

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

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

file 1

Institutional information

Contracting Party: **ESTONIA**

Full name of designated Ramsar Administrative Authority: **Nature Conservation Department of the Estonian Ministry of Environment**

Name and title of the head of the designated Ramsar Administrative Authority: **Mr. Hanno Zingel, Head of Nature Conservation Department**

Mailing address and contact details of the head of the institution: **Toompuiestee 26, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia**

Telephone: **+372 6262872**

Facsimile: **+372 6262901**

Email: **hanno.zingel@ekm.envir.ee**

Name and title (if different) of the designated national focal point (or “daily contact” in the Administrative Authority) for Ramsar Convention matters: **Ms. Riinu Rannap, Senior officer of Nature Conservation Department**

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point: **Toompuiestee 26, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia**

Telephone: **+372 6262872**

Facsimile: **+372 6262901**

Email: **riinu.rannap@ekm.envir.ee**

Name and title of the designated national focal point for matters relating to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP): **Mr. Toomas Saat, Director of the Estonian Marine Institute**

Mailing address and contact details of the national STRP focal point: **Viljandi road 18b, 11216 Tallinn, Estonia**

Telephone: **+372 6281570**

Facsimile: **+372 6281563**

Email: **tsaat@sea.ee**

Name and title of the designated national government focal point for matters relating to the Outreach Programme of the Ramsar Convention: **Mr. Tiit Randla, Director of Silma Nature Reserve**

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point: **Pürksi, 90403, Läänemaa County, Estonia**

Telephone: **+372 47 29431**

Facsimile: **+ 372 47 29431**

Email: **bktiit@hotmail.ee**

Name and title of the designated national non-government (NG) focal point for matters relating to the Outreach Programme of the Ramsar Convention: **Mr. Andres Kuresoo, Researcher of the Institute of Zoology and Botany of Estonian Agricultural University**

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point: **Riia 181, 51014 Tartu, Estonia**

Telephone: **+372 7 383012**

Facsimile: **+372 7 383013**

Email: **akuresoo@zbi.ee**

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

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1

TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

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

Actions – Global Targets

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

- **The gaps remain in Africa, central Asia, the Middle East and the Small Island Developing States. Refer to Recommendation 7.2 relating to Small Island Developing States.**
- **Global Target - 150 CPs by COP8**
- **These are the countries which at present are not CPs of the Convention: Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica,**

<p>Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.</p>
<p>Is your country a neighbor of, or does it have regular dealings or diplomatic-level dialogue with, one or more of the non-Contracting Parties listed above? (This list was correct as of January 2000. However, accessions to the Convention occur on a regular basis and you may wish to check with the Ramsar Bureau for the latest list of non-CPs.) No If No, go to Action 1.1.2.</p>
<p>If Yes, have actions been taken to encourage these non-CPs to join the Convention? Yes/No</p>
<p>If Yes, have these actions been successful? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented such action being taken? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: </p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: </p>

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

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Has your country **completed** a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands?

Yes/No

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **No special review has been done**

If a review is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done?

If the review has been **completed**, did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to these amendments being completed? **Please elaborate.**

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

Estonia has been in the process of building up its entire new legal system after the restoration of independence in 1991. As wetlands are a common feature in the Estonian landscape, all legal acts related to planning, water management and biodiversity protection concern also conservation and wise use of wetlands. Most of the relevant acts are already updated.

The relevant acts are Act on Sustainable Development, Law on Protection of Nature in Estonia, Act on Protected Natural Objects, Act on Protection of Marine and Freshwater Coasts, Shores and Banks, Water Act, Forest Act, Planning and Construction Act, Act on Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Monitoring Act, and Land Amelioration Law.

Harmonization of national legislation with that of the European Union is underway. The EU nature conservation directives, the Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Bird Directive (79/409/EEC), are of particular relevance to wetland conservation. Conformity of national laws with international conventions is assessed continuously. In the case of conflicts, the ratified international conventions and laws will have superiority over the national legislation.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Ongoing amendment of legal acts concerning wetlands**

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

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?

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

Has your country taken its obligations with respect to the Ramsar Convention into consideration in related policy instruments such as National Biodiversity Strategies, National Environmental Action Plans, Water Policies, river basin management plans, or similar instruments? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to doing so?

If **Yes**, please provide brief details.

Actions related to wetlands, which form a remarkable part of the country's natural habitats, are included in the National Environmental Action Plan and National Biodiversity Action Plan.

The National Environmental Strategy was adopted by the Estonian Parliament in March 1997. The strategy specifies the trends and priority goals of environmental management and protection, and sets the main long-term tasks to be achieved by 2010. The elements of the Strategy relevant to wetlands are the chapters on "better use and protection of ground water resources", "protection of surface water bodies and coastal

sea", "preservation of landscapes and biodiversity" and "promotion of environmental awareness".

The first version of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) was approved in 1998 and a revised and updated NEAP at the beginning of 2001. The NEAP contains a large variety of actions, such as legal reforms, introduction of economic instruments, development of management plans, training, institutional strengthening, environmental awareness campaigns, etc.

The Estonian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was drawn up in 1999 but has not been approved by the Government or Parliament. The updated NEAP for the years 2001-2003 includes an obligation to update and adopt the Biodiversity Action Plan. The main aim of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is to integrate biodiversity policy into all relevant sectors and to promote cooperation between ministries. Implementation of a national programme for the protection of wetlands (2000-2005) is one of the highest priority activities of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Estonian water policy is based on a set of legal acts and agreements. Of these, the most important ones are the Water Act, which was passed in 1994 and has been updated through a number of amendments; the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (the Helsinki Convention); and the EU Water Framework Directive.

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? **Estonia does not belong the region of intertidal wetlands**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Updating and implementation of the National Wetland Programme. Development of a strategy for conservation and wise use of wetlands**

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

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?

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 coastal zone management approach has been applied in the areas of Matsalu Bay and Käina Bay in Western Estonia (integrated coastal zone management plans for these areas were drawn up in 1996).

At the end of the 1990s WWF initiated the Väinameri (Western Estonia) project, the aim of which is to apply integrated coastal zone management to maintain the valuable coastal landscapes and to create better living conditions for local people.

Preparation of an integrated water management plan for the region of the River Pärnu (Western Estonia) was initiated in 2001.

The principles of integrated river basin and coastal management are being taken into account in regional planning. The principal development plans are county spatial plans, which set a legal framework for land use and other activities. One of the main tasks of county planning is the design of green/ecological networks (including also different types of wetlands) at the county level.

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

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

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.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Development of a coastal management strategy. Development of practices for wise use of wetlands and inclusion of the appropriate measures in legal acts, land use planning (especially in coastal zone) and environmental strategy.**

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

Operational Objective 2.3: To expand the Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use to provide advice to Contracting Parties on specific issues not hitherto covered, and examples of best current practice.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.3.1 Expand the Additional Guidance on Wise Use to address specific issues such as oil spill prevention and clean-up, agricultural runoff, and urban/industrial discharges in cooperation with other bodies. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - Following COP7, the Bureau, with other appropriate collaborators, will produce a series of Wise Use handbooks, based on the outcomes of Technical Sessions at COP7.**
- **(added by the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Resolution VII.14 *Invasive Species and wetlands*) CPs are requested “to provide the Ramsar Bureau with information on databases which exist for invasive species, information on invasive species which pose a threat to wetlands and wetland species, and information on the control and eradication of invasive wetland species.”**

Does your country **have** resource information on the management of wetlands in relation to the following which could be useful in assisting the Convention to develop further guidance to assist other CPs :

- oil spill prevention and clean-up? **Yes**
- agricultural runoff? **Yes**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes**
- invasive species? **Yes**
- other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **No** – **Yes**

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** **It requires a special effort to collect and systematize the relevant materials, which are currently scattered between different institutions.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Introduction of the principles of conservation and wise use of wetlands in the relevant practices. Informing of workers about Ramsar standpoints and developments.**

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

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/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **This has been done only partly due to the limited financial and human resources.**

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

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **It requires a special effort to collect and systematize the relevant materials, which are currently scattered between different institutions. The materials are mainly in Estonian.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To get an overview of resource materials related to wetland management policies and practices**

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. **Yes** **Some peatlands (Leidisoo mire, Mahtra mire system) were designated as protected areas after comprehensive discussions between stakeholders (conservationists, peat extractors, local administrations)**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Organisation of economic valuation of wetlands and introduction of the results to a wide range of stakeholders (civil servants, local communities, etc.) to demonstrate the values of wetlands. Inclusion of economic valuation of wetlands in the process of preparation of wetland management plans.**

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

Operational Objective 2.5: To carry out environmental impact assessments (EIAs) at wetlands, particularly of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, notably at Ramsar sites, whose ecological character “is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference” (Article 3.2 of the Convention).

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Has an EIA been carried out in **all** cases where a change in the ecological character of a Ramsar site within your country was likely (or possible) as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, has this EIA, or have these EIAs, given due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See also 2.4.1 above) **Yes**

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Responsibility for the task has not yet been specified**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Application of EIA in all cases where a change in**

the ecological character of a wetland can occur due to development activities, pollution or other type of human interference.

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

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

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

Are EIAs required in your country for **all** cases where a wetland area (whether a Ramsar site or not) may be adversely impacted due to a development proposal or change in land/water use? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, are such EIAs required to give due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See COP7 Resolution VII.16, also 2.4.1 & 2.5.2 above.) **Yes**

Are EIAs “undertaken in a transparent and participatory manner which includes local stakeholders” (COP7 Resolution VII.16)? **Yes**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: Application of EIA in all cases where the project or action can have a negative impact on the quality and wildlife of wetlands

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment, county (regional) environmental departments

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?

If **Yes**, has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) **Yes**

Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? **No** –

Proposed national actions and targets: **Updating and implementation of the national Wetland Programme**

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

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]

- **The completion of such inventories is a continuing area of priority for the Convention.**
- **Global Target - Restoration/rehabilitation inventories to be completed by at least 50 CPs by COP8.**

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from being done? **The assessment has been completed partly.**

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

As a big number (and area) of wetlands have maintained their main ecological value in Estonia, restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands are not among the first priorities. The importance of restoration of wetlands (especially of semi-natural habitats and exploited peat bogs) is expected to grow in future.

The most valuable semi-natural wetlands requiring restoration were identified by experts in 2001.

The need for wetland restoration is analysed in the course of preparation of management plans for protected wetland areas.

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?

If **Yes**, please provide details.

In 2001 the Ministry of Environment allocated special land management support (19 million EEK) for restoration and maintenance of the ecological character of semi-natural communities (including wetlands). The work was carried out mainly by local farmers

Part of semi-natural wetlands (mainly floodplain meadows) have been restored in several protected wetlands (Alam-Pedja and Matsalu Nature Reserves, Soomaa National Park).

Some small-scale restoration projects are under way in exploited peat bogs (Lavassaare Bog).

The project of "Restoration and Management of the Häädemeeste wetland complex" (West-Estonia) funded by EU LIFE Nature programme started in 2001.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Restoration of the most valuable semi-natural wetland areas**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment, the administrations of protected wetlands**

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? **Limited human resources and logistic problems.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Promotion of restoration and continuing traditional use of seminatural wetland habitats. Intensification of the process of identification as well as implementation of restoration possibilities of exploited peat extraction areas and peatlands damaged by land reclamation**

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

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**

<p>the 'health' and productivity of waterways and coastal environments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Refer to 2.6.1 above.</p>

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.

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>2.7.1 Implement Recommendation 6.3 on involving local and indigenous people in the management of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - In the next triennium, the implementation of the Guidelines on local communities' and indigenous people's participation (COP7 Resolution VII.8) is to be one of the Convention's highest priorities. By COP8, all CPs to be promoting local stakeholder management of wetlands.
<p>Is your government actively promoting the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the management of wetlands? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this occurring? </p>
<p>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).</p> <p>Management plans for protected wetlands are required to be integrated into regional development planning, which takes into consideration both nature conservation requirements and interests of the people of the region.</p> <p>Local people have to be involved in the process of establishing green/ecological networks at the county (regional) level.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Promotion of the involvement of local communities in decision-making and management activities concerned with wetlands.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Employees of regional environmental departments and protected areas, NGO-s</p>

<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Does your government actively encourage or support site managers and local communities</p>

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?
If Yes , does this include both site managers and local communities, where they are not the same people? No Mainly site managers are responsible for monitoring
AND, where such monitoring occurs, are the findings being used to guide management practices? Yes
If No , what prevents this from happening?
Proposed national actions and targets: Inclusion of wetland monitoring into the State Monitoring Programme. Ensuring of monitoring of the results of the planned management activities.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Nature conservation personnel, State Monitoring Programme

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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?
If Yes , for how many sites are such committees in place? three sites.
Most of the Ramsar sites have their respective administration units in place and these cooperate closely with local people and authorities. In the case of other wetlands the decisions are made via regional and local planning.
AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? three sites
AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? three sites
AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented? three sites
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to 2.7.1 above. • Global Target - This will be addressed in the next triennium, possibly in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention to Combat Desertification, which have already initiated work in this area.
Has your government made any special efforts to recognize and see applied traditional knowledge and management practices? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? [REDACTED]
If Yes , please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice. In management plans of several wetland sites financial support has been foreseen for keeping up the old traditions of hay-making and reed cutting. In 2001 the Ministry of Environment provided for the first time special funding to support traditional management of semi-natural habitats, including wetland habitats.
Proposed national actions and targets: Supporting of traditional use of seminatural wetland habitats.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.8.1. Encourage the private sector to give increased recognition to wetland attributes, functions and values when carrying out projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - In the next triennium, the efforts to work in partnership with the private sector will be further increased and the Bureau will seek to document and make available case studies on some of the more effective and innovative approaches. By COP8, the target is to have private sector support for wetlands conservation in more than 100 CPs.
Have special efforts been made to increase the recognition of wetland attributes, functions and values among the private sector in your country? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? [REDACTED]
If Yes , describe these special efforts. Farmers are willing to continue the management of seminatural wetlands and are provided the relevant support. In 2001 the Ministry of Environment provided special funding to support traditional management of seminatural wetland habitats. The role of the private sector in developing tourism in protected areas (including wetlands) is [REDACTED]

growing
AND: Have these efforts been successful? Yes
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
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? Financial support for management.
Proposed national actions and targets: More active involvement of the private sector in decision-making and management activities in wetlands
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Nature conservation personnel of regional environmental departments and protected areas

<p>2.8.2 Encourage the private sector to apply the Wise Use Guidelines when executing development projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - In the next triennium the application of this tool for promoting Wise Use will be a priority under the Convention. By COP8, the target is to have more than 50 CPs which have completed reviews of their incentive measures.
Refer to 2.8.1 above. Has your government completed a review of its “existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use” (COP7 Resolution VII.15)? Yes
If No , what has been the impediment to this being done? [REDACTED]
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). Management compensation system has been worked out and also implemented to seminatural wetland complexes.
AND: Have these actions been effective? Yes
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
If Yes , please describe how. In 2001 appr. 400 000 EURO's were use for maintenance of seminatural communities in Ramsar sites.
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? No
Proposed national actions and targets: [REDACTED]

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

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? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Monitoring has been the task of state employees and scientists**

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts. [REDACTED]

AND: How successful has this been? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets: [REDACTED]

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

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

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

Refer to 2.7.3 above

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

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

Actions - Global Targets

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

Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below

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

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **[REDACTED]**

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 national EPA needs were identified in the process of drawing up the National Environmental Strategy, National Environmental Action Plan and the Estonian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Promotion of public awareness is regarded as the first priority goal among the ten priority policy goals of the National Environmental Strategy. The Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) includes short-term (1997-2000) and long-term (until 2010) policy goals related to this topic and nearly 70 single actions.

The Estonian Biodiversity Strategy includes the section of education. The objectives in this field are as follows: systematic management of nature education and securing of the necessary funding; integration of the topic of biological diversity into curricula at all levels; promotion of the involvement of structures outside the educational system in activities to introduce the need for biological diversity protection. The Action Plan up to the year 2005 includes more than 50 relevant activities.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Promotion of implementation of activities concerning environmental education and promotion of public awareness, as defined in the Environmental Action Plan and Biodiversity Action Plan**

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

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

Refer to 3.1.2 above also. Has your country **taken any action** to assist with the development of international wetland CEPA resource materials? **No**

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Responsibility for the action has not been specified yet**

Proposed national actions and targets: **[REDACTED]**

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

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

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

No

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

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

If **No**, what is preventing this from happening?

If **Yes**, please provide details.

AND indicate which Wetland Centres (refer 3.2.3 below), museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and educational environment education centres (refer 3.2.4) are now participating as part of Wetlands Link International. **None**

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

- **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? **The Focal Points were identified later**

Has your country **established** an "appropriately constituted Task Forces, where no mechanism exists for this purpose (e.g., National Ramsar Committees), to undertake a

review of national needs, capacities and opportunities in the field of wetland CEPA and, based on this, to formulate its National Wetland CEPA Action Plans for priority activities which consider the international, regional, national and local needs" (COP7 Resolution VII.9). No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? The national Ramsar Committee exists
If Yes , please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force. [REDACTED]
AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000? No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Education and public awareness issues are important parts of two wider strategies - Environmental Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy - and the activities are included in the relevant action plans
If Yes , is the Action Plan being implemented effectively? Yes/No
If No , what is preventing this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , what are the priority target groups of the Action Plan and the major activities being undertaken? [REDACTED]
AND: Has a copy of this plan been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? Yes/No
Proposed national actions and targets: Drawing up of the National Wetland CEPA Action Plan
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Estonian Ramsar Committee, nature conservation personnel, NGO-s

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

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what has been the impediment to such action being taken? **[REDACTED]**

If **Yes**, how successful has this been?

The administrative and visitor centres of protected wetland sites successfully function also as educational centres, providing various information, guided nature tours, [REDACTED]

exhibitions, videos, slideshows, booklets, etc.
AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites? The centres of 7 Ramsar sites - Soomaa, Matsalu, Vilsandi, Endla, Nigula, Hiiumaa Islands, Puhtu-Laelatu - are functioning as educational centres.
How many centres are being established? and at what sites?
How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? Opening of the centre of Emajõe Suursoo wetland complex is planned for 2002. The centre of the Haapsalu and Noarootsi bays (Silma Nature Reserve) will also be opened.
Of the sites in place, how many are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and at which sites are they? None
Proposed national actions and targets: Creation of a national system of nature centres and regional environmental education centres (introducing also wetlands)
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment

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? Yes/No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? Such exhibits are in place for the Estonian Museum of Natural History, Tallinn Zoo and Tallinn Botanical Gardens. Some of the regional (county or municipality) museums also introduce local nature (incl. wetlands)
If Yes , how many facilities does this apply to and how many of these are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and which facilities are they?
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

3.2.5 Encourage the inclusion of modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
• Global Target - By COP8, to see wetland issues incorporated into curricula in over

100 CPs.
In your country are there modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses? Yes
If No , what is preventing this from occurring?
If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details.
If Yes , have samples of this curriculum material been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? No
Proposed national actions and targets: Better integration of the topic of biological diversity (including wetlands and their values) into curricula at all levels.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Education, universities, local authorities, Ministry of Environment

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
3.3.1 Review the Bureau's communications activities, especially those related to the creation and functioning of regional and national communication networks; develop new material and use of technology, and improve existing material. [Bureau]
Refer to 3.2.1 "To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.". Has your government provided any voluntary contributions to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme? No
If Yes , please provide details.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

3.3.4 Seek the support of an electronic communications carrier to provide and maintain an electronic mail network and electronic bulletin board/ mailing lists linking the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee members, the STRP, the Bureau, and partner organizations. [All]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to gain a sponsor(s) for the Convention's Web site, to ensure that all CPs have Internet access, to increase the use of French and Spanish in the Ramsar Web site, and to see over 300 Ramsar site managers also communicating with the Bureau, and each other, via the Internet.
The Standing Committee and Bureau will consider the issue of a sponsor for the Convention's

<p>Web site, and increased presence of French and Spanish materials on the Web site.</p> <p>With respect to Ramsar site managers, has your government taken steps to provide for Internet links for these people? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this action being taken? </p>
<p>If Yes, how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access? All of them.</p>
<p>AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? All of the ten Ramsar sites: Soomaa, Alam-Pedja, Vilsandi, Nigula, Endla, Hiiumaa Islets, Matsalu, Emajõe Suursoo Mire, Puhtu-Laelatu-Nchatu; Muraka (managed by the regional environmental department).</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: </p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: </p>

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Please go to file 2.

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

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

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file 2

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

4.1.1 Review existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]

Has your country reviewed the national institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise use and the “designated national Administrative Authority for the Convention to ensure [that] these have the necessary resources to support the increasing demands being placed upon them by the growing expectations of the Convention” (COP7 Resolution VII.27)?

Yes

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

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

The main authority responsible for the implementation of wetland conservation and wise use policies is the Ministry of Environment with its departments, especially the Nature Conservation Department. The ministry is responsible for the following activities: 1) development of environmental legislation and standards; 2) development of environmental policies and strategy; 3) co-ordination of management of natural resources, environmental protection activities and scientific research; 4) organization of environmental monitoring; 5) organization of environmental impact assessment for projects of national importance; 6) management of protected areas; 7) organization of training and education of staff; 8) promotion of environmental education; 9) co-ordination of international co-operation in the field of the environment.

Other responsible institutions: county (regional) environmental departments, municipal environmental units (where they exist), administrations of protected areas.

Six academic and 14 non-governmental organisations are more closely involved in

wetland protection and management:

The Estonian Ramsar Committee as an advisory body is promoting coordination between the various administrative and scientific institutions responsible for conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Promotion of active and closer cooperation of various institutions and organisations in the field of conservation and wise use of wetlands**

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

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

- **increase cooperation and synergy between institutions;**
- **promote the continued operation of these institutions;**
- **provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, for these institutions. [CPs]**
- **Global Target - By COP8, to see coordinating mechanisms in place in all CPs, and more particularly to see National Ramsar Committees including government and non-government stakeholder representatives, in place in more than 100 CPs. In addition, by COP8, all CPs that have reported the existence of NRCs at COP7 to have evaluated their effectiveness (COP7 Resolution VII.27).**

Refer also to 8.1.9. Does your country have a National Ramsar Committee or similar body? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented the establishment of such a committee?

If **Yes**, is the committee cross-sectoral, including representatives of appropriate government ministries and non-government expert and stakeholder groups? **Yes**

What is the composition of this Committee?

The Estonian Ramsar Committee is made up of 10 voluntary members representing the Nature Conservation Department of the Ministry of Environment, scientific institutions, administrations of Ramsar sites, and NGO-s. The chairman of the committee is Hanno Zingel, head of the Nature Conservation Department of the Ministry of Environment.

Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? **Yes**

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

Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Rising of effectiveness and capacity of the national**

Ramsar Committee

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

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]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to have training needs analyses completed in more than 75 CPs.**

Has a training needs analysis been completed? **No**

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

No comprehensive analysis has been made. Identification of the current training need of nature conservation personnel was one of the results of the process of developing the Estonian Biodiversity Strategy and action plan. Identification of specific training needs is regarded as part of the day-to-day routine of the Ministry of Environment.

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?

If **Yes**, how has this been done?

AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort?

Proposed national actions and targets: **Regular advanced training for nature conservation specialists and authorities**

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

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?

Not formally. Training courses concerning various aspects of protection and wise use of

landscapes and ecosystems, including wetlands, (preparation of management plans, guarding , nature education, etc.) are provided at need by the Ministry of Environment.

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?

If Yes, how has this been done?

AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort?

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: **Further education and ongoing training for nature conservation personnel**

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

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

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

Following its review of training needs and opportunities, has your country developed any new training activities, or training modules? **No**

If Yes, please provide details.

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 Reply**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Establishment of a special institutional unit dealing with the issues of awarness and training on a regular basis**

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

4.2.4 Provide opportunities for manager training by: personnel exchanges for on-the-job training; holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites; siting wetland manager

training facilities at Ramsar sites; obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers around the world. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

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

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

- Through personnel exchanges for on-the-job training? **Yes**,
- Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? **Yes**, **Several courses about management planning and various management activities were organised in Soomaa National Park in 1999-2000**
- Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? **No**, **Please elaborate.**
- Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? **Yes**, **Contacts exist: with the Wetland Advisory and Training Centre (2 wetland managers have participated in wetland management courses in Lelystad); with the Darwin Initiative (5 persons have participated in the courses)**

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Supporting of activities related to the training of wetland managers**

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

4.2.6 Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about the conservation and wise use of wetlands, also with regard to South-South cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 4.2.1-4 above. Has your country specifically undertaken activities as indicated here which could be deemed to be South-South cooperation? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Not relevant to Estonia**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 5
TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF ALL SITES INCLUDED IN THE**

LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR LIST)

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.1.1 Define and apply the precise measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, in the light of the working definitions of ecological character adopted at the 6th COP (1996) and amended by Resolution VII.10 of COP7. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, each CP will seek to ensure that the measures required to maintain the ecological character of at least half of the Ramsar sites have been documented.
Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites in your country been documented? Yes
If No , what has prevented this being done? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? Yes
AND: Has a copy been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? No
Proposed national actions and targets: Preparation and updating of management plans for wetlands
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment

5.1.2 Conduct regular internal reviews to identify potential changes in ecological character, with input from local communities and other stakeholders; take remedial action and/or nominate the site for the Montreux Record. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to 2.5.2 - In the COP7 National Reports, 35 CPs reported Ramsar sites where some change in ecological character had occurred or was likely to occur in the near future. This was true for 115 sites in 33 CPs, and two other CPs stated that changes had occurred to all or some of their sites. In COP7 Resolution VII.12, these CPs were urged to consider nominating these sites to the Montreux Record. Global Target – In the period up to COP8, promote the application and benefits of the Montreux Record as a tool of the Convention through disseminating reports and publications on the positive outcomes achieved by a number of countries which have now removed sites from the Record.
Refer to 2.7.2 and 2.8.3 also. Are regular internal reviews undertaken to identify factors potentially altering the ecological character of Ramsar sites? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , have these reviews detected situations where changes in ecological character have

occurred or may occur? **Yes**

If **Yes**, for how many sites was this case, which sites were they, and what actions were taken to address these threats?

1) Valuable seminatural wetland habitats are often abandoned by farmers and grow over (Matsalu, Soomaa, Alam-Pedja, Vilsandi, Hiiumaa Islands). Traditional use of these habitats is now required in management plans. Special compensation is paid to local farmers to support traditional farming;

2) Water pollution has been a problem for several wetland sites (Matsalu, Endla). However, pollution loads have decreased significantly because of a decline in the main sectors of economy and construction of waste water treatment plants;

3) Tourism and visitor loads are increasing and may have a negative effect on wetland areas. Active planning and construction of trails and other public access facilities channels visitor load in wetlands and makes its impact more manageable;

4) Development activities. There was a plan to construction a harbour very close to the border of Vilsandi National Park. Public discussions and results of EIA have stopped the activities.

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

If **No**, why not?

The changes are not dramatic and can be avoided by timely planning and implementation of appropriate management measures

Proposed national actions and targets: **Development of management plans for all Ramsar sites, including regular monitoring of effectiveness of the management measures to avoid negative changes in the ecological character of the sites**

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

5.1.3 Review and regularly update the Montreux Record (Resolutions 5.4, 5.5, and VI.1). [CPs, STRP, Bureau]

- **Global Target - CPs with Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record, and for which Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) have been completed prior to COP7, are expected to have taken the actions necessary to warrant their removal from the Record before COP8.**

For those CPs with a site, or sites, included in the Montreux Record, and for which RAMs (previously Management Guidance Procedures, MGPs) have been completed, have all actions recommended by the RAM been undertaken for each site? **No Reply**

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

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
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 5.2: To develop and implement management plans for all Ramsar sites, consistent with the Convention's Guidelines on Management Planning and emphasizing involvement of local communities and other stakeholders.

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.2.3 Ensure that, by the 8th COP (2002), management plans or other mechanisms are in preparation, or in place, for at least half of the Ramsar sites in each Contracting Party, beginning with pilot programmes at selected sites with input from local communities and other stakeholders. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, management plans will be in preparation, or in place, for at least three-quarters of the Ramsar sites in each CP and all CPs will seek to ensure that these are being implemented in full.
Do all the Ramsar sites in your country have management plans in place ? Yes/No
If No , how many sites do not have management plans in place and which sites are they? For 5 sites management plans are being prepared
If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. Plans are being prepared for Vilsandi National Park, Muraka Nature Reserve, Puhtu-Laelatu-Nehatu Wetland Complex, Emajõe Suursoo Mire and Piirissaar Island, and Hiiumaa Islets
For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they? Three management plans are fully implemented - for Matsalu and Alam-Pedja Nature Reserves and for Käina Bay. The management plan for Soomaa National Park will be implemented in 2000 to 2010.
Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done? Certain difficulties are due to insufficient human and financial resources. The management plans for Nigula and Endla Nature Reserves will be implemented in 2002-2005.
Proposed national actions and targets: Promotion of preparation and implementation of management plans for Ramsar sites
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry

of Environment

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

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

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

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place?

According to the Act on Protected Natural Objects, all land and water area within a protected area is divided into zones, as specified in protection rules. Zones have been established in all Ramsar sites whose protection rules have been updated (Alam-Pedja, Endla, Hiiumaa Islets and Käina Bay, Matsalu, Muraka, Nigula, Soomaa and Vilsandi).

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool? **Yes.**

The zones have different protection regimes and restrictions. A strict nature reserve zone is an area of land or water in its natural state and free from the direct impact of human activity, where conservation of natural associations resulting only from natural processes is guaranteed; a special management zone is designated for protection and appropriate management of natural or seminatural associations. A limited management zone is a part of protected area used for economic purposes subject to conservation restrictions.

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: **Establishment of an evaluation framework for protected areas, including zoning criteria.**

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

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?

If Yes , for which sites are these in place? Small alkaline fense.
AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool? Yes
Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? No
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 5.3: To obtain regularly updated information on wetlands of international importance, in accordance with the approved standard format.

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.3.1 Ensure that the maps and descriptions of Ramsar sites submitted to the Ramsar Database by the Contracting Parties at the time of designation are complete, in the approved standard format of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, and provide sufficient detail to be used for management planning and monitoring of ecological character. [CPs, Bureau, Wetlands International]
5.3.2 Ensure that missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of listed sites are submitted as a matter of priority and in the shortest possible time, as a means to enhance the relevance and use of the Ramsar Database. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target – By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites for which appropriate sites descriptions and maps are still required.
If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided a Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet in the approved format, with a suitable map, in one of three working languages of the Convention, has this now be rectified? Does Not Apply
If No , what is preventing this from being done?

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

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>5.4.1 Assess data currently available in the database and identify any gaps in the data provided by Contracting Parties. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]</p> <p>Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.</p>
<p>5.4.4 Support the establishment of national wetland databases compatible with the Ramsar Database and develop a common protocol to facilitate exchange and interaction. [CPs, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland databases in over 50 CPs which are accessible globally.
<p>Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what is preventing such a database being established?</p>
<p>If Yes, is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? Yes</p>
<p>If No, why not? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details. </p>
<p>If No, why not? It has not been a priority for the Ministry of Environment</p>
<p>AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details. </p>
<p>If No, why not? It has not been a priority for the Ministry of Environment</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Development of the existing electronic database, Information System for Estonian Nature (EELIS)</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment</p>

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 6

TO DESIGNATE FOR THE RAMSAR LIST THOSE WETLANDS WHICH MEET THE CONVENTION'S CRITERIA, ESPECIALLY WETLAND TYPES STILL UNDER-REPRESENTED IN THE LIST AND TRANSFRONTIER WETLANDS

Operational Objective 6.1: To identify those wetlands that meet the Ramsar criteria, and to give due consideration to their designation for the List.

Actions - Global and National Targets

6.1.1 Develop, regularly update -- especially in the case of Africa -- and disseminate regional wetland directories, which identify potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Partners]

Refer to 6.1.2 and 6.2.1. Does there exist for your country a directory or similar listing of sites which are potential Ramsar sites? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such a list of sites being prepared?

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)?

The list of wetlands which are potential Ramsar sites (the shadow list) is given in the National Programme for Implementation of the Ramsar Convention adopted by governmental decree in March 1997. In 2000 the list was reviewed and updated by the Ramsar Committee.

Yes

AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? **Fourteen areas are listed and need to be designated by 2010.**

The directory of Important Bird Areas, compiled in 2000 by Birdlife International and the Estonian Ornithological Society, includes 57 areas.

Additionally, the wetland inventory carried out in 1997 identified at least 99 mires, 6 floodplain grasslands and 21 coastal grasslands which should be designated as protected areas.

Proposed national actions and targets: **To specify and improve the shadow list of potential Ramsar sites.**

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

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? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared? [REDACTED]
If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are. [REDACTED]
AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory? [REDACTED]
If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized? Various inventories have been completed at different times. The lakes of Estonia have been studied and inventoried by limnologists in 1960s and 1970s. During the WETSTONIA Project (Estonian Fund for Nature, WWF-Denmark, 1993-1996) mainly semi-natural wetland habitats - floodplain and coastal grasslands were investigated. A comprehensive inventory of wetlands was carried out in 1997. An additional inventory of Important Bird Areas was completed in 2000. The NATURA 2000 Programme (2000-2007) includes inventories of insufficiently known wetland areas.
AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? [REDACTED]
Has national/subnational inventory information been provided to the Ramsar Bureau (if it is not accessible through the Internet)? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: Analysing of the representativeness of the shadow list of potential Ramsar sites with respect to the classification of Estonian wetland types. Organisation of inventories of wetlands of underrepresented wetland types
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Estonian Ramsar Committee, Ministry of Environment

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? [REDACTED]
If Yes , is this information provided to Wetlands International? Yes
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
Proposed national actions and targets: Continuation of regular monitoring of seaducks, geese and swans and provision of the relevant information to Wetlands International

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Estonian Ornithological Society.**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, has this resulted in the designation of a representative range of wetland types? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Analysing of the representativeness of the Ramsar shadow list with respect to the diversity of wetland types. Identification of appropriate examples of minerotrophic mire types.**

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

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

- **Global Targets - The long-term targets are set by the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (COP7 Resolution VII.11). Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived [by the STRP].**

Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
If Yes , has this included designations of wetlands including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coral reefs? No • mangroves? No • seagrass beds? No • peatlands? Yes • intertidal wetlands? (COP7 Resolution VII.21) No
Proposed national actions and targets: Designation of several peatlands (Puhatu and Agusalu Mire systems, Sookuninga mire complex, Lihula Mire, Leidissoo Mire, Nätsi-Võlla Bog, Avaste Mire) as Ramsar sites; Inclusion of examples of minerotrophic mire types to the list of potential Ramsar sites
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Estonian Ramsar Committee, Ministry of Environment

6.2.4 Pay particular attention to the designation of new sites currently enjoying no special conservation status at national level, as a first step towards developing measures for their conservation and wise use. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This question was not considered in the National Reports for COP7. It will be included for consideration in the NRs for COP8. • Global Target - All CPs to consider this approach to ensuring the long-term conservation and wise use of wetlands that are subject to intense human use.
Has your country designated wetland sites for the Ramsar List which previously had no special conservation status? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening? The most valuable wetlands, which were the first ones to be designated for the Ramsar List, already had a protection status
If Yes , please provide details.
AND: Are there plans for further such designations? Yes
If No , why not?
If Yes , please elaborate. Väike Väin strait (IBA) will be designated as Ramsar site
Proposed national actions and targets: Designation of shadow-listed sites, including Väike Väin strait, which is not protected at the moment
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment

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

<p>[CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of transfrontier or shared wetlands is addressed in the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (COP7 Resolution VII.19)</i> and the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into river basin management (COP7 Resolution VII.18)</i>. Global Target - By COP8, for there to be over 50 transfrontier wetland sites designated under the Convention.
For those CPs which 'share' wetlands with other CPs, have all suitable sites been designated under the Convention? No
If No , what has prevented this action being taken? <p>The Estonian Ramsar Committee will propose to designate Sookuninga Mire System adjacent to the Nigula Nature Reserve as Ramsar site in 2002. Thereafter, a transfrontier site will be established in cooperation with Latvia (bogs in North-Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve). There is a possibility to establish a transfrontier site with Russia (Emajõe Suursoo Mire and Pürissaar Island lie close to Pskovskoye-Chudskoye lowland in Russia).</p>
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?
Proposed national actions and targets: To promote transboundary projects of wetland conservation.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 7

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Partners]
Refer to 6.2.5 above.
7.1.2 Encourage twinning of transfrontier wetlands, and of other wetlands with similar characteristics, and use successful cases for illustrating the benefits of international cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<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? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening?
If Yes , please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved.
Nigula Nature Reserve and North-Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve (Latvia) cooperate closely (the North-Livonian Wetland Project) to establish a transboundary wetland site.
AND: Do these arrangements involve:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing of information resources? Yes • transfer of financial resources? No • exchanges of personnel? No • other activities?
Proposed national actions and targets: Promotion of international cooperation with Latvia and Russian Federation
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
7.2.1 Participate in, or initiate, consultations with related conventions to foster information exchange and cooperation, and develop an agenda for potential joint actions. [SC, Bureau]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the

Convention to Combat Desertification which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.
Refer also to 4.2.1. Does there exist a mechanism (such as an inter-ministry committee) at the national level with the charter of coordinating/integrating the implementation of international/regional conventions/treaties to which your country is a signatory? No
If No , what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? Currently the main mechanism is regular exchange of information between persons responsible for the implementation of different conventions
If Yes , describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider.
AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? No Reply
If No , why not?
If Yes , please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: Establishment of closer cooperation between related conventions and actions and creation of joint programmes
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment

7.2.2 Prepare project proposals together with other conventions and partner organizations, and submit them jointly to potential funding agencies. [CPs, SC, Bureau, Partners]
For eligible countries, have there been project proposals prepared and submitted to funding agencies which were intended to assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , were such proposals successful in gaining funds? Yes - Within HELCOM PITF MLW framework and supported by several donors (WWF, EU Phare, World Bank), integrated management plans have been prepared for Matsalu and Käina Bays; Ramsar Small Grant Fund has provided a tractor for the management of seminatural wetlands in Matsalu; EU Life programme has supported the preparation of a management plan for Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve; Danish Government supported the preparation and implementation of a management plan for Soomaa National Park. Several donor-supported projects are underway: EU LIFE Nature programme supports 2 projects: 1) restoration, management and education project at Häädemeeste wetland complex; 2) preservation of Boreal-Baltic coastal meadows (West-Estonia). DANCEE (Danish Government) supports the project of Implementation of the Natura 2000 network in Estonia regarding freshwater species and habitats

An extensive project of protection and restoration of coastal wetlands, supported by UNEP GEF, will begin in near future in the Haapsalu bay area (Silma Nature Reserve).

Proposed national actions and targets: To facilitate submission of applications concerning inventory, restoration and management of wetlands by NGOs and other organisations

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

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

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

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

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

The "National Biodiversity Unit" proposed by the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has not been established yet. At present only one officer in the Nature Conservation Department of the Ministry of Environment is responsible for the co-ordination of CBD.

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

Proposed national actions and targets: Establish joint programmes between Ramsar Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity, and also with the Natura 2000 Programme

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

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>Guidelines for Aid Agencies for Improved Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Wetlands</i>, published by OECD's Development Assistance Committee (Recommendation 6.16). [Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>While this action is directed at the Bureau principally, CPs also have a role to play in this area; refer to 7.4.2 below with respect to bilateral development agencies. For the multilateral donors: Is your government represented on the governing bodies or scientific advisory bodies of the multilateral donors, or the GEF? No</p> <p>If Yes, has this person/agency/ministry been briefed on the obligations of your country under the Ramsar Convention, and the relevant expectations raised of each CP by the Strategic Plan and COP decisions? No Reply</p> <p>No</p>

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: [REDACTED]

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, is this:

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

AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds? **Use of the funds is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment.**

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **Yes It is linked to the Nature Conservation Programme**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Implementation of the obligations arising from the Convention on Wetlands**

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

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

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

If your country has a bilateral development assistance programme, does it allocate funds for

wetland-related projects on a regular basis? No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , are these projects subjected to rigorous impact assessment procedures, which take account of the full environmental, social and economic values of wetlands? Yes/No
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , is the Ramsar Administrative Authority consulted during the screening and assessment phases of the projects? Yes/No
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
AND: Is there a formal consultative process in place (such as a National Ramsar Committee) which ensures that the development assistance agency is fully aware of the Ramsar Convention obligations of the country with respect to international cooperation? Yes/No
If No , why not?
If Yes , please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

7.4.4 Mobilize direct funding support from multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies to assist developing countries and countries whose economy is in transition, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands and in implementation of the present Strategic Plan. [CPs. Bureau]

- Global Target - By COP8 for all the bilateral donors from appropriate CPs to have funds earmarked for wetland projects, and for all of these CPs to have in place mechanisms for consultation between the development assistance agency and their Ramsar Administrative Authority.**

Refer to 7.4.2 above

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 8
TO PROVIDE THE CONVENTION WITH THE REQUIRED INSTITUTIONAL
MECHANISMS AND RESOURCES**

Operational Objective 8.1: To maximize achievement of Ramsar’s mission and objectives by evaluating and, if necessary, modifying the Convention’s institutions and management structures.

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.1.9 Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees to provide the

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

Refer to 4.1.2.

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

Refer to 4.1.1

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Timely payment of annual contributions to the core budget of the Convention**

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

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?
Proposed national actions and targets: Rising the effectiveness and capacity of the national Ramsar Committee
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment, the members of the committee

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

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