

# NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

National Reports to be submitted to the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.
- All fields with a pale yellow 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: **UKRAINE**

**DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY** 

Name of Administrative

Authority:

**Head of Administrative** 

Authority - name and

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# 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) Accepting by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and successful completing of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention in Ukraine until 2015 (2012).
  - 2) Preparing the management plans concerning conservation of 2 Ramsar Sites and 13 management plans of Protected Areas which include Ramsar Sites.
  - 3) Activization of the work of the National Committee on Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of Wetlands of Ukraine, involving into issues for implimentation of Ramsar Convention a wide range of representatives of different state authorities and NGOs, scientists and stakeholders.
  - 4) Conducting of an International sciientific-practional conference 'Methods and technologies of strategic planning areas. Development of Management Wetland of International Importance in Ukraine' (Kyiv, February 1, 2013) and 2 study workshops concerning wetlands issues (training course on the theme 'Conservation and Restoration of Ecosystems of North-West Black Sea' (Odessa, November 13-15, 2013); seminar 'Organisation and Results of the Monitoring of Wetlands of International Importance in Ukraine' (Odessa, 4-6 March, 2014).
  - 5) Organizing and conducting of regular scientific research works in Protected Areas and monitoring of the state of most Ramsar Sites.
- B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?
  - 1) ) Imbalance of governance system and changes in powers of responsible state authorities due to the administrative reform.
  - 2) Imperfections of legislation in the environmental protection and wetlands management sphere.
  - 3) Financing support of activities in the field of wetlands conservation remained very limited, which prevents from conduction of necessary events, among others on update renowation and correction of information sheets of Ramsar Sites.
  - 4) Low level of cross-sectoral cooperation which leads to excessive nature resources use.
  - 5) Violation of legislation on natural resources conservation and use
- C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

- 1) Improvement of legislative and regulatory framework on issues concerning Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Ukraine. Harmonization of Ukrainian laws with legislation of the European Union concerning conservation of Biodiversity, Landscape Diversity and Water Resources.
- 2) Creation of new Ramsar Sites, protected areas and improvement of integrated management for wetland conservation.
- 3) Creating monitoring system for the Ramsar Sites, update and revision of information sheets.
- 4) Improving the education system and the system of informing stakeholders on conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar Sites.
- 5) Strengthening the cooperation inside regional initiatives (Azov-Black Sea and Carpathian regions).
- D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

Recomendations on improvement of updated and new informational sheets.

Recomendations on integrated management of Lower Danube and Lower Dnister.

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)

Assistance in the fields of designation of new Ramsar Sites and restoration of wetlands. Such recommendations have been given by WWF in the course of the project on biodiversity conservation of Carpathian region in context of EU directives in results of which 9 candidates were designated.

In the course of the project Frankfurt Zoological Society recommendations were given concerning conservation and estimation of ecosystem services of Polyssia region wetlands and 2 candidates were designated.

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 Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine is an executive body of such MEAs as CITES, Ramsar, CBD, Bonn, Bern, Carpathian, Danube and Black Sea conventions. Focal points of these conventions work as heads (directors) of departments (divisions) in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and they undertake to coordinate among themselves their actions (proposals/projects/recommendations, etc.) according to national legislation and international commitments.

Adapting Ukrainian legislation to EU legislation, especially on directives concerning birds and habitats supports combination of efforts for biodiversity conservation within wetlands.

However, coordination and communication among implementation of multilateral environmental agreements can be more effective in case of extra financing aimed at organizating and holding meetings, environmental protection actions, educational events, etc.

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)?

Tthe basin approach on management of water resources, in particular the river basin departments, is developed in Ukraine. Integrated Programme of Realizing Decisions on the National Level, adopted on the World Summit of Sustainable Development for the Years 2003-2015, foresees poverty reduction, sanitation of waters, improving the water quality, raising of level of fish resources supply.

The Ramsar Coordinating Council (RCC) was established to facilitate the coordination of stakeholders (central and local executive bodies, local authorities, research institutions and organizations, universities, NGOs and other environmental institutions, Nature Reserve Fund, landowners and primary users of natural resources) for conservation, sustainable use and restoration of wetlands in Ukraine.

H. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention? Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Ukraine is quite successful thanks to the strategy of granting to wetlands official status of Nature Reserve Fund and the creation of administrations that are responsible for preservation of these areas, research and surveillance. This experience can be extended to other Ukrainian wetlands.

However, the process of implementation is complicated by the lack of financing of special programs and projects on awareness of government representatives, users of natural resources and other stakeholders.

There is an insufficient amount of information and training materials. Development of a methodology and training materials for these programs, and financial support of their conduct will promote the Ramsar Convention in Ukraine as well as in other countries.

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

The State Ecological Academy of Postgraduate Education and Management

The WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme

Cheritable organisation 'Interecocentre'

I.I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine 'Complementary Support to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine for the Sector Budget Support Implementation'; (SBS) EC-funded Technical Assistance Project

Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds

UNDP representation in Ukraine

# 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

C - In progress

#### 1.1.1 Additional information:

Several organizations carry out inventory of wetlands under their jurisdiction. The inventory results are available in printed and electronic versions:

State Water Cadastre is available (in printed version);

State Land Cadastre is available (in electronic version);

State Cadastre of Natural Reserve Fund is available (in electronic form);

scientific publications (in printed and electronic versions);

scientific magazine 'Nature Reserves in Ukraine' Volume 19, Issue 1, 2013;

collections of scientific papers 'Ecology of Wetlands and Peatlands' for 2012, 2013, 2014

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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:

The information is available for most stakeholders by request to responsible authorities, on the Internet and in libraries.

- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, State Water Resources Agency and regional departments of Regional State authorities are obliged to give information on wetlands to different requests of NGOs, local communities, separate persons, etc.
- Yearly press releases, press conferences, slide presentations and special reports on wetlands conservation to the World Wetlands Day on 2 February were prepared in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. Regional (provincial) authorities and administrations of reserves and national parks were involved in this process.
- 1.1.3 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}
  - a) Ramsar Sites
  - b) wetlands generally

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

- \* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention
- a) O No change
- b) N Status deteriorated

- 1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):
- a) Mostly Ramsar sites in Ukraine are considred as protected areas (National Nature Parks, strict Nature Reserves, Biosphere Reserves, Regional Landscape Parks, Zakazniks (Habitat/Species Management Areas), etc.). It means that the ecological conditions of wetlands now are the same or better than in the previous triennium.
- b) For the last three years, a significant deterioration in the wetlands has not been observed. However, the negative impacts on wetlands were recorded in some places as a result of deforestation, irrigation or drainage areas, industrial, residential and cottage building, etc.
- As before, many people rest in the coastal areas in summer, the number of hotels / sanatoriums and entertainment facilities, as well as recreational services is constantly increasing. This produces an additional negative impact on the environment.

**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)

C - In preparation

#### 1.3.1 Additional information:

The National Wetland Policy is regulated by a number of legislative acts listed below. A new step in Policy forming was the 'Action Plan for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Ukraine for the period until 2015' approved by the Order of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine under No.352 dated July 17, 2012. In additon, a new version of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine 'On Procedure for Receiving of the Status and Management of Wetlands of International Importance' was prepared.

National Wetland Policy is based on the Laws of Ukraine 'On Environmental Protection' (1991), 'On Protected Areas Network of Ukraine' (1992), 'On the Red Data Book of Ukraine' (2002), 'On Flora' (1999), 'On Fauna' (1993), 'On Ukraine's Ecological Network' (2004), 'On Fisheries, Industrial Fishing and Protection of Aquatic Bioresources' (2011), and the Water Resources Code of Ukraune (1995) and the Land Resources Code of Ukraine (2002).

The Concept (the Strategy) of Conservation of Ukraine's Biological Diversity was approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine under No. 439 dated May 12, 1997.

The Concept on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Azov and the Black Seas was adopted by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine under No. 1057 dated July 10, 1998 and the State Programme on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea was approved by the Parliament of Ukraine in 2001.

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine 'On Procedure for Receiving of the Status of Wetlands of International Importance' was adopted on 29 August 2002 under No. 1287.

The State Programme of Ukraine's National Ecological Network Development for Years 2000-2015 was adopted by the Parliament of Ukraine in 2000.

National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and National Action Plan for Wetlands Conservation were adopted by the decision of the State Agency for Protected Areas of Ukraine in 2004 and recommended for implementation by wetlands stakeholders of Ukraine.

Basic Principles (the Strategy) of the State Ecological Policy of Ukraine untill 2020, which approved by the Law of Ukraine 21.12.2010, include the main strategic goals namely: Goal 1. Raising public environmental awareness.

Goal 2. Improving the environmental situation and enhancing environmental safety.

Goal 3. Achieving the environment safe for human health.

Goal 4. Integration of environmental policy and improvement of integrated environmental management.

Goal 5. Stop loss of biological and landscape diversity and establishment of ecological network.

Goal 6. Ensuring environmentally sustainable natural resources use.

Goal 7. Improvement of regional environmental policy.

New National Action Plan for Wetlands Conservation is preparing for adoption by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

- 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) C Partly
- b) C Partly
- c) C Partly
- d) C Partly
- e) C Partly
- f) C Partly
- g) C Partly

#### 1.3.2 Additional information:

Protection, rational use and restoration of wetland resources are elements of most of sectoral concepts, programmes and action plans, but specific goals and objectives of the conservation of wetlands have only the national plans and programs for the protection and conservation of biodiversity as: the Concept (the strategy) of Conservation of Ukraine's Biological Diversity (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine of 12 May 1997, No. 439), the State Programme on Ukraine's National Ecological Network Development for Years 2000-2015 (adopted by the Law of Ukraine in 2000), the Basic Principles (the Strategy) of the State Ecological Policy of Ukraine untill 2020 (2010; see 1.3.1).

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

C - Partly

# 1.3.3 Additional information:

Annually the Ministry of Ecologu and Natural Resources of Ukraine prepares National Reports on environment protection in Ukraine in its methodology.

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} KRA1.3.iii

A - Yes

# 1.3.4 Additional information:

In accordance with the Law of Ukraine 'On Ecological Expertise' (1995) state ecological expertise was included in all programmes and projects, that potentially can influence on environment, including wetlands. But in some cases there were negative impacts to wetlands as results of new industrial, residential and cottage buildings, reconstructing roads, extractive peat industry.

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:

The Water Resources Code of Ukraine was improved in 2010 with inclusion of new terminology as types of waters (drainage water, return water, the water in shale, waste water, the water, which rises with extracting plast), definion of beach area, definition (extended) of competence of local authorities legitimization of public access to water bodies for recreation etc.

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

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

C - Partly

#### 1.4.1 Additional information:

Majority of Ramsar Sites were included into National Nature Parks, Biosphere Reserves, Nature Reserves and Regional Landscape Parks. Their administrations carry out the assessment of ecosystem benefits/services during development of management plans.

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} KRA1.4.i

C - Partly

# 1.4.2 Additional information:

Programmes / projects to promote wetlands for poverty alleviation in the country are missing.

Legislation and authorities support sustainable use of wetland natural resources, including fishing, mowing the reed in the winter, etc. But the poverty alleviation is promoted first of all by the use of recreational potential of wetlands that is regulated to reduce the negative impact on them.

Separate food and water security plans were implemented in Ramsar Sites.

Some programmes / projects assist traditional usage of natural resources which causes poverty alleviation objectives, food and water security.

1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

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

All National Nature Parks, Biosphere Reserves, Nature Reserves and Regional Landscape Parks with special administrations (it is 29 of 33 Ramsar Sites which include about 70% Ramsar Sites area) have (elaborate) special management plans with chapters concerning socio-economic development and cultural values conservation..

**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. D Planned
- b. D Planned
- c. A-Yes
- d. A Yes

### 1.5.1 Additional information:

National delegation informed the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine about the Changwon Declaration.

National legislation, the Ukraine's Government and local authorities support the Declaration' principles.

During the years 2011-2014 information campaigns on the World Day of Wetlands were conducted on February 2. Information materials were prepared and distributed to stakeholders, articles are published in print and electronic media, press conferences and press tours were held. The activities involved central and local authorities, administrations of protected areas and other stakeholders.

**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 ecoystem services

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

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

#### 1.6.1 Additional information:

Some issues about agriculture-wetland interaction, climate change, valuation of ecosystem services were being researched by scientists of protected areas. The results of such research and scientists' and stakeholders' suggestions were being considered at Scientific-Technological Councils of respective protected areas.

Research on such topics and respective acts have been supported by 3 projects: EU project 'Inclusion of Climate Change Problems in Vulnerable Ecosystems into Protected Areas Management in Polesie, Ukraine' (2011-2014) in the National Nature Park 'Prypiat'-Stokhid' (Ramsar Sites 'Stokhid River Floodplains' and 'Prypiat River Floodplains') and the Poliskyi Narure Reserve (Ramsar Site Polissia Mires') — supported traditional agriculture methods of the region which favour nature conservation;

Project of the Frankfurt Zoological Society 'Polesie – Transboundary wetlands – Ukraine' — supported ecosystem favours estimation analysis;

The Project for Restoration of Degraded and Dried Peatlands of Ukrainian Polesie (2009-2012) was implemented in the framework of international initiatives on adaptation to climate change of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Natural Resources and Nuclear Safety of Germany.

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:

Management plans were elaborated only by research organisations/universities. All Management plans included assessment of the conservation of ecosystems and threats to their existence, actions/recommendations to improve ecological status, for ecosystem restoration through cross-sector interaction, participation of local communities, etc.

STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resource's 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:

River basin departments for water resources management were created in recent years, but they are not effectively plan and manage water resources, and they do not sufficiently take into account environmental interests especially on nesting waterfowl and fish spawning due to chaqing weather conditions.

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:

CEPA expertise and tools are beind incorporated into river basin planning and management of Dnipro, Dniester, Southern Bug and Prypiat rivers.

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 Basic Principles (the Strategy) of the State Ecological Policy of Ukraine until 2020 (approved by the Parliament of Ukraine in 2010) include optimization of the energy sector of the national economy by increasing the use of energy sources with low carbon dioxide emissions by 2015 to 10% by 2020 to 20%, and to ensure reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (including from mires) in accordance with the declared Ukraine's international commitments under the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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

C - Partly

#### 1.7.4 Additional information:

National Action Plan for Wetlands Conservation foresees supporting and maintaining traditional farming activities as hay mowing and moderate grazing.

See also: Solomakha V.A., Malienko A.M., Movchan Ya.I. and Others. Biodiversity Conservation and Agricultural Activities (Methodological Recommendations) / Ukraine-Nertherlands Project 'Promotion of Sustainable Relationships between Agriculture and Biodiversity'. - Kyiv: Centr Uchbovoi Literatury, 2005. - 123 p. (In Ukrainian language).

**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:

Appropriate water level support of 'Molochnyi Liman' Ramsar Site in the management plan of Pryazovskyi National Nature Park are provided.

Restoration works within the Ramsar Sites 'Stokhid River Floodplains' and 'Prypiat River Floodplains' (artificial dams were released from river beds), 'Polissia Mires' (optimization of environmental conditions in drainage systems) will be continued.

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:

During 2011-2013 a very important for the conservation of wetlands Ukrainian-French joint environmental project 'Integrating Climate Change into Vulnerable Ecosystems Management: natural parks in wetlands and forest areas (Ukraine)' was implemented at the territory of the National Natural Park 'Pripyat-Stokhid'. Its main goal was to improve the state and protect vulnerable ecosystems of Ukrainian Polissya in conditions of the global warming. In frame of the project different types of equipment were purchased, maps and atlases were developed and practical actions to clean riverbeds from aquatic plants and to restore floodplain meadows were implemented. The project was implemented with the support of the European Union. In the past 3 years restoration projects were realised within the Ramsar Sites 'Stokhid River Floodplains' and 'Prypiat River Floodplains' (artificial dams were released from river beds), 'Polissia Mires' (optimization of environmental conditions in drainage systems).

**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

C - Partly

#### 1.9.1 Additional information:

No special inventarization of ivasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands was conducted. Yet the issue is being researched by scientists from administrations of protected areas and relative scientific institutions concerning specific Ramsar Sites. Management plans include research of invasive alien species and respective actions.

There is a list of invasive alien plant species used, in particular, by the State Plant Quarantine Service, Customs Service, the Ministry of Health.

More then half of invasive plants have significant negative economic or ecological impact. 600–800 alien or adventitious plant species are known in Ukraine which is 14% of total plant diversity in the country (Protopopova V. V. Synanthropic flora of Ukraine and ways of its development: Kyiv, Naukova Dumka, 1991. - 204 p., Rus.). Among them about 100 plant species are considered by scientists and quarantine services as invasive species or as such which have a high invasive influence (Protopopova V. V., Mosyakin S. L. & Shevera M. V. 2002. Phytoinvasions in Ukraine as a threat to biodiversity: current state and tasks for future: Kiev, M.G.Kholodnyi Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, - 32 p., Ukr.), around 50 species are hazardous invasive plants. At least 20 alien plant species with substantial invasion capacity pose threat to forests of Ukraine, 20 – to aquatic and semiaquatic ecosystems, more then 80 species are harmful for agriculture and forestry or to the people health. Along the big rivers a portion of alien species is 8.6–18.3% (the highest index is for the Danube and the lowest – for the South Bug River).

A number of animal alien species can be found in aquatic ecosystems. 4 Far East fish species were introduced into the water bodies of Ukraine in the middle of the 20th century as commercial species (Aristichtis nobilis, Hypophthalmichthys molitrix,

Ctenopharyngodon idella, Mylopharyngodon piceus) and used to be reproduced artificially in fish farms. Pseudorasbora parva has also been unintentionally introduced from Far East and considered to be aggressive alien species.

The largest number of invasive species in Ukraine is observed in the Danube River region. It can be explained that the Danube River passes through many European countries and has active navigation which can be one of the ways of invasive alien species appearance in the region. For example, mollusks Sinanodonta woodiana and Corbicula fluminalis were found in 1995 and in 2001 in the Danube Delta respectively and which came to the region from the other parts of the world.

Introduction of invasive species to marine environment of Ukraine (the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov) resulted in serious ecological and economical problems. Thus, the invasion of Mnemiopsis leidyi (a comb jelly) contributed to a catastrophic decline in fish productivity in the late 1980s/early 1990s. Predator mollusk Rapana venosa caused a substantial decline of Ostrea edulis, Mytilus galloprovincialis and other local mollusk species populations in the Back Sea. It was estimated that between 1996 and 2005 a total of 48 new alien species were recorded in the Black Sea, which represents over 22 % of all registered aliens. The majority belong to phytoplankton (16) and zoobenthos (15), followed by zooplankton (8), fish (5), macroalgae (3) and mammals (1).

This increasing in invasive alien species has a serious impact on the Black Sea native biological diversity with negative consequences on human activities and economic interests.

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

### 1.9.2 Additional information:

Special control of alien species within the wetlands is not implemented primarily through the organizational difficulties and little financial resources.

The Law of Ukraine 'On Plant Quarantine' of 30.06.93 № 3348 provides appropriate instructions and rules for conducting plant quarantine, including invasive alien species. Development of databases of plant and animal species in Ukraine is now in progress within the relevant state programmes (State Cadastres of Plants and Animals). Specific sections of those databases are devoted for invasive alien species.

Draft programmes on biodiversity conservation and protected areas network development, which were agreed with governmental bodies, include measures for control invasive alien species. Draft programmes were prepared in cooperation with focal points of different conventions: Bern & Bonn & Ramsar & Carpathian Conventions, CBD, CITES, etc.

**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:

National legislation includes articles which oblige all users of natural resources to use wetlands wisely. Besides, within the Protected Areas System operating system limit the use of natural resources, and measures are taken to restore natural resources. According to national legislation, private individuals and legal entities can not get water bodies in private property, but they can rent some, small in size, ponds and lakes and carry within them the activities under the national legislation and international requirements. Therefore, state authorities are bearing responsibility for thr state of wetlands.

However, there are violations of the law by the private land users on lands for estates and other activities along rivers and lakes (unauthorized destruction of floodplain areas or their deepening, etc.).

- 1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:
- a. Ramsar Sites
- b. Wetlands in general

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

a. A - Yes

b. A - Yes

#### 1.10.2 Additional information:

The private sector takes part more and more actively in conservation measures primarily through financial support for cleaning areas around wetlands from waste, through construction of recreational zones and understand meaning of wetland conservation. For example, recreational enterprizes in the Shatsky National Park (Ramsar Site 'Shatsk Lakes') fund such measures annually.

In 2014 Coca-cola in cooperation with Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds and administrations of Protected Areas organized an action involving local businesses and society 'I love my seaside' which got in touch with 4 Ramsar Sites.

Representatives of local soceties and businesses get involved in activity of Scientific-Technical Councils of reserves and parks where issues of wetlands management are discussed and this way impact on managing this objects.

**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:

Respective actions were taken in Ramsar Sites belonging to protected areas (additional information in parts 2.4.1-2.4.3). Administrations of protected areas organize ecologically educational and environmentally protectional events involving stakeholders and encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Nature resources usage in such areas is limited by law. In reserves and national natural parks hunting is prohibited that promoting animal population restoration.

These actions were supported by a number of projects: Ukrainian-French environmental project 'Integrating Climate Change into Vulnerable Ecosystems Management: natural parks in wetlands and forest areas (Ukraine)' implemented at the territory of the NNP 'Pripyat-Stokhid' (Ramsar Sites 'Stokhid River Floodplains' and 'Prypiat River Floodplains'; 'Complementary Support to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine for the Sector Budget Support Implementation'; (SBS) EU-funded Technical Assistance Project.

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

#### 1.11.2 Additional information:

Many wetlands, especially in northern Ukraine, were drained to be used in agriculture in the 60's and 70's. But most of the drained mires were not successfull, but rather created a threat to man (floodings, fires). Therefore, environmental authorities initiate and support projects for restoration of natural conditions and hydrological regime of previously drained wetlands. In particular, such works were conducted within the Ramsar Sites 'Shatsk Lakes', 'Desna River Floodplains', 'Polissia Mires'

#### **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<sup>rd</sup> edition).

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

A - Yes

# 2.1.1 Additional information:

National strategy and priorities for futher designation of Ramsar Sites are based on the following national legal acts:

the Concept (the strategy) of Conservation of Ukraine's Biological Diversity was approved by Resolution of the Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine #439 dated May 12, 1997:

The Concept on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Azov and the Black Seas adopted by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 10 July 1998 (#1057) and the State Programme on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea approved by the Parliament of Ukraine in 2001:

the State Programme of Ukraine's National Environmental Network Development for Years 2000-2015 adopted by the Parliament of Ukraine in 2000;

Basic Principles (the Strategy) of the State Ecological Policy of Ukraine untill 2020 approved by the Law of Ukraine 21.12.2010;

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

25 sites

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

During years 2011-2013 Ukraine has determined 19 wetlands which meet requirements for Ramsar Sites. Ramsar Secretariat has provided remarks and comments about arrangement of Information Sheets. Ukrainian Partly finalised 9 Information Sheets.

Revision of aforementioned 19 Information sheets and granting the status of Ramsar Sites is planned for next period.

Designations of 6 new Ramsar Sites is expected: 'Sulska bay', 'Seretsky marshes', 'Bylenko-pozumovsky wetlands', 'Upper Kremenchug reservoir', 'Buzsky broyaky', 'Dnieper-Sozhska floodplain', along with expansion of 'Desna floodplain' Ramsar Site.

The terms of their designations re not determined and depend on financing of research and Information sheets preparation.

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

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

A - Yes

# 2.2.1 Additional information:

Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools is in the base of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 29.08.2002 #1287 'On Procedure of Designation of Wetlands of International Importance' and the Order of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine dated 27.12.2002 #524 'On Approval of the Structure, Content and Filling of Passport of a Wetland of International Importance' and designation of perspective Ramsar Sites and protected areas and wetland management.

**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:

Designated new wetlands as Ramsar Sires are parts of protected areas, 25 of potential Ramsar Sires are located within National Nature Parks and Biosphere Reserves and strict Nature Reserves, where environmental management is carried out.

**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	27 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	27 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA2.4.i	4 sites

#### 2.4.1 - 2.4.3 Additional information:

28 Ramsar Sites are included into National Nature Parks, strict Nature Reserves, Biosphere Reserves and Regional Landscape Parks, which have special management administrative bodies.

Only two Ramsar Sites 'Kartal Lake' and 'Kugurlui Lake' don't have any protected areas, but they are perspective protected areas. These lands have no management plans.

Management plans have been developed for protected areas that include Ramsar Sites: 'Shatsk Lakes' (Shatskyi National Nature Park), 'Desna River Floodplains' (National Nature Park 'Desniansko-Starogutskyi'), 'Central Syvash' and Northen part of 'Eastern Syvash' (Azovo-Syvashskyi National Nature Park), 'Kyliiske Mouth' and 'Sasyk Lake' (Danube Biosphere Reserve), 'Aquatic-cliff Complex of Karadag' (Karadagskyi Nature Reserve), 'Aquatic-coastal Complex of Cape Opuk' (Opukskyi Nature Reserve), 'Karkinitska and Dzharylgatska Bays' (for Karkinitska Bay - Crimean Nature Reserve), 'Bilosaraiska Bay and Bilosaraiska Spit' and 'Kryva Bay and Kryva Spit' (Regional Landscape Park 'Meotida'), 'Stokhid River Floodplains' and 'Prypiat River Floodplains' (National Nature Park 'Prypiat'-Stokhid'), 'Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area' and 'Northern Part of the Dniester Liman' (Nyzhniodnistrovskyi National Nature Park)
Management plans for protected areas are under development and they include Ramsar Sites:

'Bakotska Bay' and 'Lower Smotrych River' (National Nature Park 'Podilski Tovtry'), 'Lake Synevyr' (National Nature Park 'Synevyr'), 'Big Chapelsk Depression' (Biosphere Reserve 'Askania-Nova'), 'Aquatic-cliff Complex of Cape Kazantyp' (Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve), 'Perebrody Peatlands' (Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve), 'Polissia Mires' (Poliskyi Nature Reserve), 'Dnipro-Oril Floodplains' (Dniprovsko-Orilskyi Nature Reserve), 'Karkinitska and Dzharylgatska Bays' (for Dzharylgatska Bays - National Nature Park 'Dzharylgatskyi'), 'Yagorlytska Bay' (National Nature Park 'Biloberezhia Sviatoslava'), 'Shagany-Alibei-Burnas Lakes System' (National Nature Park 'Tuzlovski Lymany'), 'Molochnyi Liman' and 'Berda River Mouth and Berdianska Spit and Berdianska Bay' (Pryazovskyi National Nature Park), 'Tendrivska Bay' (Chornomorskyi Biosphere Reserve).

In addition, there are wetland management plans for Ramsar Sites 'Central Syvash' (Azovo-Syvashskyi National Nature Park), 'Tyligulskyi Liman' (Regional Landscape Park 'Tyligulskyi'), and 'Dnipro River Delta' and 'Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay') (both with Zakazniks (Habitat/Species Management Areas) without special administrative bodies) revised and updated.

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

25 sites

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

Ramsar Sites are located in protected areas with special administrative bodies have scientific-technical councils (with representatives of protected areas and other stakeholders, and NGOs, local authorities, etc. - cross-sectoral composition) that take part in the management of protected areas and Ramsar Sites (see: aditional information to 2.4.1-2.4.3).

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

28 sites

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

Descriptions of ecological character of wetlands have been prepared for 28 Ramsar Sites.

(see: aditional information to 2.4.1-2.4.4).

**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):

Partly the estimation was made by independent scientists and staff of protected areas basing on results of wetlands monitoring. The results of estimation were reflected in Nature Chronicles of protected areas and scientific works. Recommendations of scientists are accounted in the next stage of management plans development.

**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):

Administrations of protected areas and State Ecologic Inspection of Ukraine collect information on wetlands state regurally, and in case of negative changes inform the Ministry of Ecology and Nature Resources of Ukraine.

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

B - No

- 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):
- 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

 ${\bf 2.6.3 \ Additional \ information \ (If \ `Yes', please \ indicate \ the \ actions \ taken):}$ 

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

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

A - Yes

#### 2.7.1 Additional information:

During years 2011-2012 Ukraine had determined 19 wetlands which meet the criteria for Ramsar Sites. All intra state procedures were completed and renderring to the Ramsar Secretariat was made.

(see: aditional information to 2.1.2.).

- Part of the sheets require significant revision, which is complicated by absence of special financing of such works due to a complicated economical and political situation in the country during past years.
- Still, a part of these wetlands is included in protected areas and is managed appropriately. State monitoring, bird account, protection and usage control are conducted in these areas.

#### **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 Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine is executive body of such MEAs as CITES, Ramsar, CBD, Bonn, Bern, Carpathian, Black Sea and other conventions. Focal points of these conventios work as heads (directors) of departments (divisions) in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and they are obliged to coordinate among themselves their actions (proposals/projects/recommendations, etc.) as well as acording to national legislation and international commitments.
- The National Committee on Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of Wetlands of Ukraine, was involving into issues of implementation of Ramsar Convention a wide range of representatives of different state authorities and other participants and stakeholders.
- The members of The National Committee on Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of Wetlands of Ukraine are focal points of CBD, Bern, Carpathian, Black Sea conventions.
- 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:

Cooperation between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and other stakeholders exist in accordance with law. The cooperation is realized through special projects.

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

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

A - Yes

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

Ukraine takes part in the Ramsar Regional Initiatives for the BlackSeaWet Initiative and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (meetings, information and and expirience exchange, designation of new Ramsar Sites, etc.).

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

Z - Not applicable

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}

A - Yes

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

## For exapmles the EU projects:

- 'Complementary Support to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine for the Sector Budget Support Implementation'; (SBS) EU-funded Technical Assistance Project, 2012-2014;
- 'Support to Ukraine to Implement the Danube and Ramsar Conventions', 2010-2013:
- 'Inclusion of Climate Change Problems in Vulnerable Ecosystems into Protected Areas Management in Polesie, Ukraine', 2011-2014;
- 'Cross-border Wetlands Conservation in the Polesie Region of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine', 2012-2014.
- 'Consolidation of the Nature Protected Areas' Network for Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable Development in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region – PAN Nature', 2013-2014
- 'Improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region', 2013-2014.

**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}

C - Partly

- 3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):
- Ukraine takes part in BlackSeaWet and Carpathian Regional Initiatives, the Agreement with Belarus on Cooperation in Protection and Sustainable Use of Transbondary Protected Areas, a threelateral agreement with Poland and Belarus on the Biosphere Reserve 'West Polessie'. All of these agreements include knowledge and experience exchange.
- Speciall Coordinating council was created in 2011 according to the special Interministerial Agreement on Cooperation in the Protected Zone of the Lower Danube and Prut (Ukraine, Romania and Moldova) of 2000. This council considers joint plans and different mechanisms for cooperation in the Agreement area where there are Ramsar Sites 'Kyliiske Mouth' (Ukraine), 'Danube Delta' (Romania) and 'Lower Prut Lakes' (Moldova). Parties provide information and knowledge exchange.

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:

See: Directory of Ukraine's Wetlands / Ed. by Gennadiy Marushevsky & Inna Zharuk. - Kyiv, Wetlands International Black Sea Programme, 2006. - 312 pp. (in English and Ukrainian languages) include Information Sheets of 33 Ramsar sites and 22 perspective Ramsar sites.

In 2010 the web-site 'Wetlands of Ukraine' (http://wetlands.biomon.org) was created (in Ukrainian) by the Wetlands International Black Sea Programme. It contains an interactive map of Ukraine with indications of Ramsar sites, maps and descriptions of 33 Ramsar sites of Ukraine as well as maps and descriptions for 13 potential Ramsar sites.

Actual information on wetlands and Ramsar Sites is constantly posted on websites of protected areas. A special section on the website of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine is to be created

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

B - No

3.4.3 Additional information:

.

**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:

Ukraine has officially designated the Transboundary (Ukraine-Belarus) Ramsar Site 'Stokhid-Prypiat-Prostyr'.

Ukraine in cooperation with Belarus is working on documents for a new transboundary wetlands of international importance 'Olmany Mires - Perebrody Peatlands'.

Ukraine has a wetland located on the border and which may be granted the status of transboundary wetlands of international importance: the Danube Delta, Lower Prut River.

Ukraine plans to develop cooperation on creation of transboundary Ramsar Site on the Tiscea River with the Slovak Republic and Hungary.

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):

Ukraine has signed intergovernmental agreements on cooperation on water management in transboundary waters with all neighboring countries (Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Moldova, Russia, Romania, Hungary).

November 29, 2012 in Rome at the 6th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes Ukraine and Moldova signed the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova on cooperation in the protection and sustainable development of the river basin Dniester, the purpose of which is to ensure the coordination of joint actions of Ukraine and Moldova.

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:

Ukraine is a Party of initiatives on conservation of wetland-depended migratory species such as Aquatic Warbler and Slender-billed Curlew. Ukraine signed special Memoranda of understanding for conservation of these species, took part in several international projects, created additional protected areas for conservation of Aquatic Warbler and carried some protected measures for it.

#### **GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY**

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

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

- 4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i
  - a) At the national level
  - b) Sub-national level
  - c) Catchment/basin level
  - d) Local/site level

a) C - In progress

b) B - No

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)

- 4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPANFPs):
- 'Action Plan for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Ukraine for the period until 2015' includes items relevant to the CEPA.
- Implementation of the plan occurs through holding eco-educational actions, meetings, talks and lessons which are held by protected areas specific to each region and the characteristics of wetlands. Also, once a year, the Ministry of Environment is initiating a public awareness campaign about the value of wetlands, involves the media, government agencies and local governments, institutions, protected areas and more.
- The Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Management,
  Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture in the Southern Bug
  River Basin was developed in the frame of the proejct 'Towards Integrating
  Wetland Biodiversity Conservation with Water and Agricultural Management
  in Ukraine. A pilot project in the South Bug River Basin' (2008-2011)
  implemented by the Wetlands International Black Sea Programme. The
  Strategic Action Plan includes CEPA actions. It was approved by the
  Southern Bug Basin Council at its 3rd meeting on 3 February 2011.
- 4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii
  - a) at Ramsar Sites
  - b) at other wetlands

a) 21 centres

b) xxx centres

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

- 21 visitor, ecological and educational centres are in protected areas, where Ramsar sites are located, namely:
- Visitor Centre in the Danube Biosphere Reserve (Ramsar Sites 'Kyliiske Mouth' and 'Sasyk Lake' (partly);
- Ecological Centre 'Dniester Delta' for Ramsar Sites 'Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area' and 'Northern Part of the Dniester Liman';
- Museum of the Chornomorskyi (Black Sea) Biosphere Reserve (Ramsar Sites 'Tendrivska Bay' and 'Yagorlytska Bay');
- Ecological Education and Training Centre in the Lebedyni Islands branch of the Crimean Nature Reserve (Ramsar Sites 'Karkinitska and Dzharylgatska Bays');
- Two field-study training centers of the Melitopol State Pedagogical University (Ramsar Site 'Molochnyi Liman');
- Educational Centre of the Regional Landscape Park 'Meotyda' (Ramsar Sites 'Bilosaraiska Bay and Bilosaraiska Spit' and 'Kryva Bay and Kryva Spit');
- Visitor Centre of the Tyligulskyi Regional Landscape Park (Ramsar Site 'Tyligulskyi Liman');
- Visitor Centre of the Shatskyi National Nature Park (Ramsar Site 'Shatsk Lakes');
- Visitor Centre of the National Nature Park 'Prypiat-Stokhid' (Ramsar Sites 'Prypiat River Floodplains' and 'Stokhid River Floodplains');
- Visitor Centre of the National Nature Park 'Synevyr' (Ramsar Site 'Synevyr');
- Educational Centre and Museum of the National Nature Park 'Podilski Tovtry' (Ramsar Sites 'Bakotska Bay' and 'Lower Smotrych River');
- Dolphinarium, Marine aquarium and Museum of Karadag Nature Reserve (Ramsar Site 'Aquatic-cliff Complex of Karadag');
- Visitor Centre of the Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve (Ramsar Site 'Aquatic-cliff Complex of Cape Kazantyp');
- Visitor Centre of the Opukskyi Nature Reserve (Ramsar Site 'Aquatic-coastal Complex of Cape Kazantyp');
- Visitor Centre of the Dniprovsko-Orilskyi Nature Reserve (Ramsar Site 'Dnipro-Oril Floodplains');
- Zoo and Dendrological Park (Arboretum) of the Biosphere Reserve 'Askania-Nova' (Ramsar Site 'Big Chapelsk Depression');
- Visitor Centre of the National Nature Park 'Desnyansko-Starogutskyi' (Ramsar Site 'Desna River Floodplains').
- Bu the most of them need repairing, renovation, information updating, development of interactive methods for communication, etc.......

# 4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

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

a) C - Partly

b) C - Partly

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

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

Stakeholders are members of Scientific-Technical Councils of protected areas

and take part in decision-making on wetland and Ramsar Sites management.

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

B - No

4.1.4 Additional information:

Accurate assessment of training needs is not relevant, because the opportunities for training is substantially less than needs.

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

Number of opportunities:

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

- a) 3
- b) 0
- **4.1.5** Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

Conducted of an International sciientific-practional conference 'Methods and technologies of strategic planning areas. Development of Management Wetland of International Importance in Ukraine' (Kyiv, February 1, 2013) and 2 study workshops concerning wetlands issues (training course on the theme 'Conservation and Restoration of Ecosystems of North-West Black Sea' (Odessa, November 13-15, 2013); seminar 'Organisation and Results of the Monitoring of Wetlands of International Importance in Ukraine' (Odessa, 4-6 March, 2014).

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

A - Yes

- **4.1.6** Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):
- The National Committee on Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of Wetlands of Ukraine was established in November 2010 with the support of the EU funded project 'Support to Ukraine to Implement the Danube and Ramsar Conventions'. Its main goal is to support coordination of actions between central and local authorities, municipalities, scientific organizations, educational institutions, environmental NGOs and other stakeholders aimed to conserve, use sustainably and restore wetlands of Ukraine.
- The Committee united representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, other central authorities (namely the State Water Resources Agency, State Forest Resources Agency, State Fishery Agency and State Land Resources Agency), administrations of protected areas, scientific and educational organizations and environmental NGOs. Frequency of meetings according to the Regulations is no less than twice a year.
- The Committee has such responsibilities as annual review and approval of the plan of implementation of the Ramsar Convention, consideration and

approval of analytical reports on the status of Ukraine's wetlands; participation in the Regional Ramsar initiatives including BlackSeaWet initiative and Carpathian Wetland Initiative, discussion of relevant issues on conservation, sustainable use and restoration of wetlands in Ukraine and preparation of recommendations for the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, promotion annual celebrations of World Wetlands Day, etc.

The composition of the Committee changed in 2012 and 2014.

- 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) A-Yes
- b) A Yes
- c) A-Yes
- **4.1.7** Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):
- National Reports are included into Database for Protected Areas wich are distributed to protected areas, regional departments of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and others interested organisations and persons.
- Annual National Report on Nature Protection includes data concerning Ramsar sites concervation.
- The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine informs periodically interested authorities and organisations and persons on Ramsar Convention solutions and guidelines.
- 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:

- Each year on 2 February, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine together with National Ramsar Counsil prepares and disseminates press-releases concerning the World Wetlands Day, informational materials, publishes a calendar, organizes press conferences and slide presentations with active participation of Wetlands International Black Sea Programme.
- In 2012 and 2014, this day was confined National Ramsar Council meetings devoted to the limplementation of the Ramsar Convention in the new year with the assistance of scientists and representatives of local executive bodies.
- In 2013 National Ramsar Counsil organized the International scientific-practical conference 'Methods and Technologies of Strategic Planning Areas'.

  Development of Management Wetland of International Importance in Ukraine" with participation 200 persons.

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):

Protected areas regularly hold eco-educational actions aimed at raising awareness of the values of nature and wetlands, and involving local people and visitors into the conservation of wetlands. The nationwide celebrations which are held are The Day of birds, celebration of Midsummer's Day, Fisherman's Day and others. Some regions have their own peculiar dates and festivals as: Marine Day, Day of the Dniester, Dnipro Day.

**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} KRA4.2.i

A - Yes

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

Ukraine paid Ramsar contributions in full for 2012 and 2013. Payment of Ramsar contribution for 2014 is in progress.

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):

Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds funded an exhibition of photos dedicated to wetlands, the conference and the publication of special editions of the scientific journals.

**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):

Responsible officials of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine take part in elaboration of National Reports on the Ramsar Convention implementation and are monitoring Ukraine's implementation of the Convention. They take into account previous National Reports.

**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):

Assistance was provided by WWF and BirdLife International through relevant projects.

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):