



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

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

file 1

Institutional information

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

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1

TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

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

Actions – Global Targets

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

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

<p>Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.</p>
<p>Is your country a neighbor of, or does it have regular dealings or diplomatic-level dialogue with, one or more of the non-Contracting Parties listed above? (This list was correct as of January 2000. However, accessions to the Convention occur on a regular basis and you may wish to check with the Ramsar Bureau for the latest list of non-CPs.) No If No, go to Action 1.1.2.</p>
<p>If Yes, have actions been taken to encourage these non-CPs to join the Convention?</p>
<p>If Yes, have these actions been successful?</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented such action being taken? Cyprus ratified the Convention in 2001</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

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

**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? **No**

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

The previous years the main priority has been put on the planning and carrying out of the preparatory work for the designation and establishment of a good number of wetlands, as protected areas. This target, manpower demanding and time consuming, is not being, fully, accomplished up to now.

To a small extent, a review of the national legislation on the protection of the environment and in particular on the Environmental Impact Assessment issues has been made by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works. It covers the existing laws and Presidential Decrees, without being related to transboundary Agreements, the planning process and wetlands specifically.

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

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

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.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Issuing of the Presidential Decrees for the establishment of protected areas for all the Ramsar sites. The matters that will rise during the first period of their implementation will provide an excellent opportunity for the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works to explore the feasibility of a specific project for the thorough review of laws and institutions with regard to wetlands. The forwarding of the draft Presidential Decrees by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works is foreseen for the years 2002 and 2003.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

2.1.2 Promote much greater efforts to develop national wetland policies, either

separately or as a clearly identifiable component of other national conservation planning initiatives, such as National Environment Action Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies, or National Conservation Strategies. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

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

Does your country have **in place** a National Wetland Policy (or similar instrument) which is a comprehensive statement of the Government's intention to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being put in place?

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

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

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

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

The national policy for wetlands (see previous National Report 2.1.a, 2.1.b, 2.1.c) led to the selection of particular sets of conservation programmes. These programmes (in which Ramsar sites were considered as priority targets) were implemented in the period 1997-2000 through Programme Agreements within the Operational Programme for the Environment under the 2nd European Community Support Framework.

The wetland policy was enhanced with the National Wetland Strategy which was forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau in 1999. Further on, the National policy for the natural environment was presented in the recently formulated MASTER PLAN for Nature for the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (1999). This plan, has certainly taken account of wetlands conservation needs, setting again the Ramsar wetlands as of priority for designation under the national legislation and for the establishment of Management Bodies.

Further on, the national water policy will be drafted in harmony with the newly issued Water Framework Directive (Dir. 2000/60/EC) of the European Union. The Directive takes account of the conservation needs of all water-associated ecosystems (surface and groundwater). Actions for the transposition of the Directive in the National legislation are already under way, whereas the state has been bound for the establishment of a

National Council for the Management of Water Resources. Within this framework, an inter-ministerial Committee and Working Groups have been formed. The continuation of existing monitoring activities has already been included in the programming of the Operational Programme for the Environment under the 3rd European Community Support Framework.

The obligations with respect to the Ramsar Convention are taken into consideration also in the National Biodiversity Strategy which first draft is now being examined by the competent Services of the Ministries of Environment and of Agriculture.

Has your government reviewed and modified, as appropriate, its policies that adversely affect intertidal wetlands (COP7 Resolution VII.21)? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **As has been stated in 2.1.1, there has not been a review of laws and institutions relating to wetlands. However, most of the important intertidal wetlands are proposed for inclusion in the European Ecological Network "Natura 2000". That means, they are already in a form of a protection status since all works and activities planned within these areas are strictly assessed for their impacts by the central Services of the Ministry for the Environment. On the basis of the Master Plan for Nature and the National Strategy for Wetland Resources, the conservation of the intertidal wetlands is covered together with the rest of the wetland types at the policy level. Therefore, for the moment, no final decision has been taken on allocating a separate budget specifically for a policy on intertidal wetlands.**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Establishment, as protected areas, of the designated Ramsar sites and of the Management Bodies. The establishment as protected sites of 20 wetlands sites (Ramsar sites included) is foreseen till 2006.**

Designation, according to the national legislation, of the intertidal wetlands included in the proposed "Natura 2000" National List.

Formation of the "Committee – Natura 2000" according to the national legislation, i.e. the Joint Ministerial Decision 33118/3028/28.12.98 (transposition of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC) and the Law 2742/99 for the Physical Planning. Among other duties, the Committee will provide formal consultation to the State with regard to management policies and measures for all sites included in the "Natura 2000" Network, a substantial part of which is constituted by the Ramsar sites and almost all other important wetlands. The "Ramsar Committee" is examined to operate within this wider committee and not as a separate body.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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 sectorial and budgetary provisions. [CPs]

- **Achieving integrated and cross-sectorial 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/No** (i.e the implementation is not yet integrated)

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

Integrated river basin management:

In our country there is no active legal framework requiring that the development programmes and the use of natural resources and ecosystems are planned and implemented at the hydrological basin level. Law 1739/87, issued for the «Management of Water Resources», according to which, the national territory is divided into 14 water districts. These are wide watersheds, including groups of river basins, delineated physically and not administratively. That law foresees the integrated management of water resources within the boundaries of every water district. The said law has set the basis for the transition from the fragmentary to the integrated management of water and therefore also of soil resources and ecosystems. Though its practical implementation proceeded at a low pace, a Management Plan for the Country Water Resources has already been drafted by the Ministry of Development. Moreover, two pilot projects for the Water District of Epirus and the river basin of Louros - Arachthos have already been completed. These studies deal with issues of water quantity. However, the study for the water district of Epirus will be soon revised through a project funded by the 3rd European Community Support Framework, in order to include issues of water quality and details on the surrounding environmental factors. Also, a study for the Water District of Crete is currently being elaborated. The elaboration of multi parametric management studies for the rest of the Water Districts by using modern technology and simulation models is going to be included to the Regional Developmental Plan of the Ministry of Development.

The transposition and implementation of the newly issued Water Frame EC Directive into the national legislation (already under way, see 2.1.2) is expected to make a fresh start in the critical issue of integrated water resources management .

Further on, the drainage basin (the whole of it or the greatest part of it) constitutes a part of the study area in the Specific Environmental Studies of the Ramsar sites and, through the measures proposed in the draft Presidential Decree, it is considered as a management "buffer zone" (peripheral zone). Moreover, the issued Joint Ministerial Decisions (for 8 out of the 10 Greek Ramsar sites), specify management measures for the drainage basins of the areas.

Integrated coastal zone management:

Coastal areas are not differentiated from other areas and a legal definition of coastal zone is missing. The complex framework of laws applying to the coast usually deals with particular sectorial issues on land or sea, e.g. laws concerning land development control, building regulation, prevention of marine pollution, development of certain economic activities such as tourism, fisheries, etc.

The need for a specific strategy promoting integrated coastal zone management has been stressed in the past by the relevant authorities. In 1997 the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works initiated a process towards a more effective coastal management through the “National Programme for the Sustainable Development of Coastal areas and Islands”. The initiative provided for a high-level national committee for the management of coastal areas and islands, assisted by a secretariat and several task forces at the ministry’s level with the participation of experts from research and academic institutions and relevant ministries. The initiative foresaw the elaboration of a Strategy for the sustainable development of coastal areas and islands and the development of an Action Programme for Coastal Areas and Islands.

The above draft Strategy, modified as appropriate by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, will be the basis for a Specific Framework for Physical Planning and Sustainable Development of the Coastal Zone (including also an Action Plan). Within this framework the targets of the General Physical Planning Framework (that has already been fully drafted) will further be specified. The integration of this Specific Framework is of top priority for the Ministry. Its re-evaluation is foreseen every two years.

At site level, integrated management approaches (including a number of the basic principles of integrated coastal zone management), are being applied through Presidential Decrees in three National Parks: a. National Marine Park of Alonissos - Northern Sporades, established in 1992, including 7 islands and 22 rocky islands of Northern Sporades in Aegean Sea, b. National Marine Park of Zakynthos and its Peripheral Zone, established in 1999, situated in the Ionian Sea and comprising of marine and terrestrial areas around the Laganas Bay of Zakynthos island and in Strofades islands (for this Park, a Management Body has been established), c. National Park of Schinias – Marathon, established in 2000, also including marine areas.

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.

Through Joint Ministerial Decisions, an integrated management approach to Ramsar wetland’s drainage basins is being implemented. This concerns 8 out of 10 Greek Ramsar Wetlands (Lakes Volvi & Koronia and Lake Mikri Prespa are excluded). This area covers approximately 1.7% of the national terrestrial land territory (freshwaters included).

Moreover, integrated management approaches have started being applied through Presidential Decrees. By these Decrees three National Parks in the national territory include a number of the basic principles of integrated coastal zone management:

a. National Marine Park of Alonissos - Northern Sporades, established in 1992, including 7 islands and 22 rocky islands of Northern Sporades in Aegean Sea, with a total surface area (terrestrial and marine parts) of 208,713 ha.

b. National Marine Park of Zakynthos and its Peripheral Zone, established in 1999, located in the Ionian Sea and comprising of marine and terrestrial areas around the Laganas Bay of Zakynthos island and in Strofades islands, with a total surface area of 13,500 ha. Many sea and coastal parts are characterized as "strict nature reserves" whereas other sea and coastal areas including the wetland of Keri are characterized as "nature reserves". For this Park, a Management Body has been established.

c. National Park of Schinias – Marathon, established in 2000, also including marine areas, with a total area of 1,382 ha. Marine areas as well as Shinias wetland and Makaria spring are characterized as "nature reserves".

The terrestrial area covered by these National parks approximates 0.08% of the Greek land territory (fresh waters included).

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

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

Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (COP7 Resolution VII.18)? **Yes**

If **Yes**, please describe them briefly. **At least eleven pilot projects following the «Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into basin management (COP7 Resolution VII.18)» have been carried out in Greece in the last years, whilst one more is been carried out**

1. Study titled "Ideotype of the former lake Karla as an evaluation baseline of the proposed solutions for the construction of the reservoir and restoration works" (completed in June 1995).

In this project there was a screening of several options in order to identify those, which in addition to providing flood control and water storage, would restore the lost wetland's valuable functions to the greatest possible extent. Firstly the state of Lake Karla prior to degradation and the dramatic decrease of the fish catches were described. This state was taken as the reference point for the wetland functions of the former lake. The next step was to record the post-drainage environmental and social conditions created in the area. The various technical studies were reviewed for a better understanding of this complex problem. Finally, in order to assess the degree of wetland function restoration, possible with each proposed solution, a procedure was developed which stresses the importance of the hydro periods that characterise each solution. A project for the restoration of the area started through funding by the 2nd CSV. Its continuation and completion has been included in the Operational Programme for the Environment, funding in the 3rd Community Support Framework (2000-2006).

2. Study and works for the conservation and rehabilitation of wetland functions of the wetlands Zazari and Cheimaditis (completed in December 2000)

The objective of this project was to define the required interventions for the

conservation and rehabilitation of the ecosystem of the two lakes, at the same time ensuring the crop production and the income of the local people. The project was carried out by the Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre and the University of Thessaloniki through the Regional Environmental Programme of Western Macedonia (funded through the 2nd Community Support Framework) and included three phases: a) collection of baseline data (climatic, biotic, abiotic, socio-economic, human activities) and study of the hydrology of the system comprised by the hydrological basin of the two lakes, b) assessment of the two lakes' values on the basis of the features which contribute to the performance of each function and define its effectiveness and of the interactions with the surrounding agro-ecosystems, c) identification of the actions and measures required for the rehabilitation of the degraded functions of the ecosystem.

3. Restoration works in the former Lake Mavrouda (Northern Greece)

Lake Mavrouda and the adjacent Lake Lantza were two brackish water lakes. Both were drained in 1960 in order to be transformed into farmland. Since 1993, the local communities around Lake Mavrouda have been pursuing its restoration. In response, the State included a restoration project into the Operational Programme for the Environment (2nd Community Support Framework). The continuation and completion of the project has been included in the Operational Programme for the Environment, for funding through the 3rd Community Support Framework (2000-2006).

4. The National Park of Schinias and the Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Centre Project in Schinias - Marathon

The establishment of the National Park of Schinias and the Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Centre basically comprises, as a core activity, a pilot restoration project for the Schinias biotope, which has suffered for the last 80 years from exhaustive human pressure that led to the degradation of its ecological characteristics.

The main principles of the biotope's restoration project, amongst others, are the removal of an airport and extensive ceased military installations off the wetland, the creation of a lake and the return of fresh water from a nearby spring into the wetland.

The whole restoration project will contribute decisively to the restoration and conservation of the area's original hydrology, the wetland's functions and habitats, the adjacent stone pine forest and the whole landscape and soil.

Part of the restoration project is the creation of an artificial lake that will be the venue of the sports of rowing and canoeing, during the Olympic Games of 2004.

All those are accomplished through: i) the designation of the whole area as National Park (Presidential Decree issued in June 2000) ii) the establishment of a Management Committee responsible for the implementation of a Management and Operational Plan, which already has been prepared and aims at the restoration, conservation and protection of the National Park and iii) the thorough Environmental Impact Assessment procedure followed and the approved Environmental Terms (issued in June 2000, by a joint Ministerial Decision for the Olympic Project of the Rowing and Canoeing Centre in Schinias). All the above are based on studies (E.I.A., Ecological Baseline Study, Management Study) carried out during the last ten years by a multidisciplinary team of more than 40 experts.

It is noted the positive side effect of the NGO's intervention in the optimal elaboration of the restoration project.

5. Establishment of the Prespa (International) Park

The declaration of establishment was announced in February 2000 and it concerns the respective areas around the Prespa Lakes in Greece, the FYROM and Albania. It is the first transboundary protected area in South Eastern Europe. The Declaration will be followed by enhanced co-operation among competent authorities in the three countries, with regard to environmental matters. Till now, there has been established a trilateral Co-ordinating Committee and a Management Plan for the sustainable development of the area has been drafted funded by the Greek Government through a project within the Programme for Development Assistance in the frame of OECD (DAC/OECD). Further on, within the Operational Programme for the Environment in the 3rd Community Support Framework the establishment of a Station for Scientific Monitoring has already been programmed for the Greek site, whereas the establishment of two Centres, for the study and protection of the environment in the two neighbouring countries, has been proposed for funding by Greece through the procedures of the forementioned Programme DAC/OECD. A hydrogeological study has been accepted for approval by the KfW German Bank of Reconstruction, whereas there is a Concept Paper from the Secretary of GEF (Greece is co-financing the project) for a study for the integrated ecosystem and resource management in the Prespa Park.

6. Establishment of a National Data Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information

The project for the establishment of the National Data Bank was surveilled by the Ministry for the Environment and financed by national and European Community funds. The Data Bank is established in the national Polytechnic School of Athens. Continuation of the project is foreseen through funding of the Cohesion Fund of the European Community.

7. Establishment of the National Network of Water Quality.

The project (organized since 1995 from the Ministry for the Environment, Physical planning and Public Works), concerns 190 sampling points in rivers and lakes around Greece where parameters defined by European Community Directives (for drinking water, for swimming etc) are being measured. The samples are analyzed in a decentralized network of laboratories of the General State Chemistry Laboratory as well as in some Municipal and Research Laboratories. The results are being gathered in a data base which is used for the evaluation of environmental pressures. Moreover, stations for automatic measurement of water quality (eleven basic parameters) have been installed at the transboundary rivers Evros, Nestos, Strymon and Axios at their entrance points to the country. The continuation of these projects is foreseen within the Operational Programme for the Environment, through funding by the 3rd Community Support Framework (2000-2006).

8. National Monitoring Programme of Bathing Water.

This monitoring is being carried out since 1988, for the implementation of the European Community Directive 76/160/EC and it concerns measurements of microbiological and physico-chemical parameters at 1862 sampling points. Measurements are made in State, University, Municipal and private laboratories. Surveillance of the project has the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works. The continuation of the project is foreseen within the Operational Programme for the Environment.

through funding by the 3rd Community Support Framework (2000-2006).

9. National Programme for the monitoring of the sea pollution (MED POL).

This monitoring is being surveilled since 1983 by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and is being conducted as national contribution to the MED POL Programme for the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution, within the frame of the Mediterranean Action Plan. It includes 246 sampling points at closed gulfs and it concerns the measurements of physical parameters, nutrients, heavy metals, oil, plankton, pesticides, PCBs and microbial pollution indices. The continuation of the project is foreseen within the Operational programme for the Environment, through funding by the 3rd Community Support Framework (2000-2006).

10. Programme for the monitoring of water quality of groundwater

The project, surveilled by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, concerns mainly monitoring of groundwater with respect to nitrate pollution and is in accordance with the claims of the EC Directive 91/676/EEC. The network covered in the period 1993-1996 165 sampling points, in the period 1996-1998 256 sampling points and from 1998 till the beginning of 2001 400 sampling points. Through this project 7 vulnerable zones were defined. The continuation of the project is foreseen through funding by the 3rd Community Support Framework (2000-2006).

11. Programme for the monitoring of toxic substances

The project, surveilled by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, concerns the monitoring of toxic substances of Annex I and II of EC Directive 76/464/EEC in 100 sampling points at surface waters. The continuation of the project is foreseen in the frame of the National Rural Development Programme 2000-2006, through funding by the 3rd Community Support Framework (2000-2006).

12. Programme for the monitoring of inland waters appropriate for living of fish species.

The programme, carried out continuously since 1988, is surveilled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Service, in accordance with the Directive 78/659/EEC. Periodic report, every 3 years is officially submitted to the European Commission Services. Moreover, within the frame of the European Community Operational Programme PESCA a six stations automatic monitoring system for physico-chemical parameters in the Messolonghi - Aetoliko lagoons has been established and its operation is expected shortly.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Transposition of the newly issued Water Frame EC Directive (2000/60/EC) into the national legislation**

Integration and implementation of of the Specific Framework of Physical Planing and Sustainable Development for the Coastal Zone.

Implementation of a restoration project for Lakes Karla and Mavrouda through the 3rd Community Support framework.

Further implementation of water monitoring projects.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning & Public Works**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

- oil spill prevention and clean-up? **Yes**
- agricultural runoff? **Yes**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes**
- invasive species? **No**
- other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **Yes**
- **Oil spill prevention and clean-up: Due to the lengthy coastline of Greece (app. 16,000 km), oil spill prevention and clean up is of primary importance and a major concern. In this respect, the central and peripheral Services of the Ministry of Merchant Marine are implementing contingency plans (national contingency plans, regional contingency plans, local contingency plans, port contingency plans, facility contingency plans) for oil spill and hazardous substances prevention and clean-up. These Services are also surveilling the sea surrounding Greece, in accordance with international law, with proper devices from air, land and sea. The Ministry has given specific orders to the Port Police for intensification of the controls at ships and has provided adequate infrastructure for confronting pollution incidents. In case it is not possible for the competent Services to confront the pollution, the one that carries responsibility for the incident is obliged to hire a specialized private company, which will work under the surveillance of the competent Service. As for the potentially polluting industries at the coastline, they are subjected to the relevant prevention legislation. Concerning the disposition of the remainders after an oil spill cleaning, they are finally processed with proper infrastructure. The national system of prevention was recently reformed and a new National Plan for Emergencies was issued by means of the relevant Presidential Decree.**
- **Agricultural run-off: The main problem with regard to agricultural run-off of nutrients originates from the excessive fertilisation of crops, whereas animal**

farming effluent run-off are far more localised at certain geographical areas and far smaller in significance. One of the horizontal management measures for the decrease of agricultural run-off to the recipient ecosystems (wetlands, coastal zone), is the Code of Good Agricultural Practice, that was issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. Through the agri-environmental EC regulation 2078/92, a programme for the reduction of nitrate pollution in Thessaly has already been implemented together with programmes for biological agriculture and long-term set aside of agricultural land. Identical new programmes have already started being implemented through the new agri-environmental regulation 1257/99. At the same time, in the framework of the European Directive 91/676/EC for the decrease of nitrate pollution, a monitoring programme of ground water (400 sampling points) has been set up (see 2.2.2 above). The results of the programme were used for the identification of 7 vulnerable zones. For four of the above zones, nitrate pollution control programmes have already been drafted whereas for the remaining, the drafting of the relevant projects is under way.

Since the environmental problems related to the use of pesticides are detected mainly in the zones with greenhouses and in the lowland irrigated areas, a structural measure for the decrease and the rational use of pesticides was the establishment of the Early Warning Network for Agriculture. The main objective of this network (already operating), is the collection of appropriate meteorological and biological data in agricultural areas of Greece, through a number of field stations, which are then forwarded to the Regional Centres for Plant Protection and Quality Control (in Piraeus, Volos, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Nafplio, Patras, Kavala and Heraklion). These institutes then proceed to the: a) Study the biology of pests and pathogens impacting the crops, b) Monitoring and prognosis of diseases and pest attacks, c) Instructions for timely and sound control of pests and diseases. These instructions are disseminated either directly to interested farmers or via the mass media. With the planned expansion of this network, a decrease in the pesticide use of about 30-70% is expected. Finally, whereas in the framework of the 2nd Community Support Framework a pilot project for the integrated control of plant pests and diseases was implemented. Such a full programme, at a national scale, will be implemented with funds from the 3rd European Community Support Framework, in the framework of the national «Rural Development Programme 2000-2006».

- **Urban/industrial discharges:** There is a lot of dispersed information on urban/industrial discharges and their effect on receiving water bodies, in several studies and in the files of different civil Services of the Ministries of Development, of Environment, of Health, Charity and Social Security as well as in isolated wetland management studies that suggest respective control measures. The closest current approach to wetland pollution due to urban/industrial discharges can be considered to be the construction of effluent treatment plants. Concerning domestic wastes, Greece has transposed the EC Directive 91/271/EEC into the national legislation (JMD 5673/400/97) and has defined sensitive areas for the disposition of the effluents (JMD 19661/1982/99). According to data from 1998, out of the 110 sewage treatment plants in settlements with population above 10,000 inhabitants, 68 are working in accordance to the outlines of the directive. 16 treatment plants are flowing into sensitive water recipients. Of these plants, 10 are working in accordance to the outlines of the Directive. Recently, restricted but promising experience has been gained in relation to the treatment of

urban/industrial discharges by the means of constructed wetlands.

- **Invasive species:** This remains an under-studied aspect of wetland ecology in Greece (apart from a small number of well studied cases), whereas there are certain cases that indicate its importance. E.g., the neotropical species *Azolla filiculoides*, assumed to have been introduced from America via fish food for aquaculture, is antagonistic to the species of *Lemnaceae* and after 1983, when it was firstly recorded in the lakes of Trichonis and Lysimacheia and later in Kerkini, it has spread into all slow-flowing and wind - protected water bodies. More examples are the alien species *Amorpha fruticosa* from Bulgaria in the riparian forest of Kerkini and possibly elsewhere, *Brosunetia papyrifera* in rivers Strymon and Nestos and the species *Phytolaca americana*. Detailed data also exist on fresh-water fish which have been mainly introduced for aquaculture purposes.
- **Other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture :** Resource information on wetland management associated to these and possibly other factors, can possibly be found sporadically within the context of various studies, e.g. EIA studies for the construction of highways, or for the construction and operation of aquaculture installations. Adequate resource material with regard to aquaculture in relation to lagoon management is available, mainly in the libraries of relevant research institutes. Until now, however, there has not been an inventory and review of existing material in order to sort out which of this material could be utilised by the Ramsar Wise Use Centre (see also 2.3.2 below). Nevertheless, there is one recent publication that could be included in the Ramsar Wise Use Centre if translated. The reference is the following: "Hatzilakou, D. (Ed.) 1999. Concise Guide. The impact on works and activities on birds and their habitats. Managing Habitats for birds. Athens. Hellenic Ornithological Society". The first part of the above publication, which was produced with the contribution of 17 authors, among other information, refers to the possible environmental impact from a) several development projects and activities, such as airports, highways, land reclamation works, housing development, tourism, fire, hunting and b) several types of pollution. The second part consists of specific management guidelines with regard to the various bird habitat types (including artificial habitats) and restoration principles. For references of Hellenic bibliography on wetland restoration and rehabilitation please refer to 2.6.2.

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Examine the feasibility of the preparation of an inventory of resource material associated to the above at national level and identification of gaps.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, in collaboration with Ministry of Merchant Marine, Ministry of Agriculture.**

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

- **Promoting and improving the availability of such resource materials is a priority under the Convention's Outreach Programme (Resolution VII.9)**

- **Global Target - By COP8, to have included in the Wise Use Resource Centre 500 appropriate references and publications as provided to the Bureau by CPs and other organizations.**

Further to 2.31. above, has your country, as urged by the Outreach Programme of the Convention adopted at COP7 (Resolution VII. 9), **reviewed** its resource materials relating to wetland management policies and practices? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **A review of resource materials relating to wetland management policies and practices has not been carried out in the form of a distinct activity or project. Nevertheless, the competent Authority of the central administration (Natural Environment Management Section of the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works) and the Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre (EKBY) possess an archive of studies, reports, policy documents, maps, books and scientific journals related to wetland management. The contents of EKBY's library can be downloaded from EKBY's website (www.ekby.gr). This library has more than 650 entries that are directly related to wetland issues (excluding journals). A considerable quantity of wetland-related resource material on conservation and management is also owned by WWF-Greece and the Hellenic Ornithological Society, whereas resources material on more specific aspects of policy and management can be found in research institutes, such as the National Centre of Marine Research, the Fisheries Research Institute – National Agricultural Research Foundation as well as in relevant University Departments.**

The Ramsar Bureau has had access to basic policy and scientific documents which are available in English, such as the National Strategy for Wetland Resources (which the Bureau has included at a suitable link in its own website) and the National Inventory of Wetlands as Natural Resources (published directory)

If **Yes**, have copies of this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau?

If **No**, what has prevented this being done?

Proposed national actions and targets: **Examine the feasibility of a review of resource material on wetland – related policies and management. (See also 2.1.2)**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

making processes related to wetlands.

Does your government **require** that economic valuations of the full range of services, benefits and functions of wetlands be prepared as part of impact assessments and to support planning decisions that may impact on wetlands? **No**

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

Economic valuation of wetland services, benefits and functions is not a formal requirement under national Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation (Law 1650/86, Joint Ministerial Decision 69269/90), which provide for ecological valuation of the natural environment. Knowledge on wetlands economic valuation was not very advanced at the time of the enactment of EIA legislation, nor was it a prerequisite under transposing the European Community Directive 85/337/EEC «On the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment». It is expected that the modification of national legislation in accordance with Directive 97/11/EEC (amending Directive 85/337/EEC), will help towards this direction. For the transposition of the above Directive, as well as for resolving problems that arose by the implementation of the current legal framework, a Special Study funded by the 2nd Community Support Framework was entrusted by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works to external collaborators. This study aimed at the modernization of the EIA system and includes also the dimension of social, environmental and economic valuation of potentially protected natural areas. The above mentioned study has been completed and the procedure for forwarding to the Parliament an amendment of L. 1650/86 "on the protection of the environment" which is the first step towards the transposition of the Directive 97/11/EEC will start soon.

Additional to this, a new Directive for the "Strategic Environmental Assessment" EU Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment" has been issued. The implementation of the latter will promote a more comprehensive appreciation of wetland values, and, in particular, of social and economic values. Towards the transposition and implementation of this Directive, a Special Study is going to be entrusted soon. Moreover, the new Water Frame Directive 2000/60/EC (see 2.1.2) places the idea of cost evaluation of all water services.

It is also important that according to the European Community Regulation 1260/99 for the structural funds, all projects funded by the European Community must be in harmony with the environmental legislation of the E.C.

It should also be underlined that although a detailed and structured approach on economic valuation is not a requirement within the decision making process in Greece, economic aspects of wetland benefits are considered in the decision making process, usually, however, on a case-by-case basis.

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

If **Yes**, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Modification of national legislation in accordance with Directive 97/11/EEC. Transposition into the Greek legislation of the Directive 2000/60/EC.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, has this EIA, or have these EIAs, given due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See also 2.4.1 above) **No**

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

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

The current national EIA legislation that imposes the assessment of the impacts of works and activities on the environment was issued in 1990 (Joint Ministerial Decision JMD 69269/5387/90). Complementary to the JMD, several specific legislative acts for thematic activities have been issued.

Current EIA legislation does not impose assessment of project impacts on social or economic values of wetlands but only on their ecological values (please refer to 2.4.1. above). However, a number of EIA studies addressed the issue of social and economic wetland values, the analysis of which could not be considered as adequate.

Moreover, different projects that were proposed to be carried out at the same Ramsar site were jointly examined, in order for the cumulative and synergistic impact to be identified. The choice of the final solutions was made after the consideration of alternatives, which accounted for the impact on wetland values.

Ramsar sites are also designated as Special Protection Areas, according to the European Directive 79/409/EEC «On the conservation of wild birds» and will be included in the European Network of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) of "Natura 2000". In addition, they are protected by national legislation transposing Directive 92/43/EEC

«On the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora» (Joint Ministerial Decision 33318/3025/1998). According to the latter, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement becomes obligatory for every project or activity for «which an EIA was not formerly required and which is not directly associated or is not necessary for the management of the specific Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), since it is possible that the implementation of such a project or activity, in isolation or jointly with other projects or activities, significantly affect that very SAC».

After the establishment of the Management Bodies in protected areas (L. 2742/99), there will be a managing structure playing a key role in the EIA process since they will monitor all the activities and projects in the site and comment on all EIA studies. Till now, there has been established a Management Body for the National Park of Laganas Bay in Zakynthos. A further number of 25 Management Bodies are foreseen through funding by the 3rd Community Support Framework (2000-2006).

Further on, the transposition of Directive 97/11/EEC amending Directive 85/337/EEC, «On the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment» in the national legislation, will confer the obligation for assessment of environmental impacts on the social and economic values of wetlands (please refer to 2.4.1. above).

Proposed national actions and targets: **Modification of the national legislation in accordance with Directive 97/11/EEC.**

Issuing of the Presidential Decrees for the establishment of Management Bodies in protected areas.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, are such EIAs required to give due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See COP7 Resolution VII.16, also 2.4.1 & 2.5.2 above.) **No**

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: [See 2.5.2](#)

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [See 2.5.2](#)

2.5.4 Take account of Integrated Environmental Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment (at local, provincial and catchment/river basin or coastal zone levels) when assessing impacts of development proposals or changes in land/water use. [CPs]

(Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country **undertaken** a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? **No**

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

Current legislation on EIA does not provide for the environmental assessment at programs and policy level. However, for plans or projects co-funded by the European Union, specific regulatory requirements (namely, Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds, Articles 12, 26 & 41) concerning the prior assessment of the environmental impacts are introduced. Within this context, the national competent Authorities have to submit to the EC an assessment of potential environmental impacts for national and regional development programmes or plans, with emphasis on the field of water and soil resources conservation, and on the integrity of sites included in the National List of sites proposed for the "Natura 2000" Network. (Ramsar sites are included in the list). The adoption of the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Dir. 2001/42/EC), will further provide a legal basis for the institutional development of the process (see 2.4.1).

A review of policies, plans and programmes directly affecting the natural environment was included in the elaboration of the MASTER PLAN for Nature, which has been drafted for the Ministry of Environment in order to serve as the basic filter for nature-related project prioritisation and as an action plan for the coming years, mainly under the funds of the 3rd European Community Support Framework. However, for this study, a wider review of all governmental policies, plans and programmes at an inter-ministerial level was not carried out.

Further on, the extensive examination of policies, plans and programmes adversely affecting wetlands can be one of the tasks of the "Ramsar (or wetlands) Committee" which will work within the framework of the wider "Committee – Natura 2000". The establishment of the latter is foreseen by the Hellenic legislation, thus the Joint Ministerial Decision 33118/3028/28.12.98 (transposition of the EU Habitats Directive) and Law 2742/99. The 15 – member "Committee – Natura 2000" will provide consultation to the government for the sound implementation of the Directive 92/43/EC at policy level, but also at the level of specific measures.

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

Or as part of other national policy or planning activities?

Proposed national actions and targets: **The formation of the "Committee – Natura 2000" according to the Hellenic Law JMD 33118/3028/28.12.98 (transposition of the EU**

Habitats Directive). The Committee, in order to provide formal consultation to the State with regard to management policies and measures for all sites included in the "Natura 2000" Network, will necessarily go through an extensive examination of policies, plans and programmes detrimental to the natural ecosystems, including wetlands (see 2.1.2).

Preparation for the transposition of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works

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

Actions – Global and National Targets

2.6.1 Use regional or national scientific inventories of wetlands (Recommendation 4.6), or monitoring processes, to identify wetlands in need of restoration or rehabilitation. [CPs, Partners]

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

Has your country **completed** an assessment to identify its priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation? (COP7 Resolution VII.17) **For some places.**

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

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

Preliminary information on restoration opportunities is obtained from the Inventory of existing and lost wetlands. The functional evaluation of wetlands is used for the identification of the degradation level. The restoration / rehabilitation solutions are proposed taking into account the ecological and socio-economic constraints of the watershed. This methodology has been applied for the restoration of lakes Karla and Mavrouda and was used in the rehabilitation studies of lakes Chimaditis and Zazari. However there is a lack of concrete approaches for the prioritisation of potential restoration projects not only at national level but also at European level. The National Strategy for Wetland Resources gives priority to both restoration and rehabilitation of Hellenic wetlands.

Restoration and rehabilitation plans have advanced for a number of wetlands, mainly as a result of local interest to proceed to such interventions.

Restoration

After long term studies, recently the implementation of three major restoration projects was initiated. The first concerns the restoration of former Lake Karla in central Greece. The project foresees the construction of a 4200 ha reservoir in part of the area, which was formerly covered by the lake. The project will be executed according to the

Environmental Terms imposed by the EIA procedure. The sustainability of the project will be ensured through additional interventions in the watershed, together with the establishment of a management body for the integrated management of the entire project. Part of the restoration project was financed through the 2nd Community Support Framework (CSF) and was undertaken by the General Secretariat of Public Works within the Operational programme for the Environment. The project is going to be completed through funds by the 3rd CSF.

The second concerns the restoration of former Lake Mavrouda in Northern Greece (Central Macedonia). The Lake Mavrouda and the neighbouring Lake Lantza were two brackish water lakes. Both lakes were drained in 1960 in order to be transformed into farmland. Since 1993, the local communities around Lake Mavrouda have been pursuing its restoration. In response, the State included a restoration project into the Operational Programme for the Environment (2nd Community Support Framework) which was undertaken by the Regional Council of the 11th Territorial Region and the Regional Development Agency of the Prefecture of Thessaloniki. The restoration project will be completed through funds by the 3rd CSF.

The third concerns the pilot restoration project for a degraded biotope, the Schinias-Marathon biotope (See also 2.2.2 the National Park of Schinias and the Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Centre Project in Schinias-Marathon case)

Rehabilitation

The ever-increasing water consumption for agricultural, industrial and domestic use, in combination with the decrease of precipitation, has caused problems to many lakes in Greece. Detailed rehabilitation studies have been carried out for the Lakes Koronia, Zazari, Cheimaditis, Artzan, and Taka.

Lake Koronia is the lake which faces most serious problems (and to a lesser extent the neighbouring Lake Volvi). An emergency plan has been elaborated by the Region of Central Macedonia, while, in 1997 and on E.U. funding, a British company was assigned a rehabilitation study for the lakes Koronia and Volvi. Prefecture Decisions specify water quality and quantity and upper limits for pollution indices of the discharged sewage and impose penalties for violators. At the same time the Ministry for the Environment is forwarding an integrated management plan for the area, through the preparation of a Presidential Decree. The latter defines the zoning and the permitted activities, while promoting the establishment of a Management Body. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture is planning a project for the decrease of water consumption in that same area, by implementing the agri-environmental EC Regulation 2078/92, now replaced by Regulation 1257/99.

If **Yes** (that is, an assessment has been **completed**), have actions been taken to undertake the restoration or rehabilitation of these priority sites? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, please provide details. **The associated works have been initiated at lakes Karla and Mavrouda (see above).**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Completion of the restoration works at Lakes Karla and Mavrouda (foreseen by the 3rd Community Support Framework).

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

2.6.2 Provide and implement methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

- **There is considerable information resource on this subject, although it is not as readily accessed as desirable.**
- **Global Target – The addition of appropriate case studies and information on methodologies, etc., to the Convention's Wise Use Resource Centre (refer to 2.3.2 above also) will be a priority in the next triennium.**

Refer to 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. Does your country **have** resource information on the restoration or rehabilitation of wetlands? **Yes**

If **Yes**, has this been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre and for consideration by the STRP Expert Working Group on Restoration? **Yes/No (i.e. for parts of it)**

If this material has not been forwarded to the Bureau, what has prevented this from occurring? **The main resources of information on the restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands are: a) the Inventory of Greek Wetlands as Natural Resources (1995), which is used for the identification of degraded wetland areas (English version already forwarded to the Bureau) and b) the restoration and rehabilitation studies that have been carried out, including the studies of Karla, Mavrouda, Koronia, Zazari, Cheimaditis, Artzan, and Taka. These studies have been drafted in the greek language. References for four of them are given below:**

Zalidis G. Sotiria Katsavouni, G. Bilas, and S. Chatzigiannakis. (Editors). 1999. Suggested interventions to restore sustainably the Karla wetland. Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre (EKBY), Thessaloniki, Greece, 159+36 pp (in Greek).

Zalidis G.C., A. Gerakis, and A. Apostolakis (Editors). 1998. Restoration Assessment of Mavrouda wetland using functional analysis. The Goulandris Natural History Museum-Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. EKBY, Greece. (in Greek).

Kalbourtzi Kiriaki, Thalia Lazaridou, and D. Papadimos (Editors). 2001. Study and proposed interventions for the functional rehabilitation of Zazari and Cheimaditis wetlands. Phases A, B, and C. Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. (In Greek).

Knight Piesold, Karavokyris and partners, Anelxi, and Agrisystems. 1998. Environmental Restoration of Lake Koronia (Masterplan). Final report. European Commission DG XVI. (in English)

National Technical University of Athens, ENVECO S.A. 1990, updated in 1998: Special Environmental Study of Schinias-Marathon (baseline ecological and environmental study). Organization of Athens – Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

Papagrigoriou Sp. et.al. 2000: Management Plan for the Biotope of Schinias-

Marathon. Organization of Athens – Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

ENVECO S.A. et.al. 1997: Preliminary Design and Environmental Study of the Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre in Schinias (Initial Impact Assessment and Environmental Design of the Project). Athens 2004 Bid Committee.

ENVECO S.A. et.al. 1999: Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre in Schinias. Organising Committee for the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004.

Papagrigoriou Sp. et.al. 2001: Final Design Study of the Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre and the biotope's rehabilitation works. Special Public Works Service / Olympic Works 2004 - Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Examine the feasibility of further development of resource information.**

Forwarding to the Ramsar Bureau of the above studies on specific request.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works in collaboration with the Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre, relevant Ministries, Institutes etc.**

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

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

Refer to 2.6.1 above.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Is your government **actively** promoting the involvement of local communities and indigenous

people in the management of wetlands? **Yes**

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

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).

During the procedure of presentation to the public of the Environmental Impact Assessment Studies for works and activities (L. 1650/86, Joint Ministerial Decision 69269/5387/25-10-90, JMD 75308/5512/2-11-90 "definition of the information way of civilians and Bodies concerning the content of the Environmental Impact Assessment Studies"), local people or anyone interested can submit his/her opinion to the Prefecture Authorities which are then obliged to send it to the competent authority that finally poses the Environmental Terms. The EIA studies remain open to public access for a certain period of time before the public hearing.

Ministerial Decision No 71161/3670/91 is to provide the possibility to the citizens or their representative bodies to express their opinion through the appropriate information on the designation of the protected area, according to the criteria, categories and the protection principles, defined by articles 18 and 19 of Law 1650/86. The competent Division of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, in cooperation with the co-competent Services of the related Ministries elaborate a Draft Presidential Decree, on the basis of the approved Specific Environmental Study (SES). The draft Presidential Decree and its appended map, indicating the location, surface and the protection zones of the area for protection, as well as a copy of the SES are transmitted to the related Prefectural Councils, which have to make them available to the public and in addition to provide necessary information. The Prefectural Council is obliged for the local press publication of an announcement - invitation, with a minimum standard content, to the citizens and their representative bodies, in order to be aware of the Draft Presidential Decree and its appended map and SES and to express their opinion on this Decree, within a deadline, most exceeding 15 days after the press publication.

Any interested physical or legal person can submit, in due prescribed in the announcement time, its opinion and proposals in written form to the Prefecture. The Prefecture Council submits the expressed opinion and proposals, as well as its opinion to the competent Division of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, for the preparation of the final draft of the Presidential Decree, in collaboration with the competent Services of other co-competent Ministries.

The legal framework for the involvement of local communities has been recently enhanced by the Law 2742 of 1999 which provides for the establishment and operation of Management Bodies. In article 15 of the said Law it is foreseen that the Management Bodies (legal entities of private nature) will be administrated by 7-11 member Managing Boards. These boards, in addition to the representatives of the associated central and regional competent civil services, will include representatives of the Local Government (1st and 2nd degree), of social, scientific and productive organisations, individual experts as well as representatives of NGOs. Each such Board will be presided by an individual, scientifically efficient and appropriately experienced, who will be appointed by the Minister for the Environment. The management bodies for the protected areas are not yet established, except for the National Marine Park of Laganas Gulf in Zakynthos (see 2.2.2).

Moreover, in the meantime and until the establishment of the Management Bodies, local

communities are involved in the management of wetlands, through their professional associations, which are related to primary production activities (mainly crop and animal farming and fisheries, actively encouraged by the State – please find details in paragraph 2.7.4) or other activities (e.g. conservation actions by local NGOs or national NGOs acting locally etc). This management approach is of course sectorial and not integrated. The first attempt to promote of integration was through the Advisory Committees of the Programme Agreements which were operational for all Ramsar sites in Greece, from mid-September 1997 to early 2001. Those Committees as preliminary management schemes, also included the same local stakeholders, though they lacked a decision – making power

Another instrument promoting the involvement of local people is the co-financing of the state of projects within the framework of the European Community Life-Nature financing mechanism. Life-Nature concerns projects proposed by beneficiaries (which are in their majority local communities, local NGOs etc) for sites eligible for the "Natura 2000" network (see 2.7.2).

Proposed national actions and targets: Establishment of the Management Bodies for the protected areas, under the legal framework provided by the Law 2742 of 1999 (see 2.5.2). By default, the local communities and interests will be adequately represented in those bodies.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works

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

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

Does your government **actively encourage or support** site managers and local communities in monitoring the condition (ecological character) of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? (Also refer to Operational Objective 5.1.) **Yes/No** (i.e. the effort has already started but is not completed yet)

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring? **As already presented, Management Bodies for protected wetland areas have not yet been established by Presidential Decrees (except for Laganas Bay, see 2.2.2. However, for the Ramsar sites, draft Presidential Decrees as end products of recent Specific Environmental Studies are under examination. Wetland management has been implemented only indirectly, through the sectorial management of the different activities associated with the wetland (crop and animal farming, land reclamation and management of water resources, fisheries, and other activities of lesser importance), which were scarcely co-ordinated in favour of conservation. The most recent effort to introduce the principle of integrated management of wetland resources and the aspect of conservation, was made through the operation of the Advisory Committees of the Programme Agreements at all Ramsar sites (see 2.7.1. above). Nevertheless, under the new legislative framework provided by Law 2742 of 1999, the Management Bodies (which include local stakeholders) will be responsible for the**

implementation of the management plan, including all the necessary monitoring. Through funding by the 3rd CSF, monitoring activities are foreseen to take place by established Management Bodies in 25 areas.

However, certain national and local NGOs and Institutions perform data collection and/or monitoring activities. Some of them are at least partly financially supported by the competent Authorities either directly from national resources, or from national resources supporting the European Community Life-Nature project. Till now, a number of monitoring projects has been supported (e.g. monitoring of the species *Caretta caretta* by the Society for the Protection of Marine Turtles, of *Monachus monachus* by the Society for the Mediterranean Monk seal, of avifauna by the Hellenic Ornithological Society, of avifauna of Amvrakikos and of Louros and Arachthos water quality by the Amvrakikos Developmental Company).

More examples of monitoring being carried out in wetland areas are: i) pelican population monitoring in Prespa, Kerkini and Amvrakikos by Tour du Valat and the Society for the Protection of Prespa, ii) threats monitoring at the Important Bird Areas by the Hellenic Ornithological Society, iii) threats monitoring at the Ramsar sites Axios – Loudias – Aliakmon delta and Evros delta, by WWF – Greece (1990-1997), iv) game bird population monitoring in wetlands of Northern Greece by the Hunting Federation of Macedonia – Thrace, v) monitoring of ecological status and of flamingo populations in the Tingaki Saltwork (island of Kos), by the Wetland Conservation Centre of South Aegean. As a general statement it can be said that active local NGOs act as a permanent threats monitoring focal point for their wider areas.

Further on, some of the water quality monitoring projects of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (see 2.2.2 and 5.4.4) are conducted in close collaboration with Local Authorities. For example, two of the laboratories involved in the National Network of Water Quality belong to local Municipalities. Moreover, the Local Authorities participate in the selection of coastal areas for the National Monitoring Programme of Bathing Waters and are the main stakeholders participating in the procedure of the "Blue Flag" award.

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

AND, where such monitoring occurs, are the findings being used to guide management practices? **Yes** The lack of established Management Bodies, at the present, is a constraint to the full implementation of management practices (see above). However, monitoring results are taken into consideration for the EIA procedure and also for planning works and activities

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

Proposed national actions and targets: Elaboration and implementation of a system for monitoring of environmental quality. This is foreseen within the Operational Programme for the Environment through the 3rd Community Support Framework for 25 sites.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works

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

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

Are there wetland site management committees **in place** in your country? **Yes/No (i.e only for one place. See below)**

If No, what are the impediments to such being established? The Management Bodies for the protected Ramsar sites as well as for other important wetlands have not yet been established by Presidential Decrees (for the Ramsar sites there are draft PD as end products of recent Specific Environmental Studies. Through the 3rd Community Support Framework the establishment of 25 such Bodies is foreseen till 2006. The legal framework for the establishment and operation of Management Bodies was recently settled by the Law 2742 of 1999, where it is provided that representatives of productive groups, local stakeholders etc will participate in the management of the areas.

However, there have already been designated 3 National Parks, where important coastal areas and other wetlands are included. For one of these Parks, (Laganas Gulf in Zakynthos), a Management Body has already been established (see 2.2.2). For the National Park of Schinias - Marathon, the establishment of the Management Body is under way. Until the establishment of the remaining management bodies, local communities are involved in the management of wetlands, through their professional associations (see 2.7.1 and 2.7.2 above).

If **Yes**, for how many sites are such committees in place? **1**

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? **0**

AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? **1**

AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented? **0**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Issuing of the Presidential Decrees for the Ramsar sites and establishment of Management Bodies (see 2.1.1 and 2.5.2).**

Establishment of Management Bodies in other wetland protected areas.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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

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

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

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

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

Agricultural practices

Greece, appreciating the importance of traditional practices in the management of agricultural land, and using the tools provided by the European agri-environmental Regulation 2078/92/EC, proceeded with the design and implementation of the following programmes: a) programme for biological agriculture, b) programme for long – term set-aside of agricultural land and c) programme for threatened indigenous species for animal farming (e.g. the endangered water buffalo, whose last 1,000 individuals graze in Ramsar wetlands of Northern Greece). As priority sites for the implementation of these projects, areas surrounding wetlands (mainly candidate sites for the "Natura 2000" Network) have been selected. The implementation of these projects is continuing under Regulation 1257/99 that replaced Regulation 2078/92 and are enriched with new projects concerning: i) The preservation of extensively cultivated crops which are endangered by genetic degradation, ii) The extensification of animal farming, iii) The biological animal farming, iv) The maintenance and reconstruction of terraces in sloping areas for the protection of soil against erosion. Areas adjacent to wetlands constitute priority sites for the implementation of these measures. Specific wetland areas where specific management projects are foreseen are Nestos Delta and Keramoti Lagoon, Lakes and Lagoons of Thrace and Lakes Volvi - Koronia.

Aquaculture practices

The Ministry of Agriculture supports the local societies by funding infrastructure projects for the wise use of the fishing resources of the lagoons, under the sole condition that the fishermen's professional associations involve local young people. Traditional techniques, instruments and boats are used in many freshwater areas, whereas in many lagoons the aquaculture infrastructure is made with natural wetland material under the traditional way.

Other practices

In a small number of wetlands, there is still harvest and utilization of reeds, but in general, the potential of this activity as a management tool and as a means to contribute to the local economy has not been studied yet.

Proposed national actions and targets:

The continuation of support by the Hellenic State of the above mentioned traditional activities, with an effort to utilize the suitable funding sources to the maximum benefit of the wise use of wetlands and natural resources in general)

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for Agriculture, Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Have **special efforts been made** to increase the recognition of wetland attributes, functions and values among the private sector in your country? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Despite the fact that in recent years there was an increased interest in wetland resources, functions and values, the private sector was not particularly activated towards the conservation of these valuable resources. Several small and fragmentary actions were carried out in the last years, such as the "adoption" of Lake Prespa by a big food industry, the support of environmental NGOs for the production of advertisements for television, the publication of information printed and audio-visual material, and the support of institutes and NGOs for the production of educational material on wetlands.**

The involvement of the private sector will be enhanced by the implementation of the Law 2742/99 that sets the framework for the participation of private bodies in the management of the protected areas.

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

AND: Have these efforts been successful?

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?

Proposed national actions and targets: **Issuing of the Presidential Decrees and the consequent establishment of the Management Bodies according to the Law 2742/99 (see 2.1.1 and 2.5.2).**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.**

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

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

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

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

An official review has not been made. However, with regard to financial aspects the major instruments are the European Community agri-environmental Regulation 1257/99 (see also 2.3.1 and 2.7.4) which provides for the support of the agricultural development, by giving compensations and incentives, for areas of high natural value.

Moreover, the L. 1650/86 “for the protection of the environment” provides for countervailing measures and compensations, but for the moment the specific article has not been activated, because this presupposes a relevant Presidential Decree (which has not been issued) and a high budget, specifically for this purpose.

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?

If **Yes**, please describe how.

AND if **Yes**, COP7 Resolution VII.15 requested Parties to share these “experiences and lessons learned with respect to incentive measures and perverse incentives relating to wetlands, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources generally, by providing these to the Ramsar Bureau for appropriate distribution and to be made available through the Wise Use Resource Centre of the Convention’s Web site”. Has this been done?

Proposed national actions and targets: **Further implementation of the agri-environmental regulation in wetland areas.**

Examine the feasibility of activation of the L. 1650/86 for the countervailing measures and compensations for protected areas

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of National Economy and Economics.**

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

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

Refer to 2.7.2 above. In addition, have **any special efforts** been made to encourage the private sector involvement in monitoring? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **The lack of wetland Management Bodies and continuous monitoring, based on management plans, has precluded the involvement of the private sector into monitoring from being a priority. It is possible**

that at a later stage, when such a monitoring will be in place at Ramsar sites, this option will be examined as appropriate.

If Yes, describe these special efforts.

AND: How successful has this been?

Proposed national actions and targets: Issuing of the Presidential Decrees for the establishment of the Management Bodies of the protected areas and, afterwards, design of coherent monitoring programmes, in which, the degree and type of participation of the private sector will be examined. Through funding by the 3rd Community Support Framework, and within the Operational Programme for the Environment, monitoring systems will have been established in 25 protected areas till 2006.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture

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

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

Refer to 2.7.3 above

* * *

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

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

Actions - Global Targets

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

Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below

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

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

See below

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **The EPA needs have not been precisely identified at regional level, although this issue has been the focus of discussions developed in recent years at regional level, through seminars and conferences. Within almost all environmental programmes and projects, completed or still in place, at regional and local level, the information and awareness matters are among the most significant actions. Moreover, the operation of the Information Centres at several Regions of the country resulted to a more general consideration of the EPA needs of the different social target groups that are directly or indirectly involved in wetland management and conservation. Simple records collected by the Information Centres led to useful conclusions, which nevertheless were not compiled and codified in order to lead to overall results for the respective areas.**

EKBY, in the framework of its EPA activities (information and awareness for Lakes Volvi and Koronia, project for the co-operation among Local Government and NGOs on the European Environmental Policy), has identified the information needs of local societies to a quite satisfactory degree. In parallel, within the MedWet programme, it has produced a relevant edition for the development of information and awareness projects in wetland areas. This edition will soon be circulated to all 13 Regions in the country, as well as to all associated organisations and services at local and national level.

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). **See above**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Examine the feasibility of carrying out an EPA needs assessment in order to identify and prioritise the multiple needs.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, in collaboration with relevant departments of other Ministries, Regional Authorities, and with Institutes and NGOs which possess the required knowledge and experience.**

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

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

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **The Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works is considering the formulation of a project for the implementation of its CEPA obligations according to Resolution VII.9. The formulation of the project and its subsequent materialization was not considered of high priority compared to the designation and management of protected areas.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Examine the feasibility of preparing a national**

CEPA action plan.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, in collaboration with relevant departments of other Ministries, Regional Authorities, and with Institutes and NGOs which possess the required knowledge and experience.**

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details. **Visits and exchanges of the staff members of the Information Centres (established and financially supported by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, of Developmental Companies and NGOs in Greece) have been promoted in several projects undertaken by these Centres. Examples of such programmes that were used for the dissemination of information are the INTERREG Initiative – project PAN, CADISPA project, Exhibition Green Week etc. Moreover, several conferences and workshops have been organised for the employees of the information centres, where issues of wetland management have been presented and discussed. Examples are a training project undertaken by the Hellenic Ornithological Society, training by Mediterranean Information Centres, seminars by Tour du Valat, by the Mediterranean Office of WWF etc. The employees of the Information Centres act themselves as educators for the school groups and interested visitors as well as teachers in educational seminars. Moreover, a scientific group has already visited the Black Sea region under the MedWet 4 Project (Danone – Evian Project) in order to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and skills obtained in the management of the Mediterranean Wetlands.**

Additionally, schools in Greece show an increasing interest in wetlands and their management. This is expressed by their participation in several educational programmes whose objective is to encourage the transfer of information, knowledge, experience and skills regarding wetland management. Such Mobility Programmes, which are supported by the Ministry of Education, encourage the mobility of pupils and teachers, either within the country or to other countries and the collaboration among schools from different regions or even from different countries. These programmes are of two kinds. One type is financially supported directly by the European Community (e.g. ARION, Globe – Alexandros). The other type of programmes in the Operational Project for Education of the Ministry of Education was included under the 2nd Community Support Framework. Through these programmes, it is estimated that in the period 1994-1999 about 55,000 pupils and 5,000 teachers visited the Centres of Environmental Education (see 3.2.3), about 6,000 teachers followed training seminars in these Centres and about 3,500 teachers followed training seminars in the Universities. Wetlands and water were of the main issues of educational programmes and training seminars.

Is your country specifically supporting the Wetlands Link International initiative (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? No
If No , what is preventing this from happening? See 3.1.3
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: Continuation of educational mobility projects (it is foreseen through the Operational Project for Education of the Ministry of Education under the 3rd Community Support Framework)
Information of all Information Centres, as well as of all other wetland - related bodies about Wetlands Link International.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Education, Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, in collaboration with the relevant CEPA focal points.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
3.2.1 Encourage partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations capable of developing national EPA programmes on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8 to see the global network of proposed CP and non-government focal points for Wetland Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) in place and functioning effectively in the promotion and execution of the national Outreach Programmes in all CPs. To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.
Did your Government inform the Ramsar Bureau by 31 December 1999 of the identity of its Government and Non-Government Focal Points for wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring?
Has your country established an "appropriately constituted Task Forces, where no mechanism exists for this purpose (e.g., National Ramsar Committees), to undertake a review of national needs, capacities and opportunities in the field of wetland CEPA and, based on this, to formulate its National Wetland CEPA Action Plans for priority activities which consider the international, regional, national and local needs" (COP7 Resolution VII.9). No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? See 3.1.2 above

If **Yes**, please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force.

AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000?

No

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

If **Yes**, is the Action Plan being implemented effectively?

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?

AND: Has a copy of this plan been provided to the Ramsar Bureau?

Proposed national actions and targets: **See 3.1.3**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **See 3.1.3**

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? **One of the objectives of the Information Centers operating at Ramsar and other wetland sites, has been that of supporting the educational programmes. This support involved guided visits of thousands of pupils and teachers to the exhibition hall of the Information Centers, but also to the very wetlands, which were coupled with specifically designed information material.**

Moreover, the Ministry of Education has in recent years established the Centers of Environmental Education, some of which are located near wetlands (e.g. Lake Kerkini, Lake Kastoria). In these Centers, as well as in almost all others that are not in the vicinity of wetlands, specific environmental education projects were developed about wetlands and water in general.

In addition, the Department of Environmental Awareness and Education of EKBY has developed educational activities in wetland areas, such as seminars, production of educational material for wetlands, educational presentations and guided visits, etc. Several NGOs (e.g. WWF-Greece) also operate information facilities, where educational

projects are carried out and educational material is produced.

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites? **Information Centers are established and equipped by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works in all Ramsar sites and specifically: 1 for the Evros Delta, 1 for Lake Vistonis, Porto-Lagos lagoon and Lake Ismaris, 1 for the Nestos Delta, 1 for Lake Kerkini, 1 for Lakes Volvi and Koronia, 1 for the Delta of Axios - Loudias - Aliakmon (and 1 Thematic Kiosk), 1 for the Lagoons of Messolonghi - Aitoliko, 2 for the Gulf of Amvrakikos, 1 for the Kotychi lagoon - Forest of Strophylia and 3 Thematic Kiosks for the Prespa Lake. Moreover, 6 Information Centres have been established and equipped through Programme Agreements in other wetland sites (Lake Plastiras, Acherontas River, Kalamas River, Chortarolimni Lake in Lesvos, Psalidi Wetland in Kos and Enipeas River in Olympos).**

Information Centres have been established also by NGOs. Some of them were at least partly financed by the Greek State (mainly through the European Community Life-Nature Regulation). Information Centers by NGOs exist in the wetland areas of Gialova Lagoon, Evrotas River, Prespa Lake and Strymonikos River.

In Greece there are also 20 Centres of Environmental Education (CEE) in operation (supported by the Ministry of Education), out of which, the following are located near wetlands: CEE of Konitsa (near the Rivers Aoos - Voidomatis), CEE of Kastoria (near the homonymous lake), CEE of Soufli (near the River Evros), CEE of Eleftherio - Kordelio (near the Rivers Axios - Gallikos), CEE of Stylida (near the River Sperchios), CEE of Thermo (near Lake Trichonis), CEE of Ano Poroia (near Lake Kerkini) and CEE of Akrata (coastal wetlands of Achaia Prefecture).

Along with the establishment of the above facilities, since 1991, EKBY, located in Thessaloniki, has been intensively developing educational and information activities with regard to wetland issues. Another type of educational facilities is the Centres for Professional Education, which is supported by the Ministry of Work and is spread all over the country. These Centres provide for training and educational seminars at unemployed or working people, diploma owners and graduates of the secondary educational degree.

How many centres are being established? and at what sites? **See below**

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

Through the 3rd Community Support Framework, the establishment of 11 new Information Centres and the conduction of information - public awareness activities in 25 areas is foreseen.

Regarding the CEE of the Ministry of Education, the establishment of new centres will be also funded by the 3rd CSF but the exact sites have not been specified yet. This is expected to be done along with the approval of the new operational programme of the Ministry of Education.

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 of these centres participates in Wetlands Link International**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Establishment of new Information Centres and new Centres of Environmental Education. The establishment -or improvement- of 11**

Information Centres is foreseen till 2006 through funding by the 3rd CSF.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Ministry of Education.**

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

- **Global Target - see 3.2.3 above**

Do all museums, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities in your country have exhibits and/or programmes that support non-formal wetland CEPA? **Only for some facilities**

If No, what are the impediments to this occurring? **There exist museums, zoos etc that are not thematically related to wetlands.**

If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? **The information facilities (Museums, Information Centres etc, see above 3.2.3) which deal with wetland matters have developed respective exhibition material for the support of non-formal wetland CEPA. The facilities which are not directly associated with wetlands (e.g. Information or Education Centres in mountainous or forested areas) may support an environmental information and education strategy in the future, but not exclusively focused on wetlands.**

In most already existent information facilities there is an exhibition hall, which includes panels, 3-dimensional models and dioramas, real materials such as shells, fishing nets, human tools, as well as maps and photographs. In many cases, these facilities include specific show-rooms for the presentation of films and slide - shows, which can be also used for brief educational projects for certain target groups. Information materials such as posters, leaflets, books, stickers, support these activities. Some of the Information facilities have produced educational material for the support of this function. E.g., EKBY, within the frame of MedWet 1 project and in collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment, Physical planning and Public Works has produced 2 educational kits for Lakes Volvi and Koronia and for Lake Kerkini, which are available for use at the Information Centres.

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? **All Information Centres of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (see 3.2.3) possess such facilities. For the other education centres, zoos etc there have not been an official report on their infrastructure. None participates in the Wetlands Link International.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Equip all the Information Centres at wetland areas with proper infrastructure for non-formal wetland CEPA. The equipment –or the improvement of equipment- for 11 Centres is within the Operational Programme for the Environment under the 3rd Community Support Framework (2000-2006).**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.**

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

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

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

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

If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details.

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Keep on and enhance the integration of wetland-related issues in the educational books.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Education, Universities, Technical Institutions.**

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: **Examine the possibility of providing a voluntary contribution for the implementation of the Outreach Programme.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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**

<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>With respect to Ramsar site managers, has your government taken steps to provide for Internet links for these people? Yes The scientific staffs of the Information Centres at Ramsar sites (partially involved in the management of the sites) have access to the Internet. For the Management Bodies, which will be established in the near future, there is the provision for providing Internet links.</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this action being taken?</p>
<p>If Yes, how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access? Almost all existent staff in Information Centres (see 2.7.3 and 3.2.3)</p>
<p>AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? All Ramsar sites with an Information Centre (see 3.2.3)</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Provide the facilities for internet access after the establishment of protected wetland Management Bodies.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works</p>

Please go to file 2.



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

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

file 2

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
4.1.1 Review existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]
Has your country reviewed the national institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise use and the “designated national Administrative Authority for the Convention to ensure [that] these have the necessary resources to support the increasing demands being placed upon them by the growing expectations of the Convention” (COP7 Resolution VII.27)? No
If No , what is the impediment to this being done? In Greece there has not been an official review of the relevant national institutions responsible for conservation and wise use, because the responsibilities are not scattered. The main responsibility for wetland conservation lies in the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works. Till now, the most active institutions dealing with wetlands are in close collaboration with the competent national authorities and a lot of projects undertaken by them were financed or co-financed by the state. After their establishment, the Management Bodies will undertake a lot of responsibilities for the wetland wise use and conservation (see 2.7.2, 2.7.3).
If Yes , what were the conclusions and outcomes of the review? (Refer to 4.1.2 also).
Proposed national actions and targets: Establishment of Management Bodies at wetland areas and securing of their financing. Continuation of the co-operation and support of wetland institutions and NGOs (see 2.5.2).
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry

for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

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? **Since most of the important Greek wetlands are proposed for inclusion in the European Ecological Network "Natura 2000", the foreseen establishment of a National Advisory Committee for the protected areas ("Committee Natura 2000" – L. 2742/99), is also considered to undertake the role of the National Ramsar Committee (see 2.1.2).**

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

What is the composition of this Committee?

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

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

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

If **No**, why not?

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Establishment of the foreseen "Committee Natura 2000"**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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
<p>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]</p> <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? The training needs assessment in relation to wise wetland management was one of the actions of the training sub-project of the Mediterranean initiative MedWet 1 Project (1994), and had led to a relevant edition (see previous national report, 2.7.). Its basic findings (see previous national report 4.2.a.) were adopted in the next years, where training courses for people involved in wetland management followed, also in the framework of MedWet 1 Project. During the last decade, wetland conservation issues were included in the agenda of training activities, meetings and workshops organised by the Ministry of Environment on several occasions at regional or local level, associated with the "Natura 2000" Network, the operation of the Information Centres, the MedWet methodologies and tools, the public presentation of the draft Presidential Decrees, etc. Nevertheless the absence of wetland management bodies and management plans under implementation until now, has prevented the continuous training at practical level.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? See above
Proposed national actions and targets: Examine the feasibility of carrying out an upgrated training needs assessment after the establishment of wetlands Management Bodies and implementation of the Management Plans.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, in collaboration with relevant local stakeholders where suitable and with Institutions and NGOs.

<p>4.2.2 Identify current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have reviews of training opportunities completed in more than 75 CPs.
Has your country completed a review of the training opportunities which exist therein? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done?
If Yes , have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in

the future? No
If No , why not? An inventory of training courses associated to wetland management was drafted during MedWet 1 Project (published in 1994), leading to the basic conclusion that professional training with regard to wetland management in Greece was scarce, sectorial (non integrated neither wise use oriented) and that most of it did not address the appropriate target groups anyway. In that sense, the inventory merely confirmed that training efforts towards wise wetland management should almost start from zero point taking into consideration the lack of Management Bodies. Continuous training has to be implemented after the establishment of wetland Management Bodies.
If Yes , how has this been done?
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort?
Has this information on training opportunities been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities? (Refer to 4.2.3 below also) No
Proposed national actions and targets: See 4.2.1 above
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: See 4.2.1 above

<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>Wetlands for the Future Initiative</i>.
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. In the last years, the Ministry of Environment, EKBY, Local Government Agencies, NGOs and Centres for Professional Education (see 3.2.3) have been organising several events, either of exclusively training character, or including a training aspect, with regard to wise wetland management issues, and addressing people involved in wetland management in any way. In addition to training activities mentioned in the previous national report (4.2.c), examples are:
<p>a) A short intensive training course for scientific staff of Ramsar Information Centres (1998), organised by EKBY – Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.</p> <p>b) Training programmes for guards – guides in all Ramsar sites, which were organised in the period 1998-2000 as part of the Programme Agreements that were in force in those areas, within the Operational programme for the Environment under the 2nd</p>

Community Support Framework. The syllabus included general conservation issues, wetland management issues, site-specific training and training related to visitors guidance. The training programmes were executed with the contribution of national NGOs.

c) Within the Collaboration Programme of the Ministry for the Environment within EKBY in the frame of the MedWet Initiative (1999-2001), a 2-day intensive training workshop (early 2000) of staff of regional civil services related to wetland management from all parts of Greece, with regard to the development and perspective of MedWet tools and methodologies on wetlands and other issues of wise wetland management. The workshop was also attended by high level staff of the Ministries of Development, Agriculture and Environment

d) Under the same project (MedWet), guiding principles on issues such as wetland inventory & mapping, wetland management, wetland monitoring, training on wetland management and public awareness, have been prepared on the basis of MedWet outputs with additional input from national know-how and experience and are ready for printing.

e) A 2-week intensive training course on wetland management was provided for staff of the Hellenic Ornithological Society (1998) by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. This may be perceived as training of trainers, since shortly after that, the Hellenic Ornithological Society undertook some of the training programmes mentioned in b).

f) Training activities of the Hunting Federation of Macedonia – Thrace (7 out of the 10 Ramsar sites)

- Three 1-day Regional Meetings (W. Macedonia, C. Macedonia, E. Macedonia – Thrace) were organised in April 2000 for the Managing Boards of the 61 hunting clubs (representing 60,000 members in total) of the Hunting Federation of Macedonia – Thrace. The participants were informed on the national and European legislation concerning wetlands and protected areas.

- Two 3-day seminars for 64 hunting wardens of N. and C. Greece (1999) on wardening methods and associated legislation

- Six Regional Meetings of the hunting wardens of Macedonia – Thrace (December and August 2000) to provide information on the legislative framework for nature conservation ("Natura 2000" Network, Wildlife Refuges, etc), 2 of which were hosted in the Information Centres of Axios and of Vistonis. Another one is planned for May 2001.

- 21-hour seminar for electronic data processing and the use of statistics software for the scientific staff of the Hunting Federation of Macedonia – Thrace (December 2000)

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: **See 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 above**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **See 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 above**

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**, **Greece participated in MedWet 4 Project (Danone – Evian project) through the Ministry of Environment (Information Centre of Axios delta), which consisted of exchange of knowledge and visits of wetland managers (river deltas) in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Within the project there were visits of wetland managers from Ukraine and Spain to the Axios delta and visits of Greek experts to Italy (opening meeting of all participants), Spain (exchange visit) and Ukraine (of all participants closing meeting). The participating parts were: Axios delta (Greece), Po delta (Italy), Rhone delta, Camargue (France), Ebro delta (Spain), Danube delta (Rumania), Dneiper delta (Ukraine) and Goksu delta (Turkey). Technical support was provided by Eurosite. Moreover, members of the staff of other Information Centres and Developmental Companies participated in programmes exchanging staff, information and knowledge (see 3.1.4 above).**
- Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? **No**,
- Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? **Yes**, **All Information Centres provide training facilities, such as a multi-functional furnished rooms (with TV-Video, slide projector, PC), library, conference room suitable space for the future establishment of laboratory facilities.**
- Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? **Yes/No**, **In fact there is an unofficial network of people dealing with wetland management where information disseminates from one to the other.**

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Proposed national actions and targets: **See 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 above.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **See 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 above.**

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

Refer to 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 4.2.1-4 above. Has your country specifically undertaken activities as indicated here which could be deemed to be South-South cooperation? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, please provide details. - **Since 1997, the Greek Government has been funding an Action Programme, through which, the operation of the Secretariat of the MedWet Co-ordination Unit is supported. The principal actions of the Secretariat Unit which maintains its seat in EKBY, is the provision of information and the secretarial support to the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com), the operation, maintenance, development and updating of the MedWet website, the publication of the MedWet Newsletter and its distribution to a mailing list across the Mediterranean, the maintenance and enhancement of the network of the members of the MedWet initiative. Moreover, within the frame of a Collaboration Programme funded by the Ministry for the Environment, with EKBY, the latter acts as focal point of the MedWet Initiative (via the MedWet co-ordination Group) in the issues of wetland mapping and monitoring, as well as in issues of rehabilitation and restoration of wetland functions.**

- **Greece, through the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and EKBY, participated in MedWet 2 Project and supplied technical advice to Albania and Croatia, in issues associated with wetland inventory and mapping, as well with public awareness activities.**

- **Greece, through the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and EKBY, participates in MedWet 2 Project in the transboundary initiative of Bosnia – Erzegovina and Croatia, for the development of an integrated management plan for the lower part of River Neretva (a Ramsar site).**

- **Greece has undertaken five projects in the framework of the Programme for Development Cooperation Assistance within the frame of OECD (DAC/OECD) funded by the Greek Government. Of these, two could be characterised as assistance to South-South cooperation:**

a) Actions for research and protection of two globally threatened water bird species in the Balkan

The project was undertaken in 2000 by the Hellenic Ornithological Society and it concerns the bird species *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* and *Oxyura leucocephala* in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey

b) Elaboration of a Strategic Plan for the sustainable development of Prespa Park.

The project started in December 2000 by the Society for the Protection of Prespa and it concerns Greece Albania and the FYROM (see also 6.2.5).

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continuation and enhancement of Greece's involvement in the South-South co-operation through its active participation in the current phase of the MedWet initiative, as well as through other types of collaboration with the neighbouring countries (please refer also to 6.2.5).**

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

for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works



GENERAL OBJECTIVE 5

TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF ALL SITES INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR LIST)

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

- **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?

If **Yes**, has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? **Yes** **The measures required to maintain the ecological character of the Ramsar sites have been documented in two ways. Firstly, as specific provisions of the relevant Joint Ministerial Decisions (issued for 8 out of the 10 Ramsar sites): these define zonation, broad management objectives, land uses and permitted human activities in each zone. Secondly, a more detailed approach to the identification of problems and documentation of the needed measures was done in the Specific Environmental Studies prepared for all Ramsar sites (as well as for other wetland sites) in the last three years. The Specific Environmental Studies formulate management objectives more specifically than the Joint Ministerial Decisions, document and propose the need for specific projects, regulations, land uses and protection zones. One of the products of each Specific Management Study is the draft Presidential Decree, which will include specific operation and management guidelines and will prescribe a management programme.**

AND: Has a copy been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Issuing of the Presidential Decrees for all Ramsar sites. The relevant legislation foresees that within a year from the establishment of the protected areas, for each of them, an analytical administration and management regulation must be prepared. Within the Operational Programme for the Environment under the 3rd Community Support Framework a total of 25 Management Bodies will be established till 2006.

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

for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

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

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

Refer to 2.7.2 and 2.8.3 also. Are regular internal reviews undertaken to identify factors potentially altering the ecological character of Ramsar sites? **Yes/No** In each Ramsar site and in the framework of the respective Programme Agreements amongst the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and other related Ministries, Regional – Prefectural and Local Authorities, as well as NGOs, which operated from mid – 1997 to the end of 2000 – early 2001, there was a distinct project entitled “Project for the confrontation of specific environmental problems and for the functioning and management of the areas”. Under this project, the scientific staff of the Information Centres was responsible for the early inventory of interventions threatening the ecological character of the respective sites and for alerting the competent services about them. It is certain that this project prevented a lot of harmful interventions of lesser or higher significance.

In the last triennium, an additional adequate description of threats at several wetland sites has been completed as part of the process of the elaboration of the respective Specific Environmental Studies (see 5.1.1). At a later stage, this data can be used to help establish monitoring programmes at these sites, when the respective Management Bodies will assume their management responsibilities.

A major instrument for the confrontation of the threats to all wetland sites is the EIA procedure, which is carried out for all planned works and activities. Specifically for works and activities planned, within the Ramsar or other wetland sites included in the “Natura 2000” National List, in the assessment procedure of their potential impact on wetland resources, the Central Services of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (i.e. the Natural Environment Management Section) is necessarily involved, with the objective for the protection of habitat types and flora and fauna species. The forementioned Environmental Service has started an inventory of all the titles of the works and activities examined, with the purpose to register the works and activities either prohibited or modified by the Service, as appropriate, in relation to the approved relevant environmental terms.

Additionally, several NGOs (national NGOs on a project basis and local NGOs on a

<p>continuous basis) do perform threats monitoring in their wider areas (see also 2.7.2)</p> <p>Therefore, a sort of a detection system is working in a great number of Greek wetland sites. However, there has not been an assessment of the actions taken to address the threats.</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this occurring? See above</p>
<p>If Yes, have these reviews detected situations where changes in ecological character have occurred or may occur? Yes/No See above</p>
<p>If Yes, for how many sites was this case, which sites were they, and what actions were taken to address these threats? See above</p>
<p>AND: Were these sites where change in ecological character was detected, or may occur, added to the Montreux Record? No</p>
<p>If No, why not? All Ramsar sites in Greece were included in the Montreux Record in 1990, in a conscious attempt to draw the required attention to their problems and deal with them in a more effective and systematic way. In 1999, three sites were removed from the Record after a transparent procedure in agreement with the Bureau methodology (please refer to 5.1.3 below for details).</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Establishment of Management Bodies in wetland sites. These Bodies will have the actual authority for identifying factors potentially altering the ecological character of sites (see 5.1.1).</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works</p>

<p>5.1.3 Review and regularly update the Montreux Record (Resolutions 5.4, 5.5, and VI.1). [CPs, STRP, Bureau]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - CPs with Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record, and for which Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) have been completed prior to COP7, are expected to have taken the actions necessary to warrant their removal from the Record before COP8.
<p>For those CPs with a site, or sites, included in the Montreux Record, and for which RAMs (previously Management Guidance Procedures, MGPs) have been completed, have all actions recommended by the RAM been undertaken for each site? Yes/No (i.e. there were undertaken some of the actions)</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this occurring? All greek Ramsar sites were included in the Montreux Record until COP 7, when the sites Lake Prespa, Artificial lake Kerkiní and Evros Delta were removed from it, following a review of the situation in all Ramsar sites, performed by an independent group of experts (project recommended by the Ramsar Bureau and paid by the Hellenic Government). The proposal for removal of the 3 sites was coupled with completed questionnaires in the standard format provided by the Bureau and was approved during COP7.</p>

The MGPs which took place in Greece, in 1988 and 1989 resulted in a large number of general and site-specific recommendations towards the improvement of the conservation status in those sites. Since then, several important steps have been made by the Hellenic government in the spirit of those recommendations and beyond them, nevertheless it is not possible to say that by now all the issues raised in the respective Ramsar technical reports are satisfactorily covered and resolved. Considering that more than one decade has passed since then, some of those detailed recommendations in the meantime turned obsolete or their objectives were better met through different approaches and measures. During the last 5-6 years, definite progress has been accomplished in terms of:

- a) Wetland policy and Strategy
- b) delineation, description and safeguarding of the protected item by determining the prohibited and permitted uses, for each of the most important wetlands, and validation of all the above by legislative acts (Joint Ministerial Decisions, in view of the respective Presidential Decrees)
- c) provision of definitive Ramsar site maps to the Ramsar Bureau
- d) wetland management planning approaches (elaboration of relevant studies, Specific Environmental Studies)
- e) improvement of legislative framework for the establishment of wetland management bodies
- f) experimental operation of preliminary management schemes in the Ramsar sites (1997-2000)
- g) Implication of the local communities in wetland conservation, through financial support of wetland-neighbouring communities for application of sustainable practices in the primary production through the agri-environmental EC Regulation, as well as for information, awareness, environmental education and training activities
- h) inclusion of all greek Ramsar sites and other important wetlands in the national list of sites proposed for the "Natura 2000" Network
- i) construction and operation of information and interpretation infrastructure
- j) Promotion of relevant scientific research and observation
- k) Prevention of degradation of wetland resources in general, through the institution of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and of water quality in particular through monitoring in large rivers and coastal areas
- l) Re-creation, restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands
- m) Promotion of international co-operation on sustainable management of wetlands in the Mediterranean and the Balcan

Not all conservation problems in all Ramsar sites are resolved as a result of the above progress and crucial issues for all sites are still pending (Presidential Decrees, wetland management bodies) as well as site-specific problems. Nevertheless, apart from the removal of three Ramsar sites from the Montreux Record, the positive steps described

above, though not without obstacles and delays, are definitely oriented towards the wise use of the Ramsar and other wetlands.

If Yes, have these actions resulted in a restoration of the ecological character? **Yes**

AND: If Yes, has the site been removed from the Montreux Record following the completion of the necessary questionnaire (COP6 Resolution VI.1)? **Yes** As stated above, 3 sites were removed in COP 7.

Proposed national actions and targets: **The gradual removal of most or all of the remaining Ramsar sites from the Montreux Record, as a result of adequate conservation measures that will enhance their ecological character and prevent serious threats in the future.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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? **Two out of the ten Hellenic Ramsar sites, i.e Lakes Mikri Prespa and Lakes Volvi – Koronia, do not yet have management plans in place. All others are managed through the implementation of Joint Ministerial Decisions that define the zonation and activity restrictions. Lake Mikri Prespa has already the legal status of a National Forest Park and is protected through the forest legislation.**

If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. **For 9 Ramsar wetlands (Evros Delta, Kerkini Reservoir, Axios-Loudias-Aliakmon Delta, Nestos Delta, Ismaris and Vistonis Lakes, Volvi-Koronia, Amvrakikos Gulf, Messolonghi Lagoon, Kotychi-Strophylia Forest) a Specific Environmental Study (SES) has been completed. For the sole remaining site (Lake Mikri Prespa) a SES is being elaborated. These SES, will conclude to Presidential Decrees that will give to the sites a permanent protection status according to the Hellenic legislation.**

For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they? **The management plans with the form of Joint**

Ministerial Decisions are implemented at 8 Ramsar sites.

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done? **The issuing of a provisional Joint Ministerial Decision for Prespa and for Volvi-Koronia, before the issuing of the new Presidential Decree would be without meaning. Now, the Specific Environmental Studies and the draft Presidential Decrees are at the final stage for approval.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Approval of the Specific Environmental Studies for the Greek Ramsar wetlands and designation at national level, through the issuing of the respective Presidential Decrees (see 2.1.1).**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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? **Wetlands in particular are susceptible to negative impacts resulting from actions outside their designated boundaries. Zonation is foreseen by national legislation (Law 1650/86) which prescribes the classification of protection status with several zones (absolute protection areas, strict protection areas, national parks, protected natural formation types, eco-development zones) and provides for buffer zones around them. Zonation will be implemented through the foreseen Presidential Decrees.**

Till then, zoning measures are in place for Ramsar sites through Joint Ministerial Decision, with the exception of the site Lake Volvi and Koronia. In addition, conservation - related zonation, in the framework of the establishment of Zones of Urban Control, is used for 10 other (non-Ramsar) Hellenic wetlands in the form of Presidential Decrees, resulting from Local Physical Plans.

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool? **Zoning measures are generally proving to be a successful management tool (though to a variable degree) for the sites and for the wider surrounding area. The actual success of this tool depends on various factors, e.g. the appropriate selection of natural benchmarks, the size of the wetland, the pattern of ecological units (simple or mosaic like), the particular land uses and activities in each zone etc.**

It must also be underlined that zonation has proved to be a useful tool in the EIA process.

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: **Issuing of the Presidential Decrees for the establishment of zoning, conservation measures and Management Bodies. Management Bodies have a key role in the conservation of wetlands and the regulation of human activities in the wider area (see 5.1.1).**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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? **For all Ramsar sites but Koronia – Volvi and Lake Mikri Prespa, protection measures are defined for the core areas (see 5.2.3 and 5.2.4).**

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

The zonation and the respective permitted activities for all "Natura 2000" areas will be approved, by virtue of a Presidential Decree, after the issuing of which, Management Bodies will be established. According to the national legislation, this is the most powerful legal procedure for the management and protection of a given area.

Since almost all sensitive wetland sites have been included in the proposed list of sites for the European Ecological Network "Natura 2000", the implementation of protection measures for the rest of the non Ramsar wetland areas (after their final designation as Special Areas of Conservation), is only a matter of time. Till then, works and activities scheduled for the areas are examined centrally by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, with the objective of the protection of habitat types and flora and fauna species.

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: **Integration of the currently elaborated Specific Environmental Studies (see 2.1.1) and entrusting of new ones for the remaining sites.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and Prefecture Authorities.**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

5.3.1 Ensure that the maps and descriptions of Ramsar sites submitted to the Ramsar Database by the Contracting Parties at the time of designation are complete, in the approved standard format of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, and provide sufficient detail to be used for management planning and monitoring of ecological character. [CPs, Bureau, Wetlands International]

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

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

If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided a Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet in the approved format, with a suitable map, in one of three working languages of the Convention, has this now be rectified? **Does Not Apply**

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

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

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

If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided an updated Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet for sites designated before 31 December 1990, has this now be rectified? **Does Not Apply**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: █

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.

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

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

Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? **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? **Yes**

If **No**, why not?

AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) **Yes**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **There is a national wetland database, which was designed on the basis of the MedWet model, as proposed by a group of scientists during MedWet I Project. This database can store data and information in a very analytical and systematic way (most fields are filled by parameters and less fields are descriptive). The software, developed on Visual Basic, is readily expandable and can run on various operating systems, e.g. Windows 95/98, Windows NT, Windows 2000. It is compatible with the Ramsar database and information from the MedWet database may be used in the Ramsar database. Since late 2001 it is available through the Internet as a link to the EKBY (www.ekby.gr) and the MedWet (www.medwet.gr) websites. See also 6.1.2.**

Moreover, the results of the National Databases of the monitoring projects (see also 2.2.2), are available to interested individuals, Services, Universities etc through specific requests addressed at the competent authorities. After the establishment of the National Network for Environmental Information (already under way), general points of this information will be available through the web page of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (www.minenv.gr).

If **No**, why not?

AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) **No**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

If **No**, why not? **The forementioned wetland database is not available in CD-ROM, since the rationale behind it was its free availability through the Internet. Should such a necessity arise, the production of a CD-ROM coupled with a user's manual will be examined.**

As for the other databases, since they are updated at close time intervals, the creation of a CD-Rom would be meaningless. However, for the information of the public, a one year project (2000-2001) concerning the results of the Monitoring Programme for the Surface Water Quality in Greece was funded by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical

Planning and Public Works (by national funds). Moreover, a relevant project for the information of the public on the results of the National Monitoring Programme of Bathing Waters is also funded each year since 1996 by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Further information of the interested stakeholders about the existence of the above data bases.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Greek Biotope – Wetland Centre, Ministry of Development – General Secretariat for Research and Development.



GENERAL OBJECTIVE 6

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Refer to 6.1.2 and 6.2.1. Does there exist for your country a directory or similar listing of sites which are potential Ramsar sites? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such a list of sites being prepared? **In Greece there has been prepared a directory of sites which satisfy the criteria of the European Directive 92/43 and are proposed for inclusion in the European Ecological Network "Natura 2000". This directory is accompanied by Standard Data Forms of flora and fauna data for all the sites. The majority of important Greek wetlands is included in this directory. However, there has not been a specific directory for the wetland sites which satisfy the Ramsar criteria. Moreover, there exists a directory of all Greek wetland sites with information on biotic and abiotic factors, values, uses, threats etc, prepared by EKBY in 1994 (see 6.1.2 below).**

If **Yes**, when was it prepared and was it prepared taking into consideration the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (COP7 Resolution VII.11)?

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Examine the feasibility of identifying all Greek wetland sites that satisfy the Ramsar criteria from the National List of "Natura 2000" sites.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre.**

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

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

Does there exist a comprehensive national inventory (as opposed to a directory of important sites; see 6.1.1 above) for your country? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared?

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 first attempt towards a consistent inventory of the wetlands in Greece was launched in 1992 and its results were published in 1994. (see 6.1.1). In 1999 a data base for Greek wetlands was designed and developed according to the MedWet database specifications (see also 5.4.4). This database includes all the information of the already existing inventory of the wetlands plus extra data included in the Standard Data Forms of the sites proposed for inclusion in the European Ecological Network "Natura 2000" (see 6.1.1). Additionally to this, data from the catchment area concerning size, population, river length etc, were digitized and included. The data base provides the possibility for constant updating at different moments of time. This translates into the creation of times-series of data and information, the ability to print out comparative reports between different sites or times and the ability to store mapping data. The project for the construction of the data base was financed by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology - Ministry for Development in the framework of the wider programme "National Information System - Creation and Development of Information and Data Banks for Science and Technology" and was conducted by the Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The project was completed in the year 2000.**

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)? It is accessible through the internet
Proposed national actions and targets: Examine the feasibility of periodic updating of the data base with field work and remote sensing data.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre, Ministry for Development - General Secretary for Research and Technology.

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: Keep on gathering the water bird population data and of providing them to Wetlands International, as well as of providing materials to relevant institutions for ringing waterfowl.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for Agriculture

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</i> – COP7 Resolution VII.11)? No
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Nature conservation in Greece in the

last years, aimed mainly at the legal designation and protection of the majority of Greek important natural sites. The framework of this work was in accordance to the Directive 92/43 EC. Although the preliminary steps for the identification of the future Greek Ramsar sites have already been completed (see also 6.1.1 and 6.1.2), a systematic approach is still pending due to the prioritization of the above target.

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

If **No**, why not?

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Examine the feasibility of identifying all Greek wetlands (included in the National List of the candidate "Natura 2000" sites), as Ramsar sites according to the Ramsar criteria, if this is not done up to now.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre**

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

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

Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Peatlands, sea-grass beds and intertidal wetlands, all of which are under-represented wetland types in the Ramsar catalogue, were given particular attention by the Hellenic government while formulating the National List of sites proposed for the "Natura 2000" Network, which includes several sites with such habitat-types (see 6.2.1 above). With regard to peatlands in particular, until recently, it was believed that in Greece there is a very small number, which had a negligible ecological and economic value. Recent scientific work has altogether changed this perception, suggesting that the national territory hosts a considerable number of peatlands of variable composition, which are often at a stage of advanced degradation, due mainly to crop and animal farming activities. Already, Greek experts participated in the International Mires Conservation Group and have contributed to the formulation of the Global Action Plan for Peatlands, now included in the "Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands" proposed by the Convention for adoption at COP8. With regard to sea grass beds, Greece has accepted the Marine Vegetation Action Plan, prepared within the framework of Barcelona Convention - Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity.**

A very positive step towards the inventory of under - represented wetland types was the project for mapping of habitat types in areas proposed for inclusion in the "Natura 2000" network. This project was financed from the 2nd CSF and will be completed by the end of 2001.

If Yes, has this included designations of wetlands including:

- Coral reefs?
- Mangroves?
- Seagrass beds?
- Peatlands?
- Intertidal wetlands? (COP7 Resolution VII.21)

Proposed national actions and targets:

Identification of the under-represented wetland types in the list of Greek wetland sites that satisfy the Ramsar criteria from the National List of proposed "Natura 2000" sites.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

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. **Almost all designated Greek Ramsar wetlands (with the exception of Lake Mikri Prespa that was previously designated as a National Park) had no previous conservation status.**

AND: Are there plans for further such designations? **Yes**

If No, why not?

If Yes, please elaborate. **Today, there are plans for the enlargement of two Ramsar sites. One of the areas (Kitros Lagoon) was included in the area protected by the Joint Ministerial Decision of the wider wetland complex of Axios-Loudias-Aliakmon Delta. A draft Presidential Decree has already been prepared for the area. The second site (part of Lake Megali Prespa) does not constitute part of the Prespa National (Forest) Park for the moment, but is proposed for incorporation in the new boundaries of the Park by the Ministry of Agriculture. It will also be included in the draft Presidential Decree in the respective Specific Environmental Study assigned by the Ministry of Environment. The**

intention of the State to enlarge the two areas has been stated in Resolution VII.12.1 of COP 7.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Extension of the designated Ramsar area of Lake Mikri Prespa with the inclusion of neighbouring Lake Megali Prespa as well as of Axios-Loudias-Aliakmon Delta with the inclusion of Kitros Lagoon.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.**

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/No** **Some of the "shared" wetland areas (like Lake Mikri Prespa) have been designated. However, a systematic approach to identifying future Ramsar sites is still pending (see 6.2.1 above).**

If **No**, what has prevented this action being taken? **See 6.2.1. above**

If **Yes**, are there arrangements in place between the CPs sharing the wetland for the cooperative management of the site? **Yes** **Between Greece and the neighbouring countries (with which it shares the hydrological basins of 5 Ramsar sites, generally being a «downstream» country) there has been stated a co-operation in the strict sense of actual management only for the Prespa area. The initiative concerns the establishment of the trilateral National Park of Prespa, among Greece, Albania and FYROM. The official declaration for the establishment of the park, which was signed by the three Prime Ministers in the presence of the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, was announced on the World Wetlands Day (February 2), 2000. The agreement foresees an enhanced co-operation among competent authorities in the three countries in order to maintain and protect the unique ecological and cultural values of the Prespa Park, prevent and reverse any causes of degradation and explore appropriate management methods for the sustainable use of the Prespa Lake's water. The first three trilateral meetings, as first steps towards the adoption of a common action plan, have already taken place in Skopje (January 2001), in Thessaloniki (June 2001) and in Psarades (November 2001). For further details see 2.2.2 above.**

Moreover, there are several bilateral agreements between Greece and neighbouring countries, which ensure a stable flow of information and data related mainly to water quantity, pollution sources and incidents, as well as to water quality issues. For the moment, the purpose of each such agreement is for both countries to each other aware of the situation and plans in their territory, as an aspect of good will. There are two

agreements in place with Bulgaria for the usage of the water of rivers flowing from one country to the other (1964) and for the usage of river water for electricity production purposes (1971), two protocols for the monitoring and control of the quality of the transboundary rivers (1971, 1990), two approvals of the records of the joint Greek-Bulgarian Committee concerning the monitoring and the control of the quality and quantity of transboundary river waters as well as the following up of the PHARE INTERREG project (1991, 1994) and an agreement specifically for the water of River Nestos (L. 2402/Ofic. State Gazette 98/A/14-6-96).

Two Memoranda of Understanding and Cooperation for sustainable development and the environment (MoU) are at the final phase of their joint preparation by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and the National Environmental Agencies of Albania and Bulgaria respectively, which cover a lot of management fields, information exchange etc. These memoranda will also promote sustainable water use based on a long - term protection of available water resources. The first, gives particular attention to the environmental protection of Prespa lake.

Moreover, in the framework of a similar Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey in 2001, is examined at a technical expert level, the issue of monitoring stations of the water quality of Evros river.

Within the framework of the Programme for Development Cooperation Assistance in the frame of OECD (DAC) from OECD, five projects concern the transboundary cooperation between Greece and neighboring countries (see also 4.2.6):

- Inventory of wetlands in Albania. The project undertaken by the Greek Biotope - Wetland Centre started in January 2001 and it concerns the transfer of know-how (according to MedWet1 and MedWet2 Projects) and its implementation for the inventory of Albanian wetland sites.

- Transboundary cooperation for the protection and management of Axios River. It was undertaken by the Ecological Movement of Thessaloniki and started in December 2000. It concerns the common understanding of the ecological status of River Axios with regard to pollution and the avifauna. Moreover, the «Consortium for the Vardar Plain» has been founded in the FYROM, with the participation of governmental and semi-governmental bodies in order to address the pollution problem. The Consortium has sought co-operation with Greece for a large – scale development plan, which includes the connection of Axios to Danube and the North Sea. The Water Supply and Sewage Corporation of Thessaloniki has expressed interest in undertaking the construction of 12 Sewage Treatment Plants in cities of the FYROM.

- Actions for the research and protection of two globally threatened water bird species in the Balkan (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* and *Oxyura leucocephala*). The project, undertaken by the Hellenic Ornithological Society started in December 2000. It concerns research on the specie's population and the specie's habits in four countries (Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey).

- Elaboration of a Strategic Plan for the sustainable development of Prespa Park. The project, undertaken by the Society for the Protection of Prespa, started in January 2001. It concerns the elaboration and implementation of a developmental project, based on

sustainable use of the resources of Greece, Albania and the FYROM.

- Project for the protection and management of three different ecosystem types in Albania (Nerta Lagoon, Vjose River, Forest ecosystems of Zverneci Islands and National park of Llogora). The project, undertaken by the Biology School of the University of Thessaloniki, started in December 2000. It concerns sampling actions and consequent definition of management proposals for the maintenance of the quality of the above ecosystems.

At scientific, non-governmental level, the Hellenic NGO Centre for European Constitutional Law, has been involved in the following three projects of transboundary co-operation with regard to wider issues of environmental law:

- Project entitled: "Widening the environmental information and transboundary co-operation", from November 2000 to February 2001. The project involved exchange of information among Greece, the FYROM, Albania and Bulgaria in the field of environmental protection. Its objective was to assist these countries in preparing for adapting to the European environmental legislation, as well as to facilitate future co-operation for the resolution of transboundary environmental problems.

- Project entitled: "Hellenic – Bulgarian co-operation for the assessment of Environmental Impact", implemented in 2000. The project involved the formation of two expert groups from Bulgaria and Greece respectively, and their co-operative research in order to contribute to a common approach, understanding and interpretation of the international Convention for the Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Ecosystems, through a comparative review of relevant institutional and legal tools in the two countries.

- Project entitled "Hellenic – Bulgarian Republic environmental co-operation", implemented in 2000. The project involved the transfer of institutional know-how in the field of environmental protection. Its objective was to formulate proposals for legislative and administrative modifications and the gradual harmonisation of the Bulgarian environmental law with the European environmental legislation, in order to assist the future accession of Bulgaria to the European Union.

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

Proposed national actions and targets: See 6.2.1. above. Moreover, further enhancement of the trans-boundary co-operation initiatives.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre



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? **Twinning of Ramsar sites in Greece with equivalent sites in other countries has not been established in an official form. Nevertheless, flow of knowledge and assistance has been pursued through other interactive projects and initiatives (please refer to 4.2.4, 4.2.6 and 6.2.5)**

If **Yes**, please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved.

AND: Do these arrangements involve:

- sharing of information resources?
- transfer of financial resources?
- exchanges of personnel?
- other activities?

Proposed national actions and targets: **After the establishment of the Management Bodies, exploration of the possibility of twinning of one or more Ramsar sites in Greece with equivalent sites in other countries should the appropriate context arise.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and Prefecture Authorities.**

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]

- **Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention to Combat Desertification which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.**

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

If **No**, what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? **For the coordination of the international conventions/ treaties for the environment under the responsibility of the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, there exists a specific ministerial Service. Inter-ministerial Committees exist for the implementation of specific conventions and treaties:**

- For the Convention for Climatic Changes (UNFCCC) (there exists an inter-ministerial Committee composed of 18 representatives of ministries and research institutes)

- For the Convention for Desertification (there exists also an inter-ministerial Committee composed of representatives of ministries and research institutes)

-For the preparation of the implementation of the Water Frame Directive 2000/60/EC (there exists an inter-ministerial Committee from the competent Ministries, as well as 13 working groups). Moreover, within the framework of the above Directive, the state has been bound for the formation of the National Council for the Management of Water Resources (see 2.1.2).

Moreover, for the implementation of the European Ecological Network "Natura 2000" (Directive 92/43/EC) a National 15 member Committee called "Committee Natura 2000" is to be established. This committee composed of representatives from the competent Ministries as well as from Universities and NGOs will assist the implementation of management in protected areas and will certainly take into account the obligations of the country towards international conventions/treaties.

Recently, (October 2001), through a specific decision, the recently established National Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development undertook the responsibility for the coordination of drafting procedures concerning the multilateral environmental agreements, i.e. of general and specific international conventions, treaties and protocols.

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

AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective?
If No , why not?
If Yes , please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: Formation of the "Committee Natura 2000", formation of the National Council for the Management of Water Resources (see above).
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

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? There have been proposals for various projects concerning wetland areas (see 4.2.6, 6.2.5) but not to funding agencies specifically for assisting with implementation of the Ramsar Convention.
In October 2001 the Greek Government appointed the newly established National Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development as the responsible body for «the coordination of drafting procedures concerning the Multilateral Environmental Agreements» on behalf of the Greek State. Therefore the said Centre is the potentially competent body for the coordination of the implementation of multiple obligations arising from international conventions and the submission of joint proposals.
If Yes , were such proposals successful in gaining funds?
Proposed national actions and targets: Examine the possibility of proposing relevant projects to funding agencies intended to assist with the implementation of Ramsar Convention.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works in collaboration with Institutes, NGOs etc.

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - To see the Joint Work Plan implemented in full and resulting in cooperative implementation of both Conventions at the international, national and local levels.
Further to 7.2.1 above: Has there been a review completed of the Joint Work Plan between Ramsar and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish the areas of priority for cooperative implementation of these Conventions? No

If **No**, what has prevented such a review being done? **The National Strategy for Biodiversity is under elaboration by the relevant ministries, and, up to now, areas of priority for implementation of the Biodiversity Convention have not been specified yet.**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Completion of the elaboration of the National Biodiversity Strategy.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, in collaboration with relevant ministries.**

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

OECD's Development Assistance Committee (Recommendation 6.16). [Bureau, Partners]

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

While this action is directed at the Bureau principally, CPs also have a role to play in this area; refer to 7.4.2 below with respect to bilateral development agencies. For the multilateral donors: Is your government represented on the governing bodies or scientific advisory bodies of the multilateral donors, or the GEF? **No**

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

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

Refer to 7.4.2 to 7.4.6 below.

Proposed national actions and targets: **See 7.4.2 and 7.4.6**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **See 7.4.2 and 7.4.6**

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? **Suggestions for priority actions, which are in accordance to the general outlines of the national policy, are made by the relevant Services and are accepted by the political authorities. Since the majority of the funds comes from the Community Support Frameworks, the coordination of the expenditure of the funds lies within the mechanism for the management of the Community Funds.**

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **Yes** **The proposition of priority actions for wetland areas by the competent Services is in accordance with the national policy for wetlands, expressed in the National Strategy for Wetlands Resources, in the National Master Plan as well as in various operational meetings and open presentations.**

The main features of the Wetland Policy focusing on the 2000-2006 period mainly concern : adoption of conservation measures (this will be achieved with the forthcoming law enactments such as Presidential Decrees, and the consequent establishment of Management Bodies), funding of priority actions for wetland conservation, prevention of degradation through effective control of projects and activities which may be potentially harmful to wetlands, by means of the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure, promotion of public awareness and environmental education.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Funding actions for wetland conservation**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works**

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 (i.e. not necessarily on a regular basis)**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Greece is a full member of the Development Assistance Cooperation (DAC) of the OECD. Therefore, since 1999, 0.2% of the Gross National Product is given for Development Cooperation Programmes, some of which concern wetland areas (see 6.2.5). Although wetland-related projects are very common among the proposition, a) the projects are for a limited time period and b) this funding mechanism does not ensure that there will be funding of wetland related projects at a regular basis.**

If **Yes**, are these projects subjected to rigorous impact assessment procedures, which take account of the full environmental, social and economic values of wetlands? **Yes/No (i.e. in a way)**

If **No**, why not? **During the procedure of selection of wetland - related DAC programmes, the competent Services send the proposals to the relevant Committee of the Ministry for the Environment, which, further on, suggests to the Political Authorities the proposed for funding projects. The framework for the selection of the projects is set up by the DAC Committee of OECD, by the national policies and by the requests from the neighboring countries. Therefore, environmental, social and economic values of the targeted species or areas (wetlands in many cases) are a way taken into consideration.**

If **Yes**, is the Ramsar Administrative Authority consulted during the screening and assessment phases of the projects? **No**

If **No**, why not? **There is no Ramsar Administrative Authority in the country (see 2.5.4.)**

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? **A National Ramsar Committee has not been established (see 2.5.4)**

If **Yes**, please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Further financing of development assistance projects with wetland-related content. Establishment of the "Natura 2000 Committee" (see 2.5.4).**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.**

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

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

Refer to 7.4.2 above



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

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

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.2.1 Pay invoiced contributions to the Convention's core budget in full, and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year. [CPs]
<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).
Is your country completely up to date with its annual contributions to the core budget of the Convention? Yes
If No , what is the impediment to this being done?
Proposed national actions and targets: Achieve full and timely payment of all dues
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - To secure the resources needed to establish regional training initiatives (like <i>Wetlands for the Future</i>) 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**

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring? **There does not exist a National Ramsar Committee in the country (see 2.5.4)**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Establishment of the "Committee Natura 2000" (see 2.5.4)**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works,**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

8.4.1 Develop a strategy for securing at least one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, to be approved by the first full meeting of the Standing Committee after the 6th COP (1996) and proceed immediately to its implementation. [Bureau, SC, CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - To establish a mechanism to ensure one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (COP7 Resolution VII.28).**

Refer also to 8.2.4. For developed countries, do you provide additional voluntary contributions to support the Small Grants Fund? **No**

If **No**, what prevents this from happening? **Till now, the Hellenic Republic did not provide additional voluntary contributions for the Small Grants Fund. However, a general additional contribution to the Convention of 8000 SF was provided in 1997.**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Examine the possibility of providing more**

additional voluntary contributions to the Convention.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.**
