

National planning tool for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

(And the approved format for National Reports to be submitted for the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Spain, 2002)

file 1

Institutional information

Contracting Party: **AUSTRIA**

Full name of designated Ramsar Administrative Authority: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and Amt der 1) Burgenländischen, 2) Kärntner, 3) Niederösterreichischen, 4) Oberösterreichischen, 5) Salzburger, 6) Steiermärkischen, 7) Tiroler, 8) Vorarlberger und 9) Wiener Landesregierung**

Name and title of the head of the designated Ramsar Administrative Authority:

Ministerialrat Dipl.-Ing. Guenter LIEBEL

Mailing address and contact details of the head of the institution: **Stubenbastei 5, A-1010 Wien**

Telephone: **+43 51522 1401**

Facsimile: **+43 51522 7402**

Email: **guenter.liebel@bmlfuw.gv.at**

Name and title (if different) of the designated national focal point (or “daily contact” in the Administrative Authority) for Ramsar Convention matters: **Dr.Gerhard SIGMUND,**

BMLFUW, Stubenbastei 5, A-1010 Wien,

Telephone: **+43 1 51522 1416,**

Facsimile: **+43 1 51522 7402;**

Email: **gerhard.sigmund@bmlfuw.gv.at**

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point:

Dipl.-Ing. Wolfgang Pelikan, Abteilung 4 b, Amt der Burgenländischen Landesregierung, Landhaus, A-7000 Eisenstadt

Telephone: **+43 2682 600 2727**

Facsimile: **+43 2682 600 2287**

Email: **agrartechnik.e@gmx.at**

Name and title of the designated national focal point for matters relating to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP): **Univ.Prof.Gert Michael STEINER**

Mailing address and contact details of the national STRP focal point:

Prof. Gert Michael Steiner, Institut für Ökologie und Naturschutz, Universität Wien, Althanstrasse 14, A-1090 Wien

Telephone: **+43 1 4277 54372**

Facsimile: **+ 43 1 4277 9542**

Email: **gmst@pflaphy.pph.univie.ac.at**

Name and title of the designated national government focal point for matters relating to the Outreach Programme of the Ramsar Convention:

Dipl.-Ing. Dr.Gerhard SIGMUND

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point:

BMLFUW, Abteilung II/4 Stubenbastei 5, A-1010 Wien,

Telephone: **Telephone: +43 1 51522 1416 ,**

Facsimile: **Facsimile: +43 1 51522 7402;**

Email: **Email: gerhard.sigmund@bmlfuw.gv.at**

Name and title of the designated national non-government (NG) focal point for matters relating to the Outreach Programme of the Ramsar Convention:

Mag. Birgit MAIR-MARKART

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point:

Naturschutzbund Österreich, Museumsplatz 2, A-5020 Salzburg

Telephone: **+43 662 642909 -12**

Facsimile: **+43 662 643734-4**

Email: **bundesverband@naturschutzbund.at**

Note – Not all actions from the Convention Work Plan 2000-2002 are included here, as some apply only to the Bureau or Conferences of the Contracting Parties. As a result, the numbering system that follows contains some gaps corresponding to those actions that have been omitted.

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1

TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

Operational Objective 1.1: To endeavour to secure at least 150 Contracting Parties to the Convention by 2002.

Actions – Global Targets

1.1.1 Recruit new Contracting Parties, especially in the less well represented regions and among states with significant and/or transboundary wetland resources (including

shared species), [CPs, SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]

- **The gaps remain in Africa, central Asia, the Middle East and the Small Island Developing States. Refer to Recommendation 7.2 relating to Small Island Developing States.**
- **Global Target - 150 CPs by COP8**
- **These are the countries which at present are not CPs of the Convention:**
Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Is your country a neighbor of, or does it have regular dealings or diplomatic-level dialogue with, one or more of the non-Contracting Parties listed above? (This list was correct as of January 2000. However, accessions to the Convention occur on a regular basis and you may wish to check with the Ramsar Bureau for the latest list of non-CPs.) **No** If **No**, go to Action 1.1.2.

If **Yes**, have actions been taken to encourage these non-CPs to join the Convention? **Yes/No**

If **Yes**, have these actions been successful? **Please elaborate.**

If **No**, what has prevented such action being taken? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

1.1.2 Promote membership of Ramsar through regional meetings and activities, and through partners' regional offices. [SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]

- **These efforts are to continue and to focus on the above priority regions and the Small Island Developing States.**
- **The current member and permanent observer States of the Standing Committee are Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Costa Rica, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uganda**

Is your country a member of the Standing Committee? **No** If **No**, go to Action 2.1.1.

If **Yes**, have actions been taken to encourage the non-CPs from your region or subregion to join the Convention? **Yes/No**

If **Yes**, have these actions been successful? **Please elaborate.**

If **No**, what has prevented such action being taken?

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2

TO ACHIEVE THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS BY IMPLEMENTING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING THE RAMSAR WISE USE GUIDELINES

Operational Objective 2.1: To review and, if necessary, amend national or supra-national (e.g., European Community) legislation, institutions and practices in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the Wise Use Guidelines are applied.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.1.1 Carry out a review of legislation and practices, and indicate in National Reports to the COP how the Wise Use Guidelines are applied. [CPs]

- **This remains a high priority for the next triennium. The *Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions* (Resolution VII.7) will assist these efforts.**
- **Global Target – For at least 100 CPs to have comprehensively reviewed their laws and institutions relating to wetlands by COP8.**

Has your country **completed** a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management: Austrian Federal Law is already in line with the Wise Use Principles. Land Salzburg: Wise use already covered in legislation, only conservation of alluvial forests should be improved, Laender Steiermark and Tirol: Wise use already covered in legislation**

If a review is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done? **Upper Austria plans further review in 2002**

If the review has been **completed**, did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to these amendments being completed?

If **Yes**, and changes to laws and institutional arrangements were made, please describe these briefly. **Land Niederösterreich and other Laender have enacted new Nature Conservation Laws, new Fishery and Hunting Laws; Vienna has introduced the biotope type "Gewässer" as a new term in the Nature Conservation Legislation**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and 9 Laender

2.1.2 Promote much greater efforts to develop national wetland policies, either separately or as a clearly identifiable component of other national conservation planning initiatives, such as National Environment Action Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies, or National Conservation Strategies. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **The development and implementation of National Wetland Policies continues to be one of the highest priorities of the Convention, as does the integration of wetland conservation and wise use into broader national environment and water policies. The *Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies (Resolution VII.6)* will assist these efforts.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, at least 100 CPs with National Wetland Policies or, where appropriate, a recognized document that harmonizes all wetland-related policies/strategies and plans, and all CPs to have wetlands considered in national environmental and water policies and plans. The *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (Resolution VII.18)* will assist these efforts.**

Does your country have **in place** a National Wetland Policy (or similar instrument) which is a comprehensive statement of the Government's intention to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being put in place? **Please elaborate.**

If the development of such a Policy is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done?

Has your country taken its obligations with respect to the Ramsar Convention into consideration in related policy instruments such as National Biodiversity Strategies, National Environmental Action Plans, Water Policies, river basin management plans, or similar instruments? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to doing so?

If **Yes**, please provide brief details. **1) National Biodiversity Strategie: Austria has developed a National Strategy on Biological Diversity to guide the implementation of the CBD. Elaborated by the National Biodiversity Commission and endorsed by the Austrian Government in 1998, this strategy sets out objectives and actions at all levels and for all relevant sectors that will enhance the ability to ensure the productivity, diversity and integrity of natural systems. By now an evaluation of the strategy is in process, looking at the accuracy of its elements themselves but also assessing the status of implementation. Preliminary results show the need for addressing specific actors responsible for implementation, timetables, benchmarks for evaluation, as well as the need for looking at and enhancing synergies between activities and the need for checking possible contradictions between them. The establishment of a National Biodiversity Commission has proved to be an effective way to coordinate actions at the national level and to involve all stakeholders concerned in the implementation of the CBD.**

2) Water Policy and River Basin Management Plans: Austria is preparing the implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive with intensive efforts. Since regulations concerning Wetlands are included in the Water Framework Directive they have to be taken into consideration in Austria's water policy. Existing guidelines for flood regulation projects already contain regulations which provide the conservation of waters as natural habitats and ecologically functioning unities.

Has your government reviewed and modified, as appropriate, its policies that adversely affect intertidal wetlands (COP7 Resolution VII.21)? **No Reply**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **[REDACTED]**

If **Yes**, what were the conclusions of this review? and what actions have been taken subsequently? **[REDACTED]**

Proposed national actions and targets: **[REDACTED]**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **[REDACTED]**

Operational Objective 2.2: To integrate conservation and wise use of wetlands in all Contracting Parties into national, provincial and local planning and decision-making on land use, groundwater management, catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning, and all other environmental planning and management.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.2.2 Promote the inclusion of wetlands in national, provincial and local land use planning documents and activities, and in all relevant sectoral and budgetary provisions. [CPs]

- Achieving integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to managing wetlands within the broader landscape and within river basin/coastal zone plans is another of the Convention's highest priorities in the next triennium.**
- Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be promoting, and actively implementing, the management of wetlands as integrated elements of river basins and coastal zones, and to provide detailed information on the outcomes of these actions in the National Reports for COP8.**

Is your country **implementing** integrated river basin and coastal zone management approaches? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **Please elaborate.**

If integrated management approaches are being applied in part of the country, indicate the approximate percentage of the country's surface area where this is occurring and to which river basins and coastal areas this applies. **Austria has integrated management approaches in all river basin related activities**

If Yes , are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Please elaborate.
Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.18)? Yes
If Yes , please describe them briefly. Comprehensive LIFE Nature and other Projects especially at the River Lafnitz Valley, River Morava-Dyje, River Lainsitz, River Upper Drava, River Lech, Rivers Melk, Mank, Pielach. Project descriptions can be found under www.lifenatur.at
Proposed national actions and targets: 3 new LIFE Nature projects each year
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and 9 Laender

Operational Objective 2.3: To expand the Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use to provide advice to Contracting Parties on specific issues not hitherto covered, and examples of best current practice.

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.3.1 Expand the Additional Guidance on Wise Use to address specific issues such as oil spill prevention and clean-up, agricultural runoff, and urban/industrial discharges in cooperation with other bodies. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - Following COP7, the Bureau, with other appropriate collaborators, will produce a series of Wise Use handbooks, based on the outcomes of Technical Sessions at COP7. • (added by the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Resolution VII.14 <i>Invasive Species and wetlands</i>) CPs are requested “to provide the Ramsar Bureau with information on databases which exist for invasive species, information on invasive species which pose a threat to wetlands and wetland species, and information on the control and eradication of invasive wetland species.”
Does your country have resource information on the management of wetlands in relation to the following which could be useful in assisting the Convention to develop further guidance to assist other CPs :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oil spill prevention and clean-up? Yes • agricultural runoff? Yes • urban/industrial discharges? No • invasive species? Yes • other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? No – Please elaborate.

In each case, if the answer was **Yes**, has this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre (see 2.3.2 below)? **Yes**
urban/industrial discharges can be an obstacle in floodplain restoration. On the other side the evaluation of the nutrient removal capacities of wetlands is an objective in the GEF/UNDP Danube Regional Project 2002-2005.

Proposed national actions and targets: **To collect further information on these items**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management**

2.3.2. Publicize examples of effective application of existing Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Promoting and improving the availability of such resource materials is a priority under the Convention's Outreach Programme (Resolution VII.9)**
- **Global Target - By COP8, to have included in the Wise Use Resource Centre 500 appropriate references and publications as provided to the Bureau by CPs and other organizations.**

Further to 2.31. above, has your country, as urged by the Outreach Programme of the Convention adopted at COP7 (Resolution VII. 9), **reviewed** its resource materials relating to wetland management policies and practices? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, have copies of this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **The results of the review don't exist in a printed form.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **9 Laender**

Operational Objective 2.4: To provide economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands for environmental planning purposes.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.4.1 Promote the development, wide dissemination, and application of documents and methodologies which give economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Given the guidelines available for this activity (see below: *Economic Valuation of Wetlands* handbook), this will be an area of higher priority in the next triennium.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be incorporating economic valuation of**

wetland services, functions and benefits into impact assessment and decision-making processes related to wetlands.
Does your government require that economic valuations of the full range of services, benefits and functions of wetlands be prepared as part of impact assessments and to support planning decisions that may impact on wetlands? In some cases.
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Vienna: The economic dimension of wetlands is only a side effect in protecting wetlands or evaluating planning decisions that may impact on it.
If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases? No timeframes existing yet
If Yes , has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. Yes/No If Yes, please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 2.5: To carry out environmental impact assessments (EIAs) at wetlands, particularly of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, notably at Ramsar sites, whose ecological character “is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference” (Article 3.2 of the Convention).

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.5.2 Ensure that, at Ramsar sites where change in ecological character is likely as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, EIAs are carried out (with due consideration of economic valuations of wetland benefits and functions), and that the resulting conclusions are communicated to the Ramsar Bureau and fully taken into account by the authorities concerned. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - In the next triennium, CPs will ensure that EIAs are applied to any such situation and keep the Bureau advised of the issues and the outcomes of these EIAs.
Has an EIA been carried out in all cases where a change in the ecological character of a Ramsar site within your country was likely (or possible) as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use? No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? EIAs have only to be carried out for those (larger) projects which correspond to project types included in the Austrian and European EIA Law. For smaller projects Austrian EIA law does not apply, but in many cases an approval by the Nature Conservation Authority is necessary, which requires a rigorous assessment.
If Yes , has this EIA, or have these EIAs, given due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See also 2.4.1 above)

In some cases.

AND: Have the results of the EIA been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **The economic value of wetlands does not belong to the EIA criteria. So far there have been very few EIA projects in connection with the change of ecologic character of wetlands and they have not yet been finished.**

Vienna: An EIA (Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung) has been carried out in only one case: the working permission for a steam power station next the Ramsar site, National Park, Untere Lobau. The results of this EIA have not been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau, because there was no change in the ecological character of the Ramsar site.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and 9 Laender**

2.5.3 Carry out EIAs at other important sites, particularly where adverse impact on wetland resources is likely, due to a development proposal or change in land/water use. [CPs]

- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to require EIAs under legislation for any actions which can potentially impact on wetlands and to provide detailed reports on advances in this area in their National Reports for COP8.**

Are EIAs required in your country for **all** cases where a wetland area (whether a Ramsar site or not) may be adversely impacted due to a development proposal or change in land/water use? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **The cases where an EIA has to be carried out for wetland areas are fixed by EIA law and refer not to all cases. EIAs are not considered as necessary in all cases; national nature protection and water management law is considered as sufficient for assessments of smaller projects.**

If **Yes**, are such EIAs required to give due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See COP7 Resolution VII.16, also 2.4.1 & 2.5.2 above.) **Yes**

Are EIAs “undertaken in a transparent and participatory manner which includes local stakeholders” (COP7 Resolution VII.16)? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and 9 Laender**

2.5.4 Take account of Integrated Environmental Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment (at local, provincial and catchment/river basin or coastal

zone levels) when assessing impacts of development proposals or changes in land/water use. [CPs]
(Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country undertaken a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
If Yes , has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) No
Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? Yes – The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management charged the University of Agriculture with an investigation on the question, which plans or programmes would be relevant in connection with the implementation of the EC Directive on Strategic Environment Impact Assessment on Plans and Programmes.
Proposed national actions and targets: Integration of the investigation's results into national law until 2004
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Government (relevant ministries) and 9 Laender

Operational Objective 2.6: To identify wetlands in need of restoration and rehabilitation, and to implement the necessary measures.

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.6.1 Use regional or national scientific inventories of wetlands (Recommendation 4.6), or monitoring processes, to identify wetlands in need of restoration or rehabilitation. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completion of such inventories is a continuing area of priority for the Convention. Global Target - Restoration/rehabilitation inventories to be completed by at least 50 CPs by COP8.
Has your country completed an assessment to identify its priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation? (COP7 Resolution VII.17) Yes/No
If No , what has prevented this from being done? Possible areas have been identified, but not in a priority scheme because of 9 different administrative authorities and different budgetary resources (water management, nature protection) and therefore different priorities. As a rule those wetland projects which are submitted for funding by EC Community Initiatives, e.g. LIFE, INTERREG, LEADER receive priority status.
If this has been done for only part of the country, please indicate for which areas or river basins. A priority list for peatlands has been elaborated for all peatlands of national and international importance owned by the Federal Austrian Forests, covering 17 % of the

Austrian Forest Area.
If Yes (that is, an assessment has been completed), have actions been taken to undertake the restoration or rehabilitation of these priority sites? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details. Within a cooperation between Austrian Federal Forests and the University of Vienna , Institute of ecology and conservation biology , several actions have been started, f.e. monitoring of peatlands and preparation of conservation and management programmes. Based on the above mentioned priority list measures are being taken in 20 peatlands .
Proposed national actions and targets: To elaborate a priority list for peatlands and other wetlands until COP 9
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Austrian National Ramsar Committee

2.6.2 Provide and implement methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is considerable information resource on this subject, although it is not as readily accessed as desirable. • Global Target - The addition of appropriate case studies and information on methodologies, etc., to the Convention's Wise Use Resource Centre (refer to 2.3.2 above also) will be a priority in the next triennium.
Refer to 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. Does your country have resource information on the restoration or rehabilitation of wetlands? Yes
If Yes , has this been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre and for consideration by the STRP Expert Working Group on Restoration? No
If this material has not been forwarded to the Bureau, what has prevented this from occurring? 2 Projects along Danube and Morava River, but not yet finalized and therefore we don't yet have final reports at our disposal.
Proposed national actions and targets: Finalization of reports until 2003 and submission to the Ramsar Bureau
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

2.6.3 Establish wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in association with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value (Recommendation 4.1). [CPs]

- **The Convention will continue to promote the restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands, particularly in situations where such actions will help promote or retain the 'health' and productivity of waterways and coastal environments.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to have identified their priority sites for restoration or rehabilitation and for projects to be under way in at least 100 CPs.**

Refer to 2.6.1 above.

Operational Objective 2.7: To encourage active and informed participation of local communities, including indigenous people, and in particular women, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.7.1 Implement Recommendation 6.3 on involving local and indigenous people in the management of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, the implementation of the Guidelines on local communities' and indigenous people's participation (COP7 Resolution VII.8) is to be one of the Convention's highest priorities. By COP8, all CPs to be promoting local stakeholder management of wetlands.**

Is your government **actively** promoting the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the management of wetlands? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, describe what special actions have been taken (See also 2.7.2, 2.7.3 and 2.7.4 below) (COP7 Resolution VII.8). **In many cases by special national funding programmes to support sustainable use in agriculture (ÖPUL) . In the framework of LIFE Nature or LEADER Wetland Projects and National Parks local and indigenous people have been involved by advisory boards. Also financial support of regional NGO activities contributes to the involvement of local and indigenous people. The government actively supports these activities .**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Involve local and indigenous people at those projects where they are not yet involved**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **9
Laender**

2.7.2 Encourage site managers and local communities to work in partnership at all levels to monitor the ecological character of wetlands, thus providing a better understanding of management needs and human impacts. [CPs]

- **The Convention's Outreach Programme (COP7 Resolution VII.9) seeks to give such community participation higher priority as an education and empowerment tool of the Convention.**

Does your government **actively encourage or support** site managers and local communities in monitoring the condition (ecological character) of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? (Also refer to Operational Objective 5.1.) **Yes**

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, does this include both site managers and local communities, where they are not the same people? **Yes** **Mainly from the Nature Protection Administrations of the 9 Laender. Furthermore through Monitoring Programmes of the the National Park Administrations**

AND, where such monitoring occurs, are the findings being used to guide management practices? **Yes**

If **No**, what prevents this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **9 Laender**

2.7.3 Involve local communities in the management of wetlands by establishing wetland management committees, especially at Ramsar sites, on which local stakeholders, landowners, managers, developers and community interest groups, in particular women's groups, are represented. [CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - Ramsar site management committees operating in at least 100 CPs, and including non-government stakeholder representation.**

Are there wetland site management committees **in place** in your country? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such being established? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, for how many sites are such committees in place? **9**

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? **9**

AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? **9**

AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented? **0**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.7.4 Recognize and apply traditional knowledge and management practice of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]

- **Refer to 2.7.1 above.**
- **Global Target - This will be addressed in the next triennium, possibly in**

partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention to Combat Desertification, which have already initiated work in this area.
Has your government made any special efforts to recognize and see applied traditional knowledge and management practices? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
If Yes , please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice. [e. Coppice Willow Management , Low Intensity Cattle Grazing and the sustainable use of twigs as firewood have been activated again by introduction in a RAMSAR management plan (Morava River) or in National Park Management Plans (Ramsar Site Donau-March-Auen)
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 2.8: To encourage involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.8.1. Encourage the private sector to give increased recognition to wetland attributes, functions and values when carrying out projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - In the next triennium, the efforts to work in partnership with the private sector will be further increased and the Bureau will seek to document and make available case studies on some of the more effective and innovative approaches. By COP8, the target is to have private sector support for wetlands conservation in more than 100 CPs.
Have special efforts been made to increase the recognition of wetland attributes, functions and values among the private sector in your country? Yes/No
If No , what has prevented this from happening?
If Yes , describe these special efforts. For the Agriculture as a part of the private sector by funding programmes (ÖPUL)
AND: Have these efforts been successful? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , how do you judge this success? Financial support for management or monitoring? Active involvement in management or monitoring? (Refer to 2.8.3 below) Application of Ramsar's Wise Use principles by private sector interests? (Refer to 2.8.2 below)? Other criteria? By evaluating the ÖPUL measures based on Financial Support for management.
Proposed national actions and targets: The private sector will be involved within the CEPA campaign 2003-2004

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Austrian Ramsar National Committee**

2.8.2 Encourage the private sector to apply the Wise Use Guidelines when executing development projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium the application of this tool for promoting Wise Use will be a priority under the Convention. By COP8, the target is to have more than 50 CPs which have completed reviews of their incentive measures.**

Refer to 2.8.1 above. Has your government **completed** a review of its “existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use” (COP7 Resolution VII.15)? **Yes**

If **No**, what has been the impediment to this being done? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, what actions have been taken to introduce “incentive measures designed to encourage the wise use of wetlands, and to identify and remove perverse incentives where they exist” (COP7 Resolution VII.15). **Incentive measures can be International Funding Programmes.**

Establishment of a National LIFE Nature Platform, involving all 9 Laender and NGOs, which refers much on the wise use of wetlands, the elaboration of a national LEADER+ Committee and a steering committee for INTERREG

AND: Have these actions been effective? **Yes**

If **No**, why not? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please describe how. **Successfully implemented wetland projects with respective management plans**

AND if **Yes**, COP7 Resolution VII.15 requested Parties to share these “experiences and lessons learned with respect to incentive measures and perverse incentives relating to wetlands, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources generally, by providing these to the Ramsar Bureau for appropriate distribution and to be made available through the Wise Use Resource Centre of the Convention’s Web site”. Has this been done? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **National Ramsar Committee**

2.8.3 Encourage the private sector to work in partnership with site managers to monitor the ecological character of wetlands. [CPs]

- **This action will be promoted further in the next triennium.**

Refer to 2.7.2 above. In addition, have **any special efforts** been made to encourage the private

sector involvement in monitoring? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening?
If Yes , describe these special efforts. [REDACTED]
AND: How successful has this been? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: prepare a concept until 2003
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [REDACTED]

2.8.4 Involve the private sector in the management of wetlands through participation in wetland management committees. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - As indicated under 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 above, the establishment of cross-sectoral and stakeholder management committees for wetlands, and especially Ramsar sites, will be a priority in the next triennium.
Refer to 2.7.3 above

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3
TO RAISE AWARENESS OF WETLAND VALUES AND FUNCTIONS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND AT ALL LEVELS**

Operational Objective 3.1: To support and assist in implementing, in cooperation with partners and other institutions, an international programme of Education and Public Awareness (EPA) on wetlands, their functions and values, designed to promote national EPA programmes.

Actions - Global Targets
3.1.1 Assist in identifying and establishing coordinating mechanisms and structures for the development and implementation of a concerted global programme of EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below

3.1.2 Participate in the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for resource development. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Has your country taken any action to help with the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for information/education resource development? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland

Communications, Public Awareness, and Education (CEPA) (COP7 Resolution VII.9).
Ramsar and other Information Centers have been established . They help to identify the regional EPA needs and the establishing of priorities.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Report from the Information Centers in 2003**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and some Laender**

3.1.3 Assist in the development of international resource materials in support of national EPA programmes [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.1.2 above also. Has your country **taken any action** to assist with the development of international wetland CEPA resource materials? **Yes**

If **Yes**, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9). **Description of Austria's CEPA Campaign in english version has been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management**

3.1.4 Support international programmes that encourage transfer of information, knowledge and skills between wetland education centres and educators (e.g., Wetland International's EPA Working Group, Global Rivers Environment Education Network (GREEN), Wetland Link International). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.2.4 also. Does your country support any international programmes that encourage transfer of information, knowledge and skills among wetland education centres and educators? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring?

If **Yes**, please provide details. **Financial support for Wetlands International**

Is your country specifically supporting the Wetlands Link International initiative (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? **No**

If **No**, what is preventing this from happening? **missing resources**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

AND indicate which Wetland Centres (refer 3.2.3 below), museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and educational environment education centres (refer 3.2.4) are now participating as part of Wetlands Link International.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 3.2: To develop and encourage national programmes of EPA on wetlands, targeted at a wide range of people, including key decision-makers, people living in and around wetlands, other wetland users and the public at large.

Actions - Global and National Targets

3.2.1 Encourage partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations capable of developing national EPA programmes on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8 to see the global network of proposed CP and non-government focal points for Wetland Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) in place and functioning effectively in the promotion and execution of the national Outreach Programmes in all CPs. To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.**

Did your Government **inform** the Ramsar Bureau by 31 December 1999 of the identity of its Government and Non-Government Focal Points for wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9)?

Yes

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

Has your country **established** an "appropriately constituted Task Forces, where no mechanism exists for this purpose (e.g., National Ramsar Committees), to undertake a review of national needs, capacities and opportunities in the field of wetland CEPA and, based on this, to formulate its National Wetland CEPA Action Plans for priority activities which consider the international, regional, national and local needs" (COP7 Resolution VII.9). **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force. **The Austrian National Ramsar Committee involves the 9 Laender, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and NGOs. One of these NGOs, the "Naturschutzbund Österreich" is implementing a 2 years Wetland Campaign in partnership with Austrian Federal Forests (now introduced in the National Committee), the Ministry and the Laender.**

AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000?

No

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Elements of the CEPA Plan have been provided in summer 2001. The final CEPA Plan will be finished during the campaign at the latest in summer 2003. It will refer on permanent CEPA initiatives in the future.**

If **Yes**, is the Action Plan being implemented effectively? **Yes**

If No , what is preventing this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , what are the priority target groups of the Action Plan and the major activities being undertaken? everybody can join the campaign: landowners and farmers, organisations and companies, schools and municipalities, everybody who is concerned about nature.
AND: Has a copy of this plan been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: Finalization of the Austrian CEPA plan by summer 2003
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and Naturschutzbund Österreich

3.2.2 On the basis of identified needs and target groups, support national programmes and campaigns to generate a positive vision of wetlands and create awareness at all levels of their values and functions. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - see 3.2.1 above.**

3.2.3 Encourage the development of educational centres at wetland sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - The Convention will aim to have more than 150 active education centres (and similar venues - see 3.2.4 below) promoting the principles of the Convention by COP8 and to ensure that all CPs have at least one such centre.**

Has your country **encouraged** the establishment of educational centres at wetland sites? **Yes**

If **No**, what has been the impediment to such action being taken? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, how successful has this been? **There have been foreseen 4 major Wetland education and information centers in Austria. The first one is in operation now for 15 years (Distelverein, in the Ramsar site "Donau-March-Auen"), two more of them (Rheindelta and Lafnitztal) for 3 years. In the Ramsar site "Waldviertel" a wetland education and information center is under preparation. Furthermore also the National Park Information Centers in the sites "Donau-March-Auen" and "Neusiedler See-Seewinkel" serve in some way as Wetland Education Centers.**

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites? **3 major centers (sites see above) and 9 smaller centers are in place. The latter are in The Ramsar sites Hörfeld-Moor, Sablatnig Moor, Pürgschachener Moor, Untere Lobau, Donau-March-Auen and Neusiedlersee-Seewinkel.**

How many centres are being established? and at what sites?

1 at the Ramsar Site: Stauseen am Unterer Inn

How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? **One at the Ramsar Site: Waldviertler Teich- Moor- und Flußlandschaft**

Of the sites in place, how many are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and at which sites are they? [redacted]

Proposed national actions and targets: **Finalization of the 4th Major Ramsar Education Center at the border to Czech Republic by the End of 2004**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **The "Ramsar-Gemeinde Schrems OEG" which is a limited liability company consisting of 2 partners, the township of Schrems and the NGO WWF Austria**

3.2.4 Work with museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and environment education centres to encourage the development of exhibits and programmes that support non-formal EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - see 3.2.3 above**

Do **all** museums, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities in your country **have exhibits** and/or programmes that support non-formal wetland CEPA? **Only for some facilities**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? [redacted]

If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? **Some Museums managed by the Laender or the Federal Republic of Austria have exhibits about wetland management in National Parks, about selected species in wetlands and some Museums manage Wetland Information Centers (f.e. Haus der Jugend in Petronell/Nationalpark Donauauen)**

If **Yes**, how many facilities does this apply to and how many of these are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and which facilities are they? [redacted]

Proposed national actions and targets: **To provide at least 30 more museums, zoos, botanical gardens etc. with wetland information materials and invite them for cooperation with wetland managers.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [redacted]

3.2.5 Encourage the inclusion of modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to see wetland issues incorporated into curricula in over 100 CPs.**

In your country are there modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses? **Only in some institutions**

If **No**, what is preventing this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details. [redacted]

If **Yes**, have samples of this curriculum material been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To strengthen cooperation with the ministry competent for education in 2003 and 2004 as part of the Austrian CEPA plan**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management**

Operational Objective 3.3: To improve the Ramsar Bureau's communications activities and to develop a Convention Communications Strategy, capable of further promoting the Convention and its wider application, and of raising awareness of wetland values and functions.

Actions - Global and National Targets

3.3.1 Review the Bureau's communications activities, especially those related to the creation and functioning of regional and national communication networks; develop new material and use of technology, and improve existing material. [Bureau]

Refer to 3.2.1 "To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.". Has your government provided any voluntary contributions to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme? **No**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **[Redacted]**

Proposed national actions and targets: **[Redacted]**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **[Redacted]**

3.3.4 Seek the support of an electronic communications carrier to provide and maintain an electronic mail network and electronic bulletin board/ mailing lists linking the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee members, the STRP, the Bureau, and partner organizations. [All]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to gain a sponsor(s) for the Convention's Web site, to ensure that all CPs have Internet access, to increase the use of French and Spanish in the Ramsar Web site, and to see over 300 Ramsar site managers also communicating with the Bureau, and each other, via the Internet.**

The Standing Committee and Bureau will consider the issue of a sponsor for the Convention's Web site, and increased presence of French and Spanish materials on the Web site.

With respect to Ramsar site managers, has your government taken steps to provide for Internet links for these people? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this action being taken? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access? **12**

AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? Almost all of our Ramsar Sites
Proposed national actions and targets: complete internet links until 2003
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: National Ramsar Committee

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Please go to file 2.

National planning tool for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

(And the approved format for National Reports to be submitted for the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Spain, 2002)

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file 2

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4

TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF INSTITUTIONS IN EACH CONTRACTING PARTY TO ACHIEVE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS

Operational Objective 4.1: To develop the capacity of institutions in Contracting Parties, particularly in developing countries, to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions - Global and National Targets
4.1.1 Review existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]
Has your country reviewed the national institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise use and the “designated national Administrative Authority for the Convention to ensure [that] these have the necessary resources to support the increasing demands being placed upon them by the growing expectations of the Convention” (COP7 Resolution VII.27)? Yes
If No , what is the impediment to this being done?
If Yes , what were the conclusions and outcomes of the review? (Refer to 4.1.2 also). It became evident that it is difficult to mobilize additional resources for that purpose. During the present time the Austrian government is implementing a budgetary stabilization programme.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

4.1.2 On the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:

- increase cooperation and synergy between institutions;
- promote the continued operation of these institutions;
- provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, for these institutions. [CPs]
- **Global Target - By COP8, to see coordinating mechanisms in place in all CPs, and**

<p>more particularly to see National Ramsar Committees including government and non-government stakeholder representatives, in place in more than 100 CPs. In addition, by COP8, all CPs that have reported the existence of NRCs at COP7 to have evaluated their effectiveness (COP7 Resolution VII.27).</p>
<p>Refer also to 8.1.9. Does your country have a National Ramsar Committee or similar body? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented the establishment of such a committee? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>If Yes, is the committee cross-sectoral, including representatives of appropriate government ministries and non-government expert and stakeholder groups? Yes/No</p>
<p>What is the composition of this Committee? Members of the Nature Conservation Departments of 9 Laender (Competent Authorities): Amt der 1) Burgenländischen, 2) Kärntner, 3) Niederösterreichischen, 4) Oberösterreichischen, 5) Salzburger, 6) Steiermärkischen, 7) Tiroler, 8) Vorarlberger und 9) Wiener Landesregierung 2 Representatives of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management , NGOs, Representatives of the local governments, Heads of the national Ramsar Education Centres; Austrian Federal Forests</p>
<p>Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? Yes/No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening? Several discussions on the role and function of the NC have taken place</p>
<p>If Yes, did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? Yes</p>
<p>If No, why not? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: </p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and 9 Laender</p>

Operational Objective 4.2: To identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries, and to implement follow-up actions.

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>4.2.1 Identify at national, provincial and local level the needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have training needs analyses completed in more than 75 CPs.
<p>Has a training needs analysis been completed? Yes/No</p>

If No , what has prevented this from happening? [REDACTED]
If Yes , have the results of this analysis been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? Yes
If No , why not? Shortage of financial and personnel resources.
If Yes , how has this been done? In some few sites training need assessments and priorities have been provided within the National Park Management. In "Lafnitztal" this subject was taken up within a new LEADER plus project.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: Include training measures in future projects
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Laender, Communities, NGOs

4.2.2 Identify current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have reviews of training opportunities completed in more than 75 CPs.
Has your country completed a review of the training opportunities which exist therein? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , how has this been done? Basis was an investigation on the "Status of the Training of Visitor Managers in Austria" carried out by an NGO in 1997. Mainly related to National Parks and Nature Parks a proposal for training priorities was elaborated on the basis of the investigation in the following years in close connection with the 9 Laender.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? A number of training opportunities and funding possibilities have been created and are frequented very well.
Has this information on training opportunities been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities? (Refer to 4.2.3 below also) Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: [REDACTED]
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

4.2.3 Develop new training activities and general training modules, for application in all

regions, concerning implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines, with specialized modules covering [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - To launch a major wetland manager training initiative under the Convention, possibly in partnership with one or more of the Convention's International Organization Partners, which can promote and take advantage of these new training tools. Refer also to 4.2.4 below regarding the *Wetlands for the Future Initiative*.**

Following its review of training needs and opportunities, has your country developed any new training activities, or training modules? **Yes**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **A new training course called "Ausbildung zum Natur- und Landschaftsführer" has been created. It is also covering questions relating to wetland management. Some Laender also have incorporated training activities in LIFE or LEADER projects**

AND: Has information on these training activities and modules been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities and the Wise Use Resource Centre? (Refer to 4.2.2 above also) **Yes**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and Naturschutzbund Österreich**

4.2.4 Provide opportunities for manager training by: personnel exchanges for on-the-job training; holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites; siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites; obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers around the world. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - Refer to 4.2.3 above. Also to seek the resources from donors or interested CPs to establish *Wetlands for the Future Initiatives* for the Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, and African regions.**

Refer to 4.2.1, 4.2.2, and 4.2.3 above. Has training been provided for wetland managers:

- Through personnel exchanges for on-the-job training? **Yes**, **mainly by WWF Austria**
- Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? **Yes**, **by NGOs and National Park Authorities in Donau-March-Auen, Neusiedler See-Seewinkel**
- Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? **No Reply**, **Please elaborate.**
- Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? **Yes**, **information brochures on training courses in The Netherlands, Lelystad have been circulated**

Has your country provided resources to support the establishment of *Wetlands for the Future*

style programmes in any part of the world? (COP7 Recommendation 7.4) Yes/No
If Yes , please provide details. The White Stork Project in Kenya has been supported by the Land Steiermark, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the local NGO ARGE Naturschutz (Land Kaernten).
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

4.2.6 Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about the conservation and wise use of wetlands, also with regard to South-South cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 4.2.1-4 above. Has your country specifically undertaken activities as indicated here which could be deemed to be South-South cooperation? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening? missing resources
If Yes , please provide details.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 5

TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF ALL SITES INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR LIST)

Operational Objective 5.1: To maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites.

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.1.1 Define and apply the precise measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, in the light of the working definitions of ecological character adopted at the 6th COP (1996) and amended by by Resolution VII.10 of COP7. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, each CP will seek to ensure that the measures required to maintain the ecological character of at least half of the Ramsar sites have been documented.
Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites in your country been documented? Yes
If No , what has prevented this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? Yes

AND: Has a copy been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Apply the measures already proposed in the Ramsar Management Plans by implementing the Natura 2000 network until 2005**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **9 Laender**

5.1.2 Conduct regular internal reviews to identify potential changes in ecological character, with input from local communities and other stakeholders; take remedial action and/or nominate the site for the Montreux Record. [CPs]

- **Refer to 2.5.2 - In the COP7 National Reports, 35 CPs reported Ramsar sites where some change in ecological character had occurred or was likely to occur in the near future. This was true for 115 sites in 33 CPs, and two other CPs stated that changes had occurred to all or some of their sites. In COP7 Resolution VII.12, these CPs were urged to consider nominating these sites to the Montreux Record.**
- **Global Target – In the period up to COP8, promote the application and benefits of the Montreux Record as a tool of the Convention through disseminating reports and publications on the positive outcomes achieved by a number of countries which have now removed sites from the Record.**

Refer to 2.7.2 and 2.8.3 also. Are regular internal reviews undertaken to identify factors potentially altering the ecological character of Ramsar sites? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, have these reviews detected situations where changes in ecological character have occurred or may occur? **Yes/No**

If **Yes**, for how many sites was this case, which sites were they, and what actions were taken to address these threats? **RAMSAR Sites Rotmoos, Stauseen am Unteren Inn, Neusiedler See-Seewinkel, Pürgschachener Moor, Rheindelta, Donau-March-Auen, Hoerfeld-Moor, actions according to the very management plans**

AND: Were these sites where change in ecological character was detected, or may occur, added to the Montreux Record? **No**

If **No**, why not? **The one Ramsar site where this occurs is already on the Montreux Record.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **continue reviews**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **9 Laender**

5.1.3 Review and regularly update the Montreux Record (Resolutions 5.4, 5.5, and VI.1). [CPs, STRP, Bureau]

- **Global Target - CPs with Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record, and for which**

Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) have been completed prior to COP7, are expected to have taken the actions necessary to warrant their removal from the Record before COP8.
For those CPs with a site, or sites, included in the Montreux Record, and for which RAMs (previously Management Guidance Procedures, MGPs) have been completed, have all actions recommended by the RAM been undertaken for each site? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , have these actions resulted in a restoration of the ecological character? Yes
AND: If Yes , has the site been removed from the Montreux Record following the completion of the necessary questionnaire (COP6 Resolution VI.1)? No The site should remain on the Montreux Record for the next time because of standing threats arising from the planned shipping channel Donau-Oder-Elbe-Kanal, planned new frontier crossing points as well as road constructions and other threats
Proposed national actions and targets: Setup a trilateral Ramsar Site as well as a trilateral Biosphere Park until 2004
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Land Niederösterreich and Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Distelverein, WWF International, WWF Austria, (abroad: Daphne, Veronica)

Operational Objective 5.2: To develop and implement management plans for all Ramsar sites, consistent with the Convention's Guidelines on Management Planning and emphasizing involvement of local communities and other stakeholders.

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.2.3 Ensure that, by the 8th COP (2002), management plans or other mechanisms are in preparation, or in place, for at least half of the Ramsar sites in each Contracting Party, beginning with pilot programmes at selected sites with input from local communities and other stakeholders. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, management plans will be in preparation, or in place, for at least three-quarters of the Ramsar sites in each CP and all CPs will seek to ensure that these are being implemented in full.
Do all the Ramsar sites in your country have management plans in place ? No
If No , how many sites do not have management plans in place and which sites are they? only two are missing: 1) Stauseen am Unteren Inn 2) Waldviertel: there are many part areas having management plans in place, but no comprehensive management plan for this site in place
If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. 1) Stauseen am Unteren Inn 2) Waldviertel

For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they? **8 sites**

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done? **1) Stauseen am Unteren Inn : The Land Oberösterreich is preparing a management plan at the moment 2) Waldviertel: Niederösterreich reports that the time from the inclusion of the Waldviertel site in the List of Wetlands of International Importance up to now has been rather short and therefore no comprehensive management plan exists.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Finalization and fully implementation of the missing management plans until COP 9**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **1) Land Oberösterreich 2) Land Niedertösterreich**

5.2.4 Promote the establishment and implementation of zoning measures related to larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves and other wetlands (Kushiro Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

For those sites where it is warranted, are zoning measures being used to regulate the activities allowed in different parts of the wetlands? **Yes**

If **No**, what is preventing these from being implemented? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **Donau-March-Auen, Untere Lobau, National Park Neusiedlersee-Seewinkel, Rheindelta, Lafnitztal**

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool? **YES. Comment: Zonation was also necessary because some of these sites have also been nominated as National Parks (IUCN Cat. II)**

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases of zoning for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **Yes**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

5.2.5 Promote the establishment and implementation of strict protection measures for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

- **This aspect of Ramsar site management was not considered in the COP7 National Reports and will have to be reviewed in time for COP8.**
- **Global Target - Provide for consideration at COP8 detailed information on the implementation of strict protection measures at small and/or sensitive sites.**

For those sites where it is warranted, are strict protection measures being used to regulate the

activities allowed in different parts of the wetlands? Yes
If No , what is preventing these from being implemented? Please elaborate.
If Yes , for which sites are these in place? They are in place for parts of all the Austrian Ramsar sites.
AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool? This is considered to be the essential management tool.
Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? Yes/No
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 5.3: To obtain regularly updated information on wetlands of international importance, in accordance with the approved standard format.

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.3.1 Ensure that the maps and descriptions of Ramsar sites submitted to the Ramsar Database by the Contracting Parties at the time of designation are complete, in the approved standard format of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, and provide sufficient detail to be used for management planning and monitoring of ecological character. [CPs, Bureau, Wetlands International]
5.3.2 Ensure that missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of listed sites are submitted as a matter of priority and in the shortest possible time, as a means to enhance the relevance and use of the Ramsar Database. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target – By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites for which appropriate sites descriptions and maps are still required.
If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided a Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet in the approved format, with a suitable map, in one of three working languages of the Convention, has this now be rectified? Does Not Apply
If No , what is preventing this from being done? Please elaborate.

5.3.3 Ensure that data sheets on Ramsar Sites are regularly updated, at least for every second meeting of the COP, so that they can be used for reviewing the achievements of the Convention, for future strategic planning, for promotional purposes, and for site, regional and thematic analysis (Resolution VI.13). [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites designated before 31 December 1990 for which updated site descriptions are still required.
If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided an updated Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet for sites designated before 31 December 1990, has this

now be rectified? No
If No , what is preventing this from being done? So far there has not been identified any need for this.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 5.4: To keep under review the content and structure, as well as the hardware and software, of the Ramsar Database, in order to ensure that it retains its relevance in light of evolving information and communication technology.

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.4.1 Assess data currently available in the database and identify any gaps in the data provided by Contracting Parties. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International] Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.
5.4.4 Support the establishment of national wetland databases compatible with the Ramsar Database and develop a common protocol to facilitate exchange and interaction. [CPs, Partners] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland databases in over 50 CPs which are accessible globally.
Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? Yes/No
If No , what is preventing such a database being established? It is in the process of establishing
If Yes , is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? Yes
If No , why not? Many data are not yet available in electronic format; they only exist in a printed version
AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes/No
If Yes , please provide details. Many wetland related data of the 9 Laender and/or others f.e. Austrian Environment Agency, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and also some NGOs are available in the internet
If No , why not? a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory is under preparation
AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No
If Yes , please provide details.
If No , why not? It is planned to prepare it for the internet
Proposed national actions and targets: Completion of the Wetland Inventory 1st phase in

2003, 2nd phase in 2004

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

9 Laender, Austrian Environment Agency

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 6

TO DESIGNATE FOR THE RAMSAR LIST THOSE WETLANDS WHICH MEET THE CONVENTION'S CRITERIA, ESPECIALLY WETLAND TYPES STILL UNDER-REPRESENTED IN THE LIST AND TRANSFRONTIER WETLANDS

Operational Objective 6.1: To identify those wetlands that meet the Ramsar criteria, and to give due consideration to their designation for the List.

Actions - Global and National Targets

6.1.1 Develop, regularly update -- especially in the case of Africa -- and disseminate regional wetland directories, which identify potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Partners]

Refer to 6.1.2 and 6.2.1. Does there exist for your country a directory or similar listing of sites which are potential Ramsar sites? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such a list of sites being prepared? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, when was it prepared and was it prepared taking into consideration the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (COP7 Resolution VII.11)? **1996 Yes**

AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? **1) 1996: 3 potential sites reported by the Laender, 10 potential sites identified by National Ramsar Committee**

Proposed national actions and targets: **at least 3 more Ramsar sites until COP 9**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **9 Laender and the Ramsar National Committee**

6.1.2 Establish, update and disseminate national scientific inventories of wetlands which identify potential Ramsar sites and wetlands of provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party. [CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland inventories completed by over 50 CPs and the information housed in databases (Refer to 5.4.4) which are accessible globally**

Does there exist a comprehensive national inventory (as opposed to a directory of important sites; see 6.1.1 above) for your country? **Yes/No**

If No , what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared? Please elaborate.
If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are.
AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory? 2003
If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized? 1996
AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
Has national/subnational inventory information been provided to the Ramsar Bureau (if it is not accessible through the Internet)? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: Finalization of Phase 2 of the "National Wetland Inventory" in 2004
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austrian Environment Agency, 9 Laender

6.1.4 Support the work of Wetlands International and IUCN in updating information on population sizes of waterfowl and other taxa, and utilize these data in identification of potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Does your country regularly gather waterbird population data? Yes
If No , what prevents this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is this information provided to Wetlands International? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 6.2: To increase the area of wetland designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, particularly for wetland types that are under-represented either at global or national level.

Actions - Global and National Targets
6.2.1 Promote the designation for the Ramsar List of an increased area of wetland, through listing by new Contracting Parties, and through further designations by current Contracting Parties, in particular developing countries, in order to ensure the listing of a representative range of wetland types in the territory of each Contracting Party and in each Ramsar region. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - As proposed in the Strategic Framework, the short-term target of the Ramsar List should be to achieve the designation of 2000 sites, in accordance with the systematic approach advocated therein, by the time of COP9 in the year 2005. In addition, by COP8 the target is to have at least 20 CPs that are applying a systematic approach to site selection nationally.**

Refer also to 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.2.3. Has your country taken a systematic approach to identifying its future Ramsar sites (as promoted in the *Strategic Framework for the List – COP7 Resolution VII.11*)? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **The establishment of the Natura 2000 network seized finances and staff**

If **Yes**, has this included considerations to ensure the designation of a representative range of wetland types? **Yes/No**

If **No**, why not? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, has this resulted in the designation of a representative range of wetland types? **Yes/No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

6.2.3 Give priority attention to the designation of new sites from wetland types currently under-represented on the Ramsar List, and in particular, when appropriate, coral reefs, mangroves, sea-grass beds and peatlands. [CPs]

- **Global Targets - The long-term targets are set by the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (COP7 Resolution VII.11). Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived [by the STRP].**

Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, has this included designations of wetlands including:

- coral reefs? **No**
- mangroves? **No**
- seagrass beds? **No**
- peatlands? **No**
- intertidal wetlands? (COP7 Resolution VII.21) **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **at least 1 Austrian carstic Ramsar site until COP 9**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Laender**

6.2.4 Pay particular attention to the designation of new sites currently enjoying no

special conservation status at national level, as a first step towards developing measures for their conservation and wise use. [CPs]

- **This question was not considered in the National Reports for COP7. It will be included for consideration in the NRs for COP8.**
- **Global Target - All CPs to consider this approach to ensuring the long-term conservation and wise use of wetlands that are subject to intense human use.**

Has your country designated wetland sites for the Ramsar List which previously had no special conservation status? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **1) In almost all cases of Austrian Ramsar sites Nature Reserves were existing already in parts of the Ramsar Sites. 2) The Ramsar site "Rotmoos" had no nature protection status at all before being nominated as a Ramsar site. 3) All Austrian Ramsar sites will be included in the EC's Natura 2000 network**

AND: Are there plans for further such designations? **No Reply**

If **No**, why not? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

6.2.5 Consider as a matter of priority the designation of transfrontier wetland sites. [CPs]

- **The issue of transfrontier or shared wetlands is addressed in the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (COP7 Resolution VII.19) and the *Guidelines for integrating wetlands into river basin management* (COP7 Resolution VII.18).**
- **Global Target - By COP8, for there to be over 50 transfrontier wetland sites designated under the Convention.**

For those CPs which 'share' wetlands with other CPs, have all suitable sites been designated under the Convention? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this action being taken? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, are there arrangements in place between the CPs sharing the wetland for the cooperative management of the site? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented such arrangements from being introduced? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To create a trilateral Ramsar Site A-CZ-SK "Morava-Dyje-Danube floodplain forests" with the help of the trilateral Ramsar Committee until 2004 by the latest**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and Laender**

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 7

TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND MOBILIZE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION AND WISE USE IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND AGENCIES, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL

Operational Objective 7.1: To identify international and/or regional needs for managing shared wetlands and shared catchments, and develop and implement common approaches.

Actions - Global and National Targets

7.1.1 Identify transfrontier wetlands of international importance (including those within shared catchment/river basins), and encourage preparation and implementation of joint plans for such sites, using a “catchment approach” (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

Refer to 6.2.5 above.

7.1.2 Encourage twinning of transfrontier wetlands, and of other wetlands with similar characteristics, and use successful cases for illustrating the benefits of international cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Both the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (COP7 Resolution VII.19) and the *Convention’s Outreach Programme* (COP7 Resolution VII.9) promote site twinning as a mechanism for accelerating the flow of knowledge and assistance and promoting training opportunities.**
- **Global Target - By COP8 to have in place over 100 Ramsar site twinning arrangements. The Bureau will keep a record of which sites are twinned and make this available through the Convention’s Web site.**

Does your country have Ramsar sites twinned with those in other CPs? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved. **1) Trilateral partnership A - CZ -SK along Morava-Dyje Rivers**

2) Bilateral: A - CZ : Lainsitz Valley / Waldviertel Schrems - Trebon

3) Bilateral: Austrian Danube Floodplain Forest with Danube - Drava area (Gemenc-Berda-Karapanca (Hungary)

4) Bilateral: A - H : National Park Lake Neusiedel - Fertő Tavi Nemzeti Park

<p>AND: Do these arrangements involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing of information resources? Yes • transfer of financial resources? No • exchanges of personnel? No • other activities? harmonizing management activities, information exchange in bilateral commissions
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Laender, National Park Authorities and NGOS

Operational Objective 7.2: To strengthen and formalize linkages between Ramsar and other international and/or regional environmental conventions and agencies, so as to advance the achievement of shared goals and objectives relating to wetland species or issues.

Actions - Global and National Targets
7.2.1 Participate in, or initiate, consultations with related conventions to foster information exchange and cooperation, and develop an agenda for potential joint actions. [SC, Bureau]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention to Combat Desertification which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.
Refer also to 4.2.1. Does there exist a mechanism (such as an inter-ministry committee) at the national level with the charter of coordinating/integrating the implementation of international/regional conventions/treaties to which your country is a signatory? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? Please elaborate.
If Yes , describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider. The Federal Government and the 9 Laender co-operate in a Federal Nature conservation committee . This committee has established a working group dealing with aspects of the coordination of international conventions and treaties referring to nature conservation.
AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please elaborate. This working group helps to implement environment and nature conservation-related conventions in a regional and national context.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

7.2.2 Prepare project proposals together with other conventions and partner organizations, and submit them jointly to potential funding agencies. [CPs, SC, Bureau, Partners]

For eligible countries, have there been project proposals prepared and submitted to funding agencies which were intended to assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **The establishment of the Natura 2000 network demanded financial and staff resources**

If **Yes**, were such proposals successful in gaining funds? **Yes/No - Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

7.2.3 Strengthen cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular as regards inclusion of wetland concerns in national biodiversity strategies, and planning and execution of projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - To see the Joint Work Plan implemented in full and resulting in cooperative implementation of both Conventions at the international, national and local levels.**

Further to 7.2.1 above: Has there been a review **completed** of the Joint Work Plan between Ramsar and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish the areas of priority for cooperative implementation of these Conventions? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented such a review being done? **The establishment of the Natura 2000 network demanded financial and staff resources.**

If **Yes**, what are the areas established as priorities for national cooperation between Ramsar and CBD implementing agencies/focal points? **Ramsar Sites "Donau-March-Auen" and "Untere Lobau"**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

7.2.4 Develop cooperation with the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO's Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), especially as regards wetlands designated as World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and/or Ramsar sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with the Man and the Biosphere Programme, leading to Joint Work Plans with the MAB Programme and with the World Heritage Convention which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local, levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.5 Enhance Ramsar's contribution to international cooperation on shared wetland species, notably through cooperative arrangements with the Convention on Migratory Species, flyway agreements, networks and other mechanisms dealing with migratory species (Recommendation 6.4). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **The *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* propose an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CMS (COP7 Resolution VII.19)**
- **Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, regional and national and local levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.6 Develop Ramsar's contribution to wildlife trade issues affecting wetlands, through increased interaction with CITES. [Bureau]

- **The *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* propose an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CITES (COP7 Resolution VII.19)**
- **Global Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with CITES, leading to a Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which sees cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above

7.2.7 Initiate links with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in view of the potential impacts on wetlands of climate change. [CP, Bureau]

- **Global Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with UNFCCC, leading to a Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.8 Extend cooperation with conventions and agencies concerned with conservation and wise use of wetlands at regional level, and in particular: with the European Community, as regards application of its Habitats Directive to wetlands, and adoption and application of measures like the Habitats Directive for wetlands outside the states of the European Union; with the Council of Europe (Bern) Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats as regards the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy; with the Barcelona Convention and Mediterranean Action Plan in relation to the MedWet initiative; with the Western Hemisphere Convention; with UNEP programmes, in particular the Regional Seas Conventions; and with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). [CPs, Bureau]

- **Global Target - With the European Commission and SPREP, develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation and prepare and implement a Joint Work Plan. For**

<p>Medwet, secure the long-term funding base for this important initiative and continue to develop new programmes of regional action. For the others referred to, and others which are appropriate, develop an appropriate working relationship.</p>
<p>Refer to 7.2.1 above.</p>
<p>7.2.9 Develop relationships with other specialized agencies that deal with wetland-related issues, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the World Water Council (COP7 Resolution VI.23). [Bureau]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - To progress to closer working relations with these and other relevant initiatives, as appropriate.
<p>Refer to 7.2.1 above.</p>

Operational Objective 7.3: To ensure that the development assistance community, and multinational corporations, follow improved wetland practices such as the Wise Use Guidelines in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition.

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>7.3.2 Work with multilateral and bilateral development agencies and multinational corporations towards a full recognition of wetland values and functions (Recommendation 4.13), and assist them to improve their practices in favor of wetland conservation and wise use taking account of the <i>Guidelines for Aid Agencies for Improved Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Wetlands</i>, published by OECD's Development Assistance Committee (Recommendation 6.16). [Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - At the Bureau level, to consider ways and means to increase its ability to work more systematically in this area, so as to increase the level of donor agency support for wetland conservation and wise use activities, and to see an increasing number of multinational corporations adopting voluntary codes of conduct for protecting wetlands.
<p>While this action is directed at the Bureau principally, CPs also have a role to play in this area; refer to 7.4.2 below with respect to bilateral development agencies. For the multilateral donors: Is your government represented on the governing bodies or scientific advisory bodies of the multilateral donors, or the GEF? Yes</p> <p>If Yes, has this person/agency/ministry been briefed on the obligations of your country under the Ramsar Convention, and the relevant expectations raised of each CP by the Strategic Plan and COP decisions? Yes</p> <p>Additional comments?</p>

7.3.3 Interact with multilateral development agencies and through bilateral development programmes, to assist developing countries in meeting their Ramsar obligations, and report on actions taken and results achieved (Recommendation 5.5). [CPs]

Refer to 7.4.2 to 7.4.6 below.

Proposed national actions and targets: [REDACTED]

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [REDACTED]

Operational Objective 7.4: To obtain funds to fulfil obligations contracted under the Convention, notably for developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition.

Actions - Global and National Targets

7.4.1 Allocate funds for conservation and wise use of wetlands in the budget of each Contracting Party. [CPs]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to see allocations for wetlands made by all CPs and also for specific wetland programmes in more than 40 CPs.**

Does your government allocate funds for wetland conservation and wise use activities? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this happening? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, is this:

- As a separate allocation to a Wetlands Programme (or similar)? **Yes**
- As part of a broader allocation for the environment? **Yes**
- As part of the programmes maintained by a range of Ministries? **No**

AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds? **A) Regarding the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management : 1) Quality check of project proposal 2) distinguished finance plan of the project 3) involving partners 4) preferred are projects with co-financing of European Union. B) Regarding the Laender: Some Laender have established strategic commissions or steering committees for selective examination. In some cases priorities may also depend on priorities of water management project proposals**

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **Yes Austrian Wetland Policy Plan provides the principles of cooperation, efficiency and participation as well as the strategies for implementation.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **improve to use EC funding tools for wetland projects**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **National Ramsar Committee**

7.4.2 Include projects for conservation and wise use of wetlands in development plans funded by development assistance agencies, and ensure the latter consult the Ramsar administrative authority in each Contracting Party. [CPs]

- **Global Target - To see this trend continue such that all eligible CPs are receiving donor support for a range of major wetland-related projects by the time of COP8. In particular, to see this support being provided, as appropriate, for the priority areas of policy development, legal and institutional reviews, inventory and assessments, the designation and management of Ramsar sites, training and communications.**

If your country has a bilateral development assistance programme, does it allocate funds for wetland-related projects on a regular basis? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Within the Austrian Development Cooperation Programme Austria is implementing projects in the framework of existing programmes with developing countries such as i.e. Bhutan, Nicaragua, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso (West Africa), Northern India, Nepal, Cambodia, Khyrgyzstan, Ethiopia, Burundi, El Salvador.**

Although Austria is providing funds for wetland-related projects this not yet happens on a regular basis.

If **Yes**, are these projects subjected to rigorous impact assessment procedures, which take account of the full environmental, social and economic values of wetlands? **Yes/No**

If **No**, why not? **Because of administrative and financial restrictions only some of these projects are subjected to EIA procedures.**

If **Yes**, is the Ramsar Administrative Authority consulted during the screening and assessment phases of the projects? **Yes**

If **No**, why not?

AND: Is there a formal consultative process in place (such as a National Ramsar Committee) which ensures that the development assistance agency is fully aware of the Ramsar Convention obligations of the country with respect to international cooperation? **No**

If **No**, why not? **It was not possible to install this mechanism so far.**

If **Yes**, please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

7.4.4 Mobilize direct funding support from multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies to assist developing countries and countries whose economy is in transition, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands and in implementation of the present Strategic Plan. [CPs. Bureau]

- **Global Target - By COP8 for all the bilateral donors from appropriate CPs to have funds earmarked for wetland projects, and for all of these CPs to have in place mechanisms for consultation between the development assistance agency and their**

Ramsar Administrative Authority.
Refer to 7.4.2 above

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 8
TO PROVIDE THE CONVENTION WITH THE REQUIRED INSTITUTIONAL
MECHANISMS AND RESOURCES**

Operational Objective 8.1: To maximize achievement of Ramsar’s mission and objectives by evaluating and, if necessary, modifying the Convention’s institutions and management structures.

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.1.9 Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, governmental and non-governmental organizations, key stakeholders, indigenous people, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to 4.1.2.
8.1.10 Review the designated national focal point in each Contracting Party, with a view to increasing involvement in the work of the Convention from all agencies concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]
Refer to 4.1.1

Operational Objective 8.2: To provide the financial resources required to carry out Ramsar activities.

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.2.1 Pay invoiced contributions to the Convention’s core budget in full, and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - During this triennium to achieve full and timely payment of all dues by all CPs. The SC to prepare a proposal on sanctions for non-payment for consideration at COP8 (COP7 Resolution VII.28).
Is your country completely up to date with its annual contributions to the core budget of the Convention? Yes
If No , what is the impediment to this being done?
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

8.2.4 Give priority to funding for training programmes, education and public awareness work, development of the Ramsar Database, and the Convention's Communications Strategy. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - To secure the resources needed to establish regional training initiatives (like *Wetlands for the Future*) in other regions, to allow the Bureau to progress the implementation of the Outreach Programme, and to support the proposed developments for the Ramsar Sites Database into a fully online and Web-based promotional and planning tool of the Convention.**

Refer to 3.3.1 (Convention Outreach Programme), 4.2.4 (Wetlands for the Future).

Operational Objective 8.3: To maximize the benefits of working with partner organizations.

Actions - Global and National Targets

8.3.1 Strengthen cooperative planning mechanisms with the partners and improve communications and information exchange, including exchange of staff. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.2.1 and 4.1.2. Does your country include representatives of the Convention's official International Organisation Partners (BirdLife International, IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International) on its National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies, where they exist? **Yes**

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management+ Laender**

Operational Objective 8.4: To secure at least one million US dollars per annum for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use (Resolutions 5.8 and VI.6) and to allocate these funds effectively.

Actions - Global and National Targets

8.4.1 Develop a strategy for securing at least one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, to be approved by the first full meeting of the Standing Committee after the 6th COP (1996) and proceed immediately to its implementation. [Bureau, SC, CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - To establish a mechanism to ensure one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (COP7 Resolution VII.28).**

Refer also to 8.2.4. For developed countries, do you provide additional voluntary contributions

to support the Small Grants Fund? Yes
If No , what prevents this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution? regular
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

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