

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: **BELGIUM**

Full name of designated Ramsar Administrative Authority:

Belgian Ramsar Committee (further referred to as BRC);
chair: E. Kuijken (BRC established 2.02.2002)
in the following questionnaire BRC is mentioned where appropriate

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

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

plus following regional/federal authorities:

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Name and title of the designated national focal point for matters relating to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP): **BRC**

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

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Facsimile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point: **BRC**

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Facsimile: [REDACTED]

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Name and title of the designated national non-government (NG) focal point for matters relating to the Outreach Programme of the Ramsar Convention: **not yet designated**

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point: **BRC**

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Facsimile: [REDACTED]

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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, 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, 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, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.
<p>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.</p>
<p>If Yes, have actions been taken to encourage these non-CPs to join the Convention? No</p>
<p>If Yes, have these actions been successful? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented such action being taken? [Redacted]</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: put it on agenda of BRC</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BRC</p>

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

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what has prevented such action being taken? **not yet subject of consideration by the Belgian Ramsar Committee (BRC)**

Proposed national actions and targets: **put it on agenda**

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

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Has your country **completed** a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done?
not completed in Flemish region:

1° complex structure of regional competences and federal instruments and institutions, although only a limited number of entities is related to conservation policy in general

2° such overview does not exist for wetlands specifically, but information on existing nature values and most important sites is available for all regions;

3° the dimension of most wetlands in Belgium is rather limited, which makes that specific strategies do not exist under the Ramsar umbrella. Most efforts are based upon regional instruments and -of course- the EU-directives.

4° only in some occasions Ramsar offers real added value in the current conservation policy (mostly only an additional 'moral' weight)

Aspects related to wetlands in general and Ramsar sites in particular that are included in existing jurisdiction in the Flemish region include:

- marshes and wetland habitats are protected by law: any project that may have an impact on the habitat structure requires a licence based on an EIA. The control system is being improved through changes in the Decree of 1997 for Nature Conservation so that all requests for such licences need an advice from the Direction for Nature.
- changes in the structure of watersystems that are located in 'green landuse planning maps' require a licence.
- specific regulations are developed for buffer sites along water systems
- as all Ramsar sites in Flanders are included in SPA's designated in the framework of the Birds Directive the more strict regulations related to projects or plans are also valid for the wetland habitats laying within the sites : the transposition of the regulations related to projects or plans in SPA's and for Ramsar sites is now in final discussion in Parlement (= above mentioned changes in the Decree for Nature Conservation)

If a review is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done? **Flanders: before end 2002**

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

If **No**, what are the impediments to these amendments being completed? **changed Decree on Nature Conservation (Flemish region) is not yet formally approved by the Flemish Government**

If **Yes**, and changes to laws and institutional arrangements were made, please describe these briefly. **Wallonia:**

- Le décret du 6 décembre 2001 relatif à la conservation des sites Natura 2000 ainsi que de la faune et de la flore sauvage (moniteur belge du 22 janvier 2002), modifiant la loi du 12 juillet 1973 sur la conservation de la nature inclu les zones humides et est entré en

vigueur le 22 janvier 2002.- L'arrêté de l'exécutif régional wallon du 8 juin 1989 relatif à la protection des zones humides d'intérêt biologique tel que modifié par l'arrêté du gouvernement wallon du 10 juillet 1997 afin d'y autoriser la pêche. - La transposition de la directive cadre 2000/60/CE en région wallonne est prévue pour 2004.- La circulaire ministérielle du 20 mars 2001 relative aux conditions d'acceptabilité et aux modalités d'élaboration des contrats de rivière en région wallonne a été publiée au Moniteur Belge du 25/04/2001.- Un arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 13 septembre 2001 (Moniteur Belge du 13/11/01) délimite les bassins et sous bassins hydrographiques en Région wallonne. - La législation relative aux cours d'eau non navigable, à la pêche, et à la conservation de la nature (milieu aquatique) est en révision. L'intégration de la législation dans le futur code de l'environnement est planifiée sur deux ans.- L'arrêté du gouvernement wallon du 15 décembre 2000 (moniteur belge du 10 février 2001) relatif à l'octroi de subventions agri-environnementales reprend des mesures touchant directement ou indirectement aux zones humides notamment par le biais de mesures prévenant le ruissèlement, préservant les nappes souterraines etc.: ° des subventions sont attribuées pour des bandes de prairies extensives ou tournières enherbées le long des cours d'eau ou en situation de ruissèlement érosif avec des mesures plus contraignantes en zones de protection des eaux souterraines. ° des subventions peuvent être attribuées pour l'exploitant qui s'engage à effectuer un couvert du sol pendant l'interculture. ° des subventions au maintien et à l'entretien des éléments du paysages et de la biodiversité tels les haies et bandes boisées, les mares et les vieux arbres fruitiers à haute tige dans les pâtures peuvent être attribuées. ° des subventions peuvent être attribuée à l'exploitant qui applique des mesures conservatoires des zones humides.

For the federal competence at sea, the following is important:

At sea, a new Royal Decree (21 December 2001, Official Journal of 14 February 2002) better protects seabirds and other species, in general. This legislation which forbids hunting at sea, and the deliberate disturbance of groups of wintering seabirds, is not specific to the Ramsar area.

for the Flemish region: the establishment of a specific review for implementing the changes in the Decree that are now in procedure of formal approval by government

Proposed national actions and targets: **consider the establishment of a specific review**

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

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?

see 2.1.1.; regional competence of nature conservation

Flemish region: in the Environment & Nature Policy Plan 1997-2002 (MINA 2) specific actions are related to watersystems and wetlands: inveterisation, ecosystem vision reports for catchment/river basins, restoration projects and monitoring.

In the draft of the new Policy Plan 2003-2007, that is now in public consultation, aspects related to water systems and wetlands received more attention in the themes related to water systems: ground water aspects, surface water aspects and water systems, and loss of biodiversity that includes specific attention for habitats of high nature value such as wetlands.see additional data in Walloon reply.

Walloon region: Il existe une politique régionale pour les zones humides.1. Par rapport à la conservation des zones humides: Les zones humides sont couvertes par l'arrêté exécutif régional wallon du 8 juin 1989 relatif à la protection des zones humides d'intérêt biologique tel que modifié par l'arrêté du gouvernement wallon du 10 juillet 1997. Actuellement, une surface de 970ha73 est couverte par une telle politique régionale.Les systèmes karstiques et autres systèmes hydrologiques souterrains sont repris dans le système Ramsar de classification des zones humides. A cet effet, un arrêté du gouvernement wallon du 26 janvier 1995 organise la protection des cavités souterraines d'intérêts scientifiques (à ce jour, 50 sites sont sous ce statut). De plus, le reseau Natura 2000 se structure autour des sous-bassins hydrographiques2. Le concept d'utilisation rationnelle :Ce concept est intégré dans les contrats de rivières, dans les Plans communaux de développement de la nature et dans les parcs naturels.

Federal competence: on the other hand several provisions are taken up in other legislations, such as the Law on the Protection of the Marine Environment

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

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? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide brief details. existing Ramsar sites are mentioned and included where appropriate
Walloon region: Une telle politique est actuellement toujours à l'étude au travers du Programme d'Action pour la Nature (PAN). Le PAN prévoit une gestion de l'environnement selon le principe du réseau écologique. Un des objectifs de mise en oeuvre concerne la protection de la nature dans les zones humides. De plus, la conservation des zones humides fait parties des objectifs couverts par le décret Natura 2000. La révision de la gestion de l'eau par bassin hydrographique telle que recommandée par la directive cadre 2000/60/CE est actuellement en cours. Les contrats de rivières : ce sont des protocoles d'accord entre l'ensemble des acteurs publics et privés sur des objectifs visant à concilier les multiples fonctions et usages des cours d'eau, de leurs abords et des ressources en eau du bassin. Les objectifs visent via un programme d'action, à restaurer, à protéger et à valoriser les ressources en eau du bassin en intégrant harmonieusement l'ensemble des caractéristiques propres à la rivière.
Has your government reviewed and modified, as appropriate, its policies that adversely affect intertidal wetlands (COP7 Resolution VII.21)? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening? several actions are already aiming the optimal maintainance of tidal wetlands (Scheldt river, Zwin and IJzer estuary); see also Wallonia forms
If Yes , what were the conclusions of this review? and what actions have been taken subsequently?
Proposed national actions and targets: tidal part of Scheldt river is on shadow list of potential Ramsar sites; partly already designated, north of Antwerp); continue efforts to extend Ramsar designations and to implement existing nature restoration plans
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: LIN/IN

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

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

<p>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.</p>
<p>Is your country implementing integrated river basin and coastal zone management approaches? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done? L'application de la directive cadre 2000/60/CE modifiée par la décision 2455/2001/CE du parlement européen est actuellement toujours à l'étude au sein des différents services concernés. La restructuration de la Division de l'Eau (gestionnaire) est en cours; La gestion par sous bassins est prévue à moyen terme; la gestion intégrée des zones humides est une finalité. La Société Publique de Gestion de l'Eau (SPGE) a été créée en 1999 en vue de coordonner l'ensemble du cycle de l'eau (notamment la protection des captages, l'épuration des eaux, l'égoutage) et ce afin de répondre (en matière d'eau) aux préoccupations du gouvernement wallon. Le projet PIRENE a pour but de permettre, dans des délais courts, une approche intégrée et globale de la gestion de l'eau et de répondre ainsi aux impositions de la directive européenne établissant un cadre pour une politique communautaire dans le domaine de l'eau. Ce programme intégré de recherche a pour objectif la mise en place en région wallonne d'un réseau de compétences scientifiques en matière de gestion de l'eau. Une découpe par sous-bassins a été mise en place. Une plateforme permanente pour la gestion intégrée des eaux (PPGIE) est mise en place. Sa mission est d'assurer la cohérence globale de l'approche des équipes scientifiques et de la démarche des différents opérateurs de la région wallonne concernés par la gestion intégrée de l'eau, et tout particulièrement les administrations. La délimitation des sites Natura 2000 se fait en prenant en compte le réseau hydrographique ; Les sous-bassins déjà repris sous Natura 2000 sont: le bassin de l'Amblève, de la Dyle, de l'Our, de l'Ourthe, du Roer, de la Vesdre. La recherche de nouveaux sites Natura 2000 est toujours en cours et continue à travailler par sous-bassin.</p>
<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. Flanders: river basin mgmt takes into account most important nature sites, including but not exclusively wetland habitats; many of them are existing nature reserves, most of them, however, having only small size.</p> <p>Wallonia: Lorsque l'on observe la repartition des sites Natura 2000, on constate qu'il y a une corrélation entre le réseau hydrographique et la répartition des sites. L'objectif de Natura 2000 est d'arriver à un pourcentage en superficie de 10 % de la région wallonne.</p>
<p>If Yes, are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? No</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done? general approach aiming all nature values (not only wetlands)</p>
<p>Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the <i>Guidelines for</i></p>

integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (COP7 Resolution VII.18)? **No**

If **Yes**, please describe them briefly.

Proposed national actions and targets: **to be put on the BRC agenda for more specific application of the guidelines**

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

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? **No**
- invasive species? **Yes**
- other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **Yes** – **wind energy: location of wind farms excluded in Ramsar sites**

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**

for oil spills standard procedures exist; standard long-term monitoring

runoff is studied by several universities

invisive sp. monitoring and recently started studies (see also Wetlands Intl')

Wallonia : Des informations notamment sur les sujets suivants sont disponibles. Rapport sur les inondations boueuses d'origine agricole: Adaptation des aménagements

hydrauliques à la lutte contre les inondations (convention d'étude entre l'Office Wallon de Développement Rural et l'unité de génie rural de l'UCL). Une documentation reprennant les espèces invasives *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Heracleum mantegazzianum* et *Fallopia japonica* est à l'impression. Le contrat de rivière Vesdre a prévu de faire un inventaire des *Fallopia japonica* sur ses berges. Des observations sur *Rana bedriagae* et *Rana catesbeiana* ont été publiées.

Proposed national actions and targets: regional matters, not coordinated at federal basis

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: regional authorities; coord. by BRC to be considered

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? see 2.1.1.

Wall.: Les politiques et pratiques de gestion des zones humides font parties de programmes plus larges d'étude du matériel de référence.

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

If No, what has prevented this being done? see Wallonia: Les actes d'un colloque sur les zones humides qui a eu lieu en 1996 sont disponibles.

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

- **Given the guidelines available for this activity (see below: *Economic Valuation of Wetlands* handbook), this will be an area of higher priority in the next triennium.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be incorporating economic valuation of wetland services, functions and benefits into impact assessment and decision-making processes related to wetlands.**

Does your government **require** that economic valuations of the full range of services, benefits and functions of wetlands be prepared as part of impact assessments and to support planning decisions that may impact on wetlands? **In some cases.**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **physical planning instruments and env.legislation indicate where EIA is needed; this includes stronger criteria for Natura 2000 an Ramsar sites.**

If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases? **application will depend on nature value of the sites concerned (designation of nature functions in ecological network concept includes also wetlands)**

If **Yes**, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. **Yes some planning of harbour expansion a.o. economic developments are reviewed when high nature values (often wetlands) are considered (eg Natura 2000). Development projects have been stopped upon the fact that marshes and wetlands were being impacted and compensations were requested and approved, e.g. development project in Galgenschoor, wet polders of Plassendaele near Ostend).**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Flanders: For implementing a proper protection regime for Natura 2000 sites, that include all actual Ramsar sites as they are located within SPA's of Birds Directive, the Flemish Department for Infrastructure & Environment (LIN) published specific procedures in 2001 and 2002 that requires all projects or plans that may have an impact on the sites to follow the regulations and procedures set by art. 6 of the Habitat Directive.**

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

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]

- **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/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring?

EIA rules are different in different regions of Belgium;

for Flanders: Ramsar sites have legally stronger requirements before changes can be accepted (similar with NATURA 2000 sites)

for Wallonia: Si le site est aussi Natura 2000, alors oui une EIA sera obligatoire

for Federal competence: no EIAs for the marine Ramsar site so far

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? **most cases not concerning internationally or nationally important sites (minor areas);**

most reports for Flemish Region in Dutch only

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

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

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

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

for Flanders: rules and standards do not distinguish wetlands and non-wetlands; requirement for an EIA depends upon the size of the project; if nature values are involved the EIA procedure mainly depend on the status following physical planning law (destination) and nature decrees; for projects/plans in or nearby Natura 2000 sites the requirement now exists for an EIA or minimum an impact reporting following the procedures of art. 6 of the Habitat Directive - transposition of this procedure into the

Flemish law will be finalised in 2002 (= changes in Decree for Nature Conservation;

concerning Wallonia: La nécessité légale d'une EIE dépend de la taille et du type de projet. Par contre, les EIE seront requises pour les projets à proximité d'un site Natura 2000: "Tout plan ou projet soumis à permis qui, au regard des prescriptions à valeur réglementaire de l'arrêté de désignation d'un site Natura 2000, est non directement lié ou nécessaire à la gestion du site mais est susceptible d'affecter ce site de manière significative, individuellement ou en conjugaison avec d'autres plans et projets, est soumis à l'évaluation des incidences prévue par la législation organisant l'évaluation des incidences sur l'environnement dans la région wallonne, eu égard aux objectifs de conservation du site et selon les modalités fixées par le gouvernement."

for federal competence: at sea for certain activities a EIA is required in general; in assessing the EIA or granting a concession, the status of the area is taken into account.

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? **Flanders:** As the regulations set by the EU-Directives were not formally included in the Flemish law, implementation and request to follow the procedures could not always be requested from 'third persons'

Proposed national actions and targets: **organise education and information rounds for local authorities and administrations of other policy sectors at regional and national levels**

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

2.5.4 Take account of Integrated Environmental Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment (at local, provincial and catchment/river basin or coastal zone levels) when assessing impacts of development proposals or changes in land/water use. [CPs]

(Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country **undertaken** a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring?

Flanders: review does not exist for 'non-wetlands' neither but has been done for all habitat types included in Annex 1 of Habitat Directive that also include wetland systems; most impacts are only affecting minor areas.

Wallonia: L'étude de plans et programmes sera appliquée lorsque la directive 2001/42/CE du parlement Européen et du conseil relatives à l'évaluation des incidences de certains plans et programmes sur l'environnement sera transposée en région wallonne (normalement pour le 21 juillet 2004).

If Yes , has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) No
Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? No – If yes, please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: consider discussion on BRC agenda
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BRC

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.6.1 Use regional or national scientific inventories of wetlands (Recommendation 4.6), or monitoring processes, to identify wetlands in need of restoration or rehabilitation. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completion of such inventories is a continuing area of priority for the Convention. Global Target - Restoration/rehabilitation inventories to be completed by at least 50 CPs by COP8.
Has your country completed an assessment to identify its priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation? (COP7 Resolution VII.17) Yes/No
If No , what has prevented this from being done? Flanders: some reporting exist (not for wetlands only) with indication of ecological network establishment, including nature development an restoration areas (often internal planning documents) spe Wallonia: Une étude a été faite avec la collaboration des services extérieurs et diverses associations afin de recueillir les informations (évaluation relative au contenu biologique) pour des sites susceptibles d'être des ZHIB. Le conseil supérieur wallon de la conservation de la nature a étudié ces propositions et a recensé 346 projets et sites répartis dans les 5 provinces de la région wallonne susceptibles de pouvoir bénéficier du statut ZHIB..
If this has been done for only part of the country, please indicate for which areas or river basins. Flanders: For all main river basins in Flanders an ecosystem vision (based on the ecosystem approach) has been developed or is being finalised - nature restoration or development projects are being based on these reports.
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. actions in FL region : IJzer estuary, Grensmaas (Meuse) and Scheldt river restoration projects are ongoing; for other river basins action

programmes are being developed

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **LIN
Direction for Nature**

2.6.2 Provide and implement methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

- **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?

Flanders: not separate publications (in Dutch!) In the framework of the ongoing LIFE project for Ramsar site Uzer valley summary exists in English but has not yet been published;

Wallonia: Exemples d'information disponible sur la restauration de zones humides en région wallonne: Les hautes fagnes: restauration de tourbières. Les marais d'harchies: projet LIFE "action pour l'avifaune des roselières du bassin de la Haine": restauration des roselières. Restauration du site du lac de Virelles (projet LIFE) Les marais de la Haute Semois : Projet LIFE de restauration

Proposed national actions and targets: **update overview**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **BRC
could compile a summary of the projects for wider publication**

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

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

Refer to 2.6.1 above.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Is your government **actively** promoting the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the management of wetlands? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **not very relevant, except farming stakeholders**

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).

Flemish region ÿ In the framework of the Municipal Nature Projects higher financial support is being given for projects related to restoration or nature development of water systems and for projects located within Natura 2000 sites.ÿ

Walloon region: - Dans le cadre des PCDN (Plans Communaux de Développement de la Nature), les communautés locales sont amenées à protéger des zones humides. Les communes participant aux PCDN ont des groupes de travail zones humides. Les communes participant aux PCDN essaient d'encourager le dialogue avec les agriculteurs afin de préserver les zones humides. (Exemple sur la commune de Seneffe ou un projet de remblais a été refusé). La commune de Virton va vers un projet de règlement communal de protection des zones humides (selon l'article 58 quinquies de la loi sur la conservation de la nature telle que modifiée par le décret du 6 décembre 2001 relatif à la concervation des sites Natura 2000 et de la faune et de la flore sauvage, les conseils communaux peuvent, conformément à l'article 119 de la loi communale, prendre pour tout ou partie du territoire communal des règlements ou ordonnances plus stricts que les dispositions supérieures relatives à la protection des espèces végétales ou animales non gibiers) - La démarche du contrat de rivière exige la participation de l'ensemble des acteurs qui résident dans la zone couverte par le contrat, en vue de favoriser le développement d'une dynamique durable. -

Certaine ZHIB impliquent les communautés locales à la gestion des zones humides.

Proposed national actions and targets: **promote technical and financial support to stimulate project proposals for wetland restoration and protection**

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, does this include both site managers and local communities, where they are not the same people? **Yes/No not specific for wetlands; most (protected) wetlands are private ownership NGO or depend on governmental administrative structures**

see also under 2.7.1 with reference to Nature Development

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Flanders: stronger promotion in the light of publication of changes in the Decree for Nature Conservation and Natura 2000**

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, for how many sites are such committees in place? **also for non-wetland reserves; the number of nature reserves with committees is not known, but most important sites have guidance; for wetland sites that are included in Life projects (see above) management committees have been set up**

Walloon situation : 5 ZHIB ont des comités de gestion. Les contrats de rivières ont des comités de gestion.

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? most Ramsar sites have committee
AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? 1
AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented? not relevant
Proposed national actions and targets: Flanders: establish detailed overview in light of the Nature Objective Plans that are being developed for all Natura 2000 sites and sites of international importance - the procedure for the development of such a Nature Objective Plan requires a planning committee that includes local representatives to be set up. In the framework of the river basin management plans that are being developed, a committee that includes local representatives has to be set up for each river basin.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Flanders: LIN/Dir. for Nature, Dir. for Water; BRC

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 Reply
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? not very relevant; 'ancient' techniques of hay making still used in many nature reserves in Flanders; Wallonia: La technique de l'abissage est appliquée aux prairies de fond de vallée dans certains parcs naturels.
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: all

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]

- **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? **there is a general increase in public awareness and education efforts, but not specifically for wetlands**

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts. **Flanders: NGO get subventions for acquisition, management and monitoring of reserves; cooperation with private sector in infrastructure development such as harbor sector, roads and railway sector is increasing especially with reference to habitat protection in the framework of Natura 2000.**

see also Wallonia

AND: Have these efforts been successful? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, how do you judge this success? Financial support for management or monitoring? Active involvement in management or monitoring? (Refer to 2.8.3 below) Application of Ramsar's Wise Use principles by private sector interests? (Refer to 2.8.2 below)? Other criteria? **the nature NGO's have crucial role in management and monitoring;**

Flemish region: The acquisition, management and knowledge (data sets and monitoring) and public information and recreational use of nature sites is increasing every year. The nature NGO's have crucial role in management and monitoring; regional coordination of monitoring data in Flanders is task of the IN and synthesis is published in a 2-year Nature Report (English summary in prep.)

in Wall: Publication de brochures sur les zones humides. Les contrats de rivières impliquent les acteurs privés afin de déterminer les objectifs à atteindre.

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

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

Refer to 2.8.1 above. Has your government **completed** a review of its "existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which

encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use” (COP7 Resolution VII.15)? No
If No , what has been the impediment to this being done? Flanders: no such review in general neither; Environmental & Nature Conservation Policy Plan 1997-2002 includes some relevant actions - a specific study is now being carried out so that sensibilisation can be enhance through specific actions; private sectors except 'green' NGO's do not have special interest in conservation; in the draft Environment & Nature Conservation Policy Plan 2003-2007 a specific theme is related to enhancing cooperation with other sectors to encourage proper environmental attitude and measures to halt biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.
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). Flanders: Incentive measures for buffer protection along water systems, restoration and development of ponds, hedges and border rehabilitation and protection measures against erosion are included within the Rural Development Programme.
AND: Have these actions been effective? Yes/No
If No , why not? FL.: Implementation of the programma started only last year
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: all: compilation of project activities and monitoring results by BRC

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

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

Refer to 2.7.2 above. In addition, have **any special efforts** been made to encourage the private sector involvement in monitoring? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **in Wall.: pas de stratégie en la matière**

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts. **subsidies given to NGO's for monitoring their nature reserves; other sectors (agriculture) have no specific action, but government started initiatives to increase awareness (e.g. meadow birds) through incentive programmes of the Rural Development Programme - each project also includes a monitoring action.**

AND: How successful has this been? **Flanders: funding of private nature NGO is most successful (budgets for this item increase every year) and provides additional data sets that are compiled and coordinated by IN**

Proposed national actions and targets: **development of more effective monitoring network and data compilation is being developed**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **FL: LIN/Dir of Nature; IN**

2.8.4 Involve the private sector in the management of wetlands through participation in wetland management committees. [CPs]

- **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/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **only some ad hoc initiatives**

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).

Flanders: Education and awareness programmes are ongoing related to loss of biodiversity and actions for nature protection in general and related to specific nature or nature development projects, such as restoration programme of the Scheldt estuary and the Grensmaas - but not specifically for a wetland only. A study on the extent of public awareness on nature conservation and needs for action is ongoing now.

important notice Walloon region: Au travers du Décret du 6 mai 1999 (M.B. 26.06.1999) complété par l'Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 20 mai 1999 (M.B. 26.06.1999), la Région wallonne a décidé de mettre en place un réseau de C.R.I.E. (Centres Régionaux d'Initiation à l'Environnement) destinés à accueillir le public en vue de l'informer, de le sensibiliser et de le former à l'environnement. Chaque C.R.I.E. a pour mission principale de promouvoir la connaissance générale de l'environnement auprès des organisations de jeunesse et d'adultes, des écoles, des familles, des administrations. Les zones humides font partie de certains programmes de formation. Les contrats de rivières exigent la sensibilisation et l'information de l'ensemble des acteurs qui résident dans la zone couverte par le contrat.

Proposed national actions and targets: **specific actions related to wetlands to be considered by BRC**

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

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? **lack of available manpower (also for elaboration of other items above and below!)**

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/No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Flanders: individual contributions of**

experts in meetings, training exist but does not belong to an official programme; financial support has been given to Wetlands International for Training Workshop on Wetland Restoration in 2001 organised in The Netherlands.
If Yes, please provide details. Flanders: Financial support has been given in 2001 by Flemish government to Wetlands International for Training Workshop on Wetland Restoration organised in The Netherlands.
Wallonia: CHM, Eurosite, Wetlands International
Is your country specifically supporting the Wetlands Link International initiative (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? No
If No, what is preventing this from happening? not yet found appropriate partners and possibilities in NGO's, but some contacts exist
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. none so far but NGO can act in this programme
Proposed national actions and targets: establish review of actions and potentions
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BRC

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? not yet agreed at regional/federal level by that time
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? to be considered by recently established BRC
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? see above
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: put on agenda of BRC
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BRC

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

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, how successful has this been? **several centres established, not specific for wetlands, although many of them located in wetland reserves; run by both government, NGO's or provincial/local authorities**

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites?

Flemish regions: Spread all over Flanders 9 centres of the Direction for Nature are established and running, located within or nearby important nature reserves; NGO's

also have various centres - overall data have not been compiled so far

see report Wallonia: Des Centres Régionaux d'Initiation à l'Environnement destiné à accueillir le public en vue de l'informer, de le sensibiliser et de le former à l'environnement dans une optique de développement durable ont été mis en place. Voici les thèmes relatifs aux zones humides repris par quelques-uns de ces CRIE: l'écologie de la rivière (CRIE de Comblain-au-Pont) le fleuve et son environnement (CRIE de Dinant) les hautes fagnes (CRIE de Eupen) : zone Ramsar proposée les zones humides (CRIE de Harchies) : zone Ramsar la gestion de l'eau (Protection et exploitation durable de la ressource en eau) (CRIE de Modave) les milieux karstiques (CRIE de Nismes) les ressources en eaux (CRIE de Spa-Berzinne) Les contrats de rivières participent à l'éducation, l'information et à la sensibilisation au patrimoine naturel de leur bassin. Exemples: le contrat de rivière Semois a développé un observatoire "Nature" dans ce même bassin. Information et sensibilisation au tourisme, groupe de jeunesse, pêcheurs, agriculteurs, aux habitants et aux écoles, aux agents communaux;

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

How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? **Planning for additional centres is being developed in cooperation with provincial and local authorities**

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? **none**

Proposed national actions and targets: **increase action; try to finalise application for Interreg IIIb subventions and other funding**

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

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? **only ad hoc and short term initiatives, not centrally coordinated, no exhibitions specifically on Ramsar and wetland matters only; most existing NGO centres have no permanent staffing;**

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: **stimulate structured approach**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Flanders: some training programmes have input of experts in wetland ecology; training on nature friendly river banks management etc. have been very successful

The 'international training course on biodiversity' of the 'United Nations University' (UNU) at Ghent University has one special session on Ramsar (cooperation with IN)

Wallonia : Des modules sur l'écologie marine, des eaux douces, des zones humides, sur les stations d'épurations sont donnés aux formations scientifiques dans les universités. La gestion des zones humides est reprises dans les cours donnés aux écoconseillers; La gestion des zones humides est reprise dans les cours de mise à niveau donnés aux agents techniques de la DNF; Les CRIE organisent des animations scolaires accompagnées de dossiers pédagogiques qui proposent une foule d'idées d'activités nature et artistiques destinées à préparer les élèves à l'animation et à exploiter ensuite en classe les notions acquises. Ces animations s'adressent aux différents cycles de la maternelle, du primaire et du secondaire inférieur. De nouvelles animations sont régulièrement créées. Les contrats de rivières incluent des programmes d'éducation, notamment: Le contrat de rivière Semois offre aux enseignants la possibilité d'accéder aux informations et données de ce bassin. Il prévoit également d'organiser des stages de terrain sur la découverte des milieux naturels. Le développement d'une maison de la rivière accessible aux écoles pour l'organistaion de classes vertes est en cours.

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **develop proposals on education items about wetland aspects for nature conservation training programmes such as for nature gards, develop educational material for schools**

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

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. Walloon region voluntary contribution: Une contribution volontaire destinée à couvrir les frais de participation aux cours internationaux de formation à la gestion des zones humides, organisée par le RIZA (Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment), a été donnée en 2001 pour des candidats ne disposant pas de fonds. Elle vise plus particulièrement la participation du Sénégal à la formation qui se déroulera au Pays-Bas du 23 août au 03 octobre 2001
Proposed national actions and targets: stimulate governments to act in this field
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BRC
3.3.4 Seek the support of an electronic communications carrier to provide and maintain an electronic mail network and electronic bulletin board/ mailing lists linking the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee members, the STRP, the Bureau, and partner organizations. [All]
<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.
The Standing Committee and Bureau will consider the issue of a sponsor for the Convention's Web site, and increased presence of French and Spanish materials on the Web site. With respect to Ramsar site managers, has your government taken steps to provide for Internet links for these people? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this action being taken? Please elaborate.
If Yes , how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access? most site managers (also NGO) have links; not especially for Ramsar sites
AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? Flanders: all; Wall.: Les marais d'Harchies Federal (Vlaamse Banken) via MUMM
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: all

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? **relevant regional/federal institutions are known and work already together; no specific review was set up (no priority need)**

If **Yes**, what were the conclusions and outcomes of the review? (Refer to 4.1.2 also). **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **review for next triennium**

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

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? Yes
If No , what has prevented the establishment of such a committee? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is the committee cross-sectoral, including representatives of appropriate government ministries and non-government expert and stakeholder groups? Yes
What is the composition of this Committee? 3 regional authorities and 1 federal , scientific institutes, NGO's : see annex
Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening? the BRC was only recently established at the occasion of World Wetland Day 02.02.02 !
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: structure, organise and evaluate actions of BRC in next triennium
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: all

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? lack of funds and manpower; at most levels not considered as a priority need
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? **Flanders:** Training sessions about protection and management measures in Natura 2000 (that include all actual Ramsar sites) based on the regulations of Habitat Directive (which include the principle of sustainable use) started in 2000 and is being enhanced.

AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? **Flanders:** Knowledge about the specific sites and the regulations for protection and management, awareness about the importance of the sites for the nature values present and for biodiversity in general

Proposed national actions and targets: **consider needs and possibilities for extending such training**

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

4.2.2 Identify current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **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? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **see 4.2.1.**

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: **see 4.2.1.**

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

4.2.3 Develop new training activities and general training modules, for application in all regions, concerning implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines, with specialized modules covering [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

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

Following its review of training needs and opportunities, has your country developed any new training activities, or training modules? No
If Yes, please provide details. No, but some ad hoc activities exist at universities or NGO's
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) No
Proposed national actions and targets: see 4.2.2.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [redacted]

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]
<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.
Refer to 4.2.1, 4.2.2, and 4.2.3 above. Has training been provided for wetland managers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through personnel exchanges for on-the-job training? Yes/No, Please elaborate. Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? Yes/No, Please elaborate. Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? Yes/No, Please elaborate. Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? Yes/No, training expertise is available, but funding is needed to actively involve experts in programmes at international level
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 Reply
If Yes, please provide details. [redacted]
Proposed national actions and targets: increase the availability of wetland training experts including funding for their contributions in foreign countries (agenda item for BRC)
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: all

4.2.6 Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about the conservation and wise use of wetlands, also with regard to South-South cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 4.2.1-4 above. Has your country specifically undertaken activities as indicated here which could be deemed to be South-South cooperation? No
If No, what has prevented this from happening? not relevant?

If Yes, please provide details.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 5
TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF ALL SITES INCLUDED IN THE
LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR LIST)

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.1.1 Define and apply the precise measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, in the light of the working definitions of ecological character adopted at the 6th COP (1996) and amended by by Resolution VII.10 of COP7. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, each CP will seek to ensure that the measures required to maintain the ecological character of at least half of the Ramsar sites have been documented.
Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites in your country been documented? Yes/No
If No, what has prevented this being done? Flemish Region: For most government reserves and for the Natura 2000 sites Nature Objective Plans site specific management plans have to be developed. Scientific information that is needed as the basis for developing such plans is being compiled or studies for inventarisation and vegetation mapping is ongoing. For the areas acquired by NGO's that are recognised as a nature reserve management plans do exist and are implemented - not all Ramsar sites do include such nature reserves .
If Yes, has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? Yes/No
AND: Has a copy been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? Yes/No
Proposed national actions and targets: prepare required overview & documentation
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BRC

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to 2.5.2 - In the COP7 National Reports, 35 CPs reported Ramsar sites where some change in ecological character had occurred or was likely to occur in

the near future. This was true for 115 sites in 33 CPs, and two other CPs stated that changes had occurred to all or some of their sites. In COP7 Resolution VII.12, these CPs were urged to consider nominating these sites to the Montreux Record.

- Global Target – In the period up to COP8, promote the application and benefits of the Montreux Record as a tool of the Convention through disseminating reports and publications on the positive outcomes achieved by a number of countries which have now removed sites from the Record.**

Refer to 2.7.2 and 2.8.3 also. Are regular internal reviews undertaken to identify factors potentially altering the ecological character of Ramsar sites? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **no specific reviews, regular monitoring of management results and external negative impacts exist in most nature reserves as yet. Monitoring system of management measures and of the status of species is developed and now being tested in some pilot sites.**

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? **Scheldt and IJzer river systems still subject to external pressure by resp. industrial development and agriculture; Zwin nature reserve subject to (natural) silting up and subsequent change of saltmarshes**

AND: Were these sites where change in ecological character was detected, or may occur, added to the Montreux Record? **Yes**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **follow up of restoration projects**

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

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? **not relevant**

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** **Action plans have been**

set up or are in preparation. Concrete restoration measures will follow during the next years.

Proposed national actions and targets: [redacted]

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

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/No**

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

Zwin private nature reserve is actually reviewing management plan;

federal: Vlaamse Banken in Northsea have no 'management' plan proper, but in management actions (such as the assessment of EIA's), account is being taken of the value of Ramsar area)

other sites OK

If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. **see above**

For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they? **all other sites (also Marais de Harchies in Wallonia)**

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done? **not yet full consensus reached with agriculture (IJzer) or fisheries (Vlaamse Banken)**

Proposed national actions and targets: **complete all mgmt. plans for Ramsar sites**

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

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/No
If No , what is preventing these from being implemented? see balance agriculture and fisheries
If Yes , for which sites are these in place? Kalmthout, Zwin, Blankaart, Tidal Marshes Scheldt river, Marais d' Harchies
AND: Are they proving a successful management tool? yes, if we find balance
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: complete overview
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: all/BRC

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? Yes/No
If No , what is preventing these from being implemented? see 5.2.4
If Yes , for which sites are these in place? for most terrestrial core areas protection OK
AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool? Flanders: yes, but more as a general measure, especially in the framework of Bird and Habitat directives than as a strict Ramsar commitment Walloon remark: Nous n'avons pas assez de recul pour l'évaluation de l'instrument de gestion.]
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: complete overview
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BRC

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? Yes
If No , what is preventing this from being done? Please elaborate.

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

<p>Ramsar Database and develop a common protocol to facilitate exchange and interaction. [CPs, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland databases in over 50 CPs which are accessible globally.
Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? Yes/No
If No , what is preventing such a database being established? basic ecological mapping for Flemish & Brussels territory (not only wetlands) exists; not annually updated cartography.
remark Wallonia : outil interne de gestion consultable au niveau de la Région wallonne.
If Yes , is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? Yes
If No , why not? for Wallon region: seulement par Intranet; Une base de donnée reprenant tous les sites bénéficiant d'un statut de protection, notamment sur les Zones Humides d'Intérêt Biologique, les Cavités Souterraines d'Intérêts Scientifiques est disponible sur site du Système d'Information sur la Biodiversité en Wallonie (SIBW).
AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes
If Yes , please provide details. Felmish Region: via website IN basic mapping available for all Natura 2000 sites, as well as many databases on flora, breeding birds etc.
also for other egions partly available; information not separately presented for Ramsar sites
If No , why not?
AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes/No
If Yes , please provide details. data on 'Status of Nature in Flemish Region' available on web and CD (but in Dutch only until present) CD on Natura 2000 sites available (including the 4 Flemish Ramsar wetlands)
If No , why not?
Proposed national actions and targets: prepare complete Ramsar overview
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: all/BRC

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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)? National report for Belgium, CoP7 Yes/No
AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? 13 (not all of them proposed for Ramsar list so far!)
Proposed national actions and targets: continue efforts for further designation of 6 new Ramsar sites , 3 in Flanders, 3 in Wallonia (procedures started in 2000/2001)
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: all/BRC
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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? manpower to collect and compile detailed inventories; in general rough data available
If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are. detailed ecological mapping Flanders exist at scale 1/25000 with indication of habitat types including wetlands; additional inventories exist on ad hoc basis or as contribution to specific plans (restoration, management of nature reserves etc.) detailed mapping and site descriptions and inventories exist for most river valley areas in the 'ecosystem vision reports'; more detailed mapping and inventories are being undertaken for other catchment/river basins.
AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory? next triennium
If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized? 1999 Flemish nature status report and 1992 for Walloon region
AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international

community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes/No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? some information only in Dutch, website IN also English with some databases accessible
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: prepare publication
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BRC

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

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</i> – COP7 Resolution VII.11)? Yes/No

If No , what are the impediments to this being done? see Wallonia: Une démarche est en cours par rapport à la désignation de sites Natura 2000 et incluant une gamme représentative des types de zones humides.
If Yes , has this included considerations to ensure the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes
If No , why not? designation of 6 new sites is in progress
If Yes , has this resulted in the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: speed up designation process of 6 new Ramsar Sites
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: all

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Targets - The long-term targets are set by the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.11). Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived [by the STRP].
Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this included designations of wetlands including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> coral reefs? Yes/No mangroves? Yes/No seagrass beds? Yes/No peatlands? Yes intertidal wetlands? (COP7 Resolution VII.21) No
Proposed national actions and targets: Flanders: include intertidal Scheldt river wetlands in extended Ramsar site
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: IN/LIN-Dir. of Nature

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This question was not considered in the National Reports for COP7. It will be included for consideration in the NRs for COP8. Global Target - All CPs to consider this approach to ensuring the long-term

conservation and wise use of wetlands that are subject to intense human use.
Has your country designated wetland sites for the Ramsar List which previously had no special conservation status? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details. coastal polder area (wet grasslands of international importance for wintering wild geese and waterbirds, also botanic importance
AND: Are there plans for further such designations? Yes/No
If No , why not? political agreement with agriculture is obstacle
If Yes , please elaborate. more sites on the 'shadow list' are to be proposed for designation
Proposed national actions and targets: triennium target?
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: all/BRC

6.2.5 Consider as a matter of priority the designation of transfrontier wetland sites. [CPs]
<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? Yes/No
If No , what has prevented this action being taken? differences in priorities, legislation and valuation of international importance (Zwin, Meuse); Scheldt agreement with the Netherlands includes management items (international Scheldt commission exists); Cooperation programme for Grensmaas (Meuse) with the Netherlands includes management items
also in Wallonia: Haute Sûre future site is transboundary
If Yes , are there arrangements in place between the CPs sharing the wetland for the cooperative management of the site? Yes
If No , what has prevented such arrangements from being introduced? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: increase transboundary contacts and actions (Meuse and Scheldt in action; river IJzer to be investigated, Vlaamse Banken (Northsea coastal area) transboundary with France ?
for Wallonia: Proposition du site transfrontalier de la Haute Sûre comme site Ramsar.

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

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 7

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Refer to 6.2.5 above.

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

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

Does your country have Ramsar sites twinned with those in other CPs? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **no official twinning; manpower to elaborate proposals and guarantee follow up**

If **Yes**, please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved.

AND: Do these arrangements involve:

- sharing of information resources? **Yes/No**
- transfer of financial resources? **Yes/No**
- exchanges of personnel? **Yes/No**
- other activities? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **investigate further possibilities**

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

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]

- **Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention to Combat Desertification which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.**

Refer also to 4.2.1. Does there exist a mechanism (such as an inter-ministry committee) at the national level with the charter of coordinating/integrating the implementation of international/regional conventions/treaties to which your country is a signatory? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? **not well elaborated at structural basis, unless the existence of a 'Coordination Committee for International Environmental Policies' (=Comité de coordination de la politique internationale de l'environnement ,CCPIE) under the environment ministers involved; ad hoc cross references when reports are being prepared for Bonn, CBD , Natura 2000 etc.**

If **Yes**, describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider.

The above mentioned inter-ministerial Coordination Committee for International Environmental Policies has been set up, however without the support of a secretariat facility which impedes efficient follow up and information exchange. Usually reporting and drafting of decisions in preparation of COP's are being coordinated during meetings of this committee or through email networking between the committee members.

Information exchange with other international treaties etc. is rather low level, except for Bonn Convention; AEWA and Ramsar most closely related and basic data available from research Institutes and NGO's (e.g. IN)

information with other international treaties etc. is rather low level, except for Bonn; AEWA and Ramsar most closely related and basic data available from research Institutes and NGO's (e.g. IN)

AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? **No**

If **No**, why not? **lack of structural and administrative support of the interministerial committee at federal level**

If Yes, please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets: put problem on relevant agendas

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

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? no initiatives undertaken yet

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

Proposed national actions and targets: discuss at BRC

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

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? No

If No, what has prevented such a review being done? national monography for CBD including chapter on wetlands is not yet finalised

If Yes, what are the areas established as priorities for national cooperation between Ramsar and CBD implementing agencies/focal points?

Proposed national actions and targets: finish monography and translate priorities into possible actions (especially at regional basis)

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BRC/National Focal point CBD

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

Convention; with UNEP programmes, in particular the Regional Seas Conventions; and with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). [CPs, Bureau]

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

7.2.9 Develop relationships with other specialized agencies that deal with wetland-related issues, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the World Water Council (COP7 Resolution VI.23). [Bureau]

- **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? **Yes/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**

not clear positions

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: **bring these items under attention of relevant Ministers**

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If Yes, is this:

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

AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds? **also bilateral agreements with some States (Baltics, E.-Europe) exist but execution in favour of wetlands not yet successful;**

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **Yes/No at regional level some ad hoc initiatives putting not only wetlands at priority actions**

Walloon reion: ils sont liés à une politique régionale de conservation de la nature.

Proposed national actions and targets: **increase efforts to prioritise wetland issues and consider the establishment of a 'national' wetland policy**

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **ad hoc (not regular) initiatives not yet finalised**

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? **Is being planned (see below);**

BRC must announce possibilities and convene procedures

If **Yes**, please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Flanders: Under the Theme Biodiversity of the next Environment & Nature Conservation Policy Plan 2003-2007 a specific action includes consultation with the Ministry for Development Cooperation to set up a screening programme and to elaborate specific actions for supporting nature conservation measures (including wetlands) based on the ecosystem approach.**

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

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]

- **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? **difficulties due to complex regionalised structure of Belgium with lack of federal coordination at Ministry level**

Proposed national actions and targets: **BRC stimulate payment in due time**

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

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

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

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Refer also to 8.2.4. For developed countries, do you provide additional voluntary contributions to support the Small Grants Fund? **Yes**

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

If Yes, is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution? **not yet fixed :**

at regional level in Wallonia, it concerns voluntary contributions at regular basis

Proposed national actions and targets: **triennium action**

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

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