



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: **BULGARIA,**

Full name of designated Ramsar Administrative Authority:

**Ministry of Environment and Water
67 Wiliam Gladstone Str.
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**

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

Ms Dolores Arsenova - Minister

Mailing address and contact details of the head of the institution:

**Ministry of Environment and Water
67 Wiliam Gladstone Str.
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**

Telephone: (+359 2) 988 2577

Facsimile: (+359 2) 986 2533

Email:

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

Mr. Valeri Georgiev

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point:

**Ministry of Environment and Water
"National Nature protection Service" Directorate
22 Maria Louisa Blvd, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**

Telephone: (+359 2) 940 6537

Facsimile: (+359 2) 981 66 10

Email: nnpsf@moew.government.bg

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

Dr. Georgi Hiebaum

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

**Central laboratory of General Ecology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Department "Functional Ecology"
2 Gagarin Str, Sofia 1113, Bulgaria**

**Telephone: (+359 2) 722 154
Facsimile: (+359 2) 705 498
Email: hiebaum@ecolab.bas.bg**

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

Mr. Valeri Georgiev

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point:

**Ministry of Environment and Water
"National Nature protection Service" Directorate
22 Maria Louisa Blvd, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**

**Telephone: (+359 2) 940 6537
Facsimile: (+359 2) 981 6610
Email: nnpsf@moew.government.bg**

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

Mr Tanyo Michev

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point:

**Central laboratory of General Ecology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Department "Functional Ecology"
2 Gagarin Str, Sofia 1113, Bulgaria**

**Telephone: (+359 2) 717 195
Facsimile: (+359 2) 705 498
Email: tanyo@mbox.infotel.bg**

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

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1
TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION**

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

Actions – Global Targets

1.1.1 Recruit new Contracting Parties, especially in the less well represented regions and among states with significant and/or transboundary wetland resources (including shared species), [CPs, SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

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

Trinidad & Tobago, and Uganda
Is your country a member of the Standing Committee? No If No , go to Action 2.1.1.
If Yes , have actions been taken to encourage the non-CPs from your region or subregion to join the Convention? Yes/No
If Yes , have these actions been successful? Please elaborate.
If No , what has prevented such action being taken? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.1.1 Carry out a review of legislation and practices, and indicate in National Reports to the COP how the Wise Use Guidelines are applied. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This remains a high priority for the next triennium. The <i>Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions</i> (Resolution VII.7) will assist these efforts. • Global Target – For at least 100 CPs to have comprehensively reviewed their laws and institutions relating to wetlands by COP8.
Has your country completed a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done?
If a review is planned , what is the expected timeframe for this being done?
If the review has been completed , did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? No
If No , what are the impediments to these amendments being completed? The Convention was signed by the Republic of Bulgaria in 1974 with no obligation for ratification and was enforced for the country in 1976.
The Bulgarian internal legislation did not establish intercommunication between the Convention requirements and the country's laws - e.g. The Law on Waters (State Gazette 67/1999) neither foresees a special legal status for the wetlands of international

importance nor comprises the requirements for protection of the wetlands (generally and particularly those of international importance) as a first class priority for elaboration of plans for management of the waters.

The Law on Protected Areas was adopted at the end of 1998. This law regulates the different types of protected areas in Bulgaria, their function and the regime of their protection, use, declaring and management.

Bulgarian state declares that the functioning and maintenance of a system of protected areas represents the fulfillment of the obligations, which Bulgaria has assumed under the international agreements, signed, ratified and published in the State Gazette of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Management plans are obligatory to be elaborated and accepted in respect of the protected areas according to the Law on Protected Areas. These management plans are the third legislative framework for the activities, which could be performed in the protected areas. The management plans should, by all means, be in compliance with the law and the orders for declaring of the protected areas, as well as with requirements of the international agreements to which Bulgaria is a party including the Ramsar Convention. The management plans are prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Waters; however, the law provides for the possibility for the plans to be prepared by other interested parties – owners of real estate in the protected areas, municipalities, NGOs. Public discussion is obligatory envisaged for the most important management plans. Once in four years public discussion on the implementation of the management plans is organized.

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

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

assist these efforts.
Does your country have in place a National Wetland Policy (or similar instrument) which is a comprehensive statement of the Government's intention to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being put in place? Please elaborate.
If the development of such a Policy is planned , what is the expected timeframe for this being done?
Has your country taken its obligations with respect to the Ramsar Convention into consideration in related policy instruments such as National Biodiversity Strategies, National Environmental Action Plans, Water Policies, river basin management plans, or similar instruments? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to doing so? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide brief details. The National Action Plan for Conservation of the Most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria is the leading document for Bulgarian Wetland Policy. That plan relates also to the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan adopted during the year 2000 and contains actions that have to be taken regarding the wetlands and requirements to the Ramsar Convention.
Strategy for the Protection and Restoration of Floodplain Forests on the Bulgarian Danube Islands was developed and published in 2001.
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? Intertidal wetlands are not presented on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria
If Yes , what were the conclusions of this review? and what actions have been taken subsequently?
Proposed national actions and targets: The National Action Plan for conservation of the most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria to be updated during the next three years.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Finance and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>2.2.2 Promote the inclusion of wetlands in national, provincial and local land use planning documents and activities, and in all relevant sectoral and budgetary provisions. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to managing wetlands within the broader landscape and within river basin/coastal zone plans is another of the Convention's highest priorities in the next triennium. Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be promoting, and actively implementing, the management of wetlands as integrated elements of river basins and coastal zones, and to provide detailed information on the outcomes of these actions in the National Reports for COP8.
Is your country implementing integrated river basin and coastal zone management approaches? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Please elaborate.
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. The integrated management approach has settled by Bulgarian legislation. This applies mainly to Bulgarian Black Sea coast, Danube River, Struma - Mesta River system etc.
If Yes , are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Please elaborate.
Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.18).? No
If Yes , please describe them briefly.
Proposed national actions and targets: Practical steps to be done for implementation of integrated wetland management approach for the Black Sea Coast especially Kamchia River, and the river basins of Maritza, Danube, Struma and Mesta rivers.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Water

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? **No Reply**
- agricultural runoff? **No Reply**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes**
- invasive species? **Yes**
- other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **No Reply – Please elaborate.**

In each case, if the answer was **Yes**, has this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre (see 2.3.2 below)? **No**
Additional comments?

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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? **The nessesery fund was not secured.**

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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? **No**

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

1. There are no such special requirement included in the Environmental Protection Act, which deals with EIA.

2. There is now human resources educated to deal with economic valuation of wetlands;

3. This matter is not well promoted even among people who deal with nature conservation in Bulgaria (governmental officials, NGO representatives, etc.)

If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases?

If **Yes**, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. **Yes/No If Yes, please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **. 1. To improve legislation;**

2. To organise training courses for experts and workshops for people involved in conservation/management of wetlands

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

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
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - In the next triennium, CPs will ensure that EIAs are applied to any such situation and keep the Bureau advised of the issues and the outcomes of these EIAs.
Has an EIA been carried out in all cases where a change in the ecological character of a Ramsar site within your country was likely (or possible) as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
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? No EIA had made for the Ramsar sites.
Proposed national actions and targets: To improve legislation in order to allow flexibility for restoration activities into the sensitive protected wetlands.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Water

<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to require EIAs under legislation for any actions which can potentially impact on wetlands and to provide detailed reports on advances in this area in their National Reports for COP8.
Are EIAs required in your country for all cases where a wetland area (whether a Ramsar site or not) may be adversely impacted due to a development proposal or change in land/water use? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?

If Yes , are such EIAs required to give due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See COP7 Resolution VII.16, also 2.4.1 & 2.5.2 above.) Yes
Are EIAs “undertaken in a transparent and participatory manner which includes local stakeholders” (COP7 Resolution VII.16)? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: to make more improvement into the relevant legislation
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Water

2.5.4 Take account of Integrated Environmental Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment (at local, provincial and catchment/river basin or coastal zone levels) when assessing impacts of development proposals or changes in land/water use. [CPs]
(Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country undertaken a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? No Reply
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) Yes/No
Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? Yes/No – If yes, please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 2.6: 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) **For some places.**

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

If this has been done for only part of the country, please indicate for which areas or river basins.

1. Due to the efforts made by Green Balkans Federation, WWF -DCPo and Ministry of Environment and Water the Bulgaria has received in 2001 a grant from Global Environmental Facilities for the preparation of a Wetland restoration and Pollution Reduction Project. The government intend to apply part for the proceeds of the grant for the protected areas management planing for the Persina nature Park and the proposed Kalimok/ Brashlen protected areas. These areas located along the Danube River between the towns of Svishtov and Tutrakan, covering a landscape of mixed ownership (public, municipal, private and others) and different tipes of land use (agriculture, forestry, fish industry as well as conservation zones slated for wetlands restoration).

2. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife - Bulgaria developed a project proposal for restoration of the former Straldja Marsh (the biggest inland marsh in Bulgaria in the beginning of XX century) - named "Biodiversity Conservation in the Region of Former Straldja Marshland through Integration of Conservation Restoration Measures with Sustainable Agriculture Practices". The project proposal passed EIA and discussed with local people. This project promotes wise use concept of Ramsar Convention.

3. The inventory has been done in the Management plans for Durankulak, Shabla, Vaya and Atanasovsko Lake.

4 The Green Balkans Federation have received a grand for preparation of the project for restoration on hydrological characteristic, protection and management on Pomorie Lake. The project has support from Ministry of Environment and Water, Pomorie Municipality and local stakeholders.

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. **Durankulak Lake- in 2001 two sluises have been built to ensure periodical letting lake waters into the Black Sea; Vaya Lake - in 2001 the canal between Black Sea and the lake has been cleaned from reed and the connection has been significantly improved; Atanasovsko Lake-in 1999 a new freshwater body has been created in the reserve teritory which is hyperhaline wetland, turned into salinas.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

An assesment and identification of priority wetlands for restoration and rehabilitation to be completed for all the country;

The Straldja Marsh area to be included in this list and action on implementation of the restoration project to take place;

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

Ministry of Environment and Water, in partnership with BSBCP, Central Laboratory for General Ecology at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife - Bulgaria, Green Balkans Federation

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?
Please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environmenta and Water**

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

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

Refer to 2.6.1 above.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, describe what special actions have been taken (See also 2.7.2, 2.7.3 and 2.7.4 below) (COP7 Resolution VII.8).

1. Public considerations have been carried out for every one Environmental Impact Assessment and Management plan related to the wetlands and other protected and non protected areas.

2. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife - Bulgaria organise regular summer camps for assistance in management of "Poda" Protected area (a lagoon, part of Burgas lakes); The Nature Conservation Center "Poda" provide education among young people on wise use of wetlands; host local meetings related to nature conservation; promote public participation in wetland conservation.

3. Two Regional Forums have been established in the frame of BSBCP (Dobrudzha Project and Bourgas Wetlands Project). They involve almost all the stakeholders in the field of biodiversity conservation in the region of Coastal Dobrudzha and Bourgas - municipalities, RIEW, NGO-s, important factories, etc. The meetings of these Forums have been very constructive and good decisions for the wise use of the lakes in the future have been taken.

4. The Green Balkans Federation has established two Public Councils for the marsh complex Kalimok – Brashlen and Natur Park "Persina". The Councils have included all relevant stakeholders at local level. Those Councils have evaluated in Management Society of protected area "Kalimok" and Council of Natur Park "Persina" as consultant body.

Proposed national actions and targets: **To involve the local communities, stakeholders and indigenous people for decision making process concerning wetlands where it is appropriate.**

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

Ministry of Environment and Water, NGOs

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** **In the frame of BSBCP Dobrudja project - regular monitoring of the level and quality of the surface and underground waters, hydro-biological communities and breeding and wintering birds of Durankulak and Shabla Lakes. The ornithological monitoring is conducted in collaboration with the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds.**

In the frame of Burgas project there are several teams for hydrological, hydrobiological, and ornithological monitoring. The last one includes monitoring of breeding species and each 15 days monitoring (in autumn, winter and spring) of migrating and wintering water birds. These teams involve members of some local NGO- as Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife - Bulgaria, Green Balkan Federation, foundation "Le Balkan" etc.

The hydrological monitoring in both regions is organized in partnership with RIEW of Varna and Burgas.

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: **To involve the local communities into the process of the monitoring of wetlands where it is possible.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Water, NGO Partners**

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? **Committees under name "Regional Forum" are created in the frame of BSBCP for the following Ramsar sites: Durankulak Lake, Shabla Lake, Atanasovsko Lake and for non- Ramsar sites - Vaya Lake and Mandra Lake. 3 public councils, including local communities and those participating in the wetland management were created for Kalimok Protected Area (on the Danube River) and for the Maritsa and Tundzha River basins.**

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? **Three Ramsar Sites have such committees.**

AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? **All of them.**

AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented? **None**

Proposed national actions and targets: **The public committee for supervising the management of Srebarna Maintained Reserve to be established.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Water, Partners NGOs.**

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

- **Refer to 2.7.1 above.**
- **Global Target - This will be addressed in the next triennium, possibly in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention to Combat Desertification, which have already initiated work in this area.**

Has your government **made any special efforts** to recognize and see applied traditional knowledge and management practices? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice. **We have adjustent the methods of management to the particularities of the local communities in each of our work regions. The some of the practices are placed into the management plans of the relevant wetlands, but there are not implemented in practice.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To allow the local communities to apply the non detrimental traditional practices in regards to the protected wetlands.**

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

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? **No Reply**

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

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts.

AND: Have these efforts been successful? **Yes/No**

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

If **Yes**, how do you judge this success? Financial support for management or monitoring? Active involvement in management or monitoring? (Refer to 2.8.3 below) Application of Ramsar's Wise Use principles by private sector interests? (Refer to 2.8.2 below)? Other criteria? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

- **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 Reply**

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

If **Yes**, what actions have been taken to introduce "incentive measures designed to encourage the wise use of wetlands, and to identify and remove perverse incentives where they exist" (COP7 Resolution VII.15). **Please elaborate.**

AND: Have these actions been effective? **Yes/No**

If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please describe how.
AND if Yes , COP7 Resolution VII.15 requested Parties to share these “experiences and lessons learned with respect to incentive measures and perverse incentives relating to wetlands, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources generally, by providing these to the Ramsar Bureau for appropriate distribution and to be made available through the Wise Use Resource Centre of the Convention’s Web site”. Has this been done? Yes/No
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.8.3 Encourage the private sector to work in partnership with site managers to monitor the ecological character of wetlands. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This action will be promoted further in the next triennium.
Refer to 2.7.2 above. In addition, have any special efforts been made to encourage the private sector involvement in monitoring? No Reply
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , describe these special efforts.
AND: How successful has this been? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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

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

Operational Objective 3.1: To support and assist in implementing, in cooperation with partners and other institutions, an international programme of Education and

Public Awareness (EPA) on wetlands, their functions and values, designed to promote national EPA programmes.

Actions - Global Targets

3.1.1 Assist in identifying and establishing coordinating mechanisms and structures for the development and implementation of a concerted global programme of EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below

3.1.2 Participate in the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for resource development. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Has your country **taken any action** to help with the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for information/education resource development? **No Reply**

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

If **Yes**, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland Communications, Public Awareness, and Education (CEPA) (COP7 Resolution VII.9).

The main priority is the increase the public awareness. As a first step in this direction is implementing actions for assessing the EPA needs. The main work is carried out by the NGOs. Some steps as establishment of a volunteer network and personal contact with local communities are already done.

a) Information and advertising materials- bulletins, posters, stickers, leaflets, badges, T-shirts, series of postcards, etc.

b) Events on popularization:

- Poster and photo exhibitions named "The wetlands in the world and rare birds" and "The biodiversity of Dobrudja" in town of in town of Dobrich and Varna was organized;

- Celebration of the World Wetlands Day (WWD) – 2nd of february with an exhibition of international and Bulgarian posters and other advertising printed materials in the museum "The Earth and People", Sofia.

c) Educational activities with following main results was carried out:

Effective contacts with the local schools and a working cooperation mechanism have been established;

·The school children's knowledge of the nature of the region and the country have been enriched;

d) The awareness of the ecological problems in the regions has been raised;

e) Establishment of Nature Information Centers: NIC Kaliakra for the Northern Black Sea coast was officially opened on 29th July 2000 and NIC Poda in Bourgas area was

strengthened.

d) Presentations in the media also was done

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of environment and Waters, Partner NGOs**

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 Reply**

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? **Please elaborate.**

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? **No Reply**

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
3.2.1 Encourage partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations capable of developing national EPA programmes on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<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)? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Please elaborate.
Has your country established an "appropriately constituted Task Forces, where no mechanism exists for this purpose (e.g., National Ramsar Committees), to undertake a review of national needs, capacities and opportunities in the field of wetland CEPA and, based on this, to formulate its National Wetland CEPA Action Plans for priority activities which consider the international, regional, national and local needs" (COP7 Resolution VII.9). No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force.
AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000? No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? No secured financial fund.
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: The National CEPA Action Plan to be elaborate during the next trilenium.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry

of Environment and Water

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? **Rather successful**

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites? **Two Nature Information Centre(NIC) are in place at "Poda" protected area and Atanasovsko Lake Reserve near the town of Bourgas, Southeast Bulgaria. The building at the Atanasovsko Lake Reserve is a big stable hide was built recently in the buffer zone of the reserve. Its aims is to serve as a small educational centre.**

Recently a new NIC in the villige of Balgarevo at the nature reserve "Kaliakra"at the Northeast Bulgaria was opened since July 29, 2000.

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

How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? **Two educational centers are planed to be established. One in the Kalimok Protecetd Area, and another in the Pomorie Lake Protected Area.**

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? **No one**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Every one important wetland site to have Nature Information Centre (NIC) in place.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Water, Partners NGOs**

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

- **Global Target - see 3.2.3 above**

Do all museums, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities in your country have exhibits and/or programmes that support non-formal wetland CEPA? Only for some facilities
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? Museum of Srebarna has situated near by the Srebarna Ramsar Site contain the samples of the flora and fauna from this area.
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? No one.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Water, NGOs

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? No
If No , what is preventing this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details. In 1999 over 50 students from 6 Universities, including the Macedonian participated in the camp at Atanasovsko Lake. Difficulties in organizing and feeding so many people led to decrease the number to 30 students. They took part in 2-week working and education programmes, including lectures on the spot. Almost all important wetlands in Bourgas region have been visited. Observations and identification of the autumn migration of soaring birds were organized also. In 2000 an other summer camp with over 50 participants was organized with the same purposes. In 2001 the summer camp was already a traditional event which included the celebration of the Day of Atanasovsko Lake - 15 August. This year more attention was given to lectures with different biodiversity and wetland conservation issues. For the first time besides birds other groups of plants and animals - algae and fishes were included in the lectures and practical activities.
If Yes , have samples of this curriculum material been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? No Reply
Proposed national actions and targets: To incorporate modules related to wetland in the

education programs of the secondary and high schools.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **MoEW
Ministry of Education and Science**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access? **Two of them, because one or two managers are the same for two relevant sites.**

AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? **Durankulak Lake, Shabla Lake, Atanasovsko Lake, Arkutino Marsh.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **The internet link to be provided for all Ramsar sites**

managers.

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

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Please go to file 2.



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

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

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file 2

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4 TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF INSTITUTIONS IN EACH CONTRACTING PARTY TO ACHIEVE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
4.1.1 Review existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]
Has your country reviewed the national institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise use and the “designated national Administrative Authority for the Convention to ensure [that] these have the necessary resources to support the increasing demands being placed upon them by the growing expectations of the Convention” (COP7 Resolution VII.27)? Yes
If No , what is the impediment to this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , what were the conclusions and outcomes of the review? (Refer to 4.1.2 also). The main institution who deal with the conservation and wise use of the wetlands are the Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest and Ministry of the Regional Development and Public Works.
Proposed national actions and targets: All relevant institution to be involves deeply in conservation and wise use of the wetlands.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Waters

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

- **increase cooperation and synergy between institutions;**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? The experts have represented in the Committee are representatives for governmental institutions as Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Regional development and Public Works, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Ministry of Education and Science and Non - governmental organizations as Central laboratory of General Ecology (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Bulgarian-Swees Biodiversity Conservation Program (BSBCP), Green Balkan Federaton, Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife - Bulgaria (BSPB/BirdLife - Bulgaria).
Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening? One meeting of the Committee was organised only.
If Yes , did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? No
If No , why not? One meeting of the Committee was organised only.
Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.
Proposed national actions and targets: To make National Ramsar Committee active national body for implementation of the Convention in Bulgaria; regular meetings, planning, reporting and monitoring.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Waters

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? No funding was secured.
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?
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort?
Proposed national actions and targets: To make cooperation on this field with the Ministry of Education and Science and Non - governmental organizations.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Waters , National Ramsar Committee

4.2.2 Identify current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have reviews of training opportunities completed in more than 75 CPs.
Has your country completed a review of the training opportunities which exist therein? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , how has this been done? Some action for assessing the possibilities of training in the field of wetlands was taken by Green Balkans Federation. They have referred to the information provided by university educators, and mostly by the knowledge of their volunteers, a great number of which have background in biology and ecology. They made the proposals for the improvement of education, regarding wetlands, addressing mainly to the universities in Plovdiv and Stara Zagora.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? No assessments were made.
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) **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To make cooperation on this field with the Ministry of Education and Science and Non - governmental organizations through of the National Ramsar Committee.**

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

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

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

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

If Yes, please provide details. **The Green Balkans federation has implemented a number of educational actions, through holding lectures and practical visits to the wetland regions that they work on. The slide series and other visual materials they have provided to different schools into those regions. Regularly updated information on the problems and EU and world practices and initiatives, connected to wetlands has also given.**

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: **To make cooperation on this field with the Non - governmental organizations through of the National Ramsar Committee.**

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

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

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

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

- Through personnel exchanges for on-the-job training? **Yes ,**

- **Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds educate volunteers in wetland management at its Nature Conservation Centre "Poda" at "Poda" Protected area. In educating the lokal wetland managers they refer to experience they have gained while implementing different international projects. For example, the 'Lower Danube Green Corridor' Initiative.**
- Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? **No , Please elaborate.**
- Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? **No , Please elaborate.**
- Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? **Yes , Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds dessiminate information about training courses on Wetland Management and Wetland Restoration in RIZA, Netherlands. Thanks to this in 2001 one representative of the Society, who deal with management of two Ramsar sites - Shabla and Durankulak, was trained during the Wetland Management and Wetland Restoration Courses: Sergey Dereliev (BirdLife Bulgaria) has taken part in the International Course on Wetlands Management, 1999; Dimiter Georgiev (BSBCP-Dobrudja Project) has taken part in the International Course on Wetlands Restoration, 2001 - in RIZA Institute, The Netherlands.**
- **Simeon Marin (Green Balkan Federation) has taken part in the international course for wetland restoration and management organized by WWF/IUCN in Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1999. Seven members of Green Balkan Federation have take part on two weeks course in WWF Institute of floodplain ecology in Rashtad, Germany.**

Has your country provided resources to support the establishment of *Wetlands for the Future* style programmes in any part of the world? (COP7 Recommendation 7.4) **No**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Proposed national actions and targets: **To make cooperation on this field with the Non - Governmental organizations through of the National Ramsar Committee.**

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

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 Reply**

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

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]

- **Global Target - By COP8, each CP will seek to ensure that the measures required to maintain the ecological character of at least half of the Ramsar sites have been documented.**

Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites in your country been documented? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? **Yes**

AND: Has a copy been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? **Yes**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Permanent monitoring of the all Ramsar sites to be carrying out.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Water.**

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

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

which have now removed sites from the Record.
Refer to 2.7.2 and 2.8.3 also. Are regular internal reviews undertaken to identify factors potentially altering the ecological character of Ramsar sites? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , have these reviews detected situations where changes in ecological character have occurred or may occur? Yes
If Yes , for how many sites was this case, which sites were they, and what actions were taken to address these threats? Projects for two Ramsar sites (Durankulak Lake and Shabla Lake), connected with improvements of water ecosystems in both lakes are under implementation. Durankulak Lake has listed in the Montreux Record.
A substantial improving in the ecological character of the Srebarna Ramsar site (still into the Montreux Record) was achieved since 1994 when the link to the Danube River was restored through the building of chanal. The Bulgarian Academy of Science is carrying out the program approved by Ministry of Environment and Water for the monitoring ecological characteristics of the side.
AND: Were these sites where change in ecological character was detected, or may occur, added to the Montreux Record? No
If No , why not? The changes in ecological character of Shabla Lake have considered to have not a critical pattern yet. The Arcoutino marsh has considered to have critical situation, but the existing legislation status as strict reserve not allow to take any action for improvement of the situation.
Proposed national actions and targets: Monitoring of the ecological condition of the all Ramsar sites to be carried out and to include in Montreux Record all the Ramsar sites where is considered threatened.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Water.

5.1.3 Review and regularly update the Montreux Record (Resolutions 5.4, 5.5, and VI.1). [CPs, STRP, Bureau]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - CPs with Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record, and for which Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) have been completed prior to COP7, are expected to have taken the actions necessary to warrant their removal from the Record before COP8.
For those CPs with a site, or sites, included in the Montreux Record, and for which RAMs (previously Management Guidance Procedures, MGPs) have been completed, have all actions recommended by the RAM been undertaken for each site? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
If Yes , have these actions resulted in a restoration of the ecological character? Yes

AND: If **Yes**, has the site been removed from the Montreux Record following the completion of the necessary questionnaire (COP6 Resolution VI.1)? **No** **The procedures for removing of the site have not finished yet.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **The all Bulgarian Ramsar Sites to be removed from the Montreux Records.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Waters, Central Laboratory on General Ecology on the Bulgarian Academy of Sciens.**

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**? **No**

If **No**, how many sites do not have management plans in place and which sites are they? **Bulgaria has four Ramsar sites (Arkutino Marsh, Atanasovsko Lake, Durankulak Lake and Shabla Lake), which do not have Management plans in place.**

If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. **The Management plan for and Durankulak Lake are in the final phase of consideration between the Government institutions and could be approved by the end of 2002; the MP for Shabla Lake is in process for public consideration. The Management Plans for Atanasovsko Lake and Ropotamo Complex (which includes Arkutino Marsh) have not finalised yet.**

For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they? **None**

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done? **The Management plan for Srebarna Ramsar Site has prepared whit financial support by Small Grants Fund on Ramsar Convention was approved in Dec. 2001. The Ministry of Environment and Water has confided the implementation of some activities in pursuit of this Management Plan. The Management Plan is not implementing fully because of short time since its approval.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Management plans to be approved for all Ramsar**

sites. Management plans for 4 Ramsar sites (Duranculak Lake, Shabla Lake, Atanasovsko Lake and Arkutino marsh) to be prepared by BSBCP (Bulgarian- Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program).

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Water, BSBCP (Bulgarian- Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program).**

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

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

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

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **Such zoning has been proposed for Atanasovko Lake, Duranculak Lake and Shabla Lake, but is not approved by MoEW yet, and was approved in the Management plan for Srebarna Ramsar Site.**

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool? **It is not known yet.**

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: **The zoning to be included in the all Management Plans for wetland when it is applicable.**

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **Srebarna Lake and Atanasovsko Lake**

AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool? **Yes.**

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases for possible

inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **All regimes set up for the sites to be strictly implemented**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **"National Nature Protection Service" Directorate in the Ministry of Environment and Water**

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]

- **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?

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]

- **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**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Updated information to be provided regularly for each COP.**

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

Environment and Water.

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
<p>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]</p> <p>Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.</p>
<p>5.4.4 Support the establishment of national wetland databases compatible with the Ramsar Database and develop a common protocol to facilitate exchange and interaction. [CPs, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland databases in over 50 CPs which are accessible globally.
<p>Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? No</p>
<p>If No, what is preventing such a database being established? No relevant legislation requirements for elaboration of unified national database. Each organization has developed separate data base. And some of the data was published through the internet.</p>
<p>If Yes, is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? Yes/No</p>
<p>If No, why not? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details.</p>
<p>If No, why not?</p>
<p>AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes/No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details.</p>
<p>If No, why not?</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Such uniform national wetland database should be created as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: MoEW with the help of BSBCP, NGO-s.</p>

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)? Two lists of potential new Ramsar sites in Bulgaria, supplementary to each other were published in 2001. Bulgarian Society for the protection of Birds/BirdLife Bulgaria (BSPB) launched a list in April 2001, based on Ramsar criteria 5 and 6 and in October 2001 BirdLife International launched second list (for all the European countries) with assistance of BSPB based on criteria 2, 4, 5 and 6. Both lists are based on the Ramsar Strategic framework and guidelines for the future development of list of Wetlands of international Importance. According to both lists in Bulgaria have been identified at least 25 potential Ramsar sites, plus conclusion that all the existing sites are subject to extension. In addition 5 more wetlands will require more research to confirm their suitability to the List of Wetlands of International Importance. Yes
AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? According to both lists in Bulgaria have been identified at least 25 potential Ramsar sites.
Proposed national actions and targets: Designation of all wetlands meeting Ramsar criteria as wetlands of international importance
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Water, Partners NGO-s

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

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

Does there exist a comprehensive national inventory (as opposed to a directory of important sites; see 6.1.1 above) for your country? No
If No , what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared? Project named "Inventory of Bulgarian Wetlands" submitted by Bulgaria was adopted for funding by Ramsar Small Grant Found for the financial year 2002. There are no results yet in this regards.
If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds Published all their IBAs (including wetlands) in the book of BirdLife International "Important Bird Areas in Europe. Priority Sites for Conservation". There are described all Bulgarian IBAs, which are wetlands and meet Ramsar criteria; A inventory and designation on new protected wetlands along the Danube River was complited as result of the implementation under the initiative of the Lower Danube Green Coridor in Bulgaria (2001-2006)
AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory? 9 months
If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized?
AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
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: The collected by the "Inventory of Bulgarian Wetlands" data to be use for preparation of updated version of National Action Plan for the Conservation of Wetland for the next ten years.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Waters, Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife – Bulgaria, Central Laboratory on General Ecology on the Bulgarian Academy of Sciens.
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: The information, gathered by some NGO-s is not

always presented to the national delegates of Wetlands International for generalization. That's why an improvement of the system of data gathering is proposed.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Waters, Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Bulgarian Academy of Science**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Refer also to 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.2.3. Has your country taken a systematic approach to identifying its future Ramsar sites (as promoted in the *Strategic Framework for the List – COP7 Resolution VII.11*)? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, has this included considerations to ensure the designation of a representative range of wetland types? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, has this resulted in the designation of a representative range of wetland types? **Yes**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To identify and designate as Ramsar Sites all wetlands those have met the Ramsar criteria.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Waters, Partners**

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

- **Global Targets - The long-term targets are set by the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International***

Importance (COP7 Resolution VII.11). Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived [by the STRP].
Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? No Reply
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/No • intertidal wetlands? (COP7 Resolution VII.21) Yes/No
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

6.2.4 Pay particular attention to the designation of new sites currently enjoying no special conservation status at national level, as a first step towards developing measures for their conservation and wise use. [CPs]
<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? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening? New Bulgarian wetlands with international importance were not designated because the proposals are under consideration before to be submitted to the Ramsar Bureau.
If Yes , please provide details.
AND: Are there plans for further such designations? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please elaborate. Several very important wetlands - Mandra-Poda Lake Complex, Burgasko Lake, Varna-Beloslav Lake Complex are protected in a very small part of them and practically there is no possibility to be protected on whole their area. At the same time those wetlands are proposed one for designation as Ramsar sites and for establishment of the principles of conservation and wise use there.
Proposed national actions and targets: To make possible for inclusion of non-protected wetlands as Ramsar sites
To investigate the possibilities for designation of Mandra-Poda Lake Complex,

Burgasko Lake, Varna-Beloslav Lake Complex under Ramsar.

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

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

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

For those CPs which 'share' wetlands with other CPs, have all suitable sites been designated under the Convention? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this action being taken? **The existing idea for establishment of a Transborder Park along Danube River that will include Srebarna Ramsar site between Bulgaria and Romania was not elaborated yet because the relevant wetlands on the Romanian site are not investigated yet.**

If **Yes**, are there arrangements in place between the CPs sharing the wetland for the cooperative management of the site? **Yes/No**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Transborder Park along Danube River including Srebarna Ramsar site between Bulgaria and Romania to be established.**

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

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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**

<p>shared catchment/river basins), and encourage preparation and implementation of joint plans for such sites, using a “catchment approach” (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]</p> <p>Refer to 6.2.5 above.</p>
<p>7.1.2 Encourage twinning of transfrontier wetlands, and of other wetlands with similar characteristics, and use successful cases for illustrating the benefits of international cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.19) and the <i>Convention’s Outreach Programme</i> (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.
<p>Does your country have Ramsar sites twinned with those in other CPs? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>If Yes, please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved.</p>
<p>AND: Do these arrangements involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing of information resources? Yes/No • transfer of financial resources? Yes/No • exchanges of personnel? Yes/No • other activities? Please elaborate.
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

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.

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention to Combat Desertification which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.

Refer also to 4.2.1. Does there exist a mechanism (such as an inter-ministry committee) at the national level with the charter of coordinating/integrating the implementation of international/regional conventions/treaties to which your country is a signatory? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? **The relevant Ministries have obligation to coordinate the implementation of the international and regional conventions according to the scopes of their competition.**

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, were such proposals successful in gaining funds? **Yes -**

The preparatory phase of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction project (N ID: P068858) was completed with the fanatical support of GEF/World Bank and elaborated together with WWF. The grant for the project preparation was 350 000 USD. As result of preparatory phase the following reports was submitted to the WB:

- **Technical study for the Restoration Design, including a chapter on Nutrient trapping monitoring system**
- **Management planing of protected areas, including a chapter on biodiversity monitoring was developed by WWF - Auen Institut, Austria.**
- **Environmental and social assessment.**
- **Alternative income generating activities.**

Results: The project proved technically feasible.

World Bank has invited Bulgarian Government for negotiations for financing of the implementation phase of the project.

Proposed national actions and targets:

More projects concerning wetlands for the different parts of the country to be

elaborated together with international partners and to be proposed for funding.

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

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 Reply**

If **No**, what has prevented such a review being done? **Please elaborate.**

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:

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

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

- **Global Target - With the European Commission and SPREP, develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation and prepare and implement a Joint Work Plan. For 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? **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? **No**

Additional comments?

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

Refer to 7.4.2 to 7.4.6 below.

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - By COP8, to see allocations for wetlands made by all CPs and also for specific wetland programmes in more than 40 CPs.
Does your government allocate funds for wetland conservation and wise use activities? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this happening? Please elaborate.
<p>If Yes, is this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a separate allocation to a Wetlands Programme (or similar)? Yes/No • As part of a broader allocation for the environment? Yes • As part of the programmes maintained by a range of Ministries? Yes
AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds? The allocated funds are managed like the core budget of the relevant environmental funds in the Ministry of Environment and Water and Ministry of Agriculture and Forest.
Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? Yes It is depends by the requirements set into the National Action Plan for Conservation of the Most Important Wetland and by the Law of the Protected Areas.
Proposed national actions and targets: Necessary funds to be secured for all Ramsar sites annually.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - To see this trend continue such that all eligible CPs are receiving donor support for a range of major wetland-related projects by the time of COP8. In particular, to see this support being provided, as appropriate, for the priority areas of policy development, legal and institutional reviews, inventory and assessments, the designation and management of Ramsar sites, training and communications.
If your country has a bilateral development assistance programme, does it allocate funds for wetland-related projects on a regular basis? No Reply
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
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? Yes/No
If No , why not?
If Yes , please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>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]</p>
Refer to 4.1.2.
<p>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]</p>

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**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **The Ministry of Environment and Waters to pay regularly the annual contribution to the Ramsar Convention.**

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

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: To make possible cooperation with different partner organizations involved in the wetland conservation.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Water

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.4.1 Develop a strategy for securing at least one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, to be approved by the first full meeting of the Standing Committee after the 6th COP (1996) and proceed immediately to its implementation. [Bureau, SC, CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - To establish a mechanism to ensure one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (COP7 Resolution VII.28).
Refer also to 8.2.4. For developed countries, do you provide additional voluntary contributions to support the Small Grants Fund? No Reply
If No , what prevents this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution?
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: