

**Convention on Wetlands
Ramsar, Iran, 1971**

Towards a Ramsar Convention Work Plan 2003-2005:

**Establishing global targets from provisional national targets identified by
Contracting Parties**

Explanatory notes

Decisions SC26-31 and SC26-32 of the 26th meeting of the Standing Committee determined that each Contracting Party should be invited to establish its tentative national targets for the coming triennium (2003-2005) for submission to the Ramsar Bureau by 31 August 2002.

From the national targets submitted by Contracting Parties, the Bureau will then prepare proposed global targets for the Convention's Work Plan 2003-2005, to be considered by the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Valencia, Spain, 18-26 November 2002).

In this way, it is anticipated that the global targets to be proposed for adoption by COP8 will fully reflect the national priorities and planned activities of all Contracting Parties.

The attached form, in MS Word 6/95 format, is provided to Contracting Parties for the submission of their tentative national targets.

The form is derived from the Operational Objectives and Actions in the draft Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008, which, as shown in Section II, cover 21 areas of activity.

Contracting Parties are requested to supply two types of information:

1. **For each Operational Objective**, to indicate their national priority for that area of activity, and the level of resourcing available for its implementation. From the priorities and levels of resourcing indicated by Parties, it will be possible to identify in the draft Convention's Work Plan 2003-2005 the relative priorities for implementation of each Objective, and to identify for which of these priorities additional resourcing is needed in order to achieve this implementation.
2. **For each Action** under an Operational Objective relevant to Contracting Party implementation, to indicate **provisional national targets** for achievement in implementation by 2005, and **planned national actions** to deliver these targets. The tentative targets and planned actions should build on the implementation progress for the 2000-2002 triennium as reported in the National Report for COP8.

Actions for which implementation is not the responsibility of Contracting Parties are indicated as **shaded text** - national targets should not be proposed for these Actions.

Where the Contracting Parties are indicated as responsible for implementation of an Action (shown as {CPs} at the end of a relevant Action), this should be taken to mean the Contracting Parties to the Convention, in particular the Administrative Authority in each country and the Ramsar/Wetlands National Committees (or equivalent bodies) that should be in place in each Party, and the National Focal Points for the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and for communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) related to wetlands, designated by the Administrative Authority. It is hoped that this activity will encourage the designation of focal points for STRP and CEPA by those Parties that have not yet done so.

It is also hoped that after COP8, and on the basis of the adoption of the Convention's Work Plan, Contracting Parties will amend as necessary and confirm their national targets and actions as the basis for their implementation of the Convention during 2003-2005.

It is anticipated that the establishment of national targets and actions will also assist Parties in monitoring their progress in implementation in the coming triennium, and in reporting on this progress in their National Reports to COP9 in 2005.

In establishing their provisional national targets, including priorities and proposed actions for implementation for 2003-2005, Contracting Parties may wish to take the following into account:

1. The major global issues, challenges for the future, and issues to be addressed through each General Objective, as set out in Section I of the draft Strategic Plan 2003-2008;
2. Their progress in implementing the Convention during 2000-2002 as reported in their National Reports to COP8;
3. Any existing priorities, targets and actions for the implementation of the Convention established through national wetland/Ramsar action plans;
4. Any existing priorities, targets and actions concerning wetlands in national wetlands policies and strategies, where these have been established;
5. Any existing priorities, targets and actions relevant to wetlands established through other processes, notably National Biodiversity Action Plans (NBAP) established under the Convention on Biological Diversity and National Action Programmes (NAP) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification; and
6. The views of their national wetland/Ramsar committees, when they exist, and of other ministries, departments or agencies with responsibilities for matters that contribute to, or affect, the delivery of wetland conservation and wise use (including the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements)

The Administrative Authority of each Contracting Party is requested to return their completed national actions and targets form, in electronic (MS Word 6/95) format, to the Ramsar Bureau by 31 August 2002.

Institutional Information

Contracting Party:	
Full name of designated Ramsar Administrative Authority	
Name and title of the head of the designated Ramsar Administrative Authority:	
Mailing address and contact details of the head of the institution:	
Telephone:	
Facsimile:	
Email:	
Name and title (if different) of the designated national focal point (or “daily contact” in the Administrative Authority for Ramsar Convention matters:	
Telephone:	
Facsimile:	
Email:	

Operational Objectives and Actions 2003-2005

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

<p>Operational Objective 1.1: Describe the extent of wetland resources, especially at global and national (or, where appropriate, provincial) scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention and in particular the application of the wise use principle</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>1.1.1 [6.1.2] Promote and encourage the use of standard wetland inventory methodologies [following the Ramsar <i>Framework for Wetland Inventory</i> adopted at COP8], to undertake, update and disseminate national (or, where appropriate, provincial) scientific inventories of wetlands. GO1, 2 {CPs, IOPs, Bureau, MedWet}</p>		
<p>1.1.2 [6.1.2] Include in national wetland inventories information which identifies: a) potential Ramsar sites; b) wetlands of national, provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party; and c) wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation, with a list of priorities, giving particular priority to inventories of karst and caves, intertidal wetlands, coral reefs, peatlands, sites supporting globally threatened species, and other wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List. GO1, 2 {CPs, IOPs} (Refer also to Action 4.1.1)</p>		
<p>1.1.3 Ensure that national arrangements for the custodianship, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data and information, including metadata, are in place and introduce the necessary measures to ensure that this resource is both as comprehensive as possible and readily accessible to the full range of stakeholders. GO1 {CPs}</p>		

<p>1.1.4 Make available a Web-based wetland inventory meta-database and encourage the inclusion of a metadata record for all national (including provincial) wetland inventories. GO1 {STRP, Wetlands International, CPs}</p>		
<p>1.1.5 Undertake an update of the <i>Global Review of Wetland Resources and Priorities for Wetland Inventory (GRoWI)</i> to include updated information on the distribution and size of the global wetland resource and progress in national (including provincial) wetland inventory since COP7 (Resolution VII.20), and report on this to COP9. GO1 {STRP, Wetlands International, Bureau}</p>		
<p>1.1.6 Encourage the use of relevant information from wetland inventories by decision-makers, wetland managers and wetland users in the development and implementation of national wetland policies and national and local wetland programmes. GO1 {CPs}</p>		
<p>1.1.7 Give high priority in the Operational Guidelines of the Small Grants Fund to support for inventory activities. GO1 {CPs, SC, Bureau, MedWet} (Refer also to Action 15.1.6)</p>		

<p>Operational Objective 1.2: Assess and monitor the condition of wetland resources, especially at global and national (or, where appropriate, provincial) scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention and in particular the application of the wise use principle.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>1.2.1 [6.1.3] Actively contribute to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project (http://www.millenniumassessment.org) by serving on its Board and Executive Committee and on its various working groups; analyze the Assessment's methodologies, results and findings at Ramsar COP9, and review the necessary actions, if any, to update and make comprehensive the global assessment of wetland resources and their condition. GO1 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, STRP, IOPs} (Refer also to Action 1.1.5)</p>		
<p>1.2.2 Establish a repository for the contribution by Contracting Parties of summarized national (or, where appropriate, provincial) assessments of changes in the status of wetland resources, as the basis for regular analysis and improved reporting on the status of global wetland resources. GO1 {STRP, Bureau, IOPs, CPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>1.2.3 Develop for consideration by COP9 guidelines for rapid assessment of wetland biodiversity and functions and for monitoring change in ecological character, including the use of indicators, for both inland and coastal and marine ecosystems. GO1, 2 {STRP, Bureau, CBD} (Refer also to Action 11.2.1)</p>		
<p>1.2.4 Develop methodologies for the assessment of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character, including their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, sea-level rise, invasion by alien species, and agricultural practices]. Apply for this purpose the Convention's Risk Assessment Framework (Resolution VII.10), its guidance on impact assessment (Resolution VII.16) [and the further guidance on assessing change in ecological character adopted at COP8]. GO1, 2 {Bureau, STRP, MedWet, IOPs, MEAs}</p>		
<p>1.2.5 Undertake assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character, including their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise. GO1, 2 {CPs, MedWet, IOPs}</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION, INCLUDING IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND VALUATION

<p>Operational Objective 2.1: Specify the most appropriate policy instrument(s) to be used in each country to ensure the wise use of wetlands.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>2.1.1 If not yet done, develop and implement a National Wetland Policy using the guidelines adopted by COP7 for this purpose (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2), and ensure that policy goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible. GO1 {CPs}</p>		
<p>2.1.2 Ensure that wetland policies are fully integrated into other strategic or planning processes and documents, in particular those related to biodiversity, desertification, climate change, [agriculture, trade in endangered species] and environmental planning in general. When these other documents include chapters or sections on different ecosystems, ensure that one of them is devoted to wetlands. GO1 {CPs, MEAs}</p>		

<p>Operational Objective 2.2 [2.1]: Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supra-national policies, legislation, institutions and practices [including impact assessment and valuation] in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the Convention, and especially the wise use principle, is being fully applied.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
2.2.1 [2.1.1] Apply the guidelines for <i>Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands</i> (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 3) to carry out a review of legislation and institutions and, as necessary, amend or modify legislation and institutional procedures to preclude unwise use of wetlands. GO1 {CPs}		
2.2.2 [based on 2.5.4] Apply Strategic Environmental Assessment practices when reviewing national and provincial policies, programmes, and plans that may impact upon wetlands. GO1 {CPs}		
2.2.3 [2.5.3] [If not yet in place, develop and implement Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation so as to] ensure that an EIA is carried out at all wetlands, including Ramsar sites, where adverse impacts may occur due to a proposed development, change in land/water use, invasive species, etc., [in line with additional guidance adopted by COP8 and] enlisting the collaboration, if required, of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA). Ensure that these [impact assessments] include full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic [and cultural] impacts. (Refer also to Action 1.2.4) GO1, 2 {CPs, OCs}		
2.2.4 [2.4.1] Promote the continuing development, wide dissemination – primarily through the Internet-based resource kit (http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/assessment/ramsar-503-01.htm) and application of methodologies to undertake valuations of the economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands, in collaboration with the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA), Ramsar's International Organization Partners, and interested Parties and organizations. GO1 {CPs, STRP, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs, OCs}		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

<p>Operational objective 3.1: Develop and disseminate methodologies to achieve the conservation and wise use of wetlands.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>3.1.1 Review the Wise Use concept, its applicability, and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development. GO1 {STRP, CPs}</p>		
<p>3.1.2 Compile advice, methods and best practice studies for the wise use of wetlands, including the application of the ecosystem approach, and disseminate these to wetland managers. GO1 {STRP, CPs, Bureau}</p>		
<p>3.1.3 Ensure that the principles embodied in the Convention's new management planning guidelines [adopted at COP8 (Resolution VIII.xx)] are applied to decision-making about, and the wise use of, all wetlands. GO1 {CPs}</p>		
<p>3.1.4 Disseminate and encourage the use of the Convention's guidance on the wise use concept to governments, responsible agencies and bilateral and multilateral donor organizations, in order to assist their development and implementation of sustainable development funding policies that fully address the conservation and wise use of wetlands. GO1, 3 {Bureau, CPs, IOPs, OCs}</p>		

<p>Operational Objective 3.2: [Ensure the conservation and wise use of peatlands as a demonstration of the ecosystem-based approach under the Convention.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
3.2.1 Implement the <i>Guidelines for global action on peatlands</i> as adopted by Resolution VIII.xx of COP8], noting the priority sought therein for inventories of peatlands, the protection and possible designation of peatlands as Ramsar sites, the transfer of peatland restoration technology, and the maintenance of the cultural significance of peatlands, and implement those actions identified as national priorities. GO1, 2 {CPs} (Refer also to Operational Objectives 1.1, 4.1 and 10.1)		
3.2.2 Report to COP9 on the progress in implementing the <i>Guidelines for global action on peatlands</i> as adopted by Resolution VIII.xx of COP8 GO1, 2 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}		

Operational Objective 3.3: [Increase] recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, and scientific research.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
3.3.1 As part of national (or, as appropriate, provincial) wetland inventories, assess and document wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, and/or scientific research, and, where appropriate, seek to have these sites protected in recognition of these values. GO1 {CPs} (Refer also to Operational Objective 1.1)		

<p>3.3.2 Prepare, based upon the available information contained in the Ramsar Sites Database, an analysis and promotional summary of the values and functions of Ramsar sites, giving particular attention to those that have importance for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, [climate change mitigation,] cultural heritage and/or scientific research. GO1, 2 {Bureau, MedWet, Wetlands International} (Refer also to Operational Objective 10.2)</p>		
<p>3.3.3 [Seek to] promote [through the application of the guidelines adopted by COP8] full recognition of the social and cultural heritage of wetlands, and ensure that this is fully appreciated and taken into account in their wise use and management. GO1, 2 {CPs}</p>		
<p>3.3.4 Develop and implement wise use wetland programmes and projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and food and water security plans at local, national and regional levels. GO1 {CPs, IOPs, OCs, Bureau}</p>		
<p>3.3.5 Promote research, including through the establishment of national and regional research and training centres, into the role of wetlands in water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, and cultural heritage. GO1, 2 {CPs, MedWet, IOPs, OCs}</p>		

<p>Operational Objective 3.4 [2.2]: Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties, and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal [and marine] zone planning, [and responses to climate change].</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
3.4.1 [2.2.2] Ensure the inclusion of wetland conservation, wise use and restoration/rehabilitation in general sectoral planning at national, regional, provincial and local levels, including[, as far as possible,] the necessary budgetary provisions to enable their implementation. GO1 {CPs}		
3.4.2 [2.2.1] Apply the guidelines in <i>Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) and, where appropriate and feasible, participate in the related CBD/Ramsar project entitled the "River Basin Initiative". GO1, 3 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs, OCs}		
3.4.3 Review, from case studies and other materials compiled through the CBD/Ramsar River Basin Initiative, lessons learnt and good practice experience, and report this to COP9, including the preparation of additional guidance, as appropriate, on integrating wetlands, biodiversity and river basin management. GO1, 3 {Bureau, STRP, MEAs, OCs} (Refer also to Operation Objective 12.1)		
3.4.4 Develop guidelines to assist Parties in considering the full environmental, social and economic impacts on wetland and river systems of constructing large dams, for consideration at COP9. GO1, 3 {STRP, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}		
[3.4.5 Apply the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management</i> as adopted by COP8]. GO1 {CPs}]		
[3.4.6 In decision-making processes related to freshwater resources, apply the <i>Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</i> , as adopted by COP8]. GO1 {CPs}]		
3.4.7 Develop, for consideration at COP9, guidance on the sustainable use of groundwater resources to maintain wetland ecosystem functions. GO1 {Bureau, MedWet, STRP, IOPs}		

[3.4.8 In collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (refer also to Action 13.1.1), promote and implement the guidance adopted by COP8 for the management of wetlands in relation to adaptive management and mitigation of the impacts of climate change, particularly in the context of land use, land use change and rising sea levels, forestry, peatlands [and agriculture]. GO1, 2 {STRP, Bureau, MedWet, OCs}]		
[3.4.9 Ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands. GO1, 2 {CPs, OCs}]		
(Refer also to Operational Objective 12.1 in relation to transboundary wetlands and river basins.)		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

Operational Objective 4.1 [2.6]: Identify wetlands where restoration or rehabilitation would be cost-effective and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
4.1.1 [2.6.1] Use national scientific inventories of wetlands to identify those where restoration or rehabilitation would be appropriate because of their present and/or former values and functions [using the guidelines on this matter adopted by COP8 (Resolution VIII.xx)]. GO1 {CPs, IOPs} (Refer also to Action 1.1.1)		
4.1.2 [2.6.3] Establish wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, where feasible, at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in those associated with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value, in line with Recommendation 4.1 and Resolutions VII.17 and VII.20. GO1 {CPs, MedWet, IOPs}		

4.1.3 [2.6.2] Compile information on new research and methodologies for the restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands and disseminate this information. GO1 {CPs, STRP, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}		
[4.1.4 Apply the guidelines on wetland restoration adopted by COP8 (Resolution VIII.xx) to ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation, do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands. GO1, 2 {CPs, OCs} (Refer also to Action 3.4.9)]		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Operational Objective 5.1: Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
[5.1.1 Implement the guidelines relating to the prevention, control and eradication of alien species, as adopted by Resolution VIII.xx of COP8. GO1 {CPs}]		
5.1.2 In collaboration with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar's International Organization Partners, and interested Parties, continue to develop and disseminate practical guidance for the prevention, control and eradication of alien species, based on case studies and documented experiences from around the world. GO1 {CPs, STRP, Bureau, MedWet, GISP, IOPs, OCs}		
5.1.3 Ensure that national and, where necessary, international action plans for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species fully incorporate wetland issues. GO1 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 6. LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, AND CULTURAL VALUES

<p>Operational Objective 6.1 [2.7]: Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, in particular women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>6.1.1 Apply the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands</i> (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 5), giving particular attention to the importance of incentive measures (refer to Operational Objective 8.1), the building of trust, the need for flexible approaches, the exchange of knowledge, capacity building and the continuity of resources and efforts. GO1 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>6.1.2 [2.7.4] In consultation with and with the full support of indigenous people, document and encourage the application of appropriate traditional knowledge and management practices of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly where wetlands are under the traditional ownership of local communities and indigenous people. GO1, 2 {CPs, MedWet, OCs}</p>		
<p>6.1.3 Continue to support the Participatory Management Clearinghouse (PMC), a joint service of IUCN–The World Conservation Union, the Ramsar Bureau, and WWF International (www.iucn.org/themes/pmns). GO1 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IUCN, WWF}</p>		
<p>6.1.4 Promote public participation in decision-making processes with respect to wetlands and their conservation and ensure that there is full sharing with the stakeholders of technical and other information related to the selection of Ramsar sites and management of all wetlands. GO1, 2 {CPs, IOPs, OCs}</p>		

6.1.5 Elaborate for consideration by COP9 further guidance on the application of the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands</i> (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 5), based on experiences gained at the field level, and in particular the experience of Pacific Island States and other Small Island Developing States. GO1 {CPs, CEPA, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs, OCs}		
6.1.6 [Apply the <i>Guiding principles on the incorporation of cultural values of wetlands in wetland management</i> adopted by COP8], continue to document case studies on social and cultural values of wetlands and how they can be incorporated into the effort to conserve and sustainably use wetland resources. GO1, 2 {CPs, CEPA, MedWet, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}		
[6.1.7 Apply the <i>New guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> adopted by COP8 (Resolution VIII.xx) in such a way as to ensure the full incorporation of the cultural features of wetlands in their sustainable use. GO1, 2 {CPs, MedWet, IOPs, OCs}]		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

Operational Objective 7.1 [2.8]: Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
7.1.1 [2.8.2] Encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle (Ramsar Handbooks 1 to 6) in their activities and investments affecting wetlands. GO1 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}		

7.1.2 Seek opportunities to involve the private sector, national science academies, and other professional, scientific, and technical societies of recognized merit in wetland-related decision-making, through vehicles such as National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees, site or river basin management authorities/committees, and outreach activities. GO1 {CPs, CEPA, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}		
7.1.3 Establish an international private-sector "Friends of Wetlands" forum where major international and national companies can seek advice on applying wise use practices in their business activities, and can also identify opportunities for supporting the activities of the Convention, either at the national, regional or international levels. GO1 {SC, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}		
7.1.4 Review, in cooperation with the private sector, domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products, both exports and imports, and as appropriate implement the necessary legal, institutional and administrative measures to ensure that harvesting is sustainable, and in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). GO1 {CPs, CITES} (Refer also to Operational Objective 2.1 and Actions 13.1.4 and 15.1.12)		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8. INCENTIVES

Operational Objective 8.1: Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use principle, and the removal of perverse incentives.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
8.1.1 Review 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. GO1 {CPs}		
8.1.2 Continue to develop and improve upon the Internet-based resource kit (http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/incentives/policies-07-00.htm) on incentives prepared and maintained by IUCN—the World Conservation Union. GO1 {CPs, STRP, IUCN, Bureau}		
8.1.3 Report to COP9 on progress in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of incentive measures and the identification and removal of perverse incentives, [including those relating to agriculture]. GO1 {STRP, Bureau}		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)

Operational Objective 9.1 [3.1]: Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Outreach Programme (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 6) [and its update by COP8 – Resolution VIII.xx] for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA).	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
9.1.1 Ensure that a suitable national government and non-government focal point for wetland communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) is in place and, as much as possible, with the required resources for action (Resolution VII.9). GO1 {CPs}		

<p>9.1.2 Ensure that, based on a review of relevant activities, target groups, and threats, a national action plan for wetlands CEPA has been formulated, has been made widely available, and is being implemented (Resolution VII.9). GO1 {CPs, CEPA}</p>		
<p>[9.1.3 Ensure that the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands</i> (Resolution VII.8) are fully taken into account in the development of implementation of the Convention's Outreach Programme. GO1 {CPs}]</p>		
<p>9.1.4 Ensure that national wetland CEPA action plans do not overlook communication within the government (i.e., between ministries and among the focal points of all environmental conventions) and among the government and the major private sector stakeholders. GO1 {CPs, CEPA}</p>		
<p>9.1.5 Develop at the national level appropriate mechanisms for ongoing communication, exchange of ideas, and the sharing of knowledge among the actors in wetland management, in particular of Ramsar sites, and [between these actors and communication and education professionals, and] endeavour to link this national network with similar networks in other countries and globally through electronic means. GO1, 3 {CPs, CEPA, MedWet, Bureau, OCs}</p>		
<p>9.1.6 Undertake campaigns, ideally linked to World Wetlands Day (2 February), to raise awareness of wetlands conservation and wise use issues, and seek further national and international recognition of World Wetlands Day, e.g. through the UN General Assembly. GO1 {CPs, CEPA, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}</p>		
<p>9.1.7 Provide the Bureau with advice on, and samples of, the effective wetlands CEPA materials available in each Party, so that the Bureau can enhance its clearing house function and facilitate the sharing of this information. GO1 {CPs, CEPA, Bureau}</p>		

<p>9.1.8 Continue to produce CEPA materials of relevance to all CPs, including through private sector sponsorship, and make use of them in national wetlands CEPA activities. GO1 {Bureau, MedWet, CPs, CEPA,}</p>		
<p>9.1.9 Review the extent to which formal education curricula include the Ramsar principles of wetland conservation and wise use and, where necessary, seek to have such information added. GO1 {CPs, CEPA, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>9.1.10 Seek to establish, or develop further, wetland education centres based at Ramsar sites and other wetlands, and where appropriate, also use these as centres for training in wetland research and management and wetland education and public awareness techniques. {CPs, CEPA, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>9.1.11 Enlist a range of centres of learning (universities, museums, aquaria, botanic gardens, etc.) in promoting enhanced awareness and understanding of the importance of wetlands. GO1 {CPs, CEPA}</p>		
<p>9.1.12 Encourage the facilities referred to in 9.1.10 and 9.1.11 to participate in the Wetland Link International network of centres as a way to increase the flow of information and the sharing of resource materials among such centres, and to encourage twinning and exchange of expertise between wetland education centres (Resolution VII.9). GO1, 3 {CPs, CEPA, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>[9.1.13 Undertake efforts to [encourage resourcing of] the Voluntary Fund for the Ramsar Outreach Programme, with the aim of generating a minimum of half million US dollars annually for this purpose. GO1, 4 {Bureau, CPs, CEPA, IOPs, OCs} (Refer also to Action 15.1.5)]</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

<p>Operational Objective 10.1: Apply the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (Ramsar Handbook 7).</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country?</p> <p>a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work?</p> <p>a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>10.1.1 [6.1.1] At the national level, use the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the Ramsar List</i> (Ramsar Handbook 7) to undertake the systematic designation of additional Ramsar sites [through the adoption of national targets for Ramsar site networks]. GO2 {CPs, IOPs}</p>		
<p>10.1.2 [6.2.3] In undertaking Action 10.1.1, give priority attention to the designation of wetland types that are unique or represent a significant proportion of the global extent of these wetland types, as well as to wetland types currently under-represented in the Ramsar List, including, <i>inter alia</i>, karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, salt marshes, tidal flats, peatlands, wet grasslands [and grazing lands], and arid-zone wetlands, and in so doing apply the guidelines so far approved by the COP to assist in the designation of some of these wetland types. GO2 {CPs, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>10.1.3 In addition to the priority established in 10.1.2, also assign priority to the designation as Ramsar sites of wetlands hosting globally threatened species and species that are unique or endemic to the territory of a Contracting Party or for which the territory supports a significant proportion of the global extent of the species. GO2 {CPs, IOPs, OCs} (See also Action 12.2.1)</p>		

10.1.4 [6.2.4] Designate, as a priority, those eligible sites that are not under any form of protective or sustainable use management regime, [including those utilised for agriculture,] as the basis for accelerating the establishment of such regimes, and ensure that this is done soon after designation. GO2 {CPs}		
10.1.5 [6.2.5] Consistent with the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</i> (Ramsar Handbook 9), designate the national area of transboundary wetlands as a Ramsar site and invite the concerned neighboring country(ies) to do likewise, with a view to establishing a harmonized management regime for the entire wetland. GO2, 3 {CPs, IOPs} (Refer also to Operational Objective 12.1)		
10.1.6 [6.1.4] Continue to support the work of Wetlands International, other International Organization Partners, and others in providing analyses and information to help Parties to apply the Strategic Framework to identify and designate Ramsar sites, including further identification of under-represented wetland types. GO2 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs}		
10.1.7 [6.1.4] Continue to support the work of Wetlands International and others in the updating for each COP of the 1% thresholds for waterbird populations for the application of Criterion 6 for Ramsar site designation; seek to provide such population information for other wetland-dependent taxa; and apply this information for the designation of Ramsar sites. GO2 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs} (Refer also to Operational Objective 12.2.)		

<p>Operational Objective 10.2: Maintain the Ramsar Sites Database and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the database as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country?</p> <p>a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work?</p> <p>a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
10.2.1 [5.3.1] Ensure that the maps and descriptions of Ramsar sites submitted by Contracting Parties at the time of designation are complete, in the approved standard format of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands [as amended by COP8], and provide sufficient detail to be used for monitoring the ecological character of designated wetlands (refer to Operational Objective 11.1 below). GO2 {CPs, Bureau, Wetlands International}		
10.2.2 Ensure that the social and cultural values and features of listed sites are fully recognized in the descriptions of Ramsar sites in the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, as the basis for their incorporation in site management planning. GO2 {CPs}		
10.2.3 [5.3.2] Submit missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of listed sites as a matter of utmost urgency, and also ensure that all previously submitted site descriptions are in the format of the approved Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands. GO2 {CPs}		
10.2.4 [5.3.3] Fully update and submit revised Ramsar Information Sheets as frequently as necessary to record changes in the status of sites, and at least for every second meeting of the COP, so that they can be used for reviewing change in ecological character and progress in achieving the Vision and Objectives of the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (Ramsar Handbook 7) at each COP. GO2 {CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International}		
10.2.5 Enhance the interactive capacity of the Ramsar Sites Database and its accessibility to stakeholders, including through links between the Database, the Ramsar Sites Directory Web presentation, the Ramsar Web site, and other interactive systems such as the Ramsar Data Gateway, as well as the publication of special reports and other outputs. GO2 {Bureau, Wetlands International, OCs}		

10.2.6 [5.3.4] Maintain, and make available and easily accessible, the <i>Directory of Wetlands of International Importance</i> in electronic format, including the preparation of a fully up-to-date version for each Conference of Parties, and the <i>Annotated Ramsar List</i> in the three official languages. GO2 {Bureau, Wetlands International}		
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OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

Operational Objective 11.1 [5.1]: Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
11.1.1 [5.1.1] Consistent with Article 3.1 of the Convention, define and apply the measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, using as the basis for this the official definitions of “ecological character” and “change in ecological character” adopted by Resolution VII.10 and the integrated package of Convention tools for site management as presented in the Ramsar Handbook 8 [as well as the supplementary guidance adopted by COP8], and ensure that this information is included in the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (refer also to Actions 2.2.1. and 2.2.3). GO2 {CPs}		
[11.1.2 [5.2.3] Apply the Convention’s <i>New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> adopted by COP8 to develop management plans or strategies for all Ramsar sites. GO2 {CPs, IOPs, OCs}		

<p>[11.1.3 Develop and publicize the “San José Record” for Ramsar sites (Resolution VIII.xx) whose management plans and their implementation fully meet the Ramsar management planning guidelines adopted by COP8, and create an Internet-based resource kit and knowledge and information exchange for the sites accepted onto the Record. GO2 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, STRP}]</p>		
<p>11.1.4 [5.2.4] Promote, as necessary, the establishment and implementation of zoning measures for larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves, and other wetlands (Recommendation 5.3 [and the guidance adopted by Resolution VIII.xx]) and strict protection measures for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity (Recommendation 5.3). GO1, 2 {CPs, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>11.1.5 Consider as a matter of priority the establishment of cross-sectoral site management committees for Ramsar sites, involving relevant government agencies, local community representatives, and other stakeholders, including the business sector. GO2 {CPs}</p>		
<p>11.1.6 [5.2.6] Continue to give high priority in the Operational Guidelines for the Small Grants Fund to support for management planning at Ramsar sites. GO2 {CPs, SC}</p>		

<p>Operational Objective 11.2 [5.2]: Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Bureau without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
11.2.1 [5.1.2] Establish for each Ramsar site an effective monitoring programme, ideally as part of the site management plan, which is designed to detect and provide early warning of changes in ecological character. In so doing, use the Convention's framework for designing an effective monitoring programme (Resolution VI.1) and its Wetland Risk Assessment Framework (Resolution VII.10) (Ramsar Handbook 8). GO2 {CPs, OCs}		
[11.2.2 Ensure that sites on the Ramsar List are used as baseline and reference areas for national, supranational/regional, and international environmental monitoring to detect trends in the loss of biological diversity, climate change and the processes of desertification (Objective 4.1 of the Objectives for the List (Resolution VII.11), and report on status and trends to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties. GO1, 2 {CPs, Wetlands International, IOPs}]		
11.2.3 [2.5.2] Ensure that at Ramsar sites where change in ecological character may occur as a result of proposed developments or changes in territorial and/or water use which have potential to affect them, an impact assessment is carried out which considers the full range of environmental, social and economic benefits and functions provided by the wetland, and that the resulting conclusions are communicated to the Ramsar Bureau, in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention, and fully taken into account by the authorities concerned. GO2 {CPs} (Refer also to Actions 1.2.3 and 1.2.4)		
11.2.4 In fulfillment of Article 3.2 of the Convention, report to the Ramsar Bureau without delay all actual or likely changes in ecological character on Ramsar sites, and include Ramsar sites " <i>where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur</i> " in the Montreux Record as appropriate. GO2 {CPs, Bureau}		

11.2.5 [5.1.4] For sites included in the Montreux Record, request a Ramsar Advisory Mission of independent experts, where appropriate, to review the problems affecting the site and offer recommendations for remedial actions. GO2 {CPs, Bureau}		
11.2.6 [5.1.5] Where a Ramsar Advisory Mission has been completed for a Montreux Record site, take all necessary steps to implement the recommendations, and report at regular intervals to the Bureau on the results of these actions. At the appropriate time, seek the removal of the site from the Montreux Record, having provided the Bureau and STRP with details of the site condition using the approved questionnaire (Ramsar Handbook 7). GO2 {CPs, STRP, Bureau}		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12. MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS AND WETLAND SPECIES

Operational Objective 12.1: Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
12.1.1 [7.1.1] Identify all wetland systems in each Contracting Party shared with other Parties and with non-parties and promote cooperation in their management with the adjoining jurisdiction(s), applying, where appropriate, the <i>Guidelines on integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (Ramsar Handbook 4, Section A1 of the Guidelines), [and the <i>Principles and Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management (ICZM)</i> adopted at COP8] GO1, 3 {CPs}		
12.1.2 Pursue cooperation on shared hydrological basins, lake systems and coastal systems through the establishment of bi- or multilateral management commissions. (Section A2 of the Guidelines). GO1, 3 {CPs}		

12.1.3 Where appropriate, engage in joint impact assessment processes with neighbouring countries that share wetlands, international river basins, or coastal systems, taking note, where applicable, of the terms of the Espoo Convention on impact assessment in a European transboundary context. GO1, 3 {CPs} (Refer also to Actions 2.2.3 and 2.2.4)		
12.1.4 Ensure enhanced accessibility to information, analyses, good practice examples, and experience-sharing on integrating wetlands and biodiversity into integrated river basin management, including through the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative. GO1, 3 {CPs, Bureau, CBD, IOPs, OCs}		

Operational Objective 12.2: Promote cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
12.2.1 Identify and designate as Ramsar sites all wetlands which satisfy the relevant Ramsar Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species, giving priority in the first instance to waterbirds, fish, and marine turtles, especially those that are globally threatened. (Section B1 of the Guidelines) GO2, 3 {CPs, IOPs, CMS}		
12.2.2 Continue to promote and support the development of further regional site networks and initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species, as exemplified by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and others. (Sections B2 and B4 of the Guidelines) GO3 {CPs, IOPs, OCs} (refer also to Operational Objective 12.1)		

<p>12.2.3 Through the Memorandum of Understanding and associated Joint Work Plan with the Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA), work cooperatively to identify and manage important sites for wetland-dependent migratory species, and promote jointly, where appropriate, [promote to Parties of both Conventions and Agreement] the development of site networks referred to in the previous Action. (Section B3 of the Guidelines.) (Refer also to Operational Objective 12.1). GO2, 3 {STRP, Bureau, MedWet, OCs}</p>		
<p>12.2.4 Promote and disseminate research into the population dynamics and sustainable harvesting of wetland dependent species, especially migratory waterbirds. GO1, 3 {STRP, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>12.2.5 Ensure that national hunting legislation is consistent with the wise use principle for migratory waterbird and other wetland-dependent species, taking into account geographical range, life-history characteristics of species, and research on sustainable harvesting. GO1, 3 {CPs, Bureau, OCs}</p>		

<p>Operational Objective 12.3: Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>12.3.1 Continue to support the operation of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) and its related action programme, the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) and its Coordination Unit. GO3 [MedWet, Bureau, IOPs, OCs]</p>		

12.3.2 Encourage development of similar regional arrangements under the Convention where appropriate, for example in the Black Sea, Caspian Sea, the Caribbean [and the South Pacific]. GO3 {Concerned CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}		
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OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Operation Objective 13.1: Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
13.1.1 [7.2.3] Continue to strengthen cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Migratory Species and its Agreements, the World Heritage Convention, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular through the vehicles of Joint Work Plans and collaboration among the respective subsidiary scientific bodies of the conventions and the secretariats, and at national level among the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and Focal Points of the different MEAs. GO3 {STRP, CPs, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}		
13.1.2 [7.2.4] Maintain and, where appropriate, seek opportunities to further promote cooperation with UNESCO, in particular its Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), especially as regards wetlands within Biosphere Reserves, and in the area of the development of curricula to integrate wetland issues. GO2, 3 {CPs, CEPA, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}		

<p>13.1.3 Give priority to the implementation of the Memoranda of Cooperation or Understanding with the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona Convention), the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea, other regional seas conventions, and the Danube River Protection Convention, and seek to establish similar cooperative arrangements with other regional instruments, such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME). GO3 {Concerned CPs, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>13.1.4 Establish working relations with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), noting Sections F2 – F6 of the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</i> (Ramsar Handbook 9). GO3 {Bureau, CITES}</p>		
<p>13.1.5 Develop closer working relationships with appropriate regional bodies or programmes which have an interest in wetland conservation and wise use, including the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the European Union (EU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and the Organization of American States (OAS). GO3 {CPs, SC, Bureau, MEAs, OCs}</p>		
<p>[13.1.6 Review the advantages and disadvantages and, as appropriate, investigate the feasibility of regional economic integration or similar organizations/ institutions gaining Contracting Party status under the Convention, including the possibility of amending the Convention to that effect if necessary. GO3 {Bureau, SC, COP}.]</p>		

<p>13.1.7 Review the feasibility of promoting a UN General Assembly Resolution formally recognizing the Convention. In the meantime, pursue partnership approaches with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other relevant UN agencies, as well as the Subcommittee on Water of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (Section C2 of the Guidelines.) GO3 {Bureau, SC}</p>		
<p>13.1.8 [7.2.9] Further develop working partnerships with other specialized bodies that deal with wetland-related issues, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the World Water Council, the Global Water Partnership, and the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), including through collaboration in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative (RBI). GO3 {Bureau, OCs}</p>		
<p>13.1.9 Continue to contribute to the development and testing of harmonized information management and reporting systems with the appropriate MEAs, including exploration of modular-style national reporting formats, consolidated reporting formats, state of the environment reporting, and regional reporting. GO3, 4 {Bureau, OCs}</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION

<p>Operational Objective 14.1: Promote the sharing of expertise and information.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
14.1.1 Using mechanisms such as the national focal points for communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) and for the STRP, promote the sharing of knowledge (traditional, indigenous, and more recently derived technologies and methods) at the global, regional, and national levels. (Section D1 of the Guidelines.) GO1, 3 {CPs, CEPA, STRP, Bureau}.		
14.1.2 Recognize training as an important element of international cooperation under the Convention and provide access to such training, especially for wetland managers, and wetland educators and those others responsible for implementing the Convention, from other countries that would benefit from these opportunities. (Sections D2 and D3 of the Guidelines). GO3, 4 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs} (Refer also to Operational Objective 20.1).		
14.1.3 [7.1.2] Develop twinning and/or networks of transboundary wetlands and wetlands sharing common features, as an important mechanism for sharing knowledge and providing training opportunities. GO2, 3 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs, OCs}		
14.1.4 Further review and develop Internet-based resource kits and knowledge and information sharing, including the Convention's Wetland Expert Database, on topics including impact assessment, incentives, management planning, river basin management, participation, education and public awareness, and Ramsar sites. GO1, 2, 3 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs}		
14.1.5 Further develop, use and advertise the availability of the Convention's Wetland Expert Database. {Bureau, CPs, IOPs, OCs}		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15. FINANCING THE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS

<p>Operational Objective 15.1: Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>15.1.1 [7.4.4] Mobilize direct funding support from multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies in order to assist developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition in the conservation and wise use of wetlands and in implementation of the present Strategic Plan. (Based on Section E1 of the Guidelines) GO1, 3, 4 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs}</p>		
<p>15.1.2 Mobilize resources to support the implementation of management plans for Ramsar sites in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition. GO2, 3 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs} (Refer also to Operational Objective 11.1)</p>		
<p>15.1.3 For those Parties with bilateral development assistance agencies, respond to sections E1, E2, E5, E7, E10, E11, E14 and E15 of the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</i> (Ramsar Handbook 9), and especially consider issues such as long-term fund generation mechanisms, appropriate monitoring of projects, training of development assistance agency staff, priority for institutional capacity building, the need for cooperation between development assistance agencies, and the importance of coordination between bilateral development assistance agencies and the Ramsar Administrative Authorities in the donor and recipient countries. GO3, 4 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs}</p>		
<p>15.1.4 Pursuant to 15.1.3, urge all Parties with bilateral development assistance agencies to report on their performance with regard to wetland-related activities at each COP. (Based on Section E5 of the Guidelines) GO1, 3, 4 {CPs}</p>		

<p>15.1.5 For those Parties involved in the priority-setting for, and the determining of, the <i>modus operandi</i> of the multilateral development and environment-related assistance agencies, seek to ensure that wetland conservation and wise use is afforded due attention and priority. GO1, 3, 4 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs}</p>		
<p>[15.1.6 [8.4.1] Provide financial support, preferably on a medium and/or long-term basis, to the operations of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund [and its Trust Fund], and the Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Outreach Programme, seeking to have available a minimum of one million US dollars annually for the former and half a million US dollars for the latter. (Based on Sections E4 and E9 of the Guidelines.) GO1, 3, 4 {Bureau, SC, CPs, Partners}]</p>		
<p>[15.1.7 Mobilise resources to support the development of wetland training and education centres at Ramsar sites and the training of wetland educators in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. GO1, 2, 3, 4 3 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}]</p>		
<p>15.1.8 [7.4.2] For those Parties eligible for development assistance, include projects for conservation and wise use of wetlands in national portfolios and plans for consideration by development assistance agencies, and give priority among these for projects to build institutional capacity. (Based on Sections E8 and E12 of the Guidelines) GO1, 3, 4 {CPs}</p>		
<p>15.1.9 [7.4.5] Assist developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition that are eligible to prepare wetland conservation and wise use projects for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as part of the implementation of the Joint Work Plan with the Convention on Biological Diversity [and with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change]. GO1, 3, 4 {Bureau, IOPs, OCs}</p>		

15.1.10 [7.4.3] Maintain close working relations with multilateral agencies that provide development and environment-related assistance in relation to project screening, development and evaluation, notably: the World Bank, UNDP, and UNEP, in particular as partners in the Global Environment Facility (GEF); regional funding agencies such as the Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Interamerican Development Bank and the European Investment Bank; and the European Commission. GO1, 3, 4 {Bureau}		
15.1.11 [7.4.6] Assist, where requested, Contracting Parties and bilateral and multilateral development assistance agencies in the development, screening and evaluation of wetland projects. GO1, 3, 4 {STRP, Bureau}		
[15.1.12 Pursue involvement of the private sector (including corporations and foundations) in wetlands conservation and seek opportunities for private sector funding of wetland projects under Ramsar. GO1, 3, 4 {Bureau, CPs, IOPs}]		
[15.1.13 Promote [establishment of effective mechanisms to encourage] environmentally sound trade in wetland products, in particular from Ramsar sites. GO1, 2, 3 {Bureau, CPs, IOPs, OCs}]		
15.1.14 [Investigate the feasibility of creating a "Ramsar Label" to certify wetland products that are produced in both environmentally sound and socially equitable manners. GO1, 3 {Bureau, CPs, IOPs}]		

<u>Operational Objective 15.2:</u> Ensure that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
15.2.1 Work with international development agencies, including banks, financial institutions and private investors and developers, to ensure that proposed grants, loans, and development projects include environmental safeguards and environmental assessments of possible impacts upon wetlands. (Based on Section G1 of the Guidelines.) GO1, 3 {CPs, Bureau, IOPs} (Refer also to Actions 1.2.3 and 1.2.4)		
15.2.2. Ensure that domestic laws and regulations include environmental safeguards and environmental impact assessments requirements for development projects that affect wetlands. (Based on Section G2 of the Guidelines.) GO1, 3 {CPs}		
15.2.3 Review wetland-related project development approval and consider the introduction of mechanisms to direct resources derived from these activities back to hands-on wetland management in the country. (Based on Section G3 of the Guidelines.) GO1, 3 {CPs}		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 16. FINANCING OF THE CONVENTION

Operational Objective 16.1 [8.2]: Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
16.1.1 [8.2.1] Pay annual contributions to the Convention's core budget in full and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year. GO4 {CPs}		

16.1.2 Consider providing additional voluntary contributions to the Convention to support the Small Grants Fund [and its Trust Fund], the Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Outreach Programme, and the Training Service, regionally-based initiatives such as MedWet, the undertaking of Ramsar Advisory Missions for sites included in the Montreux Record and other Ramsar sites, and other priority activities as determined by the Strategic Plan. GO4 {Bureau, CPs, IOPs}		
[16.1.3 At the latest at COP9, consider including in the core budget of the Convention an additional allocation to defray the Ramsar Bureau costs related to the ordinary meetings of the COP, in order to allow the opportunity for all Contracting Parties to be able to offer to host meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. GO4 {Bureau, COP, SC}]		
[16.1.4 At the latest at COP9, consider including within the core budget of the Convention an allocation to establish an Outreach Programme officer post to help accelerate [implementation of] this work. GO1, 4 {Bureau, SC, COP}]		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE CONVENTION

<p><u>Operational Objective 17.1:</u> Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Bureau are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
17.1.1 Ensure that the Ramsar COP continues to have as its major focus the development of tools to assist Parties in implementing the Convention through the Strategic Plan, and a <i>modus operandi</i> that allows full and active participation by small as well as large Contracting Party delegations and the different categories of observers. GO4 {COP, SC}		
17.1.2 [8.1.3] Keep under review and, if necessary, modify or enhance the roles, responsibilities, and financial resources available to the Standing Committee during each triennium. GO4 {COP, SC}		
17.1.3 [8.1.6] Through the information provided in National Reports, evaluate and report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan at each meeting of the COP, and prepare for every second meeting a revised and updated Strategic Plan for the forthcoming two triennia. GO4 {COP, SC, Bureau}		
17.1.4 [8.1.4] Review the working priorities and <i>modus operandi</i> , and ways of financing, of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) at each meeting of the COP. GO4 {COP, SC}		
17.1.5 Maintain as an ongoing priority action of the STRP, with the support of the Convention's network of STRP national focal points, IOPs and others, the development of new tools to assist Parties with the implementation of the wise use principle, as well as the review of the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance to ensure that these reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities. GO1, 2, 4 {COP, STRP, Bureau}		
17.1.6 Ensure that each Contracting Party has nominated a national focal point for the work of the STRP (as called for by Resolution VII.2) and two focal points (one government, one non-government) for the Outreach Programme on wetland communication, education and public awareness (as called for by Resolution VII.9). GO1, 4 {COP, CPs}		

17.1.7 [8.1.7] Review and approve annual Ramsar Bureau Work Plans, based on the Convention's Triennial Work Plan approved by the COP. GO1, 4 {SC, Bureau}		
17.1.8 [8.1.5] Review and make recommendations to the COP regarding the staffing and budget requirements of the Ramsar Bureau which take account of the expectations raised by the Strategic Plan and triennial Convention Work Plans. GO4 {Bureau, SC, COP}		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

Operational Objective 18.1 [4.1]: Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.	What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant	How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
18.1.1 [4.1.1/2] Encourage the review of existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and on the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to: a) increase cooperation and synergy among institutions with direct or indirect responsibility for wetland issues, especially those responsible for the management of water resources and for biodiversity and wetland conservation and management; GO1, 2, 4 {CPs}		
b) promote enhanced cooperation, and where appropriate integrated approaches, among the national focal points of environment-related conventions, and consider establishing a coordinating committee to ensure that integrated approaches are taken; GO3, 4 {CPs}		

<p>c) promote enhanced contact, and where appropriate close coordination, between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and national professional, technical, scientific and educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including those involved in social and cultural heritage issues; GO1, 4 {CPs, OCs} and</p>		
<p>d) provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, to enable these institutions to implement the Convention to full effect. GO4 {CPs} (Refer also to Operational Objective 20.1)</p>		
<p>18.1.2 [8.1.9] Establish National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, relevant government agencies and non-governmental organizations, STRP and CEPA National Focal Points, key stakeholders, indigenous people and local communities, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). When in place, ensure the proper functioning of these Committees. GO1, 4 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}</p>		
<p>18.1.3 [8.1.10] Review the designated Ramsar national Administrative Authority (and provincial (sub-national) focal points where appropriate), and STRP and CEPA national focal points in each Contracting Party, with a view to ensuring that these positions are being effective in increasing involvement in the work of the Convention of all relevant agencies and organizations concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands. GO1, 4 {CPs}</p>		

<p>18.1.4 Assist in achieving a cohesive and coordinated national effort with the implementation of the Convention, using Ramsar's national planning tool (based on the National Report Format) as an ongoing planning and monitoring mechanism. Ideally, this tool should be used by all relevant government departments/agencies and include input from National Ramsar/Wetland Committee members and other stakeholders as appropriate. GO4 {CPs}</p>		
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OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 19. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION PARTNERS AND OTHERS

<p>Operational Objective 19.1 [8.3]: Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>19.1.1 [8.3.1] Establish with each International Organization Partner a programme of joint work based on this Strategic Plan, review it annually, and seek additional funding for the implementation of actions not covered by existing organizational budgets. GO4 {Bureau, IOPs}</p>		
<p>[19.1.2 Implement mechanisms for strengthening the contribution of networks of experts of the International Partner Organizations and other collaborating organizations to the work of the STRP and the Convention. GO4 {Bureau, IOPs, STRP}]</p>		
<p>19.1.3 [8.3.2] Review and renew formal agreements with the Convention's International Organization Partners as necessary. GO4 {Bureau, IOPs}</p>		
<p>19.1.4 Welcome and expedite review of applications by eligible organizations seeking the status of International Organization Partner of the Convention. GO4. {SC, Bureau, IOPs}</p>		

<p>19.1.5 Implement existing memoranda of cooperation with other bodies, such as Eurosite (the network of European natural heritage management bodies), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University, USA (CIESIN), the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), and Ducks Unlimited (Canada, Mexico, USA), through establishment of joint programmes of work, and seek to develop similar agreements with other appropriate bodies [including the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Niger Basin Authority]. GO4 {Bureau, OCs}</p>		
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OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20. TRAINING

<p>Operational Objective 20.1 [4.2]: Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country? a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant</p>	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work? a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting</p>
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
<p>20.1.1 Implement, and further develop and publicize, the Convention's Wetland Training Service. GO4 {CPs, Wetlands International, Bureau, IOPs}</p>		
<p>20.1.2 [4.2.1] Identify at national, provincial, and local levels the needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the Convention and, in particular, use of the Wise Use Guidelines and Ramsar Handbooks. GO4 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}</p>		
<p>20.1.3 [4.2.2] Identify and disseminate, nationally, regionally and globally, information describing the current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the further development of the Bureau's Ramsar Wise Use Resource Centre (http://ramsar.org/wurc_index.htm) and the Directory of Wetland Management Training Opportunities (http://ramsar.org/wurc_training_directory.htm). GO4 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs, OCs}</p>		

<p>20.1.4 Provide financial support, where possible, for expanding the Bureau's internship training programme. GO4 {CPs, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>20.1.5 [4.2.3] Assemble and make available, or develop, new training activities and general training modules as necessary, for the use of the Ramsar Handbooks, with specialized modules including coverage of the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring; b) national wetland policies and plans; c) integrated catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning and management; d) integrated site management planning at the local, provincial or catchment/river basin level; e) wetland restoration and rehabilitation; f) invasive alien species; g) [agricultural impacts on wetlands and water resources;] h) impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment; i) impacts of climate change, and adaptive management and mitigation of such impacts j) economic valuation of wetlands; k) communication, education and public awareness techniques. <p>GO1, 2, 3, 4 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs, OCs}</p>		

<p>20.1.6 [4.2.4] Provide opportunities for manager training by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) encouraging personnel exchanges for on-the-job training, possibly between twinned sites; b) holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites; c) siting wetland manager and wetland educator training facilities at Ramsar sites; d) obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers around the world; e) establishing further regional training initiatives such as the Wetlands for the Future Initiative funded by the Government of the USA for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. <p>GO2, 3, 4 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs, OCs}</p>		
<p>20.1.7 [4.2.5] Continue to give high priority in the Operational Guidelines of the Small Grants Fund to support for training activities. GO4 {CPs, SC}</p>		
<p>[20.1.8 Encourage further development and use of regional wetland training and research centres. GO1, 3, 4 {CPs, MedWet, IOPs, OCs} (Refer also to Action 3.1.5)]</p>		
<p>20.1.9 [4.2.6] Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about training for the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the Outreach Programme, the Bureau, MedWet and the IOPs of the Convention. GO1, 3, 4 {CPs, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

<p><u>Operational Objective 21.1:</u> Secure the universal membership of the Convention.</p>	<p>What is the relative priority for implementing this objective in your country?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) High b) Medium c) Low d) Not relevant 	<p>How adequate are your national resources for implementing this work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Good b) Adequate c) Limiting d) Severely limiting
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Actions	Provisional national targets 2005	Proposed national actions to implement targets
21.1.1 Recruit new Contracting Parties through: a) seeking direct contact with non-Contracting Parties to provide information on the benefits of membership and advice or assistance in overcoming obstacles; GO5 {SC, neighbouring CPs, Bureau, IOPs}		
b) intensifying contacts with the diplomatic representatives of non-Contracting Parties; GO5 {Bureau}		
c) seeking assistance from the secretariats of other conventions, including the Regional Seas Conventions, and in-country offices of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and others; GO5 {CPs, Bureau, MEAs, OCs}		
d) organizing subregional workshops involving Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties; GO5 {CPs, Bureau}		
e) providing assistance for the identification of Wetlands of International Importance that could be listed as Ramsar sites upon accession; GO5 {Bureau, IOPs, OCs} and		
f) encouraging attendance by observers from non-Contracting Parties at regional meetings and meetings of the Conference of the Parties. GO5 {Bureau, IOPs, OCs}		