelines with principles for the controlled regulation of the great cormorant, primarily based on damage prevention in the commercial fishing sector. As part of this revision, the FOEN is considering the enlargement of some existing and the addition of further sites to the inventory of protected areas for Waterbirds and Migratory birds of national and international importance. The public consultation on the revised Ordinance is planned for 2014.

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/jagd-fischerei/09119/12695/index.html?lang=de&msg-id=49645>.

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

- 1) Lack of space / landuse changes / spatial planning
- 2) Lack of resources
- 3) Conflicts / tradeoffs, e.g. agriculture, fishery: Direct area competition, ammoniac emissions causing damaging nutrient input into sensible ecosystems and depositions of plant protection products constitute the major difficulties within the goal conflict of agriculture and conservation.
- 4) Conflicts / tradeoffs with renewable energy policy, e.g. small hydropower plants
- 5) Degradation of peatlands

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

- 1) Updating the information on an existing Ramsar sites, using the new RIS format.
- 2) Defining the role/contribution of existing Ramsar sites - and wetlands in general - to the ecological infrastructure. The development of an ecological infrastructure consisting of protected and connected areas is a goal of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy.
- 3) Strengthening the collaboration between Ramsar-site managers / cantonal and federal authorities / NGOs and further local stakeholders (short-term), in a view of establishing a national convention comitee (long-term).
- 4) Revision of the Ordinance on Reserves of International and National Importance for Waterbirds and Migratory Birds (1991, SR 922.32). The revision of the ordinance, which defines the list of protected areas of international and national importance for waterbirds and migrants, may result in changes of boundaries/areas for selcted sites.
- 5) Elaboration of an implementation aid on the management or cormorant / fishery conflicts.

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

.....

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)

.....

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 adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets by CBD COP, its affirmation by UNGA and the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding among relevant conventions, agencies and organisations, raised the awareness on the necessity of a close collaboration at the national level so as to successfully and timely achieve the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

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)?

Stakeholder involvement, including public participation, is key to mainstream conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in national policies and strategies. With the river basin management approach and the wise use concept, the Ramsar convention has established a framework supporting sectorial and cross-sectorial cooperation including authorities, private sector, NGOs, scientific community, civil society and others.

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


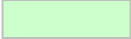
.....

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

.....

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
<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Switzerland has conducted inventories of various types of wetlands and designated protected areas by the mean of following ordinances:</p> <p>Ordinance on Reserves of International and National Importance for Waterbirds and Migratory Birds (1991, SR 922.32): Includes a list of protected areas of international and national importance for waterbirds and migrants.</p> <p>Ordinance on Alluvial Zones of National Importance (1992, SR 451.31): Inventory of alluvial zones of national importance.</p> <p>Ordinance on Raised Bogs and Transitional Mires of National Importance (1991, SR 451.32): Inventory of raised bogs and transitional mires of national importance.</p> <p>Ordinance on Fenlands of National Importance (1994, SR 451.33): Inventory of fenlands of national importance.</p> <p>Ordinance on Amphibian Spawning Areas of National Importance (2001, SR 451.34): Inventory of amphibian spawning areas of national importance.</p> <p>Ordinance on Mire Landscapes of Particular Beauty and National Importance (1996, SR 451.35): Inventory of mire landscapes of national importance.</p> <p>The inventories are comprehensive for the types of wetlands listed above. However, the inventories do not cover all wetland types recorded in Switzerland.</p>	
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>Data and information about national inventories and protected areas are available at the website of the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN in German, French or Italian: Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV: Thème Aires protégées et inventaires des biotopes: http://www.bafu.admin.ch/ , visited: July 2014).</p> <p>The Swiss InformationSystem Biodiversity (SIB) provides an overview of relevant national monitoring programmes, data centers and status reports (SIB: http://www.sib.admin.ch/en/convention-on-biodiversity/biodiversity-data-state/index.html, visited: July 2014).</p> <p>Georeferenced data: geo.admin.ch is the platform for the Federal Administration's georeferenced information, data and services. These are made available by public bodies and are accessible to all via the Internet, on www.geo.admin.ch.</p>	

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):

The principle drivers of change include:

A quarter of Switzerland's rivers, streams and numerous lakeshores, particularly on the Central Plateau, are in an ecological insufficient state due to the presence of hydraulic engineering structures and artificial obstacles. The operation of hydropower plants in many locations disrupts the natural function of water bodies and watercourses due to insufficient residual flows, the abrupt alteration of water surges and low flow phases (hydropeaking), restricted bed load transport and poor fish passability. The temperature of many rivers and streams has risen, in part as a result of the discharge of heated wastewater. This trend is likely to intensify due to the influence of climate change. The cantons must complete their strategic planning for the rehabilitation of watercourses and reduction of the negative impacts of hydropower production by the end of 2014. The first projects are already being carried out. However, the interest expressed by the cantons in rehabilitation projects exceeds the available finance.

Water quality / pollutants: Despite the generally good quality of the groundwater, the legally required limit values for nitrate and plant protection products are not complied with throughout Switzerland. The main source of this pollution is agriculture. The excessive concentrations of nitrate in many groundwater bodies must be further reduced through specific rehabilitation projects. To this end, agricultural activities must be adapted to the site in which they are carried out. In addition, the federal authorities are examining the introduction of a risk minimisation programme for plant protection products to enable the implementation of additional measures, for example in the area of user support.

Micropollutants: Thanks to wastewater treatment, the water quality in rivers and lakes has shown a marked improvement in recent decades. 97 % of the Swiss population is now connected to central wastewater treatment plants (WTP). As a result, there has been a strong decline in the contamination of waters by nutrients and pollutants. Micropollutants must be reduced through the addition of extra treatment stages in WTPs. The Parliament has mandated the Federal Council to develop a polluter-pays financing system.

Source: FOEN (ed.) 2013, Environment Switzerland 2013, Bern 2013, 86 pages

An assessment of the historical state of selected wetlands (mires, bogs, alluvial zones) was conducted based on historical maps. This assessment concluded that between 1900 and 2010, 82% of the surface area in Switzerland covered by mires and bogs was lost. The surface area of alluvial zones below 1800 m asl decreased by 36% in the same period. However, 55% of alluvial zones were already lost before 1900. The study notes, that not only did the surface area of mires, bogs and alluvial zones dramatically shrink, but also that the quality of those ecosystems was heavily impacted (Figure 19). During the time period of 1997/2001-2002/06, 26% of the mires and bogs of national importance became dryer, 31% were impacted by bush encroachment and 23% by nutrient discharge from neighbouring agricultural lands

as well as from nitrogen input from the atmosphere. Alluvial zones suffered predominantly from intensive land use in the past that resulted in large-scale alteration of the structure of rivers, and in the impoverishment of the landscape. In conclusion, even though the conditions of wetlands remained more or less unchanged since the last triennium, the study revealed an important need for restoration of wetlands in Switzerland.

Study:

Lachat T., Blaser F., Bösch R., Bonnard L., Gimmi U., Grünig A., Roulier C., Sirena G., Stöcklin J., Volkart G. 2010: Verlust wertvoller Lebensräume. In: Lachat T., Pauli D., Gonseth Y., Klaus G., Scheidegger C., Vittoz P., Walter T. (Eds.): Wandel der Biodiversität in der Schweiz seit 1900. Ist die Talsohle erreicht? Haupt Bern, 22-63.

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)

B - No

1.3.1 Additional information:

Switzerland has no overarching policy for wetlands. The conservation of wetlands is organised according to the Ordinances listed under 1.1.1. Further, wetland issues are incorporated into other national strategies (see 1.3.2), especially the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (see section 2, A.2)

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

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

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

a)
Z - Not applicable
b) A - Yes
c)
Z - Not applicable
d) B - No
e) A - Yes
f) A - Yes
g) A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

a) -

b) Publication: FOEN (publ.) 2011. Watershed Management - Guiding Principles for Integrated Management of Water in Switzerland. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern: 20 p. pdf: www.bafu.admin.ch/ud-1032-e

The cantons must complete their strategic planning for the rehabilitation of watercourses and reduction of the negative impacts of hydropower production by the end of 2014. The first projects are already being carried out.

d) Protection and safeguard of drinking water resources.

Publication: FOEN (ed) 2013: Forest Policy 2020. Visions, objectives and measures for the sustainable management of forests in Switzerland. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern: 66 p. Download: www.bafu.admin.ch/ud-1067-e.

e) sustainable use of natural resources / Promotion of renewable energies: Objectives which conflict with those of other environmental fields, such as the preservation of biological and agricultural diversity and water conservation, must be addressed in cross-sectoral planning.

Publication: Swiss Federal Council, Sustainable development Strategy 2012–2015, 25.1.2012.

f) The Swiss proof of ecological performance (1999) obliges farmers to keep an appropriate nutrient balance through a minimum proportion of productive acreage for biodiversity measures. Furthermore, the implementation of structural improvements in agriculture are constructed with regard to the objectives of protective areas. The excessive concentrations of nitrate in many groundwater bodies must be further reduced through specific rehabilitation projects. To this end, agricultural activities must be adapted to the site in which they are carried out. In addition, the federal authorities are examining the introduction of a risk minimisation programme for plant protection products to enable the implementation of additional measures, for example in the area of user support.

Publication: FOEN (ed.) 2013, Environment Switzerland 2013, Bern, 86 p. Download: www.bafu.admin.ch/ud-1070-e.

g) In the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy, wetland issues are incorporated in a majority of targets - even if they are not addressed directly. e.g. implementation of a green infrastructure, improvement of management and quality of protected areas, sustainable use of natural resources,...

Publication: Swiss Confederation 2012: Swiss Biodiversity Strategy. Download: www.bafu.admin.ch/ud-1060-e.

<p>1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: Switzerland has not yet introduced the Strategic Environmental Assessment at the federal level. The Environmental Impact Assessment, however, is legally anchored and well established (see 1.3.4). The improvement of the coordination between environmental protection and spatial planning is in process. The confederation is developing and publishing implementation guidelines and tools for a better integration of spatial planning tools and environmental impact assessment contents. e.g. the publication concerning environment and spatial planning aspects in the context of tourism infrastructure and facilities (cableways, food service operations, winter sports paths, snowmaking machines, snow parks, hiking trails, bike trails, and toboggan runs). Publication: OFEV, OFT (éd.) 2013: Environnement et aménagement du territoire dans les projets d'installations à câbles. Aide à l'exécution à l'intention des autorités, des entreprises de remontées mécaniques et des spécialistes de l'environnement, Berne. L'environnement pratique n° 1322: 164 p. Download: www.bafu.admin.ch/uv-1322-f</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>C - In some cases</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: On the national level, the environmental impact assessment (EIA) is anchored in the Federal Law on the Environmental Protection (EPA) RS 814.01 and the according ordinance (RS 814.011). It refers to the construction of new or the modification of existing installations and constructions which may significantly affect the environment and has to be carried out in the early planning stage.</p>	

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

A - Yes

1.3.5 Additional information:

Revisions of the Federal Act on the Protection of Waters (SR 814.20). Entered into force on the 1st of January 2011, on the 1st of August 2013 and on the 1st of January 2014. The revised Waters Protection Act contains provisions to the artificial reinforcement and correction of watercourses, to the rehabilitation of waters, to space provided for waters, and to ensure appropriate residual flow. The revision also includes amendments of the ordinances to the federal act on fishing, on river engineering, and on energy.

Revisions of the Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (OCHP, SR 922.01): Entered into force for Switzerland on 15 July 2012 and on 1 January 2014. The ordinance refers to the act on hunting (SR 922.0) and concerns the protection of wild mammals and birds. The revision includes among others the extension of the possibilities for particular regulation of wildlife causing major damage or serious threats, the preventive provision against the release of problematic, non-native mammal and bird species and the improvement of the protection of wildlife from disturbance by recreational activities.

In accordance with the revision of the OCHP, the revision of the Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance (1991, SR 922.32) is in process. It will be supplemented with an article that instructs the FOEN to develop implementation guidelines with principles for the controlled regulation of the cormorant, primarily based on damage prevention in the commercial fishing sector. As part of this revision, the FOEN is considering the enlargement of some existing and the addition of further objects to the inventory of protected areas for Waterbirds and Migratory birds of national and international importance. The public consultation on the revised Ordinance is planned for 2014.

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/jagd-fischerei/09119/12695/index.html?lang=de&msg-id=49645>

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

B - No

1.4.1 Additional information:

Switzerland is developing a new concept for the identification of 'final' ecosystem services – ecosystem services that generate a direct effect on the population's welfare. The concept involves the listing and operationalization of relevant Final Ecosystem Goods and Services (FEGS) and the benefits they generate for the population in an inventory. At this stage, the inventory of FEGS is completed by a first set of indicators related to i) health, ii) security, iii) natural diversity and, and iv) production factors. These indicators complement the existing economic and environment-related indicators and must be further specified before being implemented. (For more detailed information see previous national report and chapters 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 of the 5th CBD National Report: Publication: FOEN (ed.), 2014: Switzerland's Fifth National Report under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Federal Office for Environment, Bern. 148 pp.

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

A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information:

Wetland programmes or projects contributing to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans have been implemented within the framework of Switzerland's technical cooperation, e.g. the SDC Global Programme Water Initiative: The programmes, projects and contributions of the Global Programme Water Initiatives meet key global challenges related to the management of water resources, including access to drinking water and the use of water for agriculture, industry and households. By focusing on inequity and poverty, they contribute to the reduction of global risks and the realization of a water-secure world. It runs 53 operational projects and initiatives at bilateral and multilateral levels. Most of them have innovation and policy components. <http://www.sdc-water.ch/>

Further information on the Website of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC: www.deza.admin.ch

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

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

The Ramsar site 1444 Laubersmad-Salwidili is located in Switzerland's first biosphere reserve. Focusing on a multi-stakeholder approach with particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management is one of the main characteristics of biosphere reserves.

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

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

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

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

1.5.1 Additional information:

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

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

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

- a. A - Yes
- b. A - Yes
- c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

a) Agroscope - Swiss federal research institute for the agri-food sector: Research project: 'Water pollution by nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture'. www.agroscope.ch

b) Publication: FOEN (publ.) 2012: Effects of Climate Change on Water resources and Waters. Synthesis report on 'Climate Change and Hydrology in Switzerland' (CCHydro) project. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. Umwelt-Wissen No 1217: 74 p. pdf: www.bafu.admin.ch/uw-1217-e. See 1.7.3

c) As part of the development of the action plan for the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (SBS), to support the attainment of goal 6 of the SBS, the econcept/WSL research alliance was commissioned to support the FOEN by carrying out an external research study in the areas of I) a further development of the Swiss set of indicators for ecosystem services; II) spatial representation of ecosystem services in Switzerland; III) investigation of a capital stock indicator for Switzerland's ecosystems. See 1.4.1.

c) A study aiming at increasing the understanding of the added value of natural watercourses (flowing waters) was conducted. Based on the method of discrete choice experiments the willingness to pay for a revitalisation project was explored for four specific rivers in Switzerland. The study revealed that:

I) Rivers and streams are important elements in an attractive landscape for about 90% of the population.

II) A large majority of the respondents (66 to 87%) finds that the watercourses in their area are in a satisfactory condition, yet 73 to 80% consider that a remodelling would be worthwhile.

Publication in german: FOEN (publ.) 2009: Mehrwert naturnaher Wasserläufe. Untersuchung zur Zahlungsbereitschaft mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Erschliessung für den Langsamverkehr. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. Umwelt-Wissen No 0912: 124 p. pdf: www.bafu.admin.ch/uw-0912-d.

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats to the wetlands? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Scientific programmes on which to base management plans include:

- Monitoring wintering waterbirds: Since 1967 waterbirds are counted throughout Europe and in adjacent regions. Based on the waterbird counts, the Swiss Ornithological Institute has compiled inventories of waterbird sites of international and national importance. These inventories served as the basis for the waterbird reserves established by the federal authorities. For more information: <http://www.vogelwarte.ch/monitoring-wintering-waterbirds.html>
- Monitoring breeding birds in wetlands: For the monitoring of population trends of bird species inhabiting small and localised habitats, special schemes are needed. The wetland breeding bird monitoring conducted by the Swiss Ornithological Institute complements other monitoring projects such as the monitoring programme of common breeding birds and produces estimates of population trends for species not surveyed in a satisfactory manner in these general-purpose schemes. By doing so, wetland breeding bird monitoring makes an important step towards closing the gap of our objective to assess the conservation status and trends of all birds breeding Switzerland. For mor information: <http://www.vogelwarte.ch/monitoring-breeding-birds-in-wetlands.html>
- Assessment of the ecological status of surface waters in Switzerland - the modular stepwise procedure: Integrated water protection requires accurate knowledge of the current state of waterbodies. The Modular Stepwise Procedure provides a framework for the systematic investigation and assessment of waters. For more information: http://www.modul-stufen-konzept.ch/index_EN

Specific scientific programmes/projects are run to address for instance for instance for the management of the fisheries cormorant conflict. For further information: <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/tiere/09262/09325/index.html?lang=fr>

Scientific research is of cause also conducted within Ramsar Sites, be it to monitor the evolution of the site, the effectiveness of the management, the conservation status of species etc. For further information, e.g.:

Grande Cariçaie (including Ramsar sites No. 079 Fanel et CHablais de Cudrefin, No. 505 Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel): <http://www.grande-caricaie.ch/spip/spip.php?rubrique130>
 Bolle di Magadino (site No. 231): http://www.bolledimagadino.com/index_Ricerca.php

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:

The 'Guiding Principles for Integrated Management of Water in Switzerland' have been developed by the network of stakeholders in Swiss water management called Water Agenda 21, and are therefore widely supported. They can provide the impetus for modern water management which covers both protection and user interests. The Guiding Principles serve as a policy framework for the water management stakeholders in cantons, regions and communes. Protection, conservation and restoration of the ecological, landscape and social functions of the water bodies is one of the main objectives.

Publication: FOEN (publ.) 2011. Watershed Management - Guiding Principles for Integrated Management of Water in Switzerland. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern: 20 p. pdf: www.bafu.admin.ch/ud-1032-e

However, in some cases the management of river basins is suspected to yield serious unexpected adverse impacts on fauna and flora of wetlands. NGOs reported, for instance, that in the years 2010 and 2011 the monitoring of amphibians within the amphibian spawning area of national importance 'Heideweg' (lakeshore Bielersee) confirmed the presence of adult specimens of endangered species, such as the yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*), the common newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) or the european tree frog (*Hyla arborea*). The scientists, however, found no evidence for a successful reproduction of those species as a consequence of the disappearance of the necessary temporary water bodies.

According to the NGOs, the disappearance of temporary water bodies at the shore of Lake Bielersee is due to lower lake water levels when compared to earlier decades and cannot only be explained by lower precipitations. NGOs expressed their strong concern that this phenomenon could lead to the extinction of the species listed above and strongly affect other groups of species, e.g. fish, dragonflies, plants, etc.

Further inquiries suggest that all reserves for waterbirds and migratory birds located on lakeshores (with exception of Lake Constance) might be affected by low lake water levels. Discussions with the relevant water management and nature conservation authorities have been started.

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:

Participation is an important aspect of the principles for the integrated water management mentioned in 1.7.1.

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:

Compared to international conditions, the designated Ramsar sites in Switzerland are of a relatively small area. (CH: 157 - 6342 ha / 11 sites, compared to all Ramsar sites: 1 - 6'569'624 ha / 2178 sites - status: March 2014). Therefore, Switzerland has no strategy that deals exclusively with wetlands and their role in adapting to climate change. It is recognised, however, that watercourses, lakes and wetlands are habitats potentially adversely affected by the consequences of the climate change. e.g. by precipitation changes, more frequent drought, by increased presence of certain invasive species, by a general warming of rivers, and others.

Publication: FOEN (publ.) 2012: Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland. Goals, challenges and fields of action. First part of the Federal Council's strategy. Adopted on 2 March 2012. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern: 64 p. pdf: www.bafu.admin.ch/ud-1055-e

Under the project "Climate Change and Hydrology in Switzerland" (CCHydro) run by the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, the effects of climate change on the water balance in Switzerland by the year 2100 were studied. The water resources will only change slightly by then. However, as a result of the rise in the snow line associated with increasing air temperature, the volumes of snow and ice stored in the Alps will be greatly reduced. This will combine with a seasonal redistribution of the precipitation (drier in summer, wetter in winter) to cause a seasonal flow redistribution. High and (particularly) low water flow events will probably occur more frequently – mainly in sensitive regions such as the Swiss Plateau, Valais and Ticino.

Publication: OFEV (éd.) 2012: Impacts des changements climatiques sur les eaux et les ressources en eau. Rapport de synthèse du projet «Changement climatique et hydrologie en Suisse» (CCHydro). Office fédéral de l'environnement, Berne. Connaissance de l'environnement n° 1217: 76 p. pdf: www.bafu.admin.ch/uw-1217-f.

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

B - No

1.7.4 Additional information:

The impact of the agricultural sector on groundwater, rivers and lakes - and especially on mires - is recognised. Policies, strategies, and measures to reduce the negative effects of agriculture on water quality and on groundwater levels are put in place or at least in process. The sustainable use of natural resources - including water - is also targeted in a wide range of policies and strategies. Water shortage is not a major problem in Switzerland. However certain challenges will arise due to climate change such as longer dry periods during the summer months. Proposed climate change adaptation strategies can be found in the national climate strategy for agriculture (<http://www.news.admin.ch/NSBSubscriber/message/attachments/23213.pdf>).

Further information on the website of the Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG: www.blw.admin.ch

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	D - Planned
<p>1.8.1 Additional information: Switzerland is striving to improve the condition of</p> <p>I) Mires of national importance. Publication: OFEV (éd.) 2007: État et évolution des marais en Suisse. Résultats du suivi de la protection des marais. État de l'environnement n° 0730. Office fédéral de l'environnement, Berne. 97 pp. pdf: www.bafu.admin.ch/UZ-0730-F.</p> <p>II) Biotopes of national importance: For many of the objects, improvement of the ecological quality is needed. The 'concept to enhance the quality of biotopes of national importance' gives an overview of the issue and provides decision support for prioritisation. Publication: OVEF (éd) 2012: Stratégie de restauration écologique des biotopes d'importance nationale. Rapport d'experts à l'attention de la Confédération et des cantons.</p> <p>The report is available on the Federal office for environment FOEN homepage: Zones protégées & inventaires des biotopes: www.bafu.admin.ch (Visited March 2014).</p> <p>See also response to Section 2, A3</p>	

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	D - Planned
<p>1.8.2 Additional information: Partially in process or planned for the biotopes of national importance. See 1.8.1</p>	

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:

Goal of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy:

By 2020, the conservation status of the populations of national priority species is improved and their extinction prevented insofar as possible. The spread of invasive alien species with the potential to cause damage is contained.

In collaboration with other federal offices, representatives of cantonal authorities and private institutions and organisations a national strategy on invasive alien species is presently in elaboration.

An inventory on alien species in Switzerland lists about 800 established species. The information on the 107 invasive alien species (IAS) is summarized in separately published fact sheets.

Publication: FOEN (ed.) 2005: An inventory of alien species and their threat to biodiversity and economy in Switzerland. CABI Bioscience Switzerland Centre report to the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape. The environment in practice no. 0629. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. 155 p. pdf: www.bafu.admin.ch/uw-0629-e.

Info flora - the national data and information centre on the Swiss flora (www.inflora.ch) - maintains a Black List of invasive alien plant species with adverse effects on biodiversity, public health or the economy and a Watch List with those species that have the potential to cause damage.

For further information see 5th and 4th CBD National Report:

FOEN (ed.), 2014: Switzerland's Fifth National Report under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Federal Office for Environment, Bern.

FOEN (ed.) 2010: Switzerland's Fourth National Report under the Convention on Biological Diversity, Federal Office for Environment, Bern. 148p. download: www.environment-switzerland.ch/ud-1029-e.

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

D - Planned

1.9.2 Additional information:
see 1.9.1

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

C - Partly

1.10.1 Additional information:

The principle of sustainable development is anchored in Switzerland's legal and strategic framework and is therefore pertinent for the private sector. The Ramsar handbooks are not specifically promoted at the federal level, however, are used at the local level, possibly also by the private sector.

<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. B - No</p> <p>b. A - Yes</p>
<p>1.10.2 Additional information:</p> <p>a.: The collaboration with the private sector (e.g. public-private-partnerships) for the conservation of wetlands / for the conservation of specific Ramsar sites is seen as an option to increase private sector engagement.</p> <p>b.: For instance the "Water Agenda 21" is a network of public and private stakeholders in Swiss water management, which promotes water management according to the wise use principle / principle of sustainable development. For further information: http://www.wa21.ch. See also response to question 1.7.1.</p>	

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

<p>1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands?</p> <p>{1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <p>For biotopes of national importance (Raised Bogs and Transitional Mires, Fenlands, Amphibian Spawning Areas) in agricultural production areas, subsidies are paid. Basic monetary incentives come from the national agrarian policy, whereas supplementary incentives can further be stimulated by the cantons.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
<p>1.11.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Strategic target of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy: By 2020, the negative impacts of existing financial incentives on biodiversity are identified and avoided, if possible. Where appropriate, new positive incentives are created.</p>	

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:
see 2.1.2

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):
At the federal level, no further nominations are currently planned.

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

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:
.....

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

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

2.3.1 Additional information:

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	11 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	11 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	1 sites
<p>2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: All Ramsar Sites have basic management plans as defined by the Ordinance on Reserves of International and National Importance for Waterbirds and Migratory Birds and other relevant ordinances (see question 1.1.1). These plans are further specified at the cantonal and communal level. Currently, the management plan for the "Grande Cariçaie" (wetland on the southern shore of lake Neuchatel, including the Ramsar sites 079 Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin' and No. 505 'Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel') is being revised.</p>	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	5 sites
<p>2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Sites managed by an association/foundation: No. 079 'Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin' No. 231 'Bolle di Magadino' No. 504 'Les Grangettes' No. 505 'Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel' No. 509 'Kaltbrunner Riet'.</p>	
2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	11 sites
<p>2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Within the RIS. The RIS are being updated according to the 2012 revision of the guidance.</p>	

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

B - No

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

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):

Annual reporting of the cantonal authorities on activities undertaken protected areas of international, or national importance.

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i	A - Yes
<p>2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):</p> <p>The Federal Office for the Environment informed the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention in a letter dated July 24th 2013 about the case of likely change of the ecological character of Ramsar Site No. 231 Bolle di Magadino.</p> <p>The 'Bolle di Magadino' is not only designated as a Reserve for waterbirds and migratory birds of international importance, but also protected by virtue of the ordinances on alluvial zones, raised bogs and transitional mires, fenlands, amphibian spawning areas, mire landscapes (see question 1.1.1) and the inventory of landscapes of national importance.</p> <p>The Locarno airport - situated in immediate vicinity of the site - is in operation since 75 years and the infrastructure needs to be adjusted to new requirements, including a planned extension of the runway by 170 m. The planned extension of the runway has no impact on the perimeter of the site 'Bolle di Magadino'.</p> <p>Due to the importance of the site for the conservation of fauna and flora, the Federal Council postponed its decision regarding the infrastructure project until the revision of the Sectoral Plan for Aviation Infrastructure is closed. Indeed, one objective of the revision of the Sectoral Plan for Aviation Infrastructure is that the future impact in terms of aircraft movements of airport Locarno on the protected area "Bolle di Magadino" does not increase. Further, several options to reconcile the infrastructure project with the conservation of fauna and flora are being discussed.</p>	
2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii	Z - Not applicable
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>.....</p>	

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i	---
--	-----

2.7.1 Additional information:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. *Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).*

3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv

A - Yes

3.1.1 Additional information:

The focal points of all relevant MEAs were invited to /participating at the national Ramsar-network meeting in February 2013.

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

C - Partly

3.1.2 Additional information:

Switzerland has a interdepartmental (equivalent to interministerial) coordination body for all international water matters, which also deals with the Ramsar Convention on wetlands.

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i

B - No

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

.....

3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

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

For instance, Switzerland supports the International Waterbird Census (IWC) run by Wetlands International (see also answer to question 4.4.2).

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

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

A - Yes

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

e.g. through the Swiss Grant for Africa.

Switzerland supports a wide range of development projects which contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and / or food and water security plans. Further information on the Website of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC: www.deza.admin.ch

e.g. The SDC Global Programme Water Initiative: The programmes, projects and contributions of the Global Programme Water Initiatives meet key global challenges related to the management of water resources, including access to drinking water and the use of water for agriculture, industry and households. By focusing on inequity and poverty, they contribute to the reduction of global risks and the realization of a water-secure world. It runs 53 operational projects and initiatives at bilateral and multilateral levels. Most of them have innovation and policy components. Further information: <http://www.sdc-water.ch/>

As off 2007 the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO (former Office vétérinaire federal) has been funding research activities of the "Yellow Anaconda Management Program - YAMP", on a regular basis, through the support of the Project "Harvest of Yellow anacondas (*Eunectes notaeus*) in Argentina: Assessing Parameters of Biological Sustainability". The project is conducted in the La Estrella marshlands west of the Ramsar Sites Rio Pilcomayo (no. 557, Argentina) and Tifunque (no. 730, Paraguay). The semi-aquatic Yellow anacondas have been historically harvested over the last fifty years, often illegally, for their highly valuable skins. Currently, they are managed under an experimental wise-use program, launched in 2002. This program promotes anaconda conservation, as well as research, while providing a genuine source of income for impoverished rural communities. Further information: Fundación Biodiversidad Argentina: Programa de Manejo Sustentable de la Curiyú en Formosa; www.biodiv.org.ar

The participation of Switzerland in the activities and their financing of the global UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), especially in the global platform on Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins has been providing much support for wetlands to countries from the whole world. Further information: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/mop_6_Rome/Official_documents/EC_E_MP.WAT_37_Add.1_ENG.pdf

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	---
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): National Ramsar Network meeting with participation and inputs of the National Ramsar Committee Austria and L' Association Ramsar France. The network of nature centers (http://www.centre-nature.ch) promotes the exchange of experiences and of knowledge. See also 4.1.2, additional information	
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: Website of the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN: www.bafu.admin.ch (Sites Ramsar: descriptions des objets). Websites of specific areas: No. 79, Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin: L'ASPO/BirdLife Suisse: Réserve de Cudrefin: http://www.birdlife.ch No. 231, Bolle di Magadino: Fondazione Bolle di Magadino: http://www.bolledimagadino.com/ No. 504, Les Grangettes: Pro natura, réserve naturelle des Grangettes: http://www.pronatura-grangettes.ch/	

No. 505, Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel: The Grande Cariçaie's website :
<http://www.grande-caricaie.ch/>
 No. 507, Klingnauer Stausee: <http://www.klingnauerstausee.ch/>
 No. 509, Kaltbrunner Riet: Pro natura: <http://www.pronatura-sg.ch/kaltbrunner.riet>

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:

.....

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

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

3.5.1 Additional information:

.....

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii	C - Partly
---	------------

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

General information:

- Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV - Protection des eaux à l'échelon international: www.bafu.admin.ch

Specific wetland systems:

- Lake of Constance: Internationale Gewässerschutzkommission für den Bodensee (IGKB): www.igkb.org

- Lago Maggiore, Lago di Lugano: Commissione Internazionale per la Protezione delle Acque Italo-Svizzere (CIPAIS): www.cipais.org

- Lake of Geneva and Rhone River: Commission internationale pour la protection des eaux du Léman (CIPEL): www.cipel.org

- International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR): www.iksr.org

- North-East Atlantic: The OSPAR Convention is the current legal instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic: www.ospar.org

Others

- River Doubs: Groupe de travail binational pour l'amélioration de la qualité des eaux et des milieux aquatiques

- Lake Constance: Environmental Council of Lake Constance of the Lake

Constance Foundation

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:

For instance through the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds AEWA, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals CMS and the according Aquatic Warbler Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
--

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>
--

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

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

- a) C - In progress
- b) C - In progress
- c) C - In progress
- d) C - In progress

(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>

On 25 April 2012, the Federal Council adopted the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) which was developed in the light of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with a special focus on mainstreaming biodiversity and on ecosystem conservation. At the same time, the Federal Council mandated the Federal Office with the elaboration of an action plan by 2014, in order to concretize the objectives of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy by defining measures to ensure the conservation of biodiversity in our country in the long term. The action plan has been developed in a participatory process.

SBS Strategic Goal no. 7: By 2020, sufficient knowledge about biodiversity is available to society and provides the basis for the universal understanding of biodiversity as a central pillar of life, and for its consideration in relevant decision-making processes.

Background: Decision makers in the areas of politics, the economy and society influence biodiversity directly or indirectly through their actions. In-depth knowledge about species and ecosystems and their services and an understanding of how personal and political decisions influence biodiversity enable the apprehension of responsibility for the conservation of biodiversity. The necessary knowledge must be made accessible in a comprehensible way for the administration, politics and the public).
<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/ud-1060-e>.

<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>a) 3 centres</p> <p>b) 17 centres</p>
<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p> <p>Swiss network of nature centers (http://www.centre-nature.ch)</p> <p>The network of swiss nature centers facilitates a close collaboration between more than 20 nature centers in Switzerland. Most of the information centers are run by private associations / local institutions for nature protection. The Confederation and the cantons, which are in charge of public information, communication and education, support part of the centers.</p> <p>The Swiss network of nature centers (http://www.centre-nature.ch) lists 13 big centers (8 wetlands), 10 midsize centers (8 wetlands), and 9 small nature centers (4 wetlands).</p> <p>a)</p> <p>No. 79, Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin: L'ASPO/BirdLife Suisse: Fanel/Réserve de Cudrefin: http://www.birdlife.ch</p> <p>No. 504, Les Grangettes: Pro natura, réserve naturelle des Grangettes: http://www.pronatura-grangettes.ch/</p> <p>No. 505, Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel: Pro Natura Center Champ-Pittet http://www.pronatura-champ-pittet.ch/home-en</p> <p>b) E.g.: ASPO/BirdLife Suisse:Centre-nature ASPO de Neerach, Naturzentrum Thurauen (http://www.naturzentrumthurauen.ch), River Aare: Infozentrum Eichholz, Köniz (http://www.iz-eichholz.ch), Silberweide - Naturstation am Greifensee (http://www.greifensee-stiftung.ch), Aare River and storks: Infozentrum Witi Altreu (http://www.infowiti.ch), in process: Lake of Geneva: La Maison de la Rivière, Tolochenaz (http://www.maisondelariviere.ch/)</p>	
<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>a) E.g. by the mean of site specific foundations, NGOs etc.</p> <p>b) E.g. scientific community, NGOs, local authorities, landowners/-users, and other stakeholders as adequate.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>See 4.1.5</p>	

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) 1 b) 1
4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training): The Federal Office for the Environment organizes biennial course for wetland site managers at changing locations/sites. These courses serve also as a platform for a regular exchange of information between stakeholders at all levels.	
4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	
	D - Planned
4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): The National Ramsar Network meeting held in January 2013 (organised by the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN) assembled all relevant stakeholders: Administrative authorities (national and cantonal level), Ramsar site managers, other MEA national focal points, NGOs, science.	
4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:	
a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi	a) D - Planned b) A - Yes c) A - Yes
4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place): a) See 4.1.5 b, c) See 4.1.5 The National Ramsar Network meeting held in January 2013 (organised by the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN) assembled all relevant stakeholders: Administrative authorities (national and cantonal level), Ramsar site managers, other MEA national focal points, NGOs, science.	
4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}	
	A - Yes
4.1.8 Additional information:	

World Wetland Day activities have been carried out, for instance, by the canton of Geneva and NGOs.

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

A - Yes

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

A broad range of NGO's and private organisation is actively working on awareness rising, public information and sensibilisation.

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):
e.g. through the Swiss Grant for Africa.

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

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

B - No

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

monitoring):

.....

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

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

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

.....

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

A - Yes

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

E.g. through voluntary contributions, project specific support, secondment of experts, support of meetings etc. For instance:

- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN signed a four-year Framework Agreement of 9 million CHF to support IUCN's Programme 2013-2016.
- The Federal Office for the Environment supports, for instance, the International Waterbird Census through Wetlands International or the AEWA African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and Their Habitats in Africa.