

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

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



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, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis,

Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.
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? No
If Yes , have these actions been successful? N/A
If No , what has prevented such action being taken? All nations in current North America Region are Contracting Parties and COP7 refused request by Caribbean states to consider new mechanisms to allow modification or flexibility on regional boundaries in the Americas.
Proposed national actions and targets: None
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: N/A

1.1.2 Promote membership of Ramsar through regional meetings and activities, and through partners' regional offices. [SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These efforts are to continue and to focus on the above priority regions and the Small Island Developing States. • The current member and permanent observer States of the Standing Committee are Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Costa Rica, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uganda
Is your country a member of the Standing Committee? No If No , go to Action 2.1.1.
If Yes , have actions been taken to encourage the non-CPs from your region or subregion to join the Convention? No Reply
If Yes , have these actions been successful? N/A
If No , what has prevented such action being taken? Noted above.
Proposed national actions and targets: None
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: N/A



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
<p>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]</p> <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.
<p>Has your country completed a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? Yes/No</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done?</p> <p>Canada is a complex federal state, with 14 senior governments. While a number of studies have examined laws and institutions specific to a region (e.g. Prairies) or issue (e.g. income tax relief), no comprehensive, national assessment of the effect of legislation, policy or institutional arrangements on Canada's wetland resource has been conducted since the early 1980's. An inventory of legal and policy instruments was published in 1999 entitled "Wetlands and Government: Policy and Legislation for Wetland Conservation in Canada" (available at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca).</p> <p>A number of current initiatives will contribute to a national review. Ducks Unlimited (Canada) is currently undertaking a review of the impact of provincial laws and policies on wetlands. Under its review of ecological fiscal reform for sustainable development, the National Round Table on the Economy and Environment will examine economic incentives to help farmers across Canada conserve, rather than cultivate, ecologically sensitive lands such as wetlands and riparian areas. The Federal Wetlands Forum has identified as a priority an assessment of the effect on wetlands of federal policy and legislation. The Environmental Law Centre, Alberta, and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan recently completed Alberta Wetlands: A Legal and Policy Guide, containing an exhaustive review of wetland management and the constitution, sources of law and legal directives, property rights and wetlands, environmental assessment, etc. (http://www.elc.ab.ca/)</p>
<p>If a review is planned, what is the expected timeframe for this being done? The recently established Wetlands Forum has identified a review of federal laws and policies as a priority; it is anticipated that it will be completed in the next two years.</p>
<p>If the review has been completed, did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to these amendments being completed? N/A</p>

If Yes, and changes to laws and institutional arrangements were made, please describe these briefly. **Canada improved tax treatment for ecological gifts, including wetlands, in the 1995, 1996 and 1997 Federal Budgets. A substantial capital gains reduction on ecological gifts was announced in the 2000 Federal Budget; it is expected to dramatically expand the reach of protected areas, stewardship and species at risk programs. Legislation has been adopted enabling statutory covenants and easements by almost all jurisdictions across Canada, and increasingly applied to protecting natural heritage.**

In Nova Scotia, the new Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act provides provisions for restoration of some lands to tidal influence. Changes to the Forestry Act will provide enhanced conservation of wetland resources on private as well as public lands. Moreover, wetlands on public land have been specifically identified within the Integrated Resource Management process as requiring additional planning to protect the integrity of predominant values that may be impacted by other uses. A review of Nova Scotia's Environment Act is ongoing, and the province is reviewing its easement legislation to facilitate its use by non-government organizations.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Federal Wetlands Forum: Review of federal legislation and policy by 2002/2003

Ducks Unlimited Canada: Review of provincial legislation and policy by 2002/2003

Federal Wetlands Forum: Host a National Policy Symposium in 2002/2003 to recommend policy/legislative reform; a follow-up policy meeting to the April 1990 Sustaining Wetlands Forum

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

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? N/A
If the development of such a Policy is planned , what is the expected timeframe for this being done? N/A
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? N/A
If Yes , please provide brief details. <p>The federal, provincial, and territorial governments released the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in November 1995, containing specific strategic directions for aquatic resources including wetlands. Canadian governments are pursuing implementation of the Strategy in cooperation with stakeholders and the public. For example, the Quebec government has developed a biodiversity strategy that describes more than 200 actions to be implemented. The British Columbia government has issued a Biodiversity Guidebook to support the biodiversity objectives of the B.C. Forest Practices Code. Saskatchewan has completed consultations on a biodiversity action plan for the province. Non government agencies take part in the Canadian Biodiversity Forum that provides advice on both domestic and international biodiversity issues. A multi-council meeting of Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife Ministers met recently to review progress with respect to implementation of the Canadian biodiversity Strategy and agreed to a number of national implementation priorities including the development of: a biodiversity science agenda for Canada including enhanced management of biological information by 2003; national capacity to monitor and report on biodiversity status and trends by 2005; a draft national strategy to address the problem of invasive alien species by fall of 2002; a strategy to engage Canadians through biodiversity stewardship activities by 2003. (http://www.ec.gc.ca/agenda21/96/part4.html)</p> <p>The Canadian Biodiversity Information Network (CBIN) (http://www.cbin.ec.gc.ca/) acts as a gateway to Canadian Environmental activities, agreements, technologies, data, environmental funding sources, web sites, upcoming events, reference materials, expertise and much more. CBIN fills a unique niche as Canada's national node in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing-house Mechanism, the gateway to biodiversity information around the world.</p> <p>The Federal Water Policy contains a policy statement on “wetlands preservation” that recognizes that wetlands “can greatly influence water quality and quantity and are, therefore, an integral component of Canada’s water resources”. The federal policy is to conserve and enhance Canada’s wetlands through cooperative actions with other governments: encouraging appropriate land-use practices, integrated land and water resource planning, and application of environmental assessment processes and practices to mitigate potential undesirable effects on existing wetlands; and conducting and promoting research to provide scientific and technological support for and understanding of wetland functions and values. Wetlands are recognized in the</p>

Government of Canada's 1998 report "Canada and Freshwater" (Sustainable Development in Canada Monograph Series, No. 6). Wetlands and their relationship to water are key components in national freshwater strategies.

Ecosystem initiatives are federal–provincial/territorial partnerships working together to address priority areas and issues of concern — ensuring that Canadians have clean air and water, protecting and conserving nature, and taking action on climate change. Action plans work with individuals, communities, Aboriginal peoples, industry, and governments in the design and implementation of initiatives such as: the Atlantic Coastal Action Program, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, the St. Lawrence Action Plan Vision 2000, Great Lakes 2020, the Northern River Basins Study/Northern Rivers Ecosystem Initiative, the Fraser River Action Plan/Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative. Environment Canada recently completed the Fraser River Action Plan, a seven-year initiative in British Columbia, and has also begun consultations on the Northern Ecosystem Initiative.
(<http://www2.ec.gc.ca/ecosyst/overview.html>)

In Canada, each federal department is now required by law (amendment to the Auditor General Act) to prepare a Sustainable Development Strategy -- tabled in Parliament in 1997 and updated every three years -- that outlines how the department will contribute to sustainable development. A number of departments have included wetland objectives in their Sustainable Development Strategies. Progress toward objectives is audited by the Commission of the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Office of the Auditor General.

Ducks Unlimited (DU) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ramsar Bureau in July 2001, which commits its sister organizations -- Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and Ducks Unlimited de Mexico -- to support Ramsar's global task force to conserve wetlands. The memorandum enhances DU's efforts to conserve birds migrating across international boundaries and shared wetlands.

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? **This is a provincial/territorial area of jurisdiction requiring evaluation by provinces and territories, some have completed wetland evaluation, others have not.**

If **Yes**, what were the conclusions of this review? and what actions have been taken subsequently? **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets:

2002-2005: Continue to take Canada's obligations with respect to the Ramsar Convention into consideration as appropriate in the development of policy instruments, programs and plans.

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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. **Integrated river and coastal zone management approaches apply to an estimated one-third of Canada's total area. The following programs and projects exemplify the application of integrated river and coastal zone management in Canada. Maps on associated Internet sites show the geographic location and extent of the watersheds covered.**

1. Canada's Ecosystem Initiatives – Canada's Ecosystem Initiatives focus on major water basins and coastal areas across Canada (<http://www2.ec.gc.ca/ecosyst/overview.html>):

Atlantic Coastal Action Program – Launched in 1991, the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) is a network of 13 community-driven, watershed-based ecosystem initiatives located across the four Atlantic provinces: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. Initiatives embrace major watersheds including the Annapolis, Miramichi, St. Croix and Humber Arm; and focus on harbours such as St. John's and Pictou.

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment - Established in 1989 by two Atlantic provinces (Nova Scotia and New Brunswick) and three states (Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts) this international program is now entering its third five-year Action Plan. The program in lists the expertise and involvement of federal, provincial, state, conservation organizations and community groups to address the coastal and marine habitat focus goals of the Action Plan (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org>).

St. Lawrence Action Plan Vision 2000 - Launched in 1988 and now entering its third phase, the St. Lawrence Action Plan focuses on fourteen Zones of Priority Intervention identified along the St. Lawrence.

Great Lakes 2020 - Launched in 1989 as the Great Lakes Action Plan to fulfill Canada's commitments under the 1972 Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to protect and sustain the world's largest freshwater ecosystem: the Great Lakes Basin. Great Lakes 2020 focuses on Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for each of 17 Canadian "Areas of Concern". Note also that international Great Lakes initiatives develop Lakewide Management Plans for each of the Great Lakes basins shared with the United States. These are similar in approach to the Remedial Action Plans but deal with entire watersheds, and are not restricted to the contaminated sites.

Northern Rivers Ecosystem Initiative - The Northern River Basins Study was launched in 1991 to improve our understanding of the impacts of the growing number of industrial developments in the northern watersheds of the Peace, Athabasca, and Slave River systems. Environment Canada, Alberta, and the Northwest Territories are working together through the Northern Rivers Ecosystem Initiative to address the priority issues and areas of concern recommended by the Northern River Basins Study.

**Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative – Grown out of the Fraser River Action Plan completed in March 1998, the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative was launched in 1998 and is centred on the Georgia Basin in southern British Columbia and including Puget Sound in the State of Washington. A Habitat and Species Conservation Plan for the Georgia Basin features one component targeted toward acquisitions, through partnerships, of rare and endangered ecosystems within the Georgia Basin, including upland wetland and riparian areas. In 1992, British Columbia and Washington State signed an Environmental Cooperation Agreement that committed the province and state to promote and coordinate mutual efforts to ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin. An International Task Force involved program staff from federal, provincial and state agencies, tribes, First Nations, and regional organizations from both sides of the international boundary.
(http://www.wa.gov/puget_sound/shared/shared.html)**

Results of these ecosystem initiatives have included reductions in environmental levels of targeted pollutants, restored habitats and recovery of wildlife populations, reduced waste, upgraded sewage treatment facilities, improved energy efficiency, the protection of natural areas and establishment of new parks, the creation of artificial wetlands, reduced risks to human health, and increased employment. The 2001 Report of the Auditor General of Canada provides analysis and recommendations on the effectiveness of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Ecosystem Initiatives for wetlands, fisheries, water and protected areas. It calls for establishment of a lead federal agency for wetland issues coordination.

2. Canadian Heritage Rivers – Canadian Heritage Rivers include the South Nahanni, Upper Restigouche, Hayes and Athabasca Rivers. Management plans for these designated rivers ensure conservation of their outstanding natural, cultural and/or recreational values. All protective actions on Canadian Heritage Rivers depend on existing laws and regulations, and respect the rights of Aboriginal peoples, communities,

private landowners, and other stakeholders. (http://www.chrs.ca/About_e.htm)

3. Great Lakes Heritage Coast – The Ontario Government has launched a major project to establish the Great Lakes Heritage Coast, including along 2,900 kilometres of coastline along Lake Superior, the north shore of the St. Mary's River, and the coast of Lake Huron to the eastern coast of Georgian Bay. The designation will protect the Coast's scenic beauty and its natural ecosystems; promote the potential for recreation, tourism, and other economic benefits through a network of parks and protected areas and encourage development compatible with the overall intent for the area. (<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/glhc/>)

4. Oldman River Basin Water Quality Initiative, Alberta – Focuses on public education and awareness; assessment of the current land use; testing and implementation of beneficial management practices (BMP) to limit negative impacts on water quality; and monitoring of water quality to identify areas of concern and impacts of various activities. (<http://www.oldmanbasin.org/>)

5. Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin, Prairie Provinces – Include individuals and organizations from all sectors of society. The Partners focus on an international watershed that spans more than 420,000 sq. km., including areas in the three Canadian Prairie Provinces and the state of Montana. The Partners are actively involved in developing and implementing stewardship projects, including: watershed monitoring, low water landscaping, storm drain marking program, aquatic restoration projects, and ecotourism development and marketing. (<http://www.saskriverbasin.ca/>)

6. Moose River Basin, Ontario – The Environmental Information Partnership (EIP) involves people working together to sustain the environment of the Moose River Basin while allowing for economic growth and development. The focus of EIP is on information management, cumulative environmental effects, traditional ecological knowledge and the Moose River Basin. (<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/eip/html/background.html>)

If **Yes**, are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? **Yes**

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

Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (COP7 Resolution VII.18)? **No**

If **Yes**, please describe them briefly. **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets:

2002- 2005:

Promote the comprehensive and explicit implementation of the Ramsar Guidelines within existing and emerging river basin management initiatives.

Develop case studies of ongoing initiatives that would demonstrate the implementation of the Ramsar Guidelines.

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

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**
- agricultural runoff? **Yes**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes**
- invasive species? **Yes**
- **other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? Yes – Canadian government and non-government agencies have developed extensive resources on wetland stewardship for private landowners, guides for agricultural and forestry practices to improve production and conserve wetlands, and resource information on shoreline development. Also, the Government of Nova Scotia recently released a guide to environmental approvals for cranberry operations.**

Another focal area for the development of Canadian wetland management expertise is the mitigation of development impacts on wetlands. The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) (www.wetlandscanada.org) has established mitigation definitions, principles, guidelines, and a practical framework for applying wetland mitigation in Canada based on a workshop of North American experts. This work has now been developed into a generic template and offered for use in mitigation process guidance as identified in the Ramsar Convention COP7, Resolution VII 24. The template will be available in French, English and Spanish. (See <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.)

Information on invasive alien species which pose a threat to wetlands and wetland

species is available from a range of sources. Within the Canadian Wildlife service, the report “Invasive Plants of Canada: 1996 National Survey Results” identifies six principle wetland invasive species (*Myriophyllum spicatum* (eurasian milfoil), *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (european frog-bit), *Butomus umbellatus* (flowering rush), *Rhamnus cathartica* (glossy buckthorn), *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife), and *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canary grass)) and their occurrences in CWS-managed National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. The report “Invasive Plants of Natural Habitats in Canada - An Integrated Review of Wetland and Upland Species and Legislation Governing their Control” provides extensive information on invasive alien species in wetlands, including on their control and eradication, and is available at: (http://www.cws-cf.ec.gc.ca/habitat/inv/index_e.html).

Within the St. Lawrence Action Plan, a list of exotics present along the St. Lawrence River was prepared by screening the literature, web sites and museum collections. The database is maintained by the St. Lawrence Centre, and the list provides information on aquatic species from algae to plants to fish to invertebrates, including: name of organism, first location found in Great Lakes and in St. Lawrence River, years of introduction, first year of observation in St. Lawrence River, geographic origin of the species, most probable vectors of invasion, and references. Under St. Lawrence Vision 2000, a remote sensing project on Monitoring the State of the St. Lawrence River will contribute to establishing a monitoring program of wetland vegetation, more particularly the invasives *Phragmites australis* (common reed) and purple loosestrife.

Information on the eradication and control of invasive alien species is also held throughout the Canadian Wildlife Service. For example, staff at National Wildlife Areas are conducting research or undertaking invasive plant eradication and control actions. Projects to eradicate purple loosestrife using biological control methods are ongoing at Alaksen National Wildlife Area in British Columbia. In Saskatchewan, the first and second phases of the “Exotic and Noxious Plant Control Plan for the Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area” have been completed. Phase 1 summarizes the biology and control of individual invasive species, and Phase 2 is an inventory of species present on the NWA; it is expected that a control plan will be developed in the near future.

Environment Canada’s EcoAction Community Funding Program provides financial assistance to community based projects to eliminate or control invasive alien species that communities have identified as priorities. Many of these projects are focused on wetlands, and include the control of invasive alien species, the restoration of wetland and marsh habitats, and public awareness and education activities. While purple loosestrife is the focus of most of the projects, other targeted species include reed canary grass and American bullfrog. Environment Canada/Canadian Wildlife Service staff provide expert advice and review progress to ensure that approaches to species targeting and elimination are appropriate.

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**
Canada is currently building a comprehensive, Internet-based inventory of wetland management resource information on WetKit: Tools for Working with Wetlands in

Canada (www.wetkit.net).

Proposed national actions and targets:

Yr 2002/03: A report of wetland management resources on the above topics will be generated from WetKit and forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau, along with any resources not currently available in electronic form on the Internet.

Work with Ramsar Bureau to establish appropriate links to WetKit from Ramsar web site.

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

Environment Canada

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

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

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

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **N/A**

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

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **We are in the process of developing WetKit: Tools for Working with Wetlands in Canada (www.wetkit.net), to organize and improve access to all resource materials including wetland management policies and practices. Currently, WetKit provides a gateway to more than 300 tools that can Canadians and others to make a decision or take action to conserve wetlands.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Yr 2002/03: A listing of resource materials relating to wetland management policies and practices will be generated from WetKit and forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau, along with any resources not currently available in electronic form on the Internet.**

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

Environment Canada

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the guidelines available for this activity (see below: <i>Economic Valuation of Wetlands</i> handbook), this will be an area of higher priority in the next triennium. • Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be incorporating economic valuation of wetland services, functions and benefits into impact assessment and decision-making processes related to wetlands.
<p>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.</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done? Environmental impact assessment legislation at the federal and provincial levels in Canada do not specifically require economic valuation of ecological functions of any natural systems. One main reason for this lack of requirement is the high cost of such valuations, and the commitment of governments to keeping the cost of EIA reasonable while ensuring government decisions support sustainable economic development. However, in some cases where public health and safety may be threatened or there is a high degree of public interest, the institutions responsible for environmental approvals required by a proposed project may recommend or require economic valuations of wetland function, although this would be rare. Another major impediment to economic valuations is that it is very difficult to determine the economic value of certain aspects of wetland function that don't have a market value, like the conservation of "species at risk" for example. There is still a lot of work required to improve and consistently, accurately apply methods and techniques for economic valuation that don't underestimate intangible benefits.</p>
<p>If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases? It is not expected that EIA legislation in Canada will be amended to require, for all assessments, the economic valuation of the full range of wetland services, benefits and functions.</p>
<p>If Yes, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. N/A</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>2002/03: Amend the Canadian Wildlife Service Wetlands Environmental Assessment Guideline to indicate the importance of economic valuation of wetlands, and to reference methods, case studies, etc.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada</p>

Operational Objective 2.5: To carry out environmental impact assessments (EIAs) at wetlands, particularly of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which

have potential to affect them, notably at Ramsar sites, whose ecological character “is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference” (Article 3.2 of the Convention).

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.5.2 Ensure that, at Ramsar sites where change in ecological character is likely as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, EIAs are carried out (with due consideration of economic valuations of wetland benefits and functions), and that the resulting conclusions are communicated to the Ramsar Bureau and fully taken into account by the authorities concerned. [CPs]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, CPs will ensure that EIAs are applied to any such situation and keep the Bureau advised of the issues and the outcomes of these EIAs.**

Has an EIA been carried out in **all** cases where a change in the ecological character of a Ramsar site within your country was likely (or possible) as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Ownership of Ramsar sites varies; not all designated sites are located on federal or provincial crown land. Federal and provincial EIA legislation are triggered only if governments are involved in the proposed project either as the project proponent, or through land ownership, financial assistance, or a regulatory action (for example, provides a permit that allows a project to go ahead).**

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) **No Reply**

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets:

2002/03: Amend the Canadian Wildlife Service Wetlands Environmental Assessment Guideline to strongly recommend EAs in all cases where projects may potentially affect Ramsar sites.

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

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

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

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

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

The need for an environmental impact assessment in Canada is determined by both federal and provincial law. At the federal level, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) sets out the environmental assessment responsibilities and procedures of projects where the federal government holds the decision-making authority - whether it proposes a project, sells, leases or transfers control of the land, contributes money or other financial assistance, or exercises a regulatory or "permitting" duty. The need for an environmental assessment, consequently, is not determined by the presence of wetlands, rather, an environmental impact assessment is triggered by the involvement of federal authorities.

Reference to wetlands is contained in CEAA regulations. CEAA does provide a legislative framework for the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation that is used to guide the actions and decisions of a responsible federal authority when preparing an environmental assessment for a project that affects wetlands.

Authority over wetlands lies mainly with the provinces, by virtue of their ownership of the natural resources within their boundaries. Generally, it is not the nature of the project study area or "receiving environment" that triggers an environmental assessment at the provincial level in Canada. Only the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick have environmental legislation that requires an environmental impact assessment for both private and public projects affecting wetlands. Prince Edward Island, under the Environmental Protection Act, requires an environmental assessment and impact statement prior to the Minister of the Environment issuing a permit to alter a wetland or land within 10 metres of the wetland boundary. Nova Scotia requires an environmental assessment under the Environment Act for projects that will disrupt two hectares or more of wetland whether on private or public lands, and a less rigorous permit review for projects disrupting less than two hectares. Amendments to the Clean Environment Act in New Brunswick provide the statutory framework for environmental impact assessments. The Regulations require that all projects affecting two hectares or more of bog, marsh, swamp or other wetland must be submitted for registration with the Minister and be screened to determine whether an EIA is warranted, before any work on the actual project is begun.

The Province of Ontario's Natural Heritage Policies prohibit development and site alteration on certain "significant wetlands," and requires demonstration of no negative impacts on other significant wetlands and adjacent areas. All other provinces and territories have environmental legislation which has the potential to protect specific wetlands through the granting of permits, licenses or approvals.

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.) **No Reply**

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? N/A
Proposed national actions and targets: Ongoing: Encourage wetland protection as a standard operating practice for industry and development proponents. Maintain the WetKit web site (www.wetkit.net) as a comprehensive source of information on best practices when a development may threaten a wetland.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada

2.5.4 Take account of Integrated Environmental Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment (at local, provincial and catchment/river basin or coastal zone levels) when assessing impacts of development proposals or changes in land/water use. [CPs]
(Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country undertaken a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? N/A
If Yes , has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) No
Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? Yes – Proposed plans, programs, and policies of the federal government undergo strategic environmental assessment where appropriate, as directed by the 1999 "Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals."
Proposed national actions and targets: (see 2.1.1 above)
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.6.1 Use regional or national scientific inventories of wetlands (Recommendation 4.6), or monitoring processes, to identify wetlands in need of restoration or rehabilitation. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completion of such inventories is a continuing area of priority for the Convention.

- **Global Target - Restoration/rehabilitation inventories to be completed by at least 50 CPs by COP8.**

Has your country **completed** an assessment to identify its priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation? (COP7 Resolution VII.17) **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from being done? **For a country the size of Canada, efforts to identify priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation have been concentrated in those geographic regions that have suffered unacceptable levels of wetland loss.**

If this has been done for only part of the country, please indicate for which areas or river basins. **Priority wetlands have been identified under the various Ecosystem Initiatives: Atlantic Coastal Action Plan, St. Lawrence Action Plan, Great Lakes 2000 and Georgia Basin (<http://www2.ec.gc.ca/ecosyst/overview.html>).**

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (<http://www.nawmp.ca>) focuses on priority areas for habitat conservation: Joint Ventures have been set up to focus on critical habitat areas in North America including three in Canada – Pacific Coast Joint Venture; Prairie Habitat Joint Venture and the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture. These Joint Ventures currently target actions on about 2 million ha of Canada's wetlands.

Under the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, 42 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes basin have been identified which have impairments such as contaminated sediments, eutrophication and loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Many of these Areas of Concern contain wetlands. Also under this Agreement, Lakewide Management Plans have been developed for Lakes Superior, Erie and Ontario that consider conservation of the entire watershed.

A number of provincial programs exist that guide restoration and monitoring of wetlands. For example, British Columbia's Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping is a community based approach to mapping aquatic habitats and their riparian areas, primarily for settled areas of the province. The Inventory provides useful information about local fish and wildlife habitats at a scale of 1:5,000 for small to medium size watercourses, wetlands, ponds and small lakes. Adopting one standardized inventory and mapping method is key to successful land use planning by community groups and local/senior governments and it is essential for restoration and monitoring of British Columbia's urban water bodies.

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? **N/A**

If Yes, please provide details. The following exemplifies the accomplishments of major wetland restoration and rehabilitation programs of the last two decades:

North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP): NAWMP partners have worked since 1986 to conserve close to 700,000 hectares of wetland, shoreline, grassland and woodland habitat, the majority of which have been restored or enhanced to improve its value as waterfowl habitat.

The Wetland Habitat Fund: Provides Ontario landowners with financial assistance for projects that improve the ecological integrity of wetland habitats. The Fund is financially supported by Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Province of Ontario and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Partners. Two hundred and ninety-nine projects have been financially assisted by the Fund as of September 2000, enhancing over 3,041 hectares of wetland habitat and influencing 5,917 hectares total habitat. (<http://www.wetlandfund.com/>)

The Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan of Great Lakes 2020 brings together a number of government and non-governmental partners to conserve and rehabilitate the remaining wetlands in the Great Lakes Basin. To date, the Plan and its partners have protected 5,100 hectares of wetlands and adjacent uplands. More than 12, 750 hectares of wetlands have been rehabilitated (<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/glwcap/glwcap-e.html>)

Pacific Estuary Conservation Program: Established in 1987, this program received international recognition in May 1999 by winning the first Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for its contribution to preserving wetlands along the coast of British Columbia, Canada's Pacific province. In twelve years, the program acquired 1,612 hectares of private land on and around wetlands. More importantly, the program arranged the transfer and designation of 54,736 hectares of Crown lands for wildlife habitat. Since 1991, the program received significant funding from the Pacific Coast Joint Venture, an international partnership with conservation groups, landowners, corporations, and US federal and state agencies in Washington, Oregon and California. The program acts as the land acquisition arm of the Pacific Coast Joint Venture in British Columbia. The Joint Venture falls under the auspices of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. (http://www.ramsar.org/key_awards99_interview_pecp.htm)

St. Lawrence Action Plan: During the first two phases (1988-1998), 12,000 hectares of wildlife habitat were protected along the St. Lawrence and a number of wetlands development and restoration pilot projects were carried out.

Fraser River Action Plan: FRAP has contributed to the direct purchase of 440 hectares of wetlands on private land and to the protection of over 12,000 hectares of wetland and upland habitat on provincial crown land. The Interior Wetland Program, Interior Fraser Basin, completed over 20 demonstration projects on rangeland, protecting 1,300 hectares of wetland habitat and 6,300 hectares of upland habitat for waterfowl, while providing a secure supply of clean water for cattle.

Species at Risk Recovery: Wetland restoration and rehabilitation is also accomplished under the auspices of federal and provincial species at risk recovery programs. For example, within the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program of British Columbia, federal, provincial and non-government organizations are cooperating in the recovery of nationally listed species, including those associated with wetlands and riparian corridors which are uncommon features in this arid region. Recovery and rehabilitation efforts have been focused on the valley bottoms and highly productive oxbow systems that have suffered the greatest losses due to urban and agricultural expansion. Work has focused on minimizing further losses to wetlands and riparian

areas through fencing and controlled access and on revegetation, using indigenous plants. These habitats are breeding areas for the region's listed migratory bird species.

Proposed national actions and targets: **(Contained in the objectives of the Ecosystem Initiatives and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.)**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Environment Canada; NAWMP partners; Action Plan partners**

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? **We are in the process of developing WetKit: Tools for Working with Wetlands in Canada, to organize and improve access to all resource materials including those pertaining to restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Yr 2002/03: A listing of resource materials pertaining to restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands will be generated from WetKit and forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau, along with any resources not currently available in electronic form on the Internet.

Ongoing: Continue to develop methods, case studies and other resource information on wetland restoration and rehabilitation, and improve access to this information through WetKit www.wetkit.net

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

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? **N/A**

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).

All major habitat conservation initiatives in Canada now employ a partnership approach to achieving objectives. This section reviews some of the programs and funds that enable local communities and indigenous people to protect, restore, enhance, and manage wetlands.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan Joint Ventures are public-private partnerships of all the players in a region that can make wetland conservation happen on the ground: these partners often include local governments, First Nation councils, community groups and conservation organizations. A number of Plan projects work to restore wetlands that are then managed by the local community, such as the Delkatla Estuary. Newfoundland's municipal stewardship program continues to sign municipalities to stewardship agreements with the provincial government. The agreements protect wetlands through, for example, amendments to development plans or local regulations. Stewardship contributes to the health of the local environments, to public appreciation of habitat and other wetland functions, and to recreational

opportunities and in some cases to stabilizing and stimulating communities in rural and remote Canada. (see <http://library.fws.gov/Birdscapes> for Carmanville and Stephenville Crossing stories). A number of Plan projects have involved aboriginal communities as partners; Ducks Unlimited Canada is currently involved in projects with Siksika Nation that build on more than half a century of mutually beneficial projects on First Nation lands. (<http://library.fws.gov/Birdscapes/sprsum01/Ppcn.html>)

Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC), a national, non-profit, conservation organization supports conservation initiatives across Canada to build capacity to conserve habitat on the ground. The majority of WHC's funding comes from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters to validate their migratory game bird hunting permits. This program is possible through a special partnership with Environment Canada. Through WHC's granting program, these investments have supported the efforts of hundreds of partners delivering conservation projects across Canada valued at over \$350 million. Communities and indigenous peoples have been key partners in many of these projects. WHC is particularly committed to the conservation of, in recognition of the crucial role they play as habitat for wildlife, while providing economic and social benefits to people. WHC has invested over \$25 million in conservation projects benefiting wetlands since 1984. (www.whc.org)

The EcoAction Community Funding Program is an Environment Canada program that provides financial support to community groups for projects that have measurable, positive impacts on the environment. Non-profit groups and organizations are eligible to apply, such as community groups, environmental groups, aboriginal groups and First Nations councils, service clubs, associations and youth and seniors' organizations. EcoAction encourages projects that protect, rehabilitate or enhance the natural environment, and build the capacity of communities to sustain these activities into the future. (http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/index_e.htm)

Species at Risk Recovery programs often involve First Nations peoples in habitat projects. For example, within the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program of British Columbia, federal and provincial agencies are cooperating with the Okanagan Nation Alliance and other non-government organizations in the recovery of nationally listed species, including those associated with wetlands and riparian corridors. In that same province, the Seabird Island Indian Band is a partner in recovery of critically endangered amphibian populations found only in very limited wetland areas of the Fraser delta.

There are many other regional and provincial programs that encourage participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in wetland conservation. For example, the Great Lakes Program in Ontario involve members of local communities to develop and act on Remedial Action Plans to improve and protect wetlands and other habitats (<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/glimr/>). Under the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, numerous projects are being undertaken to create, rehabilitate and improve fish and wildlife habitat, including wetlands. The Wetlandkeepers program in British Columbia teaches individuals and community groups to inventory and monitor local habitat. Many of the participants in the Wetlandkeepers program are working towards wetland conservation in their own communities. (<http://www.bcwf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/wetlands.html>)

British Columbia's stewardship centre web site (<http://www.stewardshipcentre.org/>) is designed to help landowners, developers, volunteers, professionals, local governments and agencies whose everyday decisions affect habitat like wetlands. The site provides access to a variety of resources, including the acclaimed Stewardship Series. It also provides an opportunity for decision makers to share their own experiences through real world case study examples.

Local citizens' organizations have been assisted in their efforts to conserve several of Canada's most recent Ramsar sites, such as the Tabusintac Estuary and Lagoon in New Brunswick, Lac St. Pierre in Québec, and the Minesing Swamp in Ontario.

In Canada, aboriginal peoples have a history of living in harmony with the land, using natural resources and natural products. In many cases these are wetlands and peatlands. First Nation people in the Quebec City Region participated in the opening ceremonies for the Millennium Wetland Event in August 2000. During the Event, several major symposia involving indigenous people from Canada, Panama, Australia, Costa Rica, Brazil, St. Lucia and other nations were held offering a unique opportunity for development of native peoples' understanding of wetland resources. Proceedings of these meetings and new international networks are products of these meetings.

Businesses and programs in Canada support equal opportunity policies and many encourage the involvement of women. Information on the involvement of women in wetland conservation programs and projects is not available. However, as an indicator, the Millennium Wetland Event in August 2000 in Quebec estimated that 34% of the registrants to the conferences were women. The heads of the scientific committees for SWS, IPS and INTECOL and members of the Organizing Committee include leading female wetland scientists. Of the 59 symposia, 38% were chaired or co-chaired by women.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Maintain or increase the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in wetland conservation through these major programs.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Program managers and partners.**

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? **N/A**

If **Yes**, does this include both site managers and local communities, where they are not the same people? **Yes**

A number of programs encourage the involvement of site managers and communities in monitoring the ecological condition of wetlands, such as:

Frogwatch: A program of the Canadian Nature Federation and Environment Canada's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network, Frogwatch encourages participants to learn about the environment while helping to gather the information needed to protect it. By monitoring a site several nights over the calling season, Frogwatch participants can help scientists discover what frogs are calling where.

(<http://www.cnf.ca/frog/id.html>)

Marsh Monitoring Program: The Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) was initiated in 1994 by Long Point Bird Observatory (now Bird Studies Canada) and Environment Canada to provide information on the status and trends of marsh breeding amphibian and bird populations, particularly in highly impacted Great Lakes coastal wetlands (Areas of Concern). The MMP is a binational (Canada-US) volunteer-based program focused on surveying birds and calling frogs and toads in coastal and inland marsh habitats in the Great Lakes basin. (<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/mmpmain.html>)

Invading Species Awareness Program: The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources developed this program to encourage public participation in preventing the spread of invading species and to track the distribution of invaders into Ontario's inland waters.

(<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>)

The Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping Project: A community-led initiative that provides current information on habitat around streams and wetlands primarily for settlement areas of British Columbia. This 1:5,000 scale inventory and mapping project is watershed-based and provides up-to-date, reliable information about local fish and wildlife habitats for use in land use planning, restoration, and monitoring. Recent activities included two community workshops and the development of community accessible internet mapping and publishing tools. The Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory initiative (SEI) provides similar information for terrestrial areas on eastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and the Sunshine Coast that may include wetland habitats.

<http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/rib/cbs/sei/>

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

If **No**, what prevents this from happening? **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continue to actively encourage and support local communities site managers and local communities in monitoring the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Program managers and 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? **N/A**

If **Yes**, for how many sites are such committees in place? **Considering Ramsar, NAWMP, other protected area, endangered species habitat, and local community conservation sites, the number of wetland management committees in Canada is estimated to be in the thousands.**

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? **approximately 20**

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **2005: Increase the number of wetland site management committees in place at Ramsar sites.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Environment Canada and wetland conservation partners**

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? **N/A**

If **Yes**, please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice. **See examples in 2.7.1.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **By 2005: Maintain and increase special efforts to recognize and apply traditional knowledge and management practice of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **All wetland program partners.**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.8.1. Encourage the private sector to give increased recognition to wetland attributes, functions and values when carrying out projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, the efforts to work in partnership with the private sector will be further increased and the Bureau will seek to document and make available case studies on some of the more effective and innovative approaches. By COP8, the target is to have private sector support for wetlands conservation in more than 100 CPs.**

Have **special efforts been made** to increase the recognition of wetland attributes, functions and values among the private sector in your country? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **N/A**

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

Canada hosted a set of global conferences on wetland science, management and policy from August 6-12, 2000 – The Millennium Wetland Event. A total of 2,068 participants came from across Canada and 68 other nations. This Event was the result of considerable support by many groups – in particular the involvement of the private sector including many corporations involved in the peat industry, wetland technology, habitat restoration and natural resource use nationally and worldwide. Over 40 private sector companies, particularly in the peat resources and wetland wastewater technology areas, were involved as financial donors to the core program, in provision of specialized papers, as exhibitors, and as event sponsors. The Event hosted 59 Invited Papers Symposia, 70 Contributed Papers Sessions, and an extensive Trade Show and Exhibition. Over 1,300 papers were presented on key issues concerning wetlands and peatlands. This included water quality protection, sustainable resource use, education, species at risk and wildlife habitat, the role of carbon in climate change, and wetland restoration.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (<http://www.nawmp.ca>) continues to be a driving force in promoting the appreciation and conservation of wetlands across vast working landscapes of Canada. The Plan is strongly focused on private and corporate land stewardship of privately owned wetlands to enhance waterfowl and biodiversity conservation. More than 700,000 ha of key habitat has been secured and enhanced. Plan partners include forest industry corporations like Stora Enso, Bowater Mersey Paper Company Limited and Kimberly Clark Corporation. Corporate conservation efforts include developing management plans to enhance wetland habitat, modifying forest harvest practices to protect wetlands, and developing nest sites for

species such as wood ducks and hooded mergansers.

Wildlife Habitat Canada (<http://www.whc.org>) promotes the belief that wildlife habitat can be an integral part of all working landscapes through careful planning and management by landowners, industry and other resource users both inside and outside protected areas. From urban centres to agricultural fields and forest operations, Wildlife Habitat Canada invests conservation funds in projects and programs that promote private sector recognition of the importance of wetlands. For example, in 1999, WHC partnered with Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest and four other organizations to encourage woodlot owners in Quebec to sign a memorandum of understanding agreeing to protect and conserve wetlands located on their land voluntarily. The project has confirmed that informed woodlot owners are more than willing to conserve resources on their land. Wildlife Habitat Canada was a major partner in the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program, which was recognized in 1999 with an international award from the Ramsar Convention bureau for its contributions to wetland conservation (see section 2.6.1). In honour of this award, WHC published and distributed a pamphlet illustrating the contributions of Canadian sportsmen to the conservation of Ramsar sites in Canada.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) (<http://www.wetlandscanada.org>), a committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative Council, published "A Wetland Conservation Vision for Canada" to map out the cooperative work required of governments, non-government organizations and the private sector. The Council negotiated Memoranda of Understanding on wetland conservation with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. It also spearheads the innovative and ever-evolving web site project "WetKit: Tools for Working with Wetlands in Canada (www.wetkit.net)." This site is a model for environmental information management and offers "one-stop shopping" for wetland stewardship information, technologies and advice. It presents practical, cost-effective management tools for industry, communities and landowners.

The Income Tax Act of Canada and Loi de l'impôt sur le revenu du Québec were amended to promote private and corporate land donations of ecologically sensitive lands to conservation trusts, conservancies, municipalities and Crown agencies. More than 25,000 ha of important habitat, including many wetlands have been donated, valued at in excess of CA \$30 million from 1996-2000.

Industry and conservation organizations have banded together in the Biodiversity Stewardship and Resource Industries Forum (BSRI), aimed at promoting conservation and stewardship partnerships between natural resource industries, conservation organizations and Aboriginal and rural communities. The BSRI will promote biodiversity stewardship by facilitating: information sharing among stakeholders about biodiversity and leading practices for the conservation of wildlife and habitat; partnerships for the conservation of wildlife and habitat relying on voluntarism and trust to produce measurable results; promotion of global wildlife and habitat conservation through communication of Canadian leading practices worldwide. (<http://www.cbin.ec.gc.ca/cbin/HTML/en/networks/Bsri/default.cfm>)

Many other initiatives are aimed at increasing awareness and participation of the private sector in wetland conservation. For example, British Columbia's Stewardship

Series is an award-winning series of publications offering land and watershed stewardship information to private landowners, developers, planners, local governments and the public. This library of information is a product of many partners and the cooperative efforts of conservation agencies, professional associations, local, provincial and federal governments and individuals in British Columbia. The series contains guides to “Access near aquatic areas” and the “Wetlandkeepers Handbook:” all are available to download or read through the Stewardship Centre for British Columbia website (<http://www.stewardshipcentre.org>.)

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

If **No**, why not? **Individually, many of the private sector programs and projects have enjoyed substantial success. However, the consensus among regional wildlife biologists and conservation experts is that Canada continues to lose wetlands. In particular, the cumulative effects of continuing loss of small wetlands in Southern Canada is of concern. One of the main challenges to stemming this loss is the limited authority of governments on private land, where officials and conservationists can only encourage or provide incentives for wetland protection and stewardship. Although public awareness of the ecological functions and benefits of wetlands has increased and continues to improve, private sector decisions often favour short term economic gain rather than long term ecological health. There are two underlying problems: lack of knowledge of wetland functions and benefits and, in some cases, lack of willingness on the part of private landowners to pay the cost of providing a "public good" by maintaining natural systems for their ecological services.**

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? **Success is judged by the growing area of wetland secured and enhanced by habitat conservation initiatives; success stories; industry involvement in NAWCC/BSRI initiatives; evidence, in environmental assessment, of the adoption of wetland conservation techniques as standard mitigation procedures, and their incorporation into class assessments as they are developed.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **By 2005: Maintain and increase these special efforts to improve the recognition of wetland functions and values among the private sector in Canada.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **All wetland program partners.**

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

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

Refer to 2.8.1 above. Has your government **completed** a review of its “existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use” (COP7 Resolution VII.15)? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has been the impediment to this being done? **Please see response to 2.1.1**

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 see response to 2.1.1**

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

If **No**, why not? **N/A**

If **Yes**, please describe how. **Please see response to 2.1.1**

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: **Please see response to 2.1.1**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Please see response to 2.1.1**

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

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

Refer to 2.7.2 above. In addition, have **any special efforts** been made to encourage the private sector involvement in monitoring? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **N/A**

If Yes, describe these special efforts. **Academic institutions are teaming up with conservation agencies to accomplish wetland inventory and monitoring projects, such as the Welland River project in Ontario** (http://www.niagarac.on.ca/gis/welland_river_wetlands.htm) involving **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Niagara College, and the Experimental Lakes Area project in Ontario lead by the University of Manitoba, Freshwater Institute** (<http://www.umanitoba.ca/institutes/fisheries/index.html>)

At the provincial level, the British Columbia government's recent and ongoing projects to assess riparian management (including wetlands) have encouraged private sector involvement. For example, the Spius Creek Watershed Temperature Monitoring project is sponsored by a consortium of forestry companies in the Nicola Valley. This project examines water temperature issues in the watershed and includes wetland monitoring. Provincial and federal government staff and First Nations all provided significant input and leadership to study design and results interpretation.

AND: How successful has this been? **Very successful. These joint efforts have produced valuable, long-term results that have guided policy and management efforts.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **By 2005: Maintain and increase special efforts to encourage the private sector involvement in monitoring.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **All program managers and partners.**

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

- **Global Target - As indicated under 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 above, the establishment of cross-sectoral and stakeholder management committees for wetlands, and especially Ramsar sites, will be a priority in the next triennium.**

Refer to 2.7.3 above



GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3

TO RAISE AWARENESS OF WETLAND VALUES AND FUNCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND AT ALL LEVELS

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

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

Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below

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

Has your country **taken any action** to help with the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for information/education resource development? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **N/A**

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 Canadian Joint Ventures of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan customize their approach to habitat conservation -- including education and public awareness programs -- based on the Plan's Joint Venture partnerships' thorough knowledge of regional ecological and socio-economic characteristics and requirements. Their program design reflects these needs. For example, surveys by the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture indicated that urban residents don't think much about the small remnant wetlands in their midst, rarely identifying wetlands as an important characteristic of their neighbourhoods. It was concluded that an important element of wetland conservation in this area was public education and awareness programs that emphasized that "healthy wetlands means a healthy environment." As part of this program, NAWMP built a wetland exhibit at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park near Halifax, Nova Scotia that emphasizes the importance of wetlands to a healthy environment and that "habitat" starts when you step out of your front door, not 30 km outside of town.

Proposed national actions and targets: **By 2005: Maintain actions to identify regional education and public awareness needs.**

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9). **Canada hosted the Millennium Wetland Event in Quebec City in August, 2000. A total of 59 Invited Papers Symposia and Round Table Workshops were held during the Event. (See 3.1.3 for additional details on the Event.) Organizers were encouraged to develop legacy products or publications to communicate presentations, discussions, or results of the symposia or workshop. Twenty-five projects are underway or completed, and will result in, for example newsletters, books, a Web-based Intranet to facilitation international dialogue on wetland issues, etc.**

The Canadian International Development Agency has supported the development of communications, education and public awareness materials in several of their wetland-focused projects, including recently in a project to conserve critical wetlands of the Zambezi River Basin, in part by communicating the true value of wetlands to the region's people and key decision makers.

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None.**

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Canada, Mexico and the United States are cooperating in a program called "Linking communities, wetlands and migratory birds." The program facilitates the sharing of conservation techniques and information through youth education, communication and ecotourism development among the sites. Exchanges of community members to the sites have resulted in a greater recognition and conservation effort for the continued survival of migratory shorebirds. Linkages have been established among schools at these sites and contact among residents and municipal government officials is ongoing.
<http://www.wetland.sk.ca/lcwmbp/> (see 4.2.6 for further information on this program)

Canada hosted a set of global conferences on wetland science, management and policy from August 6-12, 2000 - The Millennium Wetland Event. A total of 2,068 participants came from across Canada and 68 other nations. (See 3.1.3 for additional details on the Event.) Quebec 2000 was the first opportunity of the new millennium to meet, hear about and discuss the latest innovations, challenges and directions in wetland and peatland science. This international event featured a high-profile roster of some of the

world's most respected research authorities and industry and environmental leaders. It was a unique opportunity to transfer information among global wetland research centres, scientists and educators.

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative is launching demonstration projects for habitat conservation in Canada, United States and Mexico, under the auspices of North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation.

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

If **No**, what is preventing this from happening? **Canada remains interested in the Wetlands Link International initiative, but this program does not appear to be active at this time.**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **N/A**

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. **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None**

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Did your Government **inform** the Ramsar Bureau by 31 December 1999 of the identity of its Government and Non-Government Focal Points for wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Canada has an excellent but diffuse national network of expertise. No logical node exists and no resources are available to create one.**

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **N/A**

If **Yes**, please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force. **The Federal Wetlands Forum, with non-government advisors, was established in February 2001. The Forum comprises membership of more than a dozen federal agencies, including those responsible for national defence, public works, environment, agriculture, the national capital, national parks, transport, etc. Wildlife Habitat Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada advise the Forum. The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada), a committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative Council, acts as Secretariat to the Forum. The Forum's letter of agreement is open to additional signatures.**

AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Lack of staff time.**

If **Yes**, is the Action Plan being implemented effectively? **No Reply**

If **No**, what is preventing this from occurring? **No Reply**

If **Yes**, what are the priority target groups of the Action Plan and the major activities being undertaken? **No Reply**

AND: Has a copy of this plan been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? **No Reply**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None at this time.**

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

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**

<p>If No, what has been the impediment to such action being taken? N/A</p>
<p>If Yes, how successful has this been? Successful.</p>
<p>AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites?</p> <p>Although a complete count of all active education centres at wetland sites has not been undertaken, the following is a partial list:</p> <p>Ducks Unlimited Conservation Centre, New Brunswick (http://www.ducks.ca/fredcons/index.html)</p> <p>Sackville Waterfowl Park, New Brunswick (http://www.sackvillewaterfowlpark.com/)</p> <p>Tantramar Wetlands Centre, New Brunswick (http://www.weted.com/home.html)</p> <p>Daly Point Preserve, New Brunswick (http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/dpierre/webdoc3.htm)</p> <p>Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area, Quebec (http://www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune/html/nwa_ct.html)</p> <p>Cooper Marsh Conservation Area, Raisin Region Conservation Authority, Ontario (http://www.rrca.on.ca/cooper.htm)</p> <p>Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, Ontario http://www.cryston.ca/wyemarsh/</p> <p>Fort Whyte Centre, Manitoba (http://www.fortwhyte.org)</p> <p>Oak Hammock Marsh and Interpretive Centre, Manitoba (http://www.ducks.ca/ohmic/)</p> <p>Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, British Columbia (http://www.crestonwildlife.ca)</p> <p>George Reiffel Wildlife Management Area, British Columbia</p>
<p>How many centres are being established? and at what sites? Unknown at this time</p>
<p>How many centres are being planned? and at what sites?</p> <p>Oshawa Second Marsh, Ontario</p> <p>Canadian Museum of Nature, Quebec (Pink Road Consolidation Facility)</p>
<p>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? The Wetlands Link International network has been an informal one to date, comprising a list of those centres who received the WLI newsletter and corresponded through the Secretariat. A number of Canadian sites have been members of this informal network including Oak Hammock Marsh and Interpretive Centre.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>By 2005: To maintain and increase the number of education centres at wetland sites.</p> <p>As the new Wetlands Link International network gears up, provide a contact list of those centres that would benefit from such a link.</p>

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

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

- **Global Target - see 3.2.3 above**

Do **all** museums, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities in your country **have exhibits** and/or programmes that support non-formal wetland CEPA? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **There are too many museums, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities in Canada to promote and track non-formal wetland CEPA exhibits or programmes.**

If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? There is no comprehensive count of the facilities with exhibits or programmes in place that support non-formal wetland CEPA, however, selected examples of wetland programmes/exhibits are as follows:

The Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, Nova Scotia, presents wildlife and their habitat in an interpretive format that focuses on the role of species in the ecosystem. The Wildlife Park is now home to a NAWMP exhibit consisting of a large tank that bisects a wetland, with interpretive resources discussing the importance of wetlands in our environment for oxygen, reducing carbon, purifying our drinking water, providing wildlife habitat, etc. (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildpark/wldprk2a.htm>)

The Metro Toronto Zoo, Ontario, together with Ducks Unlimited Canada, has collaborated on a number of projects that demonstrate the biodiversity and importance of wetlands in the cycling and processing of water. Wetlands Ontario, Wetland Habitat Exhibits Area and Waterway Wetlands allow for habitat restoration and aim to provide homeowners with models they can apply in their schools, parks and public lands to rehabilitate or create wetland area. The Zoo also leads the Adopt-A-Pond wetland conservation program that stresses participation on a community level. (<http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/>)

The Ontario Science Centre features a wetland restoration project and an interpretive program called "Wetlands Walk" at its facility in Toronto. (<http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/>)

The Biodome of Montreal, Quebec, houses thousands of live plants and animals in "engineered" natural landscapes, including freshwater and marine wetland ecosystems from tropical to arctic temperatures. The Biodome also offers education programs and is involved in a number of conservation programs for endangered species and scientific research programs. (<http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/biodome/ebdm.htm>)

The Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre in British Columbia heads up the River Works 2000 Watershed Stewardship Project is working to restore wetlands at several sites in the Fraser River Watershed. The Centre also involves volunteers in the

Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, and their aquatic education program features an intermediate program focusing on the diversity of wetland habitats.
(<http://www.vanaqua.org/>)

The Royal Botanical Gardens, Ontario, protects almost 1,000 hectares of sanctuaries, including wetlands, accessible on over 30 km of nature trails. The Gardens also participates in the Hamilton Harbour and Cootes Paradise fish and wildlife habitat restoration project. (<http://www.rbg.ca>)

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? **The Wetlands Link International network has been an informal one to date, comprising a list of facilities who received the WLI newsletter and corresponded through the Secretariat.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **By 2002/03: Establish a system for tracking information on wetland facilities, and improving access to this information.**

As the new Wetlands Link International network gears up, provide a contact list of those centres that would benefit from such a link.

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what is preventing this from occurring? **Provinces control curricula of primary and secondary levels and university; environmental education curriculum requirements vary throughout the country depending on provincial priorities.**

If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details. **Information not available for curricula requirements across the country. However, numerous educational modules related to wetlands are referenced in WetKit (www.wetkit.net).**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Yr 2002/03: A listing of education modules on wetlands will be generated from WetKit and forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau.**

Ongoing: Continue to develop wetland education modules and improve access to this information through WetKit www.wetkit.net.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **All wetland program partners.**

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. **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None**

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

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? **N/A**

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

AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? **All**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Environment Canada has provided extensive Ramsar national-level information on its web site (www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca) and is considering creating a national email network through WetKit for Ramsar issues.**

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



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)

□ □ □

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? N/A
If Yes , what were the conclusions and outcomes of the review? (Refer to 4.1.2 also). Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada will continue to be the National Authority Office.
Proposed national actions and targets: None
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada

4.1.2 On the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase cooperation and synergy between institutions; • promote the continued operation of these institutions; • provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, for these institutions. [CPs]

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - By COP8, to see coordinating mechanisms in place in all CPs, and more particularly to see National Ramsar Committees including government and non-government stakeholder representatives, in place in more than 100 CPs. In addition, by COP8, all CPs that have reported the existence of NRCs at COP7 to have evaluated their effectiveness (COP7 Resolution VII.27).
Refer also to 8.1.9. Does your country have a National Ramsar Committee or similar body? No
If No , what has prevented the establishment of such a committee? This function is filled indirectly by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) (www.wetlandscanada.org) (now a committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative Council) and its Secretariat in Ottawa, in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service. The Council comprises federal, provincial, North American Waterfowl Management Plan joint ventures, and NGO partner agencies. Also, federal agencies are coordinating delivery of national and international wetland commitments through the newly formed Federal Wetlands Forum. More than a dozen federal departments are currently represented on the Forum, including Industry, Natural Resources, Fisheries and Oceans, Environment, Agriculture, Defence, etc. Membership in the Forum is open to expanding in the future to include provincial governments as well as non-government organizations.
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? See above
Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? No Reply
If No , what has prevented this from happening? See above.
If Yes , did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? No Reply
If No , why not? N/A
Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.
Proposed national actions and targets: Ensure that the Council and the Forum continue to promote cooperation and synergy in achieving Ramsar objectives.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada

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? Training needs analyses have undertaken by various jurisdictions, however a comprehensive, national analysis is not practical at this time.
If Yes , have the results of this analysis been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? No Reply
If No , why not? N/A
<p>If Yes, how has this been done? Assessments of wetland training needs have been conducted by the federal government, several provinces and local municipalities. The results have led to the development of several training initiatives in Canada, such as:</p> <p>The Temperate Wetlands Restoration Training Course – An intensive five-day introductory course developed by a committee of representatives from Ducks Unlimited, Environment Canada, Trent University and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The course provides participants with well-balanced approach to the management of wetland restoration within the framework of policies and guidelines of the province of Ontario, and practical instruction in wetland restoration. Participants travel by bus to many sites through central and south-west Ontario to view various types of restorations, undertaken in a range of management situations. Written and practical exercises are provided to challenge participants and encourage a learning atmosphere. http://www.trentu.ca/wsc/wetlandsrestorecourse.shtml</p> <p>Wetlandkeepers – A program of the British Columbia Wildlife Federation, supported by Environment Canada and other agencies to teach individuals and groups to inventory and monitor local habitats. Many of the participants in the Wetlandkeepers program are working towards wetland conservation in their communities. The Wetlandkeepers Program has four main thrusts: a handbook, training, liaison and outreach. The handbook provides an overview of wetland ecology, extensive information on laws and rights regarding wetland conservation and step-by-step procedures for conducting wetland inventories, cleaning-up saltwater marshes and raising awareness of wetlands. A two and one-half day workshop provides hands-on practice of at area wetlands in boundary mapping, plant inventory, water quality measurements, soil sampling and birding. People interested in arranging a course in their community contact the Provincial Wetlandkeepers Coordinator who can help arrange a course through an educational institution in the area. http://www.bcdf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/wetlands.html</p> <p>The Wetland Institute – Also administered by the British Columbia Wildlife Federation, the Institute has a similar focus to the Wetlandkeeper Course, but it is more rigorous in</p>

its delivery, includes an education component and provides time for participants to create their own wetland project plans. It is a six-day course with a high instructor-to-participant ratio and consists of a combination of classroom work field study and guest speakers. As a result of the 1998 Institute there are a number of new wetland projects on the ground in British Columbia, including a large land acquisition plan near Cumberland on Vancouver Island, and mapping and video projects in Vancouver. <http://www.bcwf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/wetlands.html>

Working with Wetlands Training Course – A training course developed and delivered by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) and Environment Canada. It is designed for federal officers and consultants involved in environmental assessment, development planning, real property transactions, and land use planning and management. Participants learn why wetlands are important, what is expected of federal officials, and how to carry out wetland responsibilities. They are introduced to resources that can help them to take an ecological approach to wetland management, and they have an opportunity for hands-on practice in solving wetland management problems. The course ranges from one to three days in length, and includes field and classroom study. Experts in wetland ecology, policy and natural resources management are involved in course delivery. <http://www.wetkit.net/showtool.cfm?tool=221>

Other institutes offering wetlands training:

Trent University Watershed Science Centre – A unique interdisciplinary and inter-institutional alliance for integrated science, facility sharing, expert consultation, management services, training and technology transfer on watershed ecosystem management, health, protection and rehabilitation. The Centre leads and encourages the development of integrated scientific analysis and understanding of ecological processes within watersheds. Their goal is to transfer this knowledge and provide a focus for further collaboration, and integration by partners, sponsors and clients. <http://www.trentu.ca/wsc/>

University of Waterloo Wetlands Research Centre – Committed to research and training on all aspects of wetlands, including evaluation and classification, ecology, hydrology, geochemistry, function, values, management and conservation. The Centre provides both undergraduate/graduate programs and professional short courses on topics of research at the Wetlands Research Centre, both within the university and with interested agencies and the general public. <http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/Research/Wetlands/>

University of Manitoba Field Station (Delta Marsh) – A field research and teaching facility of the Faculty of Science at the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada), is located on the south shore of Lake Manitoba. It borders Delta Marsh, a Ramsar site, that is one of the largest lacustrine marshes in North America. http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/science/delta_marsh/

AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? **Increased awareness among hundreds of federal officers, consultants, wetland managers and the public regarding obligations and opportunities for wetlands conservation and restoration.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continue to support the development and delivery**

of training programs such as Working with Wetlands, Temperate Wetlands Restoration Course and Wetlandkeepers.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Environment Canada and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada)**

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

- **Global Target - By COP8, to have reviews of training opportunities completed in more than 75 CPs.**

Has your country **completed** a review of the training opportunities which exist therein? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **Lack of staff time.**

If **Yes**, have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? **No Reply**

If **No**, why not? **Reviews of existing training opportunities have been undertaken by various jurisdictions over the past several years, however a comprehensive, national review is not practical at this time.**

If **Yes**, how has this been done? **N/A**

AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? **N/A**

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: **Ongoing: To continue to offer training opportunities and to improve tracking of and access to information on training opportunities through WetKit www.wetkit.net.**

2002/03: To forward a WetKit-generated listing of training opportunities to Ramsar Bureau.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) and Environment Canada**

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. **See 4.2.1 above**

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 update and forward information on wetland training opportunities to Ramsar Bureau via the WetKit Internet site.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) and Environment Canada**

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? **No , N/A**
- Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? **No , N/A**
- Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? **No , N/A**
- Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? **Yes , information regarding training courses for wetland managers is gathered and disseminated through the WetKit Internet site.**

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. **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None**

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

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? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **N/A**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **Canada has participated in the Trilateral Canada-USA-Mexico Committee on Wildlife Conservation and Ecosystem Management since its establishment in 1996. Two meetings in February 1997 and March 1998 have identified the need for and creation of a Continental Wetlands Table under this structure. Meetings of this Table have directly involved consultations on continental Ramsar issues.**

Canada provided funding to, and participated in, the regional consultation meeting for North and Central America and Caribbean Parties in Honduras, September 2001.

Canada, Mexico and the United States are cooperating in a program called "Linking communities, wetlands and migratory birds." The program was developed in 1997 through the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) and involves the participation of Wetlands International, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), State of Utah Department of Natural Resources, Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation, and TransCanada PipeLines. It aims to develop local conservation strategies for critical shorebird sites such as Marismas Nacionales in Nayarit, Mexico, Great Salt Lake in Utah, United States, Chaplin Lake and Quill Lakes areas of Saskatchewan. The program facilitates the sharing of conservation techniques and information through youth education, communication and ecotourism development among the sites. Exchanges of community members to the sites have resulted in a greater recognition and conservation effort for the continued survival of migratory shorebirds. Linkages have been established among schools at these sites and contact among residents and municipal government officials is ongoing. (<http://www.wetland.sk.ca/lcwmbp/>)

Bird Studies Canada, in association with the Canadian Wildlife Service, have sponsored the Latin American Training Program annually since 1995. This project enables three Latin American biologists to spend an entire month at Long Point Bird Observatory, refining their field and teaching skills, so they can return to their respective countries and spread their learning to the many. To date, participants from Cuba, Mexico, Jamaica, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Puerto Rico, Panama, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. (<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/latinpro.html>)

The Canadian Wildlife Service has partnered with Wetlands International - Americas on the South American Wetland Assessment. This recently completed project has been a multi-year evaluation of programs and policies plus an identification of wetland issues and key wetland areas for focusing conservation efforts. It is a potential model for wetland assessment around the globe. (<http://www.wetlands.org/SAA/>)

The Canadian Wildlife Service and University of Waterloo have participated as lecturers in four Mexican National Managers Training Courses since 1997.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continue to participate in wetland conservation initiatives with southern neighbours.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **All wetland conservation agencies.**



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
<p>5.1.1 Define and apply the precise measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, in the light of the working definitions of ecological character adopted at the 6th COP (1996) and amended by Resolution VII.10 of COP7. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, each CP will seek to ensure that the measures required to maintain the ecological character of at least half of the Ramsar sites have been documented.
Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites in your country been documented? Yes
If No , what has prevented this being done? N/A
If Yes , has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? Yes
AND: Has a copy been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? No
Proposed national actions and targets: A national update of a 1995 review of the status of Ramsar sites management plans in 2002-2003.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to 2.5.2 - In the COP7 National Reports, 35 CPs reported Ramsar sites where some change in ecological character had occurred or was likely to occur in the near future. This was true for 115 sites in 33 CPs, and two other CPs stated that changes had occurred to all or some of their sites. In COP7 Resolution VII.12, these CPs were urged to consider nominating these sites to the Montreux Record. Global Target – In the period up to COP8, promote the application and benefits of the Montreux Record as a tool of the Convention through disseminating reports and publications on the positive outcomes achieved by a number of countries which have now removed sites from the Record.
Refer to 2.7.2 and 2.8.3 also. Are regular internal reviews undertaken to identify factors

potentially altering the ecological character of Ramsar sites? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? N/A
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? Several Ramsar sites have been heavily impacted by overgrazing by migratory geese including sites in the subarctic zone including the Queen Maud Gulf and McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in Nunavut Territory. Field aspects of land cover mapping projects (based on ground-truthing of LANDSAT images) have been completed at both sites. Biologists are using this technique to assess the geographic extent of the impact by grazing from overabundant snow geese. Analysis and report preparation from these studies is partially completed. In the meantime, new harvest regulations have been implemented in Canada that permit the hunting of snow geese in the spring, as well as hunting with different techniques. One of the goals of these new regulations is to reduce numbers of adult snow geese returning to breed at arctic colonies.
AND: Were these sites where change in ecological character was detected, or may occur, added to the Montreux Record? No
If No , why not? Changes in ecological character of northern sites are not human induced, and thus fall outside Montreux Record rationale.
Proposed national actions and targets: By 2005: Complete biological assessments and reports of impacts, and determine effectiveness of new regulations on snow goose populations.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada

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? No Reply
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? N/A
If Yes , have these actions resulted in a restoration of the ecological character? No Reply

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **N/A**

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

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?

The last review in 1995 indicated that 15 of 32 sites had management plans in compliance with Ramsar Resolution 5.7; 11 additional sites had plans under revision or development; four sites in Nunavut Territory are required to have plans in place by 2009, (subject to funding under Inuit Impact Benefits Agreements (IIBA) as established through the Nunavut Territorial Land Claim) and four sites had no plans. Since 1995, four additional sites have been added to Canada's Ramsar network bringing the total to 36. Two of these recent additions currently have management plans in place, two have plans under development.

If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. **Plans are in revision or development for nine sites:**

Mer Bleue, ON

Musquodoboit, NS

Southern Bight, NS

Dewey Soper, NU

McConnell River, NU

Queen Maud Gulf, NU

Malpeque Bay, PEI

Tabusintac, NB

Lac St. Pierre, QC

For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they? **Management plans are being fully implemented in 23 sites:**

Chignecto, NB

Shepody Bay, NB (partial coverage of area only)

Lac St. Francois, QC

Baie de L'Isle-Verte, QC

Cap Tourmente, QC

Long Point, ON

Point Pelee National Park, ON

Minesing Swamp, ON

Matchedash Bay, ON

St. Clair, ON

Polar Bear Provincial Park, ON

Delta Marsh, MB

Oak Hammock Marsh, MB

Last Mountain Lake, SK

Quill Lakes, SK

Beaverhill Lake, AB

Whooping Crane Range, AB/NWT (Partial coverage only, for area within National Park)

Alaksen, BC

Creston Valley, BC

Vuntut National Park and Old Crow Flats, YT

Wood Buffalo, NWT

Peace-Athabasca, NWT

Polar Bear Pass, NU (will be affected by IIBA process)

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done? **For some sites, lack of official protective status makes management organization difficult. In Canada's newest territory, Nunavut, management plans will not be developed until the signing of Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements between the Governments of Canada and Nunavut. It is not known when this will occur.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **A review is proposed for 2002/03 to update this information.**

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

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? **N/A**

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **Sites in National Parks, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, National Wildlife Areas and provincial parks or wildlife areas are protected through the appropriate federal or provincial legislation. In 2000, 90% of the land area in Canada's Ramsar network was located on lands and waters protected through federal, territorial, or provincial legislation and regulations, where zoning measures are used to regulate activities allowed in different parts of the site. The remaining 10% of the Ramsar network area, some on private lands, is governed by landowner stewardship agreements.**

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool? **Yes, none of Canada's Ramsar sites have experienced ecological change attributed to direct human effects.**

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: **Continue promoting zoning as an effective measure for protecting Ramsar sites.**

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

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? **N/A**

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? (See 5.2.4) **Many other wetlands are protected through landowner stewardship programs. Since 1986, over 750,000 ha of wetlands were secured through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Over 10,000 ha of wetlands have been protected as Ecogifts across Canada since 1996.**

AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool? **Yes, none of Canada's Ramsar sites have experienced ecological change attributed to direct human effects.**

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: **By 2005:**

Continue to monitor Ramsar areas that do not have official protective status: Rasmussen Lowland (NU), Delta Marsh (MB), Minesing Swamp (ON), Minas Basin (NS).

Assess impact of overabundant goose populations on sites in Nunavut Territory, and implement management strategies.

Continue promoting strict protection measures as effective for protecting certain Ramsar sites.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Federal , provincial and territorial agencies.**

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? **Does Not Apply**

If **No**, what is preventing this from being done? **We are aware some Canadian sites have poor quality maps, in particular for sites designated prior to 1987. Many of these maps have been improved and are available on several web sites: an effort to supply these to**

the Ramsar Bureau is underway.

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? **Does Not Apply**

If **No**, what is preventing this from being done? **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets:

The last major update to our text files was in 1993 -94 in advance of COP6, we have not had the opportunity to launch such a review due to lack of staff time. Over 400 pages of text files require review.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Environment Canada and Ramsar site owners/managers.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

5.4.1 Assess data currently available in the database and identify any gaps in the data provided by Contracting Parties. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]

Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.

5.4.4 Support the establishment of national wetland databases compatible with the Ramsar Database and develop a common protocol to facilitate exchange and interaction. [CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland databases in over 50 CPs which are accessible globally.**

Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? **No**

If **No**, what is preventing such a database being established? **Canada is a vast country, and provinces and territories have the primary responsibility for the management of wetlands and other natural resources. Their priority has been to accomplish the wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring required to manage the resource within their boundaries. Several provinces (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick) have complete inventories, all other provinces have -- at the very least -- detailed wetland**

inventories of the highly-populated regions where wetland conservation is a priority. Although a number of initiatives have investigated the potential for integrating existing data into a national database, the cost thus far has not been justified. Data integration is currently under review as part of a proposed National Habitat Inventory and Monitoring Program. A national working group met in the Fall of 2000 to discuss a path forward, led by Environment Canada. Ducks Unlimited Canada has a detailed corporate inventory for North American Waterfowl Management Plan priority areas, particularly in the Prairies.
If Yes, is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? No
If No, why not? Access to regional or provincial/territorial inventories varies. With limited financial resources, governments place the priority for wetland inventory squarely on developing inventories for government land use decisions. With increasing interest in conservation partnerships with the public and non-government organizations, as well as the development of Internet technology, wetland inventory maps and databases are increasingly available electronically.
AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes/No
If Yes, please provide details. The WetKit Internet site contains information and links to, or contact details for, most wetland inventories and databases in the country.
If No, why not? N/A
AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No
If Yes, please provide details. N/A
If No, why not? See above.
Proposed national actions and targets: Continue to maintain WetKit Internet site to keep updated information and links to, or contact details for, most wetland inventories and databases in the country.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Various.



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? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such a list of sites being prepared? **Several national evaluations of potential wildlife protection areas have been produced but not widely published, many of these are high priority wetland sites under consideration for protection by various agencies and NGO groups.**

A least 25-30 proposed Ramsar sites are under general consideration across Canada. Each requires an extensive consultation process, none of which are currently complete. Most such sites are located on provincial or private lands.

If **Yes**, when was it prepared and was it prepared taking into consideration the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (COP7 Resolution VII.11)? **N/A No Reply**

AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To actively encourage completion of new site proposals in all jurisdictions and fast-track the designation of any that are submitted.**

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

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? **This is being done in some provinces but not all. The impediments to evaluating relative importance of wetlands for the purpose of identifying candidate Ramsar sites or other protected areas include:**

- 1) **Lack of a national area-wide wetland evaluation system based on the full range of wetland functions**
- 2) **Size of jurisdictions, many with vast unpopulated areas where wetland protection is not a priority**
- 3) **High proportion of land held in private ownership in those southern, highly populated areas where wetland protection is a priority. Some landowners feel that wetland evaluation may threaten property rights.**
- 4) **Lack of the substantial financial resources required for comprehensive assessment/evaluation and data integration.**

If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are. **This is being done in some provinces but not all. For example, priority sites for conservation have been identified in much of Ontario, coastal regions of Quebec, most of the Atlantic provinces, the Prairies and highly-populated portions of British Columbia.**

The Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada within has been developing a national approach to marine conservation for migratory birds. This process has included the establishment of a Marine Protect Areas Working Group in 1996, which recently completed national guidelines to be applied in the creation of a compendium of important marine habitat sites for migratory birds and species at risk within Canada's three oceans and the Great Lakes. The second step of the process is to take those areas which meet the national guidelines and further refine their significance through detailed selection criteria developed by the regional CWS offices across Canada. For the Pacific and Yukon Region, a regional framework and detailed criteria have been developed with the intent of meeting multiple objectives such as Ramsar, the Important Bird Areas initiative and Species at Risk conservation. The regional program has developed its first level Areas of Interest Database which includes interrelated data records and spatial data of marine and terrestrial sites within British Columbia. Yukon will be added in 2001/2002. This dataset assists in strategic planning for Marine Protected Area delineation and where private lands are concerned, acquisitions and stewardship.

A very general national peatland and carbon data base based on landscape units (not sites) was completed by the Geological Survey of Canada in 2000.

AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory? **Unknown**

If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized? **N/A**

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

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Access to regional or provincial/territorial wetland evaluations varies. With limited financial resources, governments place the priority squarely on developing information for government land use decisions, and not necessarily on making it available to all stakeholders.**

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: **Continue to maintain the WetKit Internet site to keep updated information and links to, or contact details for, provincial and regional wetland inventories and evaluations.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Environment Canada and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada)**

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? **N/A**

If **Yes**, is this information provided to Wetlands International? **Yes**

If **No**, why not? **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continue to fulfil requirements under the Canada-United States Migratory Bird Convention Act to collect, share, and apply waterfowl population data.**

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

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
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - As proposed in the Strategic Framework, the short-term target of the Ramsar List should be to achieve the designation of 2000 sites, in accordance with the systematic approach advocated therein, by the time of COP9 in the year 2005. In addition, by COP8 the target is to have at least 20 CPs that are applying a systematic approach to site selection nationally.
<p>Refer also to 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.2.3. Has your country taken a systematic approach to identifying its future Ramsar sites (as promoted in the <i>Strategic Framework for the List – COP7 Resolution VII.11</i>)? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done? N/A</p>
<p>If Yes, has this included considerations to ensure the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes</p>
<p>If No, why not? N/A</p>
<p>If Yes, has this resulted in the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes/No</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: A 1996 strategic review of Canadian Ramsar Sites recommended designation of additional sites in non-federal ownership, in ecozones not yet or poorly represented, supported by local initiative, and of wetland types not well represented in the Canadian network.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada and partner agencies and provinces.</p>
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Targets - The long-term targets are set by the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.11). Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived [by the STRP].
<p>Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from occurring? For eel-grass sites in marine waters, a lack of inventory information is the greatest problem.</p>

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Strive to increase number of Ramsar site designations characterized by peatland and marine eel-grass sites in waters of the territorial sea (12 mile and coastal zones), cognizant of the Ramsar vision for doubling the number of peatland Ramsar sites.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Environment Canada and provinces

6.2.4 Pay particular attention to the designation of new sites currently enjoying no special conservation status at national level, as a first step towards developing measures for their conservation and wise use. [CPs]

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

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **N/A**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Rasmussen Lowlands is located in the Nunavut Territory; future designations and management are contingent on signing of the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements.

Minesing Swamp is fully on private lands, requiring voluntary protection measures by landowners.

Shepody Bay, New Brunswick, remains "unprotected," although it abuts the Mary's Point Unit of the Shepody National Wildlife Area.

Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary consists primarily of subtidal and intertidal flats which are undeeded, and do not have a special conservation status.

A number of Ramsar sites in Canada have portions of their area that had no special conservation status upon designation (eg. Beaver Hill Lake, Delta Marsh, Mary's Point, Southern Bight- Minas Basin, Lac St. Pierre, etc.)

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

If **No**, why not? **No current suitable sites.**

If Yes , please elaborate. N/A
Proposed national actions and targets: Continue to monitor status of Ramsar areas that do not have official protective status.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Federal, provincial/territorial governments and non-government organizations.

<p>6.2.5 Consider as a matter of priority the designation of transfrontier wetland sites. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of transfrontier or shared wetlands is addressed in the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (COP7 Resolution VII.19)</i> and the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into river basin management (COP7 Resolution VII.18)</i>. Global Target - By COP8, for there to be over 50 transfrontier wetland sites designated under the Convention.
For those CPs which ‘share’ wetlands with other CPs, have all suitable sites been designated under the Convention? No Reply
If No , what has prevented this action being taken? N/A
If Yes , are there arrangements in place between the CPs sharing the wetland for the cooperative management of the site? No Reply
If No , what has prevented such arrangements from being introduced? A comprehensive review of this issue has not been undertaken.
Proposed national actions and targets: None
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: N/A



**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 7
TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND MOBILIZE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION AND WISE USE IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND AGENCIES, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>7.1.1 Identify transfrontier wetlands of international importance (including those within shared catchment/river basins), and encourage preparation and implementation of joint plans for such sites, using a “catchment approach” (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]</p> <p>Refer to 6.2.5 above.</p>
<p>7.1.2 Encourage twinning of transfrontier wetlands, and of other wetlands with similar characteristics, and use successful cases for illustrating the benefits of international cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention</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.
Does your country have Ramsar sites twinned with those in other CPs? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening? A few sites may be or could be twinned through other programs such as the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserves Network.
If Yes , please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved. N/A
AND: Do these arrangements involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing of information resources? No Reply • transfer of financial resources? No Reply • exchanges of personnel? No Reply • other activities? N/A
Proposed national actions and targets: No planned actions to twin transfrontier wetlands or other wetlands with similar characteristics.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: N/A

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
<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.
<p>Refer also to 4.2.1. Does there exist a mechanism (such as an inter-ministry committee) at the national level with the charter of coordinating/integrating the implementation of international/regional conventions/treaties to which your country is a signatory? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? N/A</p>
<p>If Yes, describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar, Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species, Circumpolar Program for the Conservation of Arctic Fauna and Flora, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and others are coordinated and led through Environment Canada and each has an interministerial consultation process in place. The Convention to Combat Desertification is led by the Canadian International Development Agency which has also set up interministerial advisory mechanisms. The recently-created Federal Wetland Forum may be able to facilitate interagency actions here as well in the future.</p>
<p>AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? Yes</p>
<p>If No, why not? N/A</p>
<p>If Yes, please elaborate.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Continue interministerial consultation processes for conventions/treaties particularly in advance of COPs and other required . In particular, encourage improved information exchange and cooperation between Ramsar and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada</p>
<p>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]</p>
<p>For eligible countries, have there been project proposals prepared and submitted to funding agencies which were intended to assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening? Not applicable.</p>
<p>If Yes, were such proposals successful in gaining funds? No Reply - N/A</p>

Proposed national actions and targets: **N/A**

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what has prevented such a review being done? **An informal review and discussion have been conducted between the two units in Environment Canada responsible for the CBD and Ramsar Conventions.**

If **Yes**, what are the areas established as priorities for national cooperation between Ramsar and CBD implementing agencies/focal points? **No areas have yet been formally established as priorities for national cooperation.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continue to cooperate in appropriate areas of Convention implementation.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Biodiversity Convention Office and Wildlife Conservation Branch of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada**

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

- **Global Target - With the European Commission and SPREP, develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation and prepare and implement a Joint Work Plan. For Medwet, secure the long-term funding base for this important initiative and continue to develop new programmes of regional action. For the others referred to, and others which are appropriate, develop an appropriate working relationship.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

7.3.2 Work with multilateral and bilateral development agencies and multinational corporations towards a full recognition of wetland values and functions (Recommendation 4.13), and assist them to improve their practices in favor of wetland conservation and wise use taking account of the *Guidelines for Aid Agencies for Improved Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Wetlands*, published by OECD's Development Assistance Committee (Recommendation 6.16). [Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - At the Bureau level, to consider ways and means to increase its ability to work more systematically in this area, so as to increase the level of donor agency support for wetland conservation and wise use activities, and to see an increasing number of multinational corporations adopting voluntary codes of conduct for protecting wetlands.**

While this action is directed at the Bureau principally, CPs also have a role to play in this area; refer to 7.4.2 below with respect to bilateral development agencies. For the multilateral donors: Is your government represented on the governing bodies or scientific advisory bodies of the multilateral donors, or the GEF? **Yes**

If **Yes**, has this person/agency/ministry been briefed on the obligations of your country under the Ramsar Convention, and the relevant expectations raised of each CP by the Strategic Plan and COP decisions? **Yes**

These efforts have been assisted by the development and publication by the Foundation for International Training of the "Environmental Evaluation Guidebook, A Practical Means of Relating Biophysical Functions to Socioeconomic Values." The publication is based on the approach developed in the Wetlands Evaluation Guide, 1992, by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) (www.wetlandscanada.org)

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: **(see 7.4.2 to 7.4.6 below)**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **(see below)**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

If **No**, what are the impediments to this happening? **N/A**

If **Yes**, is this:

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

AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds?

Mechanisms in place for coordinating expenditure of government funds on wetland conservation include the priority-setting and planning exercises of the following main institutions/programs:

§ Environment Canada

§ Provincial ministries of natural resources and/or environment

§ Joint Ventures of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan

§ North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada)

§ Canadian International Development Agency

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **Yes** Priority-setting and planning exercises of the above institutions/programs, related to wetlands, are linked to:

§ Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation

§ Canadian Biodiversity Strategy

§ Provincial/territorial wetland policies

§ Provincial/territorial biodiversity strategies and other natural resources/environment plans

§ North American Waterfowl Management Plan, its Strategic Directions and Population Objectives

Proposed national actions and targets: **None**

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

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

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

If your country has a bilateral development assistance programme, does it allocate funds for wetland-related projects on a regular basis? **Yes**

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

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
If No , why not? N/A
If Yes , is the Ramsar Administrative Authority consulted during the screening and assessment phases of the projects? No
If No , why not? The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) usually deals with this internally but on occasion directly involves other agencies' wetland expertise to evaluate projects.
AND: Is there a formal consultative process in place (such as a National Ramsar Committee) which ensures that the development assistance agency is fully aware of the Ramsar Convention obligations of the country with respect to international cooperation? No
If No , why not? CIDA is fully aware of Canada's Ramsar Convention obligations, and occasionally seeks the advice of the Canadian Wildlife Service on certain projects.
If Yes , please elaborate. N/A
Proposed national actions and targets: None
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: CIDA/Environment Canada

<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



**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
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8.1.9 Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, governmental and non-governmental organizations, key stakeholders, indigenous people, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 4.1.2.

8.1.10 Review the designated national focal point in each Contracting Party, with a view to increasing involvement in the work of the Convention from all agencies concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]

Refer to 4.1.1

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

8.2.1 Pay invoiced contributions to the Convention's core budget in full, and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year. [CPs]

- **Global Target - During this triennium to achieve full and timely payment of all dues by all CPs. The SC to prepare a proposal on sanctions for non-payment for consideration at COP8 (COP7 Resolution VII.28).**

Is your country completely up to date with its annual contributions to the core budget of the Convention? **Yes**

If **No**, what is the impediment to this being done? **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Maintain annual contributions to the core budget of the Convention.**

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

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? N/A
Proposed national actions and targets: Maintain representation of the Convention's official International Organization Partners in wetland conservation coordinating mechanisms: § Under the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, national bird plans are being developed and linked internationally. These include the existing North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a new Partners-in-Flight (land/forest birds), a Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan, and Wings over Water (a waterbird plan), all of which include official International Organisation Partners.) § Bird Studies Canada, an affiliate of BirdLife International, is actively involved with the North American Bird Conservation Initiative; § Environment Canada cooperates in many areas nationally and internationally with World Wildlife Fund (Canada), Wetlands International, and IUCN (and its various commissions).
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Environment Canada

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**

If **No**, what prevents this from happening? **Limited financial resources.**

If **Yes**, is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution? **N/A**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None**

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

