

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

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

file 1

Institutional information

Contracting Party: **INDIA**

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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.

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1

TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

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

Actions – Global Targets

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

- **The gaps remain in Africa, central Asia, the Middle East and the Small Island Developing States. Refer to Recommendation 7.2 relating to Small Island Developing States.**
- **Global Target - 150 CPs by COP8**
- **These are the countries which at present are not CPs of the Convention:**
Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar,

<p>Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.</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.) Yes 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? No</p>
<p>If Yes, have these actions been successful? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented such action being taken? Myanmar, Bhutan and Sri Lanka were contacted through diplomatic channels to join the Convention. The importance of the Ramsar Convention for conservation and sustainable use of Wetlands and the benefits accrued to the contacting parties was highlighted in the communication to persuade them to join the Convention. This is being further pursued to ensure their joining the Convention.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: It is proposed to approach Maldives and other neighbouring countries to join the Convention.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India is the nodal agency for implementation of Ramsar Convention in India.</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? Yes If No, go to Action 2.1.1.</p>
<p>If Yes, have actions been taken to encourage the non-CPs from your region or subregion to join the Convention? Yes</p>
<p>If Yes, have these actions been successful? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented such action being taken? The concerned neighbouring countries who have been approached to join the Convention are actively considering joining the Convention.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: All necessary technical support will be provided to</p>

these neighbouring countries to pursue the matter with concerned Government agencies at various levels in these countries to ensure their joining the Convention.

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

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Has your country **completed** a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? **No**

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

- **The Government of India is reviewing the legislation and institutional mechanisms for application of wise use of wetlands, considering all aspects of environmental issues relating to fresh water, Coastal and Marine Eco-systems.**

- **Wetlands are complex eco-systems encompassing land and water environments which are regulated by different legislative regimes.**

- **The new process is very complex involving participation of several organisations both Government, Non-Government and at Community levels to critically examine the positive and negative impacts of the current legislation and the need for developing the comprehensive legislation.**

- **Specific guidelines are needed for effective review of legislations and development of pragmatic regulatory regimes based on wise use principles.**

If a review is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done? **2-3 years.**

If the review has been **completed**, did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to these amendments being completed? **The process has not**

been initiated in view of the above impediments, the question of completion does not arise.

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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? **No**

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

- Wetlands have interface with several sectoral ministries/agencies and thus involve joint decisions on diverse issues for which there is overall lack of basic understanding and adopting a joint approach.

- Lack of understanding in the interactions and resource development on sound ecological basis on a various sectors.

- Lack of understanding of the hydrological regimes at the river basin level and allocation of water particularly for ecological basis.

- Conflicting interests among various sectors and their resolution to evolve common strategy.

- Overall lack of community involvement in planning and implementation processes leading to ad hoc decisions for management.

- Lack of overall understanding of the nature and benefits of wetlands in economic and

ecological terms.
If the development of such a Policy is planned , what is the expected timeframe for this being done? 2-3 years.
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? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide brief details. <p>- India has formulated National Policy and Macro Level Strategies on Biodiversity based on wide ranging consultations with the concerned stakeholders. This provided the framework for National Policy and Macro Level Action Strategy on biodiversity, which has been published by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) Government of India in 1999. As a follow up of this, MoEF initiated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which aims at producing a comprehensive and implementable National Action Plan including representative ecosystems at district or sub-state regions, eco-regions on cross-cutting themes. Under this project an elaborate process has been developed for integration of biodiversity with cross-sectoral planning process at different levels in the country. The various groups for development of action plans are engaged in developing sound and specific action plans considering the socio-cultural situations in India and ensuring that benefits reach to the people who depend upon the biological diversity for their sustenance.</p>
Has your government reviewed and modified, as appropriate, its policies that adversely affect intertidal wetlands (COP7 Resolution VII.21)? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening?
If Yes , what were the conclusions of this review? and what actions have been taken subsequently? <p>- National Conservation Strategy, 1992, highlighting the importance of coastal zones as fragile ecosystems.</p> <p>- A notification has been issued declaring the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters which are influenced by tidal action in the landward side upto 500 meters from the high tideline and the land between the low tideline and the high tideline as the Coastal Zone Regulation Notification, 1991 under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This imposes graded restriction on setting up and expansion of industries, operations and processes. This notification is of great importance for conservation and wise use of coastal wetlands. The Environment (Protection) Act also specifies protection of ecologically fragile areas under which a number of wetland ecosystems in the country are being notified.</p>
Proposed national actions and targets: <p>- All the State Governments in the coastal areas have been advised by the Government</p>

of India to formulate integrated coastal zones management plans. Wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs are designated as ecologically fragile areas and their conservation measures have to be planned and implemented by the concerned authorities. The highest judicial body, Supreme Court of India, has also made implementation of Coastal Zone Management Plans mandatory for the State Governments .

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India and concerned State Government Departments.**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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.

River basin approach has been followed for conservation and wise use of wetlands in the region. Government of India provides technical and financial support to promote sustainable development of wetlands at the river basin level. Projects have been undertaken in the State of Manipur, Orissa, Gujarat and Punjab to integrate conservation and wise use of wetlands into river basin management. The specific studies undertaken involving Wetlands International - South Asia (WISA) programme in the context are:

- Sustainable development of Loktak Lake falling within Manipur River basin emphasizes on optimizing the water level to harness multiple benefits such as generation of power, wildlife conservation, sustainable fisheries development, mitigation of floods

and improvement of water quality. The project involves enhancing water holding capacity, improving water quality and flood mitigation and developing mechanisms for implementation of strategies for wise use of Loktak Lake based on specific studies. In order to achieve these objectives a national stakeholder endorsed water management plan that addresses multiple values of Loktak lake will be prepared.

- River basin approach was adopted to assess the current status of wetlands and identification of problem statements for prioritization of wetlands in Gujarat. The approach emphasized on linkages of hydrology and biodiversity with development activities within river basin to evolve strategies and develop action plan for sustainable development of wetlands in Gujarat. Based on literature survey the root cause problem was identified as lack of planning and policy to ensure minimum flow within the river system and wetlands for maintenance of their ecological processes and functions. A critical analysis of flow regimes in some of the rivers indicated that diversion of water for irrigation and other human uses was responsible for drastic reduction in the discharge downstream by 45 - 84 per cent in Ambica, Sabarmati, Mahi, Narmada, Tai and Kim rivers. This has led to the increase in salinity levels effecting the mangroves and other assoicated flora and fauna adversely.

- Harike wetland in Punjab located at the confluence of river Satluj and Beas is one of the largest wetlands in northern India. The construction of a barrage in 1952 has seriously effected water regimes leading to the problems of weed infestation, sedimentation, pollution and loss of biodiversity. The capacity of the reservoir has reduced by more than 79% over a period of 40 years. The management of the wetland has to be undertaken as an integral part of two river systems which extend from Shivaliks in the Himalayas to the downstream of Harike wetland. The approach for conservation as planned by WISA and Punjab State Council for Science and Technology is to enhance hydrological regimes and control soil erosion and pollution in the upstream for long term management of the wetland.

- Hydrological monitoring at the river basin level has been undertaken for the management of Chilika lake by Chilika Development Authority in collaboration with Wetlands International - South Asia. Government of India provides financial support for catchment area development to minimize erosion and reduce lake sedimentation. Based on scientific studies carried out by several national and international organizations hydrological intervention was carried out which brought out the significant changes and benefits for the local communities.

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

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

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.

- Loktak Lake situated in Manipur river basin has been identified as one of the three wetlands selected in Asia to demonstrate implementation of guidelines on integration of

conservation and wise use of wetlands into river basin management. Ministry of Environment and Forests (Government of India), Loktak Development Authority and Wetlands International - South Asia have been involved in implementation of this project. A preliminary survey of the wetland resources and their linkages with catchments has been carried out and the benefits of integrating wetlands at the river basin level are being evaluated in regard to water management, flood control and fisheries development. Strategies are being developed in collaboration with government agencies and concerned stakeholders for integrated water resources management through conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Proposed national actions and targets: Number of projects on integrated river basin management are being initiated which include Yamuna in Delhi and its flood plains, Yamuna in Agra and its flood plains, Ganges in some of the polluted towns of UP, Bihar and Bengal and its flood plains etc.

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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 Additional comments?
Proposed national actions and targets: It is proposed to collect information from various agencies and develop data base on above aspects which could be utilized by the concerned agencies to combat such problems.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: - Ministry of Environment and Forests - Ministry of Water Resources Development - Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Urban Development - Ministry of Transportation

2.3.2. Publicize examples of effective application of existing Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting and improving the availability of such resource materials is a priority under the Convention's Outreach Programme (Resolution VII.9) Global Target - By COP8, to have included in the Wise Use Resource Centre 500 appropriate references and publications as provided to the Bureau by CPs and other organizations.
Further to 2.31. above, has your country, as urged by the Outreach Programme of the Convention adopted at COP7 (Resolution VII. 9), reviewed its resource materials relating to wetland management policies and practices? Yes
If No , what has prevented this being done?
If Yes , have copies of this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau? No
If No , what has prevented this being done? The existing guidelines and additional guidelines have been reviewed at various level including the National Wetland Committee. Based on the review, guidelines have been further modified considering the ecological, economic and social aspects. Research priorities have also been reviewed to help in the formulation and implementation of the action plans.
Proposed national actions and targets: Specific case studies of two Ramsar sites (Loktak Lake & Chilika Lagoon) have been undertaken to formulate guidelines for conservation and wise - use of wetlands and its resources at the river basin level integrating the ecological, economic and social aspects. Both these case studies have provided useful inputs in the formulation of the revised guidelines, which were discussed in the sub-regional meeting of Asian countries of Ramsar Convention held in Tehran in February 2002.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry

of Environment and Forests.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases? **Economic Valuation of some wetlands have been undertaken including two Ramsar sites viz. Harike lake and Keoladeo National Park. These studies have indicated economic valuation as an effective tool for wise-use of wetlands. It is proposed to carry out economic valuation of wetlands with clear focus on use of such studies for resource development and management of wetlands and sustainable resource utilization by the local communities. It is expected to complete these studies within a timeframe of 3 to 5 years.**

If **Yes**, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. **Yes The economic valuation encompasses the values of various functions, products and attributes of the wetlands and developing a framework for efficient allocation of resources for the sustainable development of wetlands. The overall goal is to use economic valuation as a tool for integrating wetland management with overall development planning and resource management.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Economic valuation will be applied to selected wetlands in phased manner representing diverse wetland types.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Forests & Planning Commission.**

Operational Objective 2.5: To carry out environmental impact assessments (EIAs) at wetlands, particularly of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, notably at Ramsar sites, whose ecological character “is

likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference” (Article 3.2 of the Convention).

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Chilika Lake has been under threat from natural and anthropogenic pressures which include siltation, changes in salinity gradients, increase in freshwater weeds, decrease in fish productivity, eutrophication and overall loss of biodiversity. This site was placed under Montreaux Record. Recently, on request of Govt. of India, an international mission from Ramsar Bureau visited Chilika Lake and were highly impressed by conservation measures taken. A case has been put up to Standing Committee for taking this site out of Montreaux Record. The ecological intervention is regarding the opening of new mouth at Magarmukh in the lake. Earlier due to choking of outer channel and its mouth totally into the sea, the exchange of water between the sea and lake was decreasing and in turn was responsible for low salinity level affecting biodiversity. After consultation with Central Power & Water Research Institute, Pune, it was found that lake at Magarmukh is completely choked and as such, it needs the lead channel so that the sea water could get into the lake more profusely. After this intervention, there was tremendous increase in fish and prawn landing. Average monthly income of fishermen doubled within a single year. There was an increase in salinity flux, tidal flux, sediment flushing and decrease in areas under weed proliferation by 157 sq km.**

This area is still monitored and changes in different components are recorded in different seasons to ensure long term effect of this change in ecological character after opening of the new mouth at Magarmukh.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **All developmental projects impacting environment particularly ecologically fragile areas like wetlands are subjected to EIA exercises before their implementation. No developmental activities in the coastal areas is allowed without carrying out an EIA.**

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

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

(Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country **undertaken** a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? **Yes**

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

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

Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? **No** – **The National Committee on Wetlands periodically reviews conservation and implementation of management**

action plans of priority wetlands and overall approach to be adopted for conservation and management of wetlands at the national level. The guidelines for management planning has been formulated which take into consideration integration of catchments and coastal zone levels to address the problems at the source level and adopting preventive measures instead of curative which is cost effective and sustainable.

In this regard, Chilika lagoon has been identified as one of the case studies to demonstrate integration of coastal wetlands into integrated coastal zone management plans. This approach is expected to harness the benefit provided by the coastal wetlands through their natural processes and functions particularly in regard to maintenance of hydrological regimes and flood control, sustainable resource development and providing benefits to the local communities.

Loktak lake has been identified as one of the wetlands to integrate conservation and wise use of wetlands into Manipur river basin management. The emphasis in this project is on sustainable development of wetlands within the river basin and minimizing the adverse impacts of developmental activities within catchments on the wetlands as well as harnessing benefits naturally provided by the wetlands within the river basin. The major emphasis is on developing a process through active involvement of various stake holders particularly in developing strategies for management of the lake within the river basin. This elaborate process involving assessment of social, economic and ecological aspects of wetland resources through community participation can help to formulate a comprehensive management plan which is ecologically viable and socially acceptable. This project has been in operation for last more than 4 years through the involvement of Loktak Development Authority, Wetlands International and Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Proposed national actions and targets:

- National River Conservation Directorate have formulated river action plans based on surveys conducted by Central Pollution Control Board which identified 27 grossly polluted stretches of the major rivers for improving water quality. The important action include interception and diversion of sewage flowing into river, sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, electric crematoria, river front development etc.

- Taking into consideration the vitality and importance of integrated river basin initiatives, the studies are proposed to investigate parameters related to hydrological and ecological aspects to understand dynamic relationship between floodplain wetland and the river channel. Such studies will generate information on various components and will help in ecological viable strategy for long-term river system.

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.6.1 Use regional or national scientific inventories of wetlands (Recommendation 4.6),

or monitoring processes, to identify wetlands in need of restoration or rehabilitation. [CPs, Partners]

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

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

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

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

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? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **Ministry of Environment and Forests have published directory of wetlands of India in 1990 based on questionnaire survey which included information on location, area, geographical and ecological category of wetlands over 100 hectare in different States/Union Territories. National project has also been completed by Ministry on survey and mapping of wetlands in the country involving the remote sensing technology. Information on 193 wetlands of the country has been published in the Asian Wetland Directory and it has been further updated for 147 wetland in collaboration with WWF-India and the Ministry. 2167 natural wetlands and 65253 man-made wetlands have been estimated to occupy an area of 4.1 million hectares. Mangroves cover an area of 4,553 sq. km. and 80% of these are in Sunderbans (W.B.) and Andaman & Nicobar islands. Total wetland area is 6.7 million hectare, out of which 3.6 million hectare are inland and rest are coastal.**

On priority basis, 20 wetlands, 10 urban lakes, 30 mangrove areas and 4 coral reefs have been identified for conservation and management in different parts of the country where 100% financial assistance is given for components like catchment area treatment, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, peoples participation, etc. In case of urban lakes which are subjected to pressures of urbanization, emphasis has also been given to components of sewage treatment, water quality monitoring, solid waste management, etc.

Under UNDP project on Inland wetlands of India, mapping of water bodies which are less than 56 hectare in size has been compiled as these wetlands which are satellite wetlands play a pivotal role for overall process and functions of larger wetlands. This information will help to integrate field information with spatial data and also formulating inland wetland protected areas. Under this inventorisation, State-wise status of wetlands in the scale of 1:2,50,000 and 1:50,000 has been undertaken. This will help in giving species conservation maps, maps of assemblages/individual avifauna. In ten States involving 70 districts will be covered on 1:2,50,000 scale and 9 States

involving 30 districts will be covered on 1:50,000 scale to get important information on various conservation aspects of these wetlands, especially avifauna. This will ultimately help in conservation of maps in totality on the basis of analysis of results obtained both on the basis of ground truthing and remote sensing.

However, this information needs to be updated further and attempts are being made to publish directory giving latest information on wetland inventorisation in the country both on the basis of ground truthing and remote sensing technology.

Proposed national actions and targets: **This is being implemented by the National Wetland Committee.**

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

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**

If this material has not been forwarded to the Bureau, what has prevented this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

- The information on 20 priority wetlands identified for intensive conservation and management purposes have been compiled. In addition, information on 25 wetlands either in the process of designation or proposed to be designated is also being compiled involving WWF-India and other concerned agencies. This information will be communicated to Ramsar Convention Bureau after final decision for consideration of these sites as Ramsar sites is finalized. Detailed databases have been developed on Loktak lake and Chilika lake involving Wetlands International - South Asia. These databases are of considerable importance for management of important wetland sites in India.

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

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? **Please elaborate.**

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). **Participatory Rural Appraisal Exercises have been undertaken where community participates in various management issues. Recently, a workshop was held on Loktak lake in Manipur which was completely organized by communities in their own dialect and even the material supplied to the people was in the local language. This involved active participation of communities in decision making process.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Communities are involved in demonstration projects pertaining to low cost sanitation, indigenous irrigation, community owned fish hatcheries, additional alternate income generation programmes which involve integrated farming, handicrafts & handlooms and horticulture etc. They are also involved in capacity building programmes like formulation of self-help group, training workshop on resource management, participatory watershed management, population stabilization, etc. Participation of local communities is a part and parcel of all the identified wetlands undertaken by the Ministry for conservation and management.**

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, does this include both site managers and local communities, where they are not the same people? **Yes** Ministry of Environment and Forests encourages and supports site managers to monitor ecological character of the wetlands particularly in regard to wetlands of international importance. Ministry of Environment and Forests work closely with their site manager such as Loktak Development Authority, Chilika Development Authority, Punjab Council for Science and Technology, Lakes and Waterways Development Authority, Jammu and Kashmir and Authorities concerned with National Parks and Sanctuaries to monitor ecological character of wetlands. A lot of information has been collected by these authorities involving Scientific Institutions and University Departments and wealth of data has been collected on ecologically important aspects of these wetlands which is of significant importance to formulate the baseline data on the ecological characters of these wetlands. Participation of local communities has been emphasized in some projects such as management of Loktak lake and Chilika Lake. Involvement of local communities in the planning and implementation of management plans is significantly reflecting in the management of these two wetlands. Attempts are also being made to involve local communities in planning and management of other wetlands also in the country.

Participatory rural appraisal exercises have been undertaken to ensure participation in the planning and management of Loktak and Chilika lakes. Recently a workshop was held on Loktak lake in Manipur which was conducted in local language by local community and even the resource material was supplied in the local language. This helps local community to understand and interact with the scientists / experts in the management of these wetlands.

It is proposed to include community participation as an integral part of management action plans so that local communities are involved in planning and implementation of management action plans.

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: - It is proposed to involve local communities in the formulation of management action plans through elaborate consultation processes in

understanding their needs which traditional methods of management. Integrating traditional methods of management would be extremely important to consider management of these wetlands through cost effective measures and long term utilization of wetland resources on sustainable basis.

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, for how many sites are such committees in place? **All states where wetlands have been indentified for conservation.**

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? **8**

AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? **Almost all.**

AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented? **Almost all.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **National Committee on Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs is in operation since 1987 to advise Government on policy guidelines, identification of priority wetlands for conservation, implementation of management action plans, research and preparation of inventory of wetlands. Steering Committees have also been constituted in various States under the Chief Secretary's chairmanship involving members from various subject matter departments, academicians/ stakeholders/ communities/NGOs, etc. Some State Govts. have constituted authorities like Chilika Development Authority in Bhubaneswar, Loktak Development Authority in Manipur, Shore Area Development Authority in Andhra Pradesh and Lakes and Waterways Development Authority, Jammu and Kashmir. These Authorities are responsible for formulation, implementation and monitoring of management action plans prepared for each wetland ecosystem. There are Committees at district level to cater to the needs of conservation of wetlands located there.**

Govt. of India has also constituted a Technical Advisory Committee to look into and to develop strategy for action plan for management of Loktak lake in Manipur. Loktak Development Authority and Wetland International South Asia are jointly implementing a project on sustainable development of lake through participatory approach. This will help in developing a sound policy in consultation with stakeholders group for conservation and wise use of wetlands. Chilika Development Authority have taken certain measures such as catchment area treatment, restoration of salinity regimes,

sustainable fisheries development, habitat improvement of Nalabana sancturary, educational awareness for conservation and sustainable development of Chilika lake, Punjab State Government have also taken up on war-footing the work on control of invasive species through biological and manual methods in Harike lake which is also a Ramsar site.

A Research sub-committee has been constituted to advise on research aspects which is supplementary to management action plans. These projects are expected to provide scientific and technical inputs for conservation and management of wetlands on sound ecological basis.

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

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? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice. **Traditional knowledge on the management of wetlands is extremely important to harness multiple benefits provided by the wetlands through their natural process and functions. The developmental activities with a focus on one or more benefits has resulted in over development and utilisation of the resources at the expense of other activities. Recognizing the values and funtions of wetlands, the traditional methods of their management was highlighted in their respective management plans. Some of the specific examples of traditional use of wetlands are:**

- Harvesting of aquatic weeds in Dal lake of Kashmir for growing vegetables helped in control of aquatic weeds and simultaneously providing benefits to the local communities.

- Management of phumdis in loktak lake through community efforts during monsoon to push phumdis out of the lake into Manipur river. This has been recently recommended as a sound strategy for control of prolific growth of phumdis in Loktak lake.

- Traditionally well defined drainage system which were planned in case of several lakes and water bodies, irrigation tanks, reservoirs etc. were enchroached over a period of time due to expanding urban sprawl. This hampered flushing of sediments and nutrients in these water bodies thus enhancing the pollution levels. Revival of traditional drainage system was gradually considered as an effective method to manage

lake and reservoirs within water deficit areas in the country.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Directory on traditional practices is being prepared together information on traditional knowledge used by different communities.**

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts. **Several private organisations are involved in conservation activities such as Godrej who are supporting, in a big way, WWF-India to carry out conservation activities relating to wetlands. Similarly other private organisation are taking interest for conservation and management of wetlands in regard to ecotourism development, sustainable fisheries development, wildlife development etc.**

AND: Have these efforts been successful? **Yes**

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

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? **This is being assessed and will be reported after evaluation has been completed.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **It is proposed to involve private sector in a big way to support conservation activities after which the further development plans can be promoted.**

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

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

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

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

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

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). **It is planned to involve private sectors in a big way to promote ecotourism development with the active support and involvement of local communities. This will help to provide economic incentives to the local communities as well as improve environmental quality.**

- The conservation of wetlands is the root cause issue to highlight the importance of the particular area in developing resources which would be sustainably utilized to generate additional income to the local corporation.

- Providing clean water through rehabilitation of wetlands is an effective method to develop and utilize water resources on a long term basis. A joint venture of private sector and local communities with the support of experts will help sustainable development of water resources.

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

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

If **Yes**, please describe how. **The support of private sectors such as Godrej Industries and other other private concerns who are coming forth to invest on greenbelts pollution abatements in water bodies and wildlife conservation in promoting conservation of wetlands, can be identified by the activities of WWF which has taken a lead role in generating awareness about the values and functions of the wetlands and promoting wetland conservation.**

AND if **Yes**, COP7 Resolution VII.15 requested Parties to share these “experiences and lessons learned with respect to incentive measures and perverse incentives relating to wetlands, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources generally, by providing these to the Ramsar Bureau for appropriate distribution and to be made available through the Wise Use Resource Centre of the Convention’s Web site”. Has this been done? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **A proposal is being mooted for consideration of National Wetlands Committee for providing incentives to those private sectors who have taken / proposed to take measures for wetland conservations. The specific incentives**

are being worked out in consultation with private sector. Similarly, the disincentives are also being worked out for undertaking activities which may adversely effect wetland ecosystem.

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

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? Because of conflicting interest between private sector and community.

If Yes, describe these special efforts.

AND: How successful has this been? Please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets: Some working instrument is being attempted for involvement of private sector in monitoring ecological character of wetlands which will be discussed in the forthcoming meetings of national wetland committee and accordingly a specific national actions and targets will be elaborated on the basis of feedback from the experts.

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

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

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

Refer to 2.7.3 above

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

Operational Objective 3.1: To support and assist in implementing, in cooperation with partners and other institutions, an international programme of Education and

Public Awareness (EPA) on wetlands, their functions and values, designed to promote national EPA programmes.

Actions - Global Targets

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

Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below

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

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

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

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).

Number of brochures, newsletters and booklets have been sent to Ramsar Bureau from time to time where public awareness issues have been highlighted.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Ministry of Environment and Forests conducts National Environmental Awareness campaigns every year making use of conventional and non-conventional methods to reach various target groups. Local communities, NGOs, schools, professional bodies, women and youth organizations are involved in generating awareness through seminars, folk dances, theaters, Pad Yatras etc.**

- Centres of Excellence have been set up to develop resource material and generate awareness about environment including wetlands.

- WWF-India and Centre for Environmental Education, Ahmedabad have set up interpretation centres at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. Chilika Development Authority has established two awareness centres at Satpuda and Balogaon. These centres are having auditorium facility for multi-media programme, observatory, museum and other exhibits which will go a long way for conservation of wetland biodiversity. This is being attempted for other wetlands as well.

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9). **Chilika Development Authority in collaboration with Wetlands International South Asia, centre for Environment education, Ahmedabad and Ramsar Centre, Japan has developed resource material for generating awareness about importance of biodiversity and dependence of the local community on these resources. Awareness generation was focused on highlighting international importance of Chilika Lagoon with it is highly threatened population of Dolphins and as a unique habitat for rich avifauna.**

- **Environmental education and awareness kits have been developed for school children and uneducated youth living in and around the Chilika lake. The resource material has been communicated to Ramsar Convention Bureau.**

- **Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad is a nodal organisation of the Ministry for Environment and Forests for environmental education and awareness. This Centre has developed interpretation centre and resource material on Chilika lake which is coordinated by Chilika Development Authority.**

- **Ministry of Environment and Forests conducts National Environmental Awareness compaigns every year making use of conventional and non-conventional methods to reach various target groups. Local communities, NGOs, schools, professional bodies, women and youth organizations are involved in generating awareness through seminars, folk dances, theaters, pad yatras etc.**

- **Centres of Excellence have been set up to develop resource material and generate awareness about environment including wetlands.**

- **WWF-India and Centre for Environmental Education, Ahmedabad have set up interpretation centres at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. Chilika Dvelopment Authority has established two awareness centres at Satpuda and Balogaon. These centres are having auditorium facility for multi-media programme, observatory, museum and other exhibits which will go a long way for conservation of wetland biodiversity. This is being attempted for other wetlands as well.**

- **Resource materials have been also developed for other Wetlands of International importance, viz., Harike and Loktak lakes, both Ramsar sites.**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **It is proposed to develop specific resource material for highlighting the importance of maintaining hydrological regimes and their relationship with biodiversity in some major wetlands of international importance such as Keoladeo National Park, Chilika and Loktak lakes. Awareness about wetland conservation and their wise use through innovative approaches is being planned for major wetland regimes in a country involving concerned State Governments and non-governmental organisation.**

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

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? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **Centre for Environmental Education of Ahmedabad, Wildlife Institute of India, WWF-India, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON) and Wetland International-South Asia in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Forests have currently several projects some of which include planning programmes for the neighbouring countries particularly in regard to wildlife conservation and sustainable development of wetland resources.**

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

If **No**, what is preventing this from happening? **We are periodically receiveing resource material published by Wetlands Link International and lot of activities have been undertaking which directly and indirectly support wetlands Link International initiatives.**

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: **Already linkages are with several international organisations to promote educational awarness. This will be further strengthened and linkage is being developed with leading education awareness centres working on wetlands.**

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Did your Government **inform** the Ramsar Bureau by 31 December 1999 of the identity of its Government and Non-Government Focal Points for wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9)?

Yes

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force. **National Committee on Wetlands has reviewed national needs, capacity and opportunities in the field of wetlands. Education and Awareness division of the Minsitry is involved in developing specific projects for Environment Education and Awareness including Wetlands. This has been an effective mechanism to bring together diverse groups for awareness generation in the field of environment.**

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

No

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **This will be carried out soon.**

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

If **No**, what is preventing this from occurring? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, what are the priority target groups of the Action Plan and the major activities being undertaken?

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Wetland CEPA Action Plan will be finalized in consultation with State Government Authorities, NGO partners and Institutions actively involve in environment education and awareness generation.**

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

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? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, how successful has this been? **Establishing wetland centres at three important wetland sites, viz., Chilika, Keoladeo National Park and Nalsarovar have been extremely useful to generate awareness about the values and functions of the wetlands and the need for the conservation management.**

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites? **Three centres at Chilika, Keoladeo National Park and Nalsarovar are in place among which two are already Ramsar sites and third one is going to be Ramsar site soon.**

How many centres are being established? and at what sites? **The wetland centres are proposed to be established at Loktak lake and Wullar lake.**

How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? **5-7 major wetlands of national importance will be considered for establishment of wetlands centres during 2-3 years.**

Of the sites in place, how many are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and at which sites are they? **None**

Proposed national actions and targets: **The planning will be jointly done regarding linkages and consultation with Wetlands Link International.**

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

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

- **Global Target - see 3.2.3 above**

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

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

If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? **Most of museums, zoos, botanic gardens have exhibits and specific**

programmes for awareness generation. National Museum of Natural History has a network of centres actively involve in natural conservation.
If Yes , how many facilities does this apply to and how many of these are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and which facilities are they? None
Proposed national actions and targets: Under Environment Educational programme, it is proposed to include several wetlands for generating awareness about nature conservation. It is proposed to develops specific programmes in consultation with national and international organisations for education and public awareness.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? Please elaborate.
If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details. Environmental education awareness in general, which includes wetlands as well is included in curricula at different levels. Special modules relating to wetlands have been developed at Wildlife Institute of India to generate awareness about the values and functions of wetlands and the need for their conservation to wider group of participants representing government, non-government and private entrepreneurs. Such modules have also been developed specifically for participants from South Asian Countries.
If Yes , have samples of this curriculum material been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: Specific modules are being encouraged to be developed involving Wildlife Institute of India, WWF, India and Centre for Environment Education.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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: This will be considered by National Committee of Wetlands and accordingly, decisions will be taken to support Bureau's communications activities.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.
3.3.4 Seek the support of an electronic communications carrier to provide and maintain an electronic mail network and electronic bulletin board/ mailing lists linking the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee members, the STRP, the Bureau, and partner organizations. [All]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to gain a sponsor(s) for the Convention's Web site, to ensure that all CPs have Internet access, to increase the use of French and Spanish in the Ramsar Web site, and to see over 300 Ramsar site managers also communicating with the Bureau, and each other, via the Internet.
The Standing Committee and Bureau will consider the issue of a sponsor for the Convention's Web site, and increased presence of French and Spanish materials on the Web site.
With respect to Ramsar site managers, has your government taken steps to provide for Internet links for these people? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this action being taken? Please elaborate.
If Yes , how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access? Three sites
AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? Loktak, Chilika and Keoladeo National Park.
Proposed national actions and targets: All the wetland managers will be encouraged to have internet links.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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Please go to file 2.

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

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

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file 2

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Yes

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

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

Reviews are being periodically held to assess national institutions for conservation and wise use of wetlands. The review has indicated that institutional mechanisms need to be strengthened. This is also being repeatedly highlighted by Ramsar Convention guidelines, the other issue of Ramsar Convention emphasizes on conservation of threatened wildlife species and details are being sought for addressing the crucial issues such as water conservation, habitat improvement and interventions through scientific analysis. This will ultimately help in conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Proposed national actions and targets: All the concerned institutions at the State level dealing with wetlands need to be developed to address the problems of conservation resource management involving local communities.

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

<p>4.1.2 On the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase cooperation and synergy between institutions; • promote the continued operation of these institutions; • provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, for these institutions. [CPs] • 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).
<p>Refer also to 8.1.9. Does your country have a National Ramsar Committee or similar body? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented the establishment of such a committee? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>If Yes, is the committee cross-sectoral, including representatives of appropriate government ministries and non-government expert and stakeholder groups? Yes</p>
<p>What is the composition of this Committee? The Committee comprises of the members drawn from NGOs, academic / scientific institutions and government organisations. The committee is chaired by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests.</p>
<p>Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>If Yes, did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? Yes</p>
<p>If No, why not? Please elaborate.</p>
<p>Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: National Committee has an advisory role and advises Ministry of Environment and Forests on wetlands inventorisation, selection of priority wetlands, co-ordination with national and international bodies including implementation of Ramsar Convention etc. The role of the committee to oversee implementation and monitoring of action plans needs to be strenghtened. The Committee through its networking at state and site specific levels need to play important role to advise and promote conservation activities.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests</p>

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? Please elaborate.
If Yes , have the results of this analysis been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
<p>If Yes, how has this been done? Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was involved in assessing the planning needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the wise use guidelines. A brief report on this was circulated in the National Committee on Wetlands for consideration of the members. The report highlighted specific areas requiring planning which included basin level planning and water resources management, stakeholder analysis and their involvement in conservation of biodiversity, rehabilitation of endangered species etc. WII has prepared training modules on priority issues and imparts training to target groups representing government departments, NGOs and community representatives. These training courses were also specially designed for the participants of the neighbouring countries sharing similar problems.</p> <p>- Ministry of Environment and Forests has been conducting training programmes on wise use of wetlands in collaboration with Wetlands International, WildLife Institute of India and WWF - India.</p>
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? The training courses have been of immense importance for the managers of wetlands sites who required knowledge on several issues relating to sustainable development of wetlands.
Proposed national actions and targets: Training needs assessment is being further pursued in collaboration with Wetland International-South Asia and national level institutions. Based on the analysis training programmes will be designed for various target groups.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

<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? Please elaborate.
If Yes , have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , how has this been done? This was carried out through National Committee on Wetlands.
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? A need based training programme for specific target groups has been quite useful for the institutions desiring specific training in wetland conservation.
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: Conduct atleast 10 training courses for various target groups including wetland managers, government officials and decision makers.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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]
<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. Training modules have been developed on specific wetland issues including basin level planning and wetland management, participatory appraisal of wetland management, integrating wetland conservation into water resource management, invasive species control etc.
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: It is planned to organise participatory training courses for local communities, wetland managers, decision makers etc. These training courses would be conducted in different geographical regions in the country to cover diverse wetland types.

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

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 , Training through personnel exchange has been held for several wetlands including Nalsarovar, Yamuna flood plains, Sasthamkotta etc.**
- Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? **Yes , Several training courses have been held by Wetlands International on Loktak lake and Chilika lake.**
- Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? **Yes , A series of training courses on sustainable development of Loktak lake were held at Imphal for Wetland site managers under the project on Sustainable Development and water resources management implemented jointly by Wetlands International, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Loktak Development Authority.**
- Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? **Yes , This is being done through personal communications and newsletters published by Wetlands International - South Asia in collaboration with Wetland Authorities at the State level.**

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: **More training courses will be held to promote conservation of wetlands for wider target groups.**

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

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? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details. South-South cooperation is being promoted by several organizations including WII, WWF-India and Wetlands International - South Asia.
Proposed national actions and targets: Various newsletters have been published from time to time on individual wetlands highlighting conservation activities undertaken, future goals and how it has effected the conservation status of the area. Individual quarterly newsletters have been published - 3 for Loktak lake from Manipur, 3 for Chilika Lake in Orissa, both Ramsar sites. Brochure on high altitude wetlands in collaboration with WWF-India has been proposed for release to highlight conservation efforts of our country pertaining to mountain ecosystems.
- Publication of more brochures on individual wetland systems on various components of conservation and also on various aquatic ecosystems which will include freshwaters, brackishwater, backwaters, estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, corals and associated ecosystems.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 5**TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF ALL SITES INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR LIST)****Operational Objective 5.1: To maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites.**

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

Keoladeo have been put under Montreux Record. Management planning has already been done in case of Chilika Lake and recently a Mission from Ramsar Bureau visited Chilika Lake and recommended removal of the site from the Record. It is planned to remove other two wetlands from the Record after making a proposal to the Ramsar Bureau.

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

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**

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

If **Yes**, have these reviews detected situations where changes in ecological character have occurred or may occur? **Yes**

If **Yes**, for how many sites was this case, which sites were they, and what actions were taken to address these threats? **Three sites viz. Loktak, Chilika and Keoladev National Park have been intensively monitored to assess changes in ecological character and undertake measures for conservation and management.**

AND: Were these sites where change in ecological character was detected, or may occur, added to the Montreux Record? **Yes**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Management planning is being carried out for effective conservation and sustainable use of the above three sites. It is also planned to develop monitoring plans for other wetlands in the country and identifying root cause problems and measures to combat them.**

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

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

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

For those CPs with a site, or sites, included in the Montreux Record, and for which RAMs (previously Management Guidance Procedures, MGPs) have been completed, have all actions recommended by the RAM been undertaken for each site? **Yes**

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

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** **The Ramsar Advisory Mission visited Chilika Lagoon in December 2001 and recommended removal of the site from the Record. The report submitted by the Mission is under examination by the Government and accordingly further measures will be taken for management of this Ramsar site.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **It is planned to remove other wetlands viz. Loktak and Keoladeo National Park from Montreux Record in consultation and close collaboration with State Governments after undertaking measures for conservation and management of these two important Ramsar sites.**

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

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**? **Yes**

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

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

For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they? **Management action plans are being implemented in all the Ramsar sites, except Sambhar in Rajasthan. Only constraint is financial assistance for which assistance from external sources is being explored.**

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done? **In case of Sambhar wetland because of salt extractions in most parts of the lake, there have been some reservations. However, some catchment area treatment activity is being financed in one portion which is a store house for aquatic and migratory birds.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Management action plans are being implemented in selected wetlands identified under national programme. It is planned to designate these wetlands as Ramsar sites for which most of the information has been sent to Ramsar Bureau for their inclusion in the list of wetlands of international importance.**

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **Loktak, Chilika and Wullar.**

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool? **A critical part of the above wetlands harbouring sensitive species have been designated as protected areas. This has proved quite useful in providing protection to the threatened species. The other parts of the wetland are sustainably utilized for economic development to provide benefits to the local communities.**

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases of zoning for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **Yes**

Proposed national actions and targets: **The zoning of wetlands is being carried out in collaboration with several agencies to designate various zones of the wetland for sustainable utilization. This is one of the effective methods for management and will be extended to other wetlands in the country so that conservation and sustainable utilization objectives are carried out. It is planned to extend the activities to cover all the wetlands along with the catchments.**

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

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? **Please elaborate.**

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **A portion of wetlands within Chilika, Loktak, Wular and Harike has been designated as protected areas. Some of the wetlands have been designated as sanctuaries or national parks. Several biospheres reserves include wetlands within their territory and thus provide protection to threatened species.**

AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool? **Yes. Zoning of wetland helps to efficiently manage wetland resources and conservation of biodiversity.**

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: **Zoning of wetlands for management purposes is planned to be reviewed and participatory approach followed for long-term management of wetlands and their resources.**

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

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? **Yes**

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

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? **Yes**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Detailed resource maps are being prepared for all important wetlands and also databases are being developed by various concerned agencies at National and State level.**

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.

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

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

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

If **No**, what is preventing such a database being established? **This is being developed. Information on all the six Ramsar sites and additional 10 proposed has been compiled. This would be put up on Ministry's website for information of different user groups.**

If Yes, is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? No Reply
If No, why not? The database is being developed for 20 wetlands, 10 urban lakes, 15 mangroves areas and 4 coral reefs which have been identified by the National Wetland Committee. The data is being collected by the concerned departments dealing in wetlands and through the specific research projects carried out on various wetlands in the country.
AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No
If Yes, please provide details.
If No, why not? This will be put on the internet only after information has been compiled and processed.
AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No
If Yes, please provide details.
If No, why not? The data is being collected and will be made available through electronic media after it has been collected and processed.
Proposed national actions and targets: The data on flora, fauna, ecological characteristics, land and water use, threats, protection mechanisms, conservation measures etc. adopted for various wetlands has been collected by research / scientific organizations and State Government Agencies. The directories published on wetlands of India include some information on some of these aspects. It is proposed to have complete information base on the status of wetlands in India involving scientific institutions, NGOs, and government agencies. It is an ongoing process.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 6

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

If **Yes**, when was it prepared and was it prepared taking into consideration the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (COP7 Resolution VII.11)? **The Asian Wetland directory highlights a list of 93 wetlands of international importance which can be considered as potential Ramsar sites. This was prepared in 1989. Yes**

AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? **93**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Survey and mapping of wetlands has been undertaken through Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad and all the nodal agencies in the State Government. This survey has brought out that overall there are 27,403 wetlands covering 7.58 million hectares out of which 3.5 million hectares are represented by inland wetlands. A UNDP project on inventorization of wetland resources has been undertaken to survey wetlands in different bio-geographical regimes in the country involving key wetland organizations in the country. The overall approach under the project is to highlight the status of wetlands and various factors determining their flora, fauna, water quality and other environmental factors having impact on the wetlands. It is proposed to bring out a comprehensive environmental profile of wetlands and identify the key factors having impact on these wetlands so that appropriate strategies are formulated for their management.**

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

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

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

Does there exist a comprehensive national inventory (as opposed to a directory of important sites; see 6.1.1 above) for your country? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared? **Several constraints for formulation of comprehensive national inventory of wetlands are:**

- Broad definition of wetlands encompassing wide range of habitats from inland to coastal systems.

- Mapping through remote sensing does not clearly reflect wetland vegetation delineating it from other related eco-systems.

- Though country wide mapping of wetlands was undertaken involving the leading

remote sensing agency, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, the lack of precise definition of wetlands resulted in controversial data which cannot be precisely monitored.
- Several organization are required to be involved to collect information on diverse issues requiring special expertise.
If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are. Information on most of the sites is available in the wetland directory. However, we would like to update it through more comprehensive inputs.
AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory?
If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized?
AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No
If No, what are the impediments to this occurring? This is being developed.
Has national/subnational inventory information been provided to the Ramsar Bureau (if it is not accessible through the Internet)? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: It is planned to update national inventory including information available on Ramsar sites and new national/Ramsar sites. Preparation of directories at district, state and national levels will be undertaken for planning and management of wetlands.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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? Please elaborate.
If Yes, is this information provided to Wetlands International? Yes
If No, why not? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: Bombay Natural History Society and Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History are engaged in getting information on population sizes of avifauna in different wetlands which are included as wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **India is committed to declare 25 additional Ramsar Sites as promised in Seventh Contracting Party Meeting held in May, 1999 in Costa Rica. Information on 13 sites has already been sent to Ramsar Bureau and information on 12 more sites is being processed for their declaration as Ramsar sites.**

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

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

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

Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? **Yes**

If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Please elaborate.
If Yes , has this included designations of wetlands including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coral reefs? Yes • mangroves? Yes • seagrass beds? No • peatlands? No • intertidal wetlands? (COP7 Resolution VII.21) Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: Inclusion of high-altitude wetlands, back waters, mangroves and coral reefs are proposed to be included as Ramsar sites the process has already been initiated.-
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

6.2.4 Pay particular attention to the designation of new sites currently enjoying no special conservation status at national level, as a first step towards developing measures for their conservation and wise use. [CPs] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This question was not considered in the National Reports for COP7. It will be included for consideration in the NRs for COP8. • Global Target - All CPs to consider this approach to ensuring the long-term conservation and wise use of wetlands that are subject to intense human use.
Has your country designated wetland sites for the Ramsar List which previously had no special conservation status? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please provide details. The high-altitude mountain wetlands which had no conservation status earlier are being brought under conservation. Though these areas are situated in far flung areas with almost negligible population, the increasing tourist influx in these areas has resulted in deterioration of these ecosystems. Some of these wetlands are being proposed as Ramsar sites.
AND: Are there plans for further such designations? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please elaborate. More high-altitude lakes are being proposed as Ramsar sites.
Proposed national actions and targets: India is committed to declare 25 additional Ramsar sites and in this regard information on 13 wetlands have been already sent to Ramsar Bureau. Information on 12 more sites is being compiled so that these wetlands are also designated as wetlands of international importance.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this action being taken? **This will be discussed in the National Wetland Committee meeting and accordingly decisions on trans-boundary wetlands will be taken.**

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

If **No**, what has prevented such arrangements from being introduced? **More information is required on the issues related to trans-boundary wetlands for which suitable mechanism has to be developed.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Some of the transboundary sites where action is proposed to be initiated include Sunderbans in West Bengal which shares its border with Bangladesh; Pangong Tsar in Ladakh, which shares its border with China; Little Rann of Kutch which shares its border with Pakistan. However, their designation and declaration is being pursued.**

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

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 7

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

7.1.1 Identify transfrontier wetlands of international importance (including those within shared catchment/river basins), and encourage preparation and implementation of joint

plans for such sites, using a “catchment approach” (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

Refer to 6.2.5 above.

7.1.2 Encourage twinning of transfrontier wetlands, and of other wetlands with similar characteristics, and use successful cases for illustrating the benefits of international cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

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

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **This will be followed after mutual consultations.**

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? **Yes/No**
- transfer of financial resources? **Yes/No**
- exchanges of personnel? **Yes/No**
- other activities? **Please elaborate.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Action will be taken after mutual consultation and sharing of information.**

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

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? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? Please elaborate.
If Yes , describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider. Ministry of Environment and Forests is the nodal agency for several environmental related conventions. The linkages of these conventions with other Ministries is discussed in the inter-ministrial meetings held periodically to discuss the issues relating to bio-diversity, river basins, wetland waters, pollution, etc.
AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? Yes
If No , why not? Please elaborate.
If Yes , please elaborate. These mechanism are extremely useful to develop a national perspective on issues of environment related international treaties/conventions.
Proposed national actions and targets: More frequent meetings will be held to evolve national consensus on important issues relating to international treaties. This will also help to integrate various conventions at the national level.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

7.2.2 Prepare project proposals together with other conventions and partner organizations, and submit them jointly to potential funding agencies. [CPs, SC, Bureau, Partners]
For eligible countries, have there been project proposals prepared and submitted to funding agencies which were intended to assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Please elaborate.
If Yes , were such proposals successful in gaining funds? Yes - A project proposal involving ICEF is being funded for conservation of Loktak lake in Manipur involving Ministry of Environment and Forests, Loktak Development Authority, ICEF and WISA. This involves components of biodiversity as well. A proposal on conservation of Chilka lake is under consideration of JICA which has components on migratory birds, biodiversity. A UNDP proposal on threatened wetlands of India to survey and map wetlands less than 56 hectares which serve as satellite wetlands. This project will ultimately lead to formulation of PDF-B project where sustainable conservation of four wetlands selected on the basis of bio-geographic regions of the country will be undertaken. Apart from this, number of other conservation activities are proposed taking into consideration river basin initiatives for some of the most important wetlands in the country.
Proposed national actions and targets: Ministry of Environment and Forests is engaged in consultation with number of funding agencies, both bilateral and multilateral, to explore

possibilities of funding. India is also in favour of getting funds through the proposed Ramsar Trust Fund, if it comes into being, so that that one wetland in totality can be conserved once some funding is arranged.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Environment and Forests and concerned State Governments**

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

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

Further to 7.2.1 above: Has there been a review **completed** of the Joint Work Plan between Ramsar and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish the areas of priority for cooperative implementation of these Conventions? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, what are the areas established as priorities for national cooperation between Ramsar and CBD implementing agencies/focal points? **- Integration of wetlands, water and biodiversity into river basin management**

- Clubbing fresh water, brackish water and marine biodiversity under biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Joint action is plan to be followed for implementation of river basin, wetlands and biodiversity issues.**

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

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.9 Develop relationships with other specialized agencies that deal with wetland-

related issues, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the World Water Council (COP7 Resolution VI.23). [Bureau]

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

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

The representatives attending these conferences on behalf of Government of India are briefed about linkages of different Conventions and the specific joint action is being carried out. In the Ministry of Environment and Forests, most of the Conventions like Biodiversity Convention, Ramsar Convention, Convention and Desertification etc. are dealt under one division where there is grate interaction among the officers deliberating on the issues relating to these conventions. Other Conventions like Climate Changes, Migratory Birds, CITES are dealt by different Divisions in the same Ministry and as such, interactions between different dealing with different Conventions have exchange of information about various joint ventures. Apart from this, a special Committee has been appointed under the International Cooperation Division where frequent meetings are convened to interact on various Conventions in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

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

Refer to 7.4.2 to 7.4.6 below.

Proposed national actions and targets: [REDACTED]

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, is this:

- As a separate allocation to a Wetlands Programme (or similar)? **Yes**
- As part of a broader allocation for the environment? **No**
- 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? **- National Wetland Committee oversees co-ordination of expenditure and identification of priority areas for funding.**

- The Planning Commission in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests is the nodal agency for financial planning and have identified wetlands as one of the planned schemes for planning of funds for wetland conservation management.

- At the state level priorities and co-ordination of funding is carried out by the identified departments through which financial assistance is sanctioned by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **Yes** **Wetland Conservation and Management is linked to the Conservation programme of the Ministry and biodiversity plan. Catchment area planning and treatment is identified as a priority component under wetland programme. River conservation is one of the effective mechanisms for pollution control and regeneration of**

wetlands at river basin level.

Proposed national actions and targets: **14 stretches of major river systems alongwith wetlands and catchments have been undertaken for restoration under river conservation programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Special focus is being laid on rehabilitation / restoration of urban wetlands adopting integrated approach. The focus earlier was on engineering measures which are gradually being refined adopting biologically mediated restoration measures.**

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **No donors have come forth under bilateral programme to assist in conservation and management of wetlands. This is however, being proposed with potential donors such as CIDA, JICA etc.**

If **Yes**, are these projects subjected to rigorous impact assessment procedures, which take account of the full environmental, social and economic values of wetlands? **Yes/No**

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

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

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

AND: Is there a formal consultative process in place (such as a National Ramsar Committee) which ensures that the development assistance agency is fully aware of the Ramsar Convention obligations of the country with respect to international cooperation? **Yes**

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, please elaborate. **Ministry of Environment and Forests ensures that ecological character of Ramsar sites is not altered by developmental activities by carrying out rigorous environmental impact assessment of developmental projects. Further, National Committee on Wetlands critically examines proposals where developmental activities are required to ensure that they do not confront the conservation ethos.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **National Committee on Wetlands and environmental impact assessment committees have been constituted for clearing development projects from environmental angle. These Committees are effective mechanisms to avoid or minimise the impacts of developmental projects. Further for Ramsar sites, legislation has been drafted to regulate developmental activities with objective of minimizing impacts of developmental activities on wetland systems.**

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

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

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

Refer to 7.4.2 above

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Refer to 4.1.2.

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

Refer to 4.1.1

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.2.1 Pay invoiced contributions to the Convention's core budget in full, and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year. [CPs]
<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? Please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets: National targets and actions are in conformity with the decisions taken at Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention. Our country has been most regular in paying annual contribution to the core budget.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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? Yes
If No , what prevents this from occurring? Please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets: **In National Committee on Wetlands, representatives from WWF-India, Wetland International-South Asia are already included. Apart from them various international organizations are connected through internet and there is exchange of information for strengthening conservation efforts.**

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

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? **Since amount of financial assistance is too meager under Small Grants Fund, it is not sufficient to cater to wetland conservation in totality. Only small components of wetland conservation can be financed through SGF. India is in favour of Ramsar Trust Fund or any other global fund, exclusively for wetland conservation so that one wetland from one country at least can be financially helped to take up conservation activity in totality. Till some concrete decision is taken regarding financial mechanism, it is not advisable to provide additional voluntary contribution.**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Apart from assistance from Ramsar Bureau, India is exploring possibility for getting financial assistance from bilateral and multi-lateral donors to seek some assistance for wetland conservation in the country.**

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