

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: **Republic of Belarus**

Full name of designated Ramsar Administrative Authority: **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus**

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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
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:

<p>1.1.2 Promote membership of Ramsar through regional meetings and activities, and through partners' regional offices. [SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? Please elaborate.
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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This remains a high priority for the next triennium. The <i>Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions</i> (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? No
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? No special work aimed at reviewing the laws and institutions of the country relating to wetlands and their protection under Ramsar Convention has been conducted. However, the Republic of Belarus has adopted a Water Code (adopted by the House of Representatives on 18 June 1998 and agreed by the Council of the Republic on 29 June 1998. The mentioned Code regulates relations in the area of ownership and use of water bodies. It aims at establishment of conditions for rational use and protection of waters, restoration of water bodies, conservation and improvement of water-related ecosystems.
If a review is planned , what is the expected timeframe for this being done? Planning for the review is underway. However the exact timeframe for this work has not been established. The work will take approximately one year, funds permitting.
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? Please elaborate.
If Yes , and changes to laws and institutional arrangements were made, please describe these briefly.
Proposed national actions and targets:

- Establish a cross-sectoral group for coordination of activities related to Ramsar Convention
- Identify an agency in charge of reviewing national legislation relating to conservation and rational use of wetlands
- Perform a review of existing legislation in the area of conservation and wise use of water resources
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the existing legislation taking into account provisions of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands.
- Elaborate recommendations for amending and/or modifying the existing legislation to enable protection and rational use of wetlands.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus**

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? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being put in place? **At the moment there is no National Wetland Policy (or similar instrument) in Belarus that could integrate all documents and initiatives relating to wetlands and reflect the intention of the government to fulfill the obligations under Ramsar Convention. Such a document could not have been developed over a short period of time which elapsed since accession to the Convention (December 1999). During that time issues of a different character had to be settled, namely logistical and administrative matters. In 2000 description of first Ramsar sites was compiled. Three sites were assigned an official status of Ramsar sites. In 2001 another three sites will be described. Additionally, time is required for political, administrative and economic entities of the country to become aware of the need for development of a national strategy on wetlands.**

If the development of such a Policy is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done? **Currently targeted work is underway to inform various governmental agencies about the need for and identify opportunities to develop a national strategy on conservation and rational use of wetlands. A decision on elaboration of the named policy, as well as exact timeframes for such work will be defined during 2002. Currently a number of legal documents relating to wetlands are effective and/or under development in Belarus. Profound analysis of these documents, followed by their integration and adjustment to meet the requirements of the Ramsar Convention, could result in establishment of a foundation for the National Policy on Wetlands.**

The following documents are referred to here:

- 1. National Action Plan in the Area of Environmental Protection.**
- 2. Provision on water conservation zones of small rivers and water bodies.**
- 3. Provision on water conservation zones of medium-size and large rivers.**
- 4. Concept (main directions) for development of drained lands and their use in the Republic of Belarus.**
- 5. COnccept for optimization of use and conservation of natural resources in the Belarusian Polesie.**
- 6. Stategic Plan for Development of Agriculture in the Republic of Belarus up to 2015.**
- 7. Scheme of rational distribution of nature protection areas in the Republic of Belarus.**
- 8. National Scheme of Integrated Area Planning in the Republic of Belarus.**
- 9. Scheme of rational use and conservation of lakes in the Republic of Belarus and planning of their catchment areas (partially elaborated).**
- 10. State Program on Conservation and Rationa Use of Lands.**
- 11. State Program on Conservation and Use of Drained Areas up to 2005.**

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. **At the time when the National Strategy and Action Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Republic of Belarus (1996-1997) were being elaborated, the country was not party to Ramsar Convention yet. This explains absence of links to Ramsar Convention in the named documents. However, the named documents define the set of activities and tasks relating to conservation and use of wetlands that largely reflect the principles of Ramsar Convention. These documents stipulate priority directions for future practical actions in the area, both for the period of economic transformations and for a more distant future when new management and control mechanisms are put in place in the area of conservation and use of biological resources, including wetlands. The documents**

contain the list of urgent measures in the area of conservation and use of wetlands in various sectors of country's development. The following measures are listed:

- improvement of legal base for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- optimization of control, management and economic regulation of the use of biodiversity
- improvement and development of a network of specially protected areas (inclusion of lowland and mesotrophic mires of the Belarusian Polesie, oligotrophic mires of the Poozerie, high-production lakes, as well as extremely waterlogged river floodplains into the network of specially protected areas)
- establishment of water conservation zones and a network of nature conservation sites in river valleys and heads, especially for large and medium-size rivers
- integration of the ecological network of the country into the Pan-European ecological network
- submission of Provision on water conservation zones and littoral strips of large and medium rivers in the Republic of Belarus to the Council of Ministers for adoption
- control over implementation of the planned activities in water conservation zones and littoral strips of small rivers in order to secure conservation of their biodiversity
- optimization of management structures, nature conservation regimes and functions of specially protected areas, including wetlands
- optimization of the existing and adjustment of the planned transportation infrastructure in order to improve operation of specially protected areas on wetlands
- elaboration of ecologically grounded activities in the road construction sector, primarily those that enable unbarred migration of the biota in river floodplains.
- Elaboration of principles and backgrounds for regimes of environmentally friendly agriculture in catchments, on waterbodies and at specially protected sites established on wetlands.
- Elaboration of environmental baseline principles for optimization of fishing at water bodies of various types taking into account the indicators of their biological production.
- Rehabilitation of wetlands transformed as a result of ecologically unwise amelioration (drainage).
- Establishment of regulation of surface and ground waters aimed to secure conservation and optimization of habitats and reproduction conditions of water animals as a condition for operation of water reservoirs and other water bodies of various use purposes
- Reduction of pollution of natural water bodies with unpurified and weakly purified flows
- Intensification of construction of runoff purification plants at dwellings

Has your government reviewed and modified, as appropriate, its policies that adversely

affect intertidal wetlands (COP7 Resolution VII.21)? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening?
If Yes , what were the conclusions of this review? and what actions have been taken subsequently? Large scale drainage of waterlogged lands, canalization of small rivers, construction of embankments at large and medium rivers - all took place in 1960-80 in Belarus. All those activities resulted in enormous damage to nature. Upon comprehending the negative consequences of large scale drainage the governmental agencies re-assessed the amelioration program. Elaboration of a new concept for optimization of the use and conservation of natural resources of the Belarusian Polesie, as well as for further amelioration an duse of land, enabled a new approach that rests on cessation of drainage in the country, rehabilitation of drained and uneffectively used mires, transition from massive embankment of rivers to targeted embankment of dwellings in order to provide protection from floods.
Proposed national actions and targets: Belarus is in the beginning phase of elaboration of a national strategy for conservation of wetlands. It currently faces the following challenges:
<input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of a national committee and a working group on wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Elaboration of a background to justify the need for development of a national strategy for conservation of wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Consultations with various state agencies on the need to elaborate the national strategy on wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Elaboration of a draft national strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Coordination of the draft national strategy with all stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Elaboration of a finalized version of the national strategy <input type="checkbox"/> A national workshop for finalization of the national strategy
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>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. Project Institute for Drainage and Land Reclamation "Belgiprovodhoz" and Polesiegiprovodkhoz Institute, as well as Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources have developed 42 management schemes for integrated use and conservation of water and land resources in the river basins of the country, altogether covering more than 80 per cent of Belarus. The schemes have been almost completely implemented for the Pripyat and Dnieper basins. However, most of the schemes were developed in 1960-80, they were mainly intended to guide the amelioration activities, while conservation and rational use aspects were not accounted for properly. Currently, theoretical aspects of water resource management using the river basin approach are being developed in the framework of such international initiatives as Dnieper, Nioman, Western Bug, and Western Dvina projects.</p> <p>Implementation of an integrated approach to management of river basin is limited: wetlands are mostly managed on the basis of administrative division between districts and regions.</p>
If Yes , are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? Yes/No
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. A number of projects is currently in implementation in Belarus, all of which are connected to implementation (fully or partially) of the guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use of wetlands into river basin management. In view of lacking internal funding, most of the initiatives of the kind are being funded by outside donors, specifically by various international environmental agencies and foundations.

1. Elaboration of a management and control system to monitor the natural environment in the Dnieper basin in the Republic of Belarus. The aim of the project is to enhance the institutional capacity of central managing agencies, establishment of informational and communication networks, as well as introduction of a system of monitoring in order to enable participation of the Republic of Belarus in the GEF Regional Project “Elaboration of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the Dnieper Basin and mechanisms for its implementation”. The project is funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC, Canada)..

2. Water Management in the Basin of the Western Dvina River, Vitebsk Region, Belarus. The aim of the project is to strengthen the water management system in order to improve control over pollution and minimize risk and influence of emergencies. The project is funded by Tacis, EU.

3. Integrated conservation of biodiversity and wetland management for the Pripyat river and key adjacent areas. The aim of the project is to elaborate and implement management plans for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Pripyat river floodplain. The project is funded by GEF-UNDP. The national implementing agency is BirdLife Belarus (NGO).

4. Natural values of the Bug river valley: modern state, threats, and protection. The aim of the project is to compile an inventory of natural values of the Bug river valley in order to select the most valuable and threatened sites. Other objectives are: to evaluate the threats to natural values; evaluation of the existing forms of nature conservation activities; assessment of land use and land ownership; analysis of threats and opportunities for conservation of natural values; elaboration of recommendations for land use with priority for nature conservation activities in the Bug river valley. The project is implemented jointly with Ukraine and Poland, and funding by the government of the Netherlands.

5. Estimation of situation and elaboration of a proposal for improvement of the ecological situation at the Elnia zakaznik. The aim of the project is to elaborate recommendations for improvement of the hydrological regime (using a basin approach) at one of the most valuable potential Ramsar sites under imminent threat. The project is funded by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB, UK) and is implemented by BirdLife Belarus.

6. Management planning for conservation of fen mire biodiversity in Belarus. The aim of the project is to elaborate management plans for conservation of globally important biodiversity at three key fen mires of the Belarusian Polesie (one of which - the Sporovsky zakaznik - is a designated Ramsar site). The basin approach is applied. The project is funded by the Darwin Initiative for Survival of Species (UK), RSPB, and UNDP, and is being implemented by BirdLife Belarus.

7. Nioma and Western Dvina projects.

8. Elaboration of risk-based decision protocols for transformation of military training areas into nature conservation sites. The first stage of the projects was implemented in the framework of the PDF A stage of a GEF-funded project, administered by UNDP and implemented jointly by the Ministry of Natural Resources, BirdLife Belarus and Institute of Zoology. The second part of the project, that would include practical work to transform one or several former military training areas into nature conservation site, will be funded by NATO Environmental Fund through an American consultancy firm, and will be implemented in Belarus jointly by UNDP, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Institute of Zoology.

Proposed national actions and targets: - **Elaborate methodological guidelines for switching from administrative-based management of wetlands to basin-based management.**

- **Introduce a rule for an obligatory environmental impact assessment of all projects relating to wetlands geographically and/or functionally.**

- **Adjust and implement schemes of management of land and water resources in river basins prepared in 1960-1980, taking account of biodiversity protection and sustainable nature use aspects.**

- **Elaborate management plans for Ramsar sites using the river basin approach.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources of the Republic of Belarus**

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]

- **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 *Invasive Species and wetlands*) 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 :

- oil spill prevention and clean-up? **Yes**
- agricultural runoff? **Yes**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes**
- invasive species? **Yes**
- other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **Yes – The fauna of Belarus includes 4 invasive species of mammals, 14 invasive fish species, 1 invasive crustacean. Most sensitive was the introduction of the racoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) and American mink (*Mustela lutreola*). This resulted in extrusion of European mink, competition pressure exerted by the racoon dog on local species such as fougart, marten, badger. Predation activities of the racoon dog and American mink exert significant negative pressure on water birds.**

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)? **No**
Additional comments?

Proposed national actions and targets: elaborate actions to reduce man-originating eutrophic processes and pollution of water bodies (runoff of fertilizer, toxic chemicals, cattle farm wastes)

develop ecologically safe systems, technologies and means of introduction of fertilizer for various landscapes encompassing wetlands.

develop and introduce measures to optimize habitats of biota during construction and repair of drainage facilities.

develop and improve measures for protection of land, surface and ground water from pollution (salination) during extraction of various minerals

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Department of Water Protection.**

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? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **Belarus joint Ramsar Convention in late 1999. This task was not given priority in activities conducted up to now.**

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: prepare a review of information on the practices of wetland management.

conduct an analysis and identify the priority initiatives to be included in the Resource Center on Rational Nature Use.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources of the Republic of Belarus**

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the guidelines available for this activity (see below: <i>Economic Valuation of Wetlands</i> 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? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Please elaborate.
If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases?
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: consult the Bureau
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? Yes

If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Please elaborate.
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) Yes
AND: Have the results of the EIA been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau? No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? The management plan for the first Ramsar Site (Sporovsky Zakaznik) was prepared and is under adoption in 2001. Materials will be transferred to Ramsar Bureau in 2002.
Proposed national actions and targets: <input type="checkbox"/> Currently donor assistance is sought for implementation of urgent measures of the Sporovsky zakaznik management plan (i.e. first Belarusian Ramsar site) <input type="checkbox"/> Management plan for another potential Ramsar site (Zvanets zakaznik) is under preparation <input type="checkbox"/> By end of 2001 the PDF B GEF project proposal will be elaborate for project Integrated biodiversity conservation and wetland management for the Pripjat river and key adjacent areas (Ramsar site). The main aim of the PDF B stage will be to evaluate impact of contemporary land use on the condition of the targeted wetlands, study the economic, ecological, and social aspects defining the value of the Pripjat floodplains for the region. <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation of a project proposal for elaboration of a management plan for the Olmany mire (a new Ramsar site) is under way.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus, NGO "BirdLife Belarus"
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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
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: <input type="checkbox"/> include obligatory pre-assessment of impact of all existing and planned land use projects on the site during its description as a Ramsar site <input type="checkbox"/> conduct assessment of the possible impact of the State program on protection of people from floods in the Pripyat basin on the environmental condition of floodplain ecosystems.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

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? No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Belarus is currently in the beginning phase of planning for elaboration of a national strategy and the issue will be considered later.
If Yes , has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) Yes/No
Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? No – If yes, please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: Introduce the task of reviewing all state plans, programs and policies that can negatively impact wetlands into the National Strategy. Set up exact time frames for the process.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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) No
If No , what has prevented this from being done? Identification of wetlands in need of restoration are under way in Belarus since long. However, no cadaster of sites has been established for that purpose.
If this has been done for only part of the country, please indicate for which areas or river basins. In 1998 Belarus finished compilation of an inventory of drainage facilities. As a result proposals have been developed for restoration of a number of formerly drained mires and sites unproductively used in agriculture. Preliminary inventory of wetlands has been performed for those sites that were used for peat extraction and currently require restoration. Up to now projects have been developed and under implementation for rehabilitation of at least 10 wetlands.
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. By 2001 about 10 large mire have been rehabilitated in Belarus, that were formerly used for peat extraction. These activities were funded by the Beltopgaz Concern together with the Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.
Proposed national actions and targets: The first stage of a large-scale project on rehabilitation of degraded peatlands will finish in early 2002 (funded by RSPB). The subsequent stages of the project, planned to be implemented using GEF funding, will envisage an inventory of wetlands requiring rehabilitation with subsequent implementation works for the most important wetlands. In 2002-2003 Osveyski lake-and-mire complex will be restored. The complex is a potential Ramsar site. (The project is funded by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus).
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Institute of Problems of Utilization of Natural Resources and Ecology of NASB
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? Institute of Problems of Utilization of Natural Resources and Ecology of NASB on request form the Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus has prepared scientific recommendations for rehabilitation of extracted peatlands. The report will be sent to the Bureau in 2001.
Proposed national actions and targets: National objectives in this area will be developed in the framework of the project on rehabilitation of degraded peatlands by 2003.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Institute of Problems of Utilization of Natural Resources and Ecology of NASB

<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>2.7.1 Implement Recommendation 6.3 on involving local and indigenous people in the management of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? There is no specific program on involvemnet of local communities in the management of wetlands. However, during elaboration of management plans for three key fen mires intensive consultations with local stakeholders were organized. Preparation of the plans was assisted by local governments, land-users, local people. On the ground the plans will be implemented by local agencies and local people. This experience will be introduced into other ongoing and planned projects of this kind.

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).

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus**

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.) **No**

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring? **Three Ramsar sites have been identified in Belarus so far. The ecological condition of the sites is the supervision of district executive committees and district branches of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Thus, local governmental agencies are involved in the management of the sites. However there is no proper environmental monitoring on the sites.**

If **Yes**, does this include both site managers and local communities, where they are not the same people? **Yes/No Additional comment?**

AND, where such monitoring occurs, are the findings being used to guide management practices? **Yes/No**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Involve local governmental agencies in the monitoring of ecological condition of the Ramsar sites.**

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

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? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such being established? **Up to now the issue has not been considered, since we first plan to introduce management unites for each Ramsar**

site.
If Yes , for how many sites are such committees in place?
AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites?
AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders?
AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented?
Proposed national actions and targets: 1. Establish management units for Ramsar sites. 2. Establish committees to control management of the sites.
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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? This issue was not considered.
If Yes , please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice.
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.
AND: Have these efforts been successful? Yes/No
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? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.8.2 Encourage the private sector to apply the Wise Use Guidelines when executing development projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)? No
If No , what has been the impediment to this being done? This issue was not given priority in the first years after accession to the Convention. Additionally, the private sector development has been very slow in Belarus. Nevertheless, there are first signs of positive experience of private sector participation in management of wetlands. Thus, the Zhdanovity Trading Center Enterprise assists in management of the neighboring Leviazhy zakaznik. Another example: Belarusian Railroad Company rents lake Svitiaz and has achieved great results in its management.
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). Please elaborate.
AND: Have these actions been effective? Yes/No
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please describe how.
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? Yes/No
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.8.3 Encourage the private sector to work in partnership with site managers to monitor the ecological character of wetlands. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? The private sector development is going on very slowly and can not be counted on in establishment of monitoring and management systems.
If Yes , describe these special efforts.
AND: How successful has this been? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: This issue should be given increased attention once the pace of the private sector development increases.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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). There is no special EPA program in Belarus. However, targeted activities are being organized to raise the awareness of the need for rational nature use and conservation. The three management plans for key fen mires each include a section on locally-targeted education and raising public awareness of the values that the three mires present for the country and for the world.
Proposed national actions and targets: Elaborate a national action plan on implementation of the program on education and raising public awareness of the functions and values of wetlands. Include a section on education and public awareness into all environmental projects.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Information Department.

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? No
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).
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Belarus does not have enough experience in this area.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details. World Wetlands Day, Mobil Posters Exhibition. Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is situated in International Youth Center. IBA Program has been very successful in Belarus. Most Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are usually potential Ramsar sites.
Is your country specifically supporting the Wetlands Link International initiative (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? No
If No , what is preventing this from happening? Lack of information about such programs and absence of a coordinating national center.
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: Develop and website on wetlands and Ramsar sites.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Information Department.

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)? No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? A decision on appointment of governmental and/or non-governmental coordinators for the CEPA program will be made upon detailed analysis of the CEPA program materials.
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). No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Belarus has not started targeted activities under the CEPA program.
If Yes , please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force.
AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000? No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Belarus has not started targeted activities under the CEPA program.
If Yes , is the Action Plan being implemented effectively? Yes/No
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?
AND: Has a copy of this plan been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? Yes/No
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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? No
If No , what has been the impediment to such action being taken? No educational centers have been established in Belarus for popularization of the principles and ideas of the Convention. A feasibility study to identify the need and expediency for such a center in the Pripyat floodplain area was conducted in the past (Otto Foundation). However, neither the central government, nor local administrations are prepared for such activities.
If Yes , how successful has this been?
AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites?
How many centres are being established? and at what sites?
How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? Established of an educational center is planned for the Belavezhskaia Pushcha National Park in the framework of an international project on development of ecotourism and environmental education in the Belavezhskaia Pushcha area (to be implemented by BirdLife Belarus). An information center is planned for Lebiazhy zakaznik. A project proposal for training of the associates of specially protected areas is under preparation.
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?
Proposed national actions and targets: Study opportunities and feasibility for establishment of educational centers at first Ramsar sites.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Information Department.

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? No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Belarus has not started targeted activities under the CEPA program.
If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they?
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?
Proposed national actions and targets: Study opportunities for organization of exhibitions as part of the Wetlands Link International program

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Information Department.**

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? **Yes/No**

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.

If **Yes**, have samples of this curriculum material been provided to the Ramsar Bureau 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 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? **Yes/No**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

<p>organizations. [All]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>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.</p> <p>With respect to Ramsar site managers, has your government taken steps to provide for Internet links for these people? No</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this action being taken? There are no management units at Ramsar sites in Belarus</p>
<p>If Yes, how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access?</p>
<p>AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility?</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Introduce management units at Ramsar sites in Belarus and supply them with the necessary equipment.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.</p>

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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)? No
If No , what is the impediment to this being done? Belarus has signed Ramsar Convention only in 1999 and now Convention materials are being studied and work schemes set up
If Yes , what were the conclusions and outcomes of the review? (Refer to 4.1.2 also). Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: To prepare a review of national institutions responsible for the protection and rational use of wetlands.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

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**

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).
Refer also to 8.1.9. Does your country have a National Ramsar Committee or similar body? No
If No , what has prevented the establishment of such a committee? Belarus has signed Ramsar Convention only in 1999 and now Convention materials are being studied and work schemes are being established
If Yes , is the committee cross-sectoral, including representatives of appropriate government ministries and non-government expert and stakeholder groups? Yes/No
What is the composition of this Committee?
Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? Yes/No
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? Yes/No
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.
Proposed national actions and targets: <input type="checkbox"/> to establish a National Ramsar Committee by the end of 2001 <input type="checkbox"/> to consider the issue of establishment of a special group for coordination convention related activities.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

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.

Actions - Global and National Targets
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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have training needs analyses completed in more than 75 CPs.
Has a training needs analysis been completed? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Belarus has signed Ramsar Convention

only in 1999 and now Convention materials are being studied and work schemes are being elaborated.
If Yes , have the results of this analysis been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? Yes/No
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , how has this been done? Please elaborate.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: To designate people and carry out analysis of requirements for training .
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Information Department.

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/No
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/No
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , how has this been done? Please elaborate.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? Please elaborate.
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/No
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target – To launch a major wetland manager training initiative under the

<p>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 <i>Wetlands for the Future Initiative</i>.</p>
<p>Following its review of training needs and opportunities, has your country developed any new training activities, or training modules? No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details.</p>
<p>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/No</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target – Refer to 4.2.3 above. Also to seek the resources from donors or interested CPs to establish <i>Wetlands for the Future Initiatives</i> for the Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, and African regions.
<p>Refer to 4.2.1, 4.2.2, and 4.2.3 above. Has training been provided for wetland managers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through personnel exchanges for on-the-job training? No , Please elaborate. • Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? No , Please elaborate. • Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? No , Please elaborate. • Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? No , In 1999 - 2000 four specialists on wetland management attended training courses on wetlands management in Scotland (organized by Darwin Initiative).
<p>Has your country provided resources to support the establishment of <i>Wetlands for the Future</i> style programmes in any part of the world? (COP7 Recommendation 7.4) No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

<p>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]</p>
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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? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details. The project on preparation of management plans for key fen mires of Polesie region included substantial share of information and experience sharing between RSPB and Belarussian project collaborators.
Proposed national actions and targets: To establish a procedure for timely procurement of various materials and databases.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

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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 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: Management planning for all Ramsar areas that require special measures for improvement of their ecological situation.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, BirdLife Belarus.

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? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **There are no national reviews in Belarus. However in the framework of the IBA program all negative factors that could lead to changes in ecological situation at Ramsar and potential Ramsar areas are being identified.**

If **Yes**, have these reviews detected situations where changes in ecological character have occurred or may occur? **Yes**

If **Yes**, for how many sites was this case, which sites were they, and what actions were taken to address these threats? **As a result of IBA work, threats to ecological situation at Ramsar site "Sporovsky", potential Ramsar sites "Mid-Pripyat", "Elnia", "Osveiski" were identified. The following measures were undertaken:**

Management plans for Ramsar area "Sporovsky" and potential Ramsar areas "Zvanets" and "Dikoie" were elaborated.

Project "Elaboration of recommendations for improvement of hydrological regime on protected area "Elnia" to prevent fires" was financed by RSPB and implemented by BirdLife Belarus

GEF project "Integrated biodiversity protection and wetland management in the Pripyat river and key adjacent areas " has started (GEF, UNDP, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, BirdLife Belarus)

Project on optimization of hydrological conditions and restoration of mires in "Osveiski" zakaznik started (financed by the Government, the implementing agency is the Institute of Problems of Utilization of Natural Resources and Ecology of NASB).

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Regular surveys for identification of factors that**

could potentially lead to changes in ecological situation at Ramsar areas. Official identification of threatened Ramsar areas for their inclusion into the Montreux list.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, BirdLife Belarus.**

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/No**

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/No**

AND: If **Yes**, has the site been removed from the Montreux Record following the completion of the necessary questionnaire (COP6 Resolution VI.1)? **Yes/No Additional comment?**

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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]

- **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**? **Yes**

If **No**, how many sites do not have management plans in place and which sites are they?

If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. **Elaboration of management plans for two potential Ramsar sites is finishing. Description of these**

areas (fen mires "Zvanets" and "Dikoie") will be submitted to Ramsar Bureau this year. Preparation of a management plan for "Mid-Pripyat" zakaznik (GEF project) and project on management of Olmany mires (NATO) is envisaged.

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

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully Implemented, what has prevented this from being done? **Recently implementation of immediate measures of a management plan for "Sporovsky" zakaznik has started. A project for implementation of most urgent measures under the management plans for three key fen mires of Polesie region is under preparation.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Management planning for all Ramsar areas, that require special measures for improvement of their ecological situation.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, BirdLife Belarus.**

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? **For zakazniks "Sporovsky", "Mid-Pripyat" and "Olmany mires".**

AND:Are they proving a successful management tool? **Protected areas are divided into several zones. In each of these zones specific restrictions are established (absolute phasing out of or a need for intensification of certain types of economic activity). Zoning is an important and necessary instrument for protection and stable use of natural resources in a country like Belarus, where all protected sites have large areas.**

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases of zoning for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To carry out zoning of all Ramsar areas during implementation of management plans.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Organisations executing projects on management planning.**

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]

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? No
If No , what is preventing these from being implemented? There are no such small Ramsar areas.
If Yes , for which sites are these in place?
AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool? Please elaborate.
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? No
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
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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? Please elaborate.
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? No
If No , what is preventing such a database being established? There is no such database in Belarus. In 2001 the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and Wetlands International have begun financing of works on establishment of a national wetlands database and national wetlands inventory.
If Yes , is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? Yes/No
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes/No
If Yes , please provide details.
If No , why not?
AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes/No

If Yes , please provide details.
If No , why not?
Proposed national actions and targets: To create Wetlands Database by the end of 2003.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

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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 <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.11)? A list of potential Ramsar sites was prepared in 1999 and was approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus. Only 5 most important areas were included in the list and descriptions of these sites will be finished in 2001. There is an informal list of potential Ramsar areas as well. It's official approval will be considered after completion of works under projects "Identification and description of potential Ramsar sites in Belarus" (OMPO, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Institute of Zoology of NASB) and "National Inventory of Belarussian Wetlands" (Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Institute of Zoology of NASB). Yes
AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country?
Proposed national actions and targets: To carry out works on compilation of a national wetlands inventory and use it as a basis for elaboration of a list of internationally important areas.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.**

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? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared? **There is Wetlands Cadastre in Belarus but their description is based on few criteria. The Cadastre doesn't contain information about biological diversity and waterbirds. Besides, the Cadastre was compiled during 1960-70 and therefore it doesn't reflect the contemporary state of wetlands.**

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? **In 2001 the first state on compilation of a wetlands inventory was started. All works on reviewing and updating of the Wetlands Cadastre will be completed by 2003.**

If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized?

AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Cadastre is designed to be used by specific departments (sectors) and databases became obsolete.**

Has national/subnational inventory information been provided to the Ramsar Bureau (if it is not accessible through the Internet)? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To finish update and review of the National Wetlands Cadastre up through 2003.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Institute of Zoology of NASB, Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources.**

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/No
If No , what prevents this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is this information provided to Wetlands International? Yes/No
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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <i>Strategic Framework for the List – COP7 Resolution VII.11</i>)? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this included considerations to ensure the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this resulted in the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: Provide for a guarantee that various types of wetlands especially of peatbogs, rivers' floodplains will be included in the list of potential Ramsar areas.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

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/No**

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

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **As of now only nationally protected areas have been included in the list of potential Ramsar sites.**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

AND: Are there plans for further such designations? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, please elaborate. **It is planned to consider the possibility of including in the list some areas (rivers floodplains, ponds of fish farms) which are not protected on national level but meet Ramsar criteria.**

Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
<p>6.2.5 Consider as a matter of priority the designation of transfrontier wetland sites. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of transfrontier or shared wetlands is addressed in the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (COP7 Resolution VII.19)</i> and the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into river basin management (COP7 Resolution VII.18)</i>. 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? No
If No , what has prevented this action being taken? Presently the work on identification and description of transborder potential Ramsar sites on the border with Lithuania (project financed by OMPO) and with Ukraine (GEF project on the Pripyat floodplains) is carried out.
If Yes , are there arrangements in place between the CPs sharing the wetland for the cooperative management of the site? Yes/No
If No , what has prevented such arrangements from being introduced? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: To describe and to enter in the list of potential Ramsar sites transborder wetlands on the border with Lithuania and Ukraine, for sites meeting Ramsar criteria.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Institute of Zoology of NASB.

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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
<p>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]</p> <p>Refer to 6.2.5 above.</p>
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (COP7 Resolution VII.19)</i> and the <i>Convention’s Outreach Programme (COP7 Resolution VII.9)</i> 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?
If Yes , please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved. There are only elements of twinning management of transborder wetlands on the border with Poland (Narev river) and with Ukraine (Pripyat river). There agencies responsible for water use implement coordination of usage of rivers' water resources. Such elements are presented also in management of National Park "Belavezhskaya Puscha" which is situated on the border with Poland. These elements involve information exchange. In the framework of cooperation the Polish side shares with Belarus its experience in tourism development and ecological forestry.
<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? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: A possibility for establishment of joint management of the potential Ramsar sites on Chepkeliai (bordering with Lithuania), and Prostyr(bordering with Ukraine) will be considered upon completion of the projects on identification of potential transboundary Ramsar sites.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

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? No
If No , what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? There is not enough awareness of the need for creation of such a mechanism. Belarus has signed a number of conventions just some years ago and question of coordinating the implementation of conventions is being raised only now.
If Yes , describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider.
AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? Yes/No
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: To consider a need for establishment of a national agency responsible for the coordination of implementation of various international conventions.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.
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? Lack of an agency that would coordinate implementation of conventions.
If Yes , were such proposals successful in gaining funds? Yes/No - Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: Establishment of an agency responsible for

coordination of implementation of various conventions.

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**

If **No**, what has prevented such a review being done? **There is no official plan of joint actions. But work on conservation of internationally important wetlands is envisaged by the Action Plan of Convention on Biological Diversity.**

If **Yes**, what are the areas established as priorities for national cooperation between Ramsar and CBD implementing agencies/focal points? **Key fen mires of Polesie region (Dikoie, Sporovsky, Zvanets), plain-type rivers (Pripyat floodplain) and transition mires and raised bogs (Olmans marshes) are priority areas for conservation actions.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To consider a need for development of a Plan of Joint Actions to enable cooperation between Ramsar Convention and CBD when developing the National Strategy.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.**

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***

<p>an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CMS (COP7 Resolution VII.19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>7.2.6 Develop Ramsar's contribution to wildlife trade issues affecting wetlands, through increased interaction with CITES. [Bureau]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention propose an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CITES (COP7 Resolution VII.19)</i> • 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
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - With the European Commission and SPREP, develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation and prepare and implement a Joint Work Plan. For 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.
Refer to 7.2.1 above.
<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</p>

Water Council (COP7 Resolution VI.23). [Bureau]

- **Global Target - To progress to closer working relations with these and other relevant initiatives, as appropriate.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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.

Actions - Global and National Targets

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 *Guidelines for Aid Agencies for Improved Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Wetlands*, published by OECD's Development Assistance Committee (Recommendation 6.16). [Bureau, Partners]

- **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.**

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? **No**

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/No**

Additional comments?

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: **The issue has not been studied.**

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

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a separate allocation to a Wetlands Programme (or similar)? No • As part of a broader allocation for the environment? Yes • As part of the programmes maintained by a range of Ministries? Yes
AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds? Conservation projects in Belarus are financed by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and the State Scientific Committee. Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus projects annual budget depending on the work volume needed for implementation of nature conservation conventions. Various organizations comes up with proposals for funding specific directions and subjects, whereas the Council of Ministers makes decisions on granting financing.
Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: National Committees - to consider projects connected to realisation of Conventions. National Committees should select priority projects for financial support.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.
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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? The issue has not been studied
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? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is the Ramsar Administrative Authority consulted during the screening and assessment phases of the projects? Yes/No
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
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?
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/No
If No , what is the impediment to this being done? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - To secure the resources needed to establish regional training initiatives (like <i>Wetlands for the Future</i>) 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? No
If No , what prevents this from occurring? There is no National Committee in Belarus.
Proposed national actions and targets: Establishment of National Committee and including representatives of international organizations in its structure.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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/No
If No , what prevents this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution?
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: