

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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Institutional information

Contracting Party: Finland

Full name of designated Ramsar Administrative Authority: Finnish Environment Institute

Name and title of the head of the designated Ramsar Administrative Authority: Lea Kauppi Director General

Mailing address and contact details of the head of the institution: FIN-00251 Helsinki, Finland

Telephone: +358 9 403000

Facsimile: +358 9 40300 789

Email: Lea.Kauppi@ymparisto.fi

Name and title (if different) of the designated national focal point (or "daily contact" in the Administrative Authority) for Ramsar Convention matters: Timo Asanti Senior Adviser

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point: FIN-00251 Helsinki, Finland

Telephone: +358 9 403000

Facsimile: +358 9 40300 791

Email: Timo.Asanti@ymparisto.fi

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

Mailing address and contact details of the national STRP focal point: FIN-00251 Helsinki, Finland

Telephone: +358 9 403000

Facsimile: +358 9 40300 791

Email: Timo.Asanti@ymparisto.fi

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

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point: FIN-00251 Helsinki, Finland

Telephone: +358 9 403000

Facsimile: +358 9 40300 791

Email: Timo.Asanti@ymparisto.fi

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

Mailing address and contact details of the national focal point:

Telephone:

Facsimile:

Email:

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]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The gaps remain in Africa, central Asia, the Middle East and the Small Island Developing States. Refer to Recommendation 7.2 relating to Small Island Developing States.• Global Target - 150 CPs by COP8• These are the countries which at present are not CPs of the Convention: Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.	

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.) If No , go to Action 1.1.2.
If Yes , have actions been taken to encourage these non-CPs to join the Convention? Yes. Lesser White-Fronted Goose project with Kazakhstan and with other countries around the Caspian Sea.
If Yes , have these actions been successful? Yes.
If No , what has prevented such action being taken?
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Regional Environment Centre of Häme

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

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2
TO ACHIEVE THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS BY IMPLEMENTING AND
FURTHER DEVELOPING THE RAMSAR WISE USE GUIDELINES**

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

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

- **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.

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

If a review is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done?
Since 1995 when Finland joined EU this process has been going on and some of the Acts are being reviewed again. The process is continuous.

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

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

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

When Finland joined the EU in 1995, it had to transpose EU environmental legislation into Finnish national law. The most important work was the revision of the Nature Conservation Act in 1996. The nature conservation directives in EU legislation, the Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) and, the Bird Directive (79/409/EEC), were the most important. Other important Acts and conservation programmes are e.g. the Land Use and Building Act, the Water Act, the Hunting Act, the Wilderness Act, the Forest Act and the Environment Assessment Act. Several conservation programmes related to wetlands conservation are being carried out e.g. National Parks, Strict Nature Reserves, Mire Conservation Programme, the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme (Bird Wetland areas), Shoreline protection areas, other protected areas on state-owned land, other protected areas on private-owned land, Wilderness areas and Natura 2000 areas and new areas. The conservation programmes are ratified by the Council of State.

When revised the Nature Conservation Act section 4 deals with international conventions. The provisions set forth under binding international conventions on nature conservation and the protection of wild species of flora and fauna shall also apply.

In addition to what is provided in the Nature Conservation Act the provisions set forth under binding international conventions (Ramsar, Bern, Bonn, AEW, CITES, CBD) on nature conservation and the protection of wild species of flora and fauna shall also apply.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Implementation of Nature 2000 Programme and other conservation programmes and international conventions.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Leading The Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, several other Ministries, Finnish Environment Institute and Regional Environment Centres.

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, similar instruments e.g. NATURA 2000 network.

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?

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

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

National priorities and measures in the National Action Plan for Biodiversity are:

- overview of legislation and necessary reforms;
- incorporation of biodiversity into the daily routine of administration, trade and industry (forestry, rural areas and agriculture, mining, the use of water resources, energy production, hunting and game management, fisheries, reindeer husbandry, transport and urban infrastructure and national defense);
- economic instruments and other incentives;
- maintenance and use of biodiversity at the local and regional level;
- in situ conservation (developing a network of protected areas, important key biotopes for biodiversity, management of protected areas, protection of endangered species, and CITES);
- ex situ conservation;
- regulation of non-native species and stocks and genetically modified organisms;
- ownership of and access to genetic material;
- protecting the status of indigenous peoples;
- education, public awareness, training and information;
- research, monitoring and information systems

International obligations and cooperation means:

- Nordic cooperation;
- Cooperation in Central and East European (CEE) countries and neighbouring areas;
- Arctic cooperation;
- European cooperation;
- Global cooperation;

- Development cooperation and improvement of access to and transfer of information and technology;
- Prevention of transboundary hazards to biological diversity

The aim of the Finnish nature conservation policy is to incorporate wetland and conservation values into all planning at the national, regional and local level. Several acts deal implicitly with wetlands and conservation. The National Action Plan for Biodiversity 1997-2005 in Finland was drawn up in 1997.

What has been done during 2000-2001 according to the National Action Plan for Biodiversity Strategy:

- relation and revision to EIA and other environment legislation, threatened species and habitats, sustainable use of nature resources, genetic diversity and resources, alien species and new organisms, economical and employment factors related to biodiversity, rights of indigenous people, teaching and education, research and development, monitoring the state of biodiversity, information and international cooperation.

These items are very closely in context with nature conservation programmes, protection of threatened species, management of protected areas, EU Life-Nature fund, biodiversity of agriculture and forestry and the monitoring of national biodiversity.

Has your government reviewed and modified, as appropriate, its policies that adversely affect intertidal wetlands (COP7 Resolution VII.21)?

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening?
Intertidal wetlands does not exist in Finland.

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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, in EU context.

<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done?</p>
<p>If integrated management approaches are being applied in part of the country, indicate the approximate percentage of the country's surface area where this is occurring and to which river basins and coastal areas this applies.</p>
<p>If Yes, are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? Yes.</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done?</p>
<p>Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (COP7 Resolution VII.18)</i>.?</p>
<p>If Yes, please describe them briefly. The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Demonstration Programme is a joint EU initiative for the environment, fisheries and regional policy. Its objectives are: providing technical information about factors which effect the sustainable management of coastal zones. Stimulating a broad cooperation and exchange of information among the various actors involved in the planning and implementation of coastal zone management. The dialogue should lead to consensus regarding the appropriate measures to be taken at the European and other levels of competence in order to promote the integrated management of European coastal zone. There are several international initiatives besides the Ramsar Convention are used for protection of coastal and marine areas in Finland. E.g. the coastal planning on the gulf of Finland (EU-Life project). The project comprised seven municipalities, three Regional Councils and two Regional Environment Centres on the southern coast of Finland. The goal of the project was to draw up ratified master plans for coastal zones. The Liminganlahti Life-project "Conservation of Liminganlahti wetland" was among the first Finnish nature protection projects supported by the European Union. The project has as its most central objective to conserve the unique natural values by integrating nature conservation and other land use modes in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable development. A plan has been prepared for management of an area in the land uplift archipelago of Kvarken within the frames of project party financed by the European Union. The principal aim of the Life Nature project is to secure to protection of the most important forest covered islands from the nature protection point of view. In the planning area Lappören-Slättskäret-Kvicksund there are found many valuable biotopes as well as threatened or rare species of animals and plants. In order to implement the nature conservation the area will become a nature reserve in the long run. This will be carried out by protection of privately owned land, land exchange or by buying private land to the state. Limminganlahti bay and Iso Matala-Maasyvänlahti area in Hailuoto island are internationally important wetlands. Nature protection and other modes of land use of this area have raised discussion among local people and hopes and thoughts on how this area should be used have varied considerably. A slow and continuous change of the landscape and habitats caused by natural processes and human action is typical for this area. The main objective of the Liminganlahti-Life project supported by European Union is to save natural values of the project area by integrating nature conservation and other land use modes.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Implementation of the national programme.</p>

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Ministry of the Environment and Regional Environment Centres.

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 B 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.?

Yes. For these below mentioned items Finland has action plans. Finnish Environment Institute is the competent government water pollution combatting authority. It is in charge of measures against pollution incidents at open waters and whenever severity of an incident so necessitates. The work relates to following types of incidents:

- all marine accidents, which may present a risk of an oil spill or other environmental damage and all evidently illegal discharges from vessels
- other major oil or chemical accidents
- unusual deaths of wildlife and sudden damage to vegetation, unusual algae blooming and other sudden signs of environmental emergency or contamination.

Finnish Environment Institute has a 24-hour environmental incident duty service.

In Finland there is eleven Government owned ship-size vessels and 12 boats of municipalities (10-18 meters long) with oil recovery brush system fitted permanently inside the vessel. For oil spill prevention and clean-up in Finland possessies there is strategic action plans for the whole country and also for regional accidents both in the Baltic Sea area and in the larger inland lake areas.

Finland has also Water Protection Action Programme for the year 2005. In this programme includes general and polluter-specific means and measures required for attaining water protection targets. The measures will lead to reductions in discharges of dangerous and

harmful substances and of nutrients and organic substances into Baltic Sea and inland waters.

The water protection action plan includes industry, municipalities, scattered dwellings, agriculture, forestry, fish farming and peat industry.

There is also a Interim assessment of water protection objectives (Discharges into bodies of water 1990-2000). The degree of the achievement of water protection objectives varies significantly by sectors and discharge variables. Only fish farming has almost achieved the objectives set for 2005 already by 2000. In other activities water protection measures, at least to some extent, must be further intensified.

In the Finnish environmental administration Finnish Environment Institute is an research and development institution which works with priority areas like water protection (controlling eutrophication), atmospheric change (management of emission and effects), biodiversity research, wastes and contaminated soils (procedures and techniques), industrial activities (towards eco-efficiency) and water resources management (sustainable use of water resources).

Finland has promoted the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources as part of all social endeavours. Alien invasive species are a growing problem worldwide, causing both ecological and economic disasters. Therefore, the Convention on Biological Diversity at COP5 urged the application of interim guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species in order to gather information and prepare national case studies on the subject. Alien species in Finland (2001) is the first compiled national report on alien invasive species. The report (in English) contains information on marine and terrestrial introduced alien species and environments.

Another report is the inter-Nordic compilation of information on introduced species in the Nordic countries. The report contains general description of introductions in the marine, limnic and terrestrial environments in the Nordic countries as well as information from database on introduced species.

The special subsidy agreements in the Agri-Environmental Programmes for Finland (1995-99 and 2000-2006) give attention to the conservation of biodiversity and the management of landscapes and traditional biotopes. The subsidy schemes cover, for instance, the management of traditional biotopes, the promotion of biodiversity, landscape management and the preservation of native breeds.

The transport sector has focussed on environmental impact assessment for transportation routes and reducing risks to biodiversity. The Finnish National Road Administration's regional offices avoid constructioning new roads in protected areas and areas containing protected habitat and planning new roads which would cause fragmentation of important natural areas.

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)?
These above mentioned plans have not been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau because it is printed in Finnish. The material is available with short English summary in Finnish.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Several ministries, central government institutions, local authorities.

<p>2.3.2. Publicize examples of effective application of existing Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting and improving the availability of such resource materials is a priority under the <i>Convention's Outreach Programme (Resolution VII.9)</i> • 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.
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: These Action Plans are implemented into every day practise.</p>
<p>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?</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this being done?</p>
<p>If Yes, have copies of this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau? Yes. No, Finland has not forwarded the material to the Bureau.</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this being done? Every action plan when publiced mainly in Finnish includes short summary in English.The information is printed in Finnish.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: The potential customers Bureau should express its their interest towards the material done by CPs. Finland prefers focused material supply.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: The Ministry of the Environment and Finnish Environment Institute.</p>

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

<p>Actions – Global and National Targets</p>
<p>2.4.1 Promote the development, wide dissemination, and application of documents and methodologies which give economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the guidelines available for this activity (see below: <i>Economic Valuation of Wetlands handbook</i>), this will be an area of higher priority in the next triennium. • Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be incorporating economic valuation of wetland services, functions and benefits into impact assessment and decision-making processes related to wetlands.
<p>Does your government require that economic valuations of the full range of services, benefits and functions of wetlands be prepared as part of impact assessments and to support planning decisions that may impact on wetlands?</p> <p>EIA schemes are developing rapidly in the economic, ecological and social fields. Strategic EIA has also been used in political decision-making to improve sustainability. During the monitoring period 1997-1999 several significant EIAs have been carried out (e.g. Finland´s Natura 2000 network proposals, the National Forest Programme for 2010, EIAs in the transport sector).</p>

<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done?</p>
<p>If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases? The valuation required concerns only very large scale projects according to the Act of Impact Assessment. For small scale projects it is not always necessary to have large evaluation process. But it is self evident that small or large project in some extent it needs impact assessment as a planning tool.</p> <p>Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is required already to day and in every case depending of the national impact of the case.</p>
<p>If Yes, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection.</p> <p>Yes. The Act of Impact Assessments requires this in every restoration project. Also the EU legislation at least in those financed by EU requires the same demands. This valuation work is needed in every protection project also those financed by EU.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Valuation process is implemented already in every restoration project the target of which is protection of the site.</p> <p>EIA should be carried out with extensive cooperation between different specialists to achieve a better overall view in planning. The ecological and social environmental effects of the National Action Plan for Biodiversity in Finland must also be assessed. A more precise analysis of the social costs and impact on employment must also be carried out along with the evaluation of the adequacy of the plan in ecological terms. The cost and benefit effects should be recognised at both the national and local authority levels and form the point of view of other groups affected by the plan´s proposals.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: There will always be the leading partner of a project but it is the concern of every stakeholder of the project and also all the governmental organizations if they are operators in the project what so ever included the Ministries. Even local communities may be the leading actor.The Ministry of the Environment, Finnish Environment Institute, regional environment centres.</p>

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

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>2.5.2 Ensure that, at Ramsar sites where change in ecological character is likely as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, EIAs are carried out (with due consideration of economic valuations of wetland benefits and functions), and that the resulting conclusions are communicated to the Ramsar Bureau and fully taken into account by the authorities concerned. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - In the next triennium, CPs will ensure that EIAs are applied to any such situation and keep the Bureau advised of the issues and the outcomes of these

EIAs.

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

Yes. Finland has its own EIA legislation.

According to the Finnish EIA legislation EIA is always needed in especially large and in cases where the impact from the society point of view is large or important. EU has given its own directive (2001/42/EC) which must also be taken under consideration when there is a question of e.g. restoration a wetland site where the effects seems to be nationally important and large. Where an assessment is required by the EU directive an environmental report must always be prepared containing relevant information as set out in the directive, identifying, describing and evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme.

The same procedure must be taken according to national EIA legislation. In Finland there is two ways depending on the effects either the EIA way or the environment permit way where the effects can be seen more local and this way is based on the Act of Environment Protection.

In cases EIA legislation cannot be implemented the Nature Conservation Act is to be used.

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 it has. The procedure of implementing EIA is very thorough in Finland. The average time frame for a project when the planning starts and when the project is finished is about 4-5 take several years. This procedure of EIA in Finland is a good example of a so called participatory planning where e.g. local people are involved.

AND: Have the results of the EIA been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau?

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

The relevant material is printed in Finnish. **The working language is in Finnish so in every case it is a question of translation. But it is also a question of expediency is everything useful for the Bureau.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

The potential customers should express their need for above mentioned material. EU is coming out with a new EIA-directive and it means the evaluation and implementation of the new directive.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [Ministry of the Environment and Finnish Environment Insitute](#). The Ministry of the Environment, Finnish Environment Institute and other governmental organisations.

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? Please see 2.4.1 and 2.5.2
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. Please see 2.5.2
Are EIAs "undertaken in a transparent and participatory manner which includes local stakeholders" (COP7 Resolution VII.16)? Yes. Please see 2. 4.1 and 2.5.2
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
Proposed national actions and targets: This practise is already in use when ever EIA process is undertaken.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Finnish Environment Institute is the responsible national EIA authority.
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?
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. Not as a part of National Wetland Policy (NWP) because Finland does not have one. If a project or plan either individual or combination with other projects or plans is likely to significantly affect the ecological or scenic value of the site included in or proposed by the Council of State for inclusion in, the Natura 2000 network, the planner or implementer of the project is required to conduct an appropriate assessment according to the Nature Conservation Act, unless the project is subject to the assessment procedure in the Act on EIA.
Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? If yes, please elaborate. As a part of normal planning activities.
Proposed national actions and targets: Improvement of daily practise.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Legislative actions belong to the ministries but operational issues to every stakeholder of the

project.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The completion of such inventories is a continuing area of priority for the Convention.• Global Target – Restoration/rehabilitation inventories to be completed by at least 50 CPs by COP8.
<p>Has your country completed an assessment to identify its priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation? (COP7 Resolution VII.17)</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from being done?</p>
<p>If this has been done for only part of the country, please indicate for which areas or river basins.</p>
<p>If Yes (that is, an assessment has been completed), have actions been taken to undertake the restoration or rehabilitation of these priority sites? Yes.</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from being done?</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details.</p> <p>There is an on going project in Finland the main aim of which is the restoration and management of Finnish wetlands, this project consists of 162 prioritized wetlands and to evaluate the need of restoration, the need for funding of respective sites and the timeframe for funding and the restoration work itself. In this respect the Natura 2000 network sites, the Ramsar sites and those sites that are included in the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme (1982) are at the top of this priority list.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>The restoration, management, maintenance, monitoring of habitats (forest etc.), here wetlands, in the long run, is one of the main emphasis in the work of the Finnish Environment Administration.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and regional environment centres.</p>

<p>2.6.2 Provide and implement methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?
If this material has not been forwarded to the Bureau, what has prevented this from occurring? The material is printed in Finnish.
Proposed national actions and targets: The potential customers should express their need for Finnish material.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Every organisation producing relevant material.

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Convention will continue to promote the restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands, particularly in situations where such actions will help promote or retain the 'health' and productivity of waterways and coastal environments. • Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to have identified their priority sites for restoration or rehabilitation and for projects to be under way in at least 100 CPs.
Refer to 2.6.1 above.

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

Actions – Global and National Targets
2.7.1 Implement Recommendation 6.3 on involving local and indigenous people in the management of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau]
<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.
Is your government actively promoting the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the management of wetlands?
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
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).

Yes. The so called participatory planning is daily routine in Finland used in every project. When the planning of the restoration project starts there will normally be a organisation set up by all the stakeholders of the impact area e.g. a working group or a steering group in which all the stakeholders will take part.
The use of natural resources in Northern Finland must be assessed regarding the sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity and the traditional, internationally-recognised rights of the indigenous Sami people.

Proposed national actions and targets:

E.g. a new report concerning Sami people rights suggests that a new body be formed together with the Sami Parliament: a Sami people home region land rights council, which would include representatives of the Sami people and the local authorities of the region.

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

In concrete projects every stakeholder is responsible for actions. For legislative matters the different ministries are responsible.

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

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

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

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?

Yes. In Finland e.g. state-owned land is managed by the Finnish Forest and Park Service and they have site managers for their sites. It means that these people are doing the monitoring and if possible the managers are local people. Monitoring is also included in the restoration planning. In principle monitoring will be done before and after the restoration work. [Additional comment?](#)

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

Monitoring is an active process which leads to improvements in site management and can also be used e.g. for educational purposes.

If **No**, what prevents this from happening?

Proposed national actions and targets:

Daily practise. Will be developed through the national CBD monitoring programme.

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

E.g. the Finnish Forest and Park Service which responsible of management of state owned land.

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, for how many sites are such committees in place?

Yes. In every single project where management is needed a committee will be set up but it will not necessarily be a permanent one. Since 1995 when Finland joined EU Finland has had ca 13 EU financed projects concerning wetlands restoration:

- Conservation of Liminganlahti wetland (LIFE95 NAT/FIN/000156),
- Restoration of active raised bogs, aapamires and bog in woodland in Natura 2000 sites (LIFE96 NAT/FIN/003025)
- Biodiversity management in Natura 2000-areas of the Yyteri Peninsula (LIFE96 NAT/FIN/003028)
- Protection of aapa-mires in Lapland and Ostrobothnia (LIFE97 NAT/FIN/004095)
- Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose in Finland (LIFE97 NAT/FIN/004098)
- Conservation and Management of the Porvoonjoki Estuary – Stenböle Natura 2000 Area (LIFE97 NAT/FIN/004105)
- Viikki-Vanhankaupunginlahti: a birdlife paradise in the middle of Helsinki (LIFE97 NAT/FIN/004105)
- Integration of protection and usages of bird areas in Lapland (LIFE99 NAT/FIN/006276)
- Management of the most valuable wetlands in SW Finland (LIFE99 NAT/FIN/006278)
- Conservation of Cypripedium calceolus and Saxifraga hirculus in Northern Finland (LIFE00 NAT/FIN/007059)
- Protection and usage of aapa mires with a rich avifauna (LIFE00 NAT/FIN/007060)
- Protection and management of the valuable wetland Siikalahti (LIFE00 NAT/FIN/007061)
- Restoration and management of meadows in Finland, Sweden and Estonia (LIFE00 NAT/FIN/007067)

Every EU-project requires a committee. Also all those projects that concerns more than one land owner there usually will be a committee or similar. These committees are adhoc for every single project.

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites?

A couple of those above mentioned are Ramsar sites but Finland have also management projects concerning Natura 2000 network sites.

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

In every committee or similar there are representatives of local stakeholders.

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

Finland is implementing the Act of sex equality e.g. in every official working group appointed by the government.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Daily working routine.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: According to law every responsible organisation.

<p>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]</p> <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?
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
<p>If Yes, please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice.</p> <p>Yes. E.g. restoration of meadows at coastal areas either in the archipelago or main land areas there has been used traditional mowing methods and also grazing cattle.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>Different methods old and new ones if possible should be used depending of the habitat.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p> <p>The leading partner of the project whether governmental or private should be primarily responsible but also different stakeholders are partially responsible.</p>

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

Actions – Global and National Targets
<p>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]</p> <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?
If No , what has prevented this from happening?
If Yes, describe these special efforts.
Yes. The values of nature, waters and wetlands has always been a national virtue among people in Finland. But since 1995 when Finland joined the EU the concern of nature is more

emphasized than before because of the building up the Natura 2000 network for protected areas. In this network is included also many private owned areas.

AND: Have these efforts been successful?

Natura 2000 work since 1995 has increased a lot the understanding not only of wetlands but also of the whole nature. In total the work done to establish the Natura 2000 network has been as a whole a successful procedure from the conservation point of view.

If **No**, why not?

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 e.g. EU funds are focused for the work to be done for the Natura 2000 network sites in the long run. This means also improvement at all levels of planning e.g. in management and monitoring.

A national monitoring system is being set up to evaluate the state of biodiversity and related trends, as stipulated in EU legislation. New aspects of monitoring will be developed and there may be changes in existing monitoring schemes.

Public awareness has increased and this means that the need for more and relevant information has increased at all levels of the Finnish society not only at governmental institutions.

Proposed national actions and targets:

One common target is to increase public awareness and knowledge of nature and wetlands.

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

The governmental organisations.

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

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

Refer to 2.8.1 above. Has your government **completed** a review of its "existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use" (COP7 Resolution VII.15)?

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

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).

AND: Have these actions been effective?

If **No**, why not?

<p>If Yes, please describe how.</p> <p>Yes. This item relates to the National Action Plan for Biodiversity in Finland. Please go to page 5.</p>
<p>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?</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>Primary and secondary school pupils must be given a wider grasp of the concept of biodiversity. In addition to ecological themes this should cover the sustainable use of natural resources and the economic, social and legal aspects of biodiversity. To achieve these aims educational materials should be renewed and updated.</p> <p>Attention must also be paid towards providing further training, project work and work experience for Finland's wide variety of biodiversity specialists.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p> <p>Ministry of Education. The Ministry of the Environment and the environmental administration.</p>

<p>2.8.3 Encourage the private sector to work in partnership with site managers to monitor the ecological character of wetlands. [CPs]</p> <p>• This action will be promoted further in the next triennium.</p>
<p>Refer to 2.7.2 above. In addition, have any special efforts been made to encourage the private sector involvement in monitoring?</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening?</p> <p>Finland is preparing a national biodiversity monitoring plan and in this plan there will be seen the responsibility areas and organisations. The voluntary organisations like BirdLife Finland and its member organisations are doing monitoring and some of the member persons are also site managers.</p> <p>The Finnish Natura 2000 network consists of 1 458 sites according to the bird and habitat directive of EU and the total area of these sites are 4,8 milj. ha.</p> <p>The total number of SPA-areas is 439 and the area is 2,81 million hectares.</p>
<p>If Yes, describe these special efforts.</p>
<p>AND: How successful has this been?</p> <p>Please see above.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>The main target is to increase the areal of protected areas. According to the governmental funding-decision it is possible to implement the protection programmes. By buying more land area to be state-owned and to draw up management plans for these sites.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p> <p>Finnish environment administration.</p>

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

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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.

<p>Actions - Global Targets</p>
<p>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]</p>
<p>Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below</p>

<p>3.1.2 Participate in the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for resource development. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p>
<p>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?</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening?</p>
<p>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).</p> <p>Yes. The National Board of Education has established a programme for promoting sustainable development during 1998-2000. According to the Finnish national programme on education, all schools and institutions should include the principals of sustainable development in their training, education and learning activities.</p> <p>The values of wetlands, coastal areas, the archipelago, along with matters concerning biological diversity, are included in regional planning efforts and programmes for nature and environmental education.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>The target groups are landowners as a whole and other groups of the society including the media. Sites in the Natura 2000 network (Ramsar sites included) are the ecosystems on which national and regional environment authorities will focus both by means of funding</p>

and etc.

In the future the kinds of disruptive and divisive national conflicts which accompanied the preparation of Finland's Natura 2000 network proposals must be avoided in the politics of biodiversity. Coordination within and between administrative sectors on biodiversity issues should be developed.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
The Finnish environment administration.

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?

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).

Yes. Through the work of CBD.

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

The most central international biodiversity issues from Finland's point of view have been participation in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention on Biological Diversity and global cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forests. Finland has supported the effective implementation of the convention through the COP meetings and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technological and Technical Advice (SBSTTA). Finland has participated in the development of the convention's working groups, reporting and clearing-house mechanism (CHM).

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

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?

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring?
There is no concret projects going on at the moment.

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Is your country specifically supporting the Wetlands Link International initiative (COP7 Resolution VII.9)?

If **No**, what is preventing this from happening?
It could be arranged through concret projects.

If **Yes**, please provide details.

AND indicate which Wetland Centres (refer 3.2.3 below), museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and educational environment education centres (refer 3.2.4) are now participating as part of Wetlands Link International.
Proposed national actions and targets: The basic aim of Finland's regional cooperation is to reduce environmental risks e.g water pollution and restoration of wetlands. The main partners in regional cooperation in recent years have been Russian Federation and the Baltic Countries.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Governmental organisations.

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)?
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
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).
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
If Yes , please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force. Yes, see e.g. page 22 (CBD)
AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000?
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
If Yes , is the Action Plan being implemented effectively? Yes.
If No , what is preventing this from occurring?
If Yes , what are the priority target groups of the Action Plan and the major activities

being undertaken? See page 22.
AND: Has a copy of this plan been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? No.
Proposed national actions and targets: Implementation of the national BD action plan.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: The Ministry of the Environment.

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?
If Yes , how successful has this been? To measure the successfullnes of this kind of work is relatively difficult. Finland have seven centers at different places of the land. The centers are not only for wetlands information but for nature as a whole.
AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites? Of these seven centers two are close to the capital of Finland Helsinki (Ramsar sites), one near town Hämeenlinna, one established in the municipality of Mietoinen (Ramsar site and EU funded), one at Ramsar site Liminganlahti, the sixth close to Ramsar site Siikalahti and Puurijärvi-Isonsuo National Park.
How many centres are being established? and at what sites? None at the moment.
How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? None at the moment.
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 at the moment.
Proposed national actions and targets: To fulfil the needs of the customers.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Central and Regional governmental organisations and local communities.

<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - see 3.2.3 above
<p>Do all museums, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities in your country have exhibits and/or programmes that support non-formal wetland CEPA? Yes. Permanent and varying exhibits on different themes.</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this occurring?</p>
<p>If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? Exhibits at the premises of museums, environment centres, botanic gardens and at the environment fairs.</p>
<p>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? None.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: All relevant operators on the field.</p>

<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - By COP8, to see wetland issues incorporated into curricula in over 100 CPs.
<p>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. Training courses for specialists working in different institutions governmental or not and for individuals, especially cross-sectoral for biologists and water managers are held.</p>
<p>If No, what is preventing this from occurring?</p>
<p>If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details. E.g. the course of Wetlands restoration, maintenance and use is arranged every second year in different parts of the country.</p>
<p>If Yes, have samples of this curriculum material been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? No, the material is in Finnish.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: The next training course will be held according to plans 2003.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

Finnish Environment Institute, regional environment centre and regional Forest and Park Service.

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:

The question is open for discussion between the Ramsar authorities in Finland and the Bureau.

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

The Ministry of the Environment and Finnish Environment Institute.

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

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

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

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

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

Because the material is in Finnish.

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

Yes. Finland has already some Internet links and concerning other languages the question is open.

AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility?

The internet access to day is to: Vanhankaupunginlahti, Torronsuo, Valkmusa, Puurijärvi,

Kauhaneva, Salamajärvi, Liminganlahti, Oulanka, Riisitunturi, Urho Kekkosen kansallispuisto and Lemmenjoki.

Proposed national actions and targets:

To revise the whole Ramsar Web site system.

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

Finnish Environment Institute (Finnish Ramsar authority).

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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?

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

Finnish Environment Institute has renewed its organisation since 1.1.2002. The aim was to make the organisation more effective by restructuring its tasks. It has three main departments namely research department, data and information center and department for expert services. From the point of wetland management and conservation the research department deals with integrated river basin management and protection of the Baltic Sea. Data and information center deals with GIS-matters. The department for expert services deals with nature, hydrological services and water resources management. This new structure offers possibilities for improvements of implementation of Convention.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Under consideration.

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

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? **No**

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

Actions and programmes for national wetlands are included in the National Action Plan for Biodiversity in Finland 1997-2005.

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?

A working group appointed by the Ministry of the Environment has monitored the implementation of Finland's national action programme for biodiversity 1997-2005 and the implementation in Finland of the UN Framework Convention on Biological Diversity.

There is progress in several areas. The contact groups have continued work for protection, management and sustainable use of biological diversity. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Education have developed their activities and planning systems and also trained personnel within their spheres of competence to manage biological diversity issues. The Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Communications were again recommended to follow-up group of for their activities in this respect. Finland has also played an active role in the international implementation of the Convention.

A main problem is the extent of the programme and the lack of research and follow-up data on the present state as regards biodiversity and the effects of the programme. So far there is no assessment of the sufficiency of the programme. An assessment of the environmental impacts of the programme is scheduled to begin in 2003.

Topical issues at present comprise the engagement of the contact groups in the aims of

the programme, coordination, cooperation and dissemination of information between various parties, and the channelling of financial and personnel resources.
Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? No
If No , what has prevented this from happening?
If Yes , did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? No
If No , why not? Not applicable.
Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.
Proposed national actions and targets: The follow-up of the National Action Plan for Biodiversity in Finland. E.g. legislation on water resources will be simplified so as to lay greater emphasis on protecting the diversity of aquatic habitats, particularly small bodies of water.
An action plan will be drafted for preserving the biodiversity of aquatic habitats, as well as the restoration of waters.
Restoration projects undertaken for the revival of biodiversity will be augmented in aquatic environments.
Hunting will regulated so as to maintain the favourable conservation status of animal species within their natural range.
Regional environment centres and relevant partners will conduct inventories and compile basic data related to local ecology on the basis of which they will draft regular progress reports on biodiversity for their respective areas of jurisdiction.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of the Environment .

Operational Objective 4.2: To identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries, and to implement follow-up actions.

Actions - Global and National Targets
4.2.1 Identify at national, provincial and local level the needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have training needs analyses completed in more than 75 CPs.
Has a training needs analysis been completed? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening?

If Yes , have the results of this analysis been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? Yes
If No , why not?
If Yes , how has this been done? On the national level there is a yearly training programme. Also the plan for the coming years 2002-2005 is under preparation. This is a concern of the whole Finnish environment administration . This programme includes also the needs at provincial and local levels.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? The training needs are more focused because of the knowledge of different problems. This means tailored courses to fit different situations.
Proposed national actions and targets: Please see paragraph 5.1.2
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: The Finnish Environment Insitute.

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? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done?
If Yes , have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? Yes
If No , why not?
If Yes , how has this been done? Please see paragraph 4.2.1
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? Please see paragraph 4.2.1
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:

The training programme is under continuous review and emergin new needs.

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

The Finnish Environment Insitute.

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

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

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

If Yes, please provide details.

Please see paragraph 4.2.1

AND: Has information on these training activities and modules been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities and the Wise Use Resource Centre? (Refer to 4.2.2 above also) **No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Please see paragraph 4.2.2

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

The Finnish Environment Insitute.

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**,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? Yes, [redacted] • Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? Yes, [redacted]
<p>Has your country provided resources to support the establishment of <i>Wetlands for the Future</i> style programmes in any part of the world? (COP7 Recommendation 7.4) No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details. [redacted]</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Not applicable.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Not applicable.</p>

<p>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]</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening? Not applicable.</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details. [redacted]</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 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.

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>5.1.1 Define and apply the precise measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, in the light of the working definitions of ecological character adopted at the 6th COP (1996) and amended by by Resolution VII.10 of COP7. [CPs]</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, each CP will seek to ensure that the measures required to maintain the ecological character of at least half of the Ramsar sites have been documented.
Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites in your country been documented? Yes
If No , what has prevented this being done? [REDACTED]
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: Please see paragraph 5.1.2
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: The Finnish Environment Institute.

<p>5.1.2 Conduct regular internal reviews to identify potential changes in ecological character, with input from local communities and other stakeholders; take remedial action and/or nominate the site for the Montreux Record. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to 2.5.2 - In the COP7 National Reports, 35 CPs reported Ramsar sites where some change in ecological character had occurred or was likely to occur in the near future. This was true for 115 sites in 33 CPs, and two other CPs stated that changes had occurred to all or some of their sites. In COP7 Resolution VII.12, these CPs were urged to consider nominating these sites to the Montreux Record. Global Target – In the period up to COP8, promote the application and benefits of the Montreux Record as a tool of the Convention through disseminating reports and publications on the positive outcomes achieved by a number of countries which have now removed sites from the Record.
Refer to 2.7.2 and 2.8.3 also. Are regular internal reviews undertaken to identify factors potentially altering the ecological character of Ramsar sites? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? [REDACTED]
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? [REDACTED]
AND: Were these sites where change in ecological character was detected, or may occur, added to the Montreux Record? No
If No , why not?

It was considered that there was no need for that because of the total of 11 sites two (namely Vanhankaupunginlahti and Ruskis) have been subject of an EU-Life Nature Project. The main reasons for changes in ecological character are overgrowing of reed, siltation, growing amount of visitors and lack of proper infrastructure.

Proposed national actions and targets:

The existing Ramsar sites are monitored to detect the threats.

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

The Ministry of the 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**

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

Not applicable.

If **Yes**, have these actions resulted in a restoration of the ecological character? **No**

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

Not applicable.

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]

- **Global Target - By COP8, management plans will be in preparation, or in place, for at least three-quarters of the Ramsar sites in each CP and all CPs will seek to ensure that these are being implemented in full.**

Do all the Ramsar sites in your country have management plans **in place**? **No**

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

Finland has 11 Ramsar-sites; Aspskär, Söderskär and Långören, Björkör and Lågsjär, Signilskär, Valassaaret-Björkögrunden, Krunnit, Ruskis, Vanhankaupunginlahti, Patvinsuo, Martimoaapa-Lumiaapa and Koitelaiskaira. Vanhankaupunginlahti and Ruskis have a management plan.

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

Under preparation is a management plan for Valassaaret.

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

The sites are Ruskis and Vanhankaupunginlahti.

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done?

Lack of financial and personel resources.

Proposed national actions and targets:

The need for existing sites will be reviewed after designation of new Ramsar-sites.

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

Ministry of the 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?

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

In all sites except Koitelaiskaira there are restricted zones mainly to avoid disturbance during the breeding season of birds.

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool?

Yes.

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:

No new actions/targets at the moment.

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

Ministry of the 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?

Please see paragraph 5.2.4

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

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:

The status of Koitelaiskaira is under consideration.

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

Ministry of the Environment.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

5.3.1 Ensure that the maps and descriptions of Ramsar sites submitted to the Ramsar Database by the Contracting Parties at the time of designation are complete, in the approved standard format of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, and provide

sufficient detail to be used for management planning and monitoring of ecological character. [CPs, Bureau, Wetlands International]

5.3.2 Ensure that missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of listed sites are submitted as a matter of priority and in the shortest possible time, as a means to enhance the relevance and use of the Ramsar Database. [CPs]

- **Global Target – By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites for which appropriate sites descriptions and maps are still required.**

If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided a Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet in the approved format, with a suitable map, in one of three working languages of the Convention, has this now be rectified? **No**

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

There is no good reason for this. But now the preparatory work of the maps and data sheets for the 11 present sites and 50 new ones is going on.

5.3.3 Ensure that data sheets on Ramsar Sites are regularly updated, at least for every second meeting of the COP, so that they can be used for reviewing the achievements of the Convention, for future strategic planning, for promotional purposes, and for site, regional and thematic analysis (Resolution VI.13). [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]

- **Global Target - By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites designated before 31 December 1990 for which updated site descriptions are still required.**

If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided an updated Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet for sites designated before 31 December 1990, has this now be rectified? **No**

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

Please see paragraph 5.3.2

Proposed national actions and targets:

Please see paragraph 5.3.2

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

The Finnish Environment Institute and Ministry of the Environment.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.
5.4.4 Support the establishment of national wetland databases compatible with the Ramsar Database and develop a common protocol to facilitate exchange and interaction. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland databases in over 50 CPs which are accessible globally.
Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? Yes
If No , what is preventing such a database being established?
If Yes , is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? No
If No , why not? Because the database also contains the new Ramsar-sites which have not yet been officially designated.
AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No
If Yes , please provide details.
If No , why not? Please see paragraph 5.4.4
AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No
If Yes , please provide details.
If No , why not? Please see above.
Proposed national actions and targets: To finalize the data sheets of existing and new Ramsar-sites.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: The Finnish Environment institute.

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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 <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.11)? No
AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? 50 sites have been identified.
Proposed national actions and targets: To finalize the designation of 50 new sites.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of the Environment and the Finnish Environment Institute.
6.1.2 Establish, update and disseminate national scientific inventories of wetlands which identify potential Ramsar sites and wetlands of provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland inventories completed by over 50 CPs and the information housed in databases (Refer to 5.4.4) which are accessible globally
Does there exist a comprehensive national inventory (as opposed to a directory of important sites; see 6.1.1 above) for your country? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared?
If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are.
AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory?
If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized? The Mire Conservation Programme (1979, 1981) and the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme (1982).
AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes

If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
Has national/subnational inventory information been provided to the Ramsar Bureau (if it is not accessible through the Internet)? No
Proposed national actions and targets: No further actions concerning inventories has been planned.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of the 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?
If Yes , is this information provided to Wetlands International? Yes
If No , why not?
Proposed national actions and targets: To continue water bird monitoring.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki, the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, regional environment centres and the local societies belonging to BirdLife Finland.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
6.2.1 Promote the designation for the Ramsar List of an increased area of wetland, through listing by new Contracting Parties, and through further designations by current Contracting Parties, in particular developing countries, in order to ensure the listing of a representative range of wetland types in the territory of each Contracting Party and in each Ramsar region. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - As proposed in the Strategic Framework, the short-term target of the Ramsar List should be to achieve the designation of 2000 sites, in accordance with the systematic approach advocated therein, by the time of COP9 in the year

2005. In addition, by COP8 the target is to have at least 20 CPs that are applying a systematic approach to site selection nationally.
Refer also to 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.2.3. Has your country taken a systematic approach to identifying its future Ramsar sites (as promoted in the <i>Strategic Framework for the List – COP7 Resolution VII.11</i>)? No
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? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: To designate 50 new Ramsar sites.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of the 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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Targets - The long-term targets are set by the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.11). Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived [by the STRP].
Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
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: No further actions considered at the moment.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of the 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]

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Among the 11 existing sites Koitelaiskaira has no protection status. The site however is designated as a Natura 2000 site.

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

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, please elaborate.

Not applicable.

Proposed national actions and targets:

To consider the appropriate conservation status for Koitelaiskaira.

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

Ministry of the Environment.

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

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

For those CPs which 'share' wetlands with other CPs, have all suitable sites been designated under the Convention? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this action being taken?

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

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

Not applicable.

Proposed national actions and targets:

No actions considered at the moment.

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

Ministry of the 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]

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

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

If No , what has prevented this from happening? No such sites.
If Yes , please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved.
AND: Do these arrangements involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing of information resources? No Reply • transfer of financial resources? No Reply • exchanges of personnel? No Reply • other activities?
Proposed national actions and targets: Not applicable.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of the 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? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced?
If Yes , describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider. Ministry of the Environment is the administrative authority of the different conservation conventions e.g. Bon, Bern, CBD, CITES and AEWA.
AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? Yes
If No , why not?
If Yes , please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:

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

Ministry of the 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? **No**

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

No request to participate into project preparation.

If **Yes**, were such proposals successful in gaining funds? **No Reply** -

Proposed national actions and targets:

No actions considered at the moment.

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

Ministry of the 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?

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

The wetland issues are already included in the National Action Plan of CBD. Please see paragrpah 4.1.2.

Proposed national actions and targets:

No further actions considered at the moment.

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

Ministry of the 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]

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

If **Yes**, has this person/agency/ministry been briefed on the obligations of your country under

the Ramsar Convention, and the relevant expectations raised of each CP by the Strategic Plan and COP decisions? **No**

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:

To continue in development projects targeting wetlands.

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

The Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

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?

If **Yes**, is this:

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

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

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **No Reply**

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

The Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

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

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

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

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **It is case by case inspection.**

If **Yes**, are these projects subjected to rigorous impact assessment procedures, which take account of the full environmental, social and economic values of wetlands? **Yes**

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, is the Ramsar Administrative Authority consulted during the screening and assessment phases of the projects? **Yes**

If **No**, why not?

AND: Is there a formal consultative process in place (such as a National Ramsar Committee) which ensures that the development assistance agency is fully aware of the Ramsar Convention obligations of the country with respect to international cooperation? **No**

If **No**, why not? **Similar system to National Committee.**

If **Yes**, please elaborate.

The Ramsar obligations are well presented and known at respective authorities.

Proposed national actions and targets:

More focused work needed.

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

The Ministries involved.

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**

<p>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.</p>
<p>Refer to 7.4.2 above</p>

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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.

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>8.1.9 Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, governmental and non-governmental organizations, key stakeholders, indigenous people, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p>
<p>Refer to 4.1.2.</p>
<p>8.1.10 Review the designated national focal point in each Contracting Party, with a view to increasing involvement in the work of the Convention from all agencies concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]</p>
<p>Refer to 4.1.1</p>

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

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>8.2.1 Pay invoiced contributions to the Convention’s core budget in full, and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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).
<p>Is your country completely up to date with its annual contributions to the core budget of the Convention? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what is the impediment to this being done? </p>

Proposed national actions and targets:

To contribute regularly to the budget.

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

Ministry of the 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?

No Reply

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring?

Proposed national actions and targets:

No further actions considered at the moment.

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

Ministry of the Environment.

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
<p>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]</p> <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).
<p>Refer also to 8.2.4. For developed countries, do you provide additional voluntary contributions to support the Small Grants Fund? No</p>
<p>If No, what prevents this from happening? Lack of funding.</p>
<p>If Yes, is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution? </p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: To develop the mechanisms of funding e.g. through the Finnish development aid.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment and the Finnish Environment Institute.</p>