

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

National Report of the Republic of Moldova for COP7, 2002

National Report prepared for the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Implementation of the Ramsar Convention during the period 2000 - 2001.

Contracting Party	Republic of Moldova
Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority	
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Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 1

To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.

1.1 Describe any actions your government has taken (such as hosting regional or subregional meetings/consultations, working cooperatively with neighbouring countries on transfrontier wetland sites) to encourage others to join the Convention.

No such action.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 2

To achieve the wise use of wetlands by implementing and further developing the Ramsar Wise Use Guidelines.

2.1 Has a National Wetland Policy/Strategy/Action Plan been developed, or is one being developed or planned for the near future?

The National Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation of the Republic of Moldova and Action Plan on Biodiversity Conservation has been adopted by the Parliament on April 27, 2001.

This strategy contain the water and meadows ecosystems.

The National Strategy on sustainable development of the Republic of Moldova contain the sub-chapters “Water” resources and Action Plans with the sub-division “Water” resources.

a. What are/will be its main features?

Extending of the Natural Protected Areas network, development of legislation and institutional framework of the biodiversity conservation.

b. Was it, or is it, intended that the Policy/Strategy/Action Plan be adopted by the whole of Government, the Minister responsible for Ramsar matters or through some other process. Please describe.

By the whole of Government.

c. How does it relate/will it relate to other national environmental/ conservation planning initiatives (e.g., National Environmental Action Plans, National Biodiversity Action Plans, National Conservation Strategies)?

The special sectorial policy on protection and sustainable use of wetlands does not yet exist in Moldova.

The obyectives of the nature conservation including the protection of wetlands as natural habitat of the waterbirds.

2.2 If a policy is in place, how much progress has been made in its implementation, and what are the major difficulties being encountered in doing so?

The protection of wetlands are integrated into a legislation network who taking into consideration the use and protection of the wetland areas.

In the future it is necessary to elaborated instruments and programmes for administration of the wetlands areas.

2.3 If a Policy/Strategy/Action Plan is in place, is the responsibility for implementing it with :

a. a single Government Ministry,

b. a committee drawn from several Ministries, or

c. a cross-sectoral committee?

The Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development promote and co-ordinating tasks in the implementation of conservation policy and the wetlands policy. Focal Point Ramsar will be examine the application of Ramsar criteria in the designation of wetlands of International Importance and maintain the dialogue with scientific institutions of Academy of Science of Moldova (ASM) and other similarity institutions.

In addition to the Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development, co-responsible for implementing of Convention are Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, scientific institutions of ASM and others institutions.

2.4 For countries with Federal systems of Government, are there Wetland Policies/Strategies/Plans in place, being developed or planned for the provincial/state or regional levels of Government? Yes/No If yes, please give details.

No.

2.5 Has a review of legislation and practices which impact on wetlands been carried out, and if so, has this resulted in any changes which assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Please describe these.

As the others legislation documents, nature conservation laws is in undergoing improve. Reviews and amendments are continually being made in reaction to new developments.

2.6 Describe the efforts made in your country to have wetlands considered in integrated land/water and coastal zone planning and management processes at the following levels:

a. national

Wetlands are an important natural resource in the nature conservation field. The mainly economically sectors in according with ecological policy are taken into consideration nature conservation issues.

b. provincial

c. local

On the base of National Action Plan on biodiversity conservation same country authority are beginning elaborated local territorial systems of ecological stability as integrated part of local plans of sustainable development.

2.7 Have there been any publications produced, or practices documented, which could assist other countries to promote and improve the application of the Ramsar Wise Use of Wetlands Guidelines? Yes/No If Yes, please provide details and copies.

Yes.

The Law on the Fund of Natural Areas, Protected by the State (roumanian and russian languages), Monitorul Oficial al Republicii Moldova, nr. 66-68, 1998.

**The National Strategy and Action Plan on biodiversity conservation.
Republic of Moldova, Stiinta, 2001.**

2.8 Noting COP6 Recommendation 6.14 relating to toxic chemicals and pollution, please advise of the actions taken since then "to remedy and to prevent pollution impacts affecting Ramsar sites and other wetlands" (Operative paragraph 9).

- **Adoption of National Program on capitalize of offals (free translation), Government Decision nr. 606, June 28, 2000**
- **Basel Convention on transfrontier transport control of the dangerous offals (free translation), 1989**
- **Provisional Regulation on estimate of the compensation for prejudice caused to the Environment (Ministry Order from January 18, 2000)**

2.9 Describe what steps have been taken to incorporate wetland economic valuation techniques into natural resource planning and assessment actions.

No. Have intention for the future natural resource planning.

2.10 Is Environmental Impact Assessment for actions potentially impacting on wetlands required under legislation in your country? Yes/No

Yes.

2.11 Is wetland restoration and rehabilitation considered a priority in your country? Yes/No. If Yes, describe the actions that have been taken to identify wetlands in need of these actions and to mobilise resources for restoration or rehabilitation.

Yes. Scientific institutions and Environmental authority considered as priority wetland restoration and rehabilitation. But the special programme is not elaborated.

2.12 Describe what actions have been taken to "encourage active and informed participation of local communities, including indigenous people, and in particular women, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands." (refer to Actions 2.7.1-4 in the Strategic Plan).

The National Programme on Environmental protection and Biodiversity conservation foresee participation of local people and communities. The public information on wetland (their state, importance, functions etc.) has been promoted at the wetlands day (2 February 2002) by radio, newspapers and in the framework of a different seminars. No special action concerning women.

2.13 Describe what actions have been taken to "encourage involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands" (refer to Actions 2.8.1-4 in the Strategic Plan). Has this included a review of fiscal measures (taxation arrangements, etc.) to identify and remove disincentives and introduce incentives for wetlands conservation and wise use? Yes/No If yes, please provide details.

The Law on the Fund of Natural Areas, Protected by the state contain: private sector have right to propose for conservation mainly representatives

natural areas. Special action regarding conservation and wise use of wetlands will be taken in the future.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 3

To raise awareness of wetland values and functions throughout the world and at all levels

3.1 Is there a government-run national programme for Education and Public Awareness in your country which focuses on, or includes, wetlands? Yes/No? If yes, what are the priority actions under this programme and who are the target groups? (Refer also to question 9.4)

No.

3.2 Describe the steps taken to have wetlands issues and Ramsar's Wise Use principles included as part of the curricula of educational institutions. Has this been at all levels of education (primary, secondary, tertiary and adult)? Please give details.

Will be planning in the future.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 4

To reinforce the capacity of institutions in each Contracting Party to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.

4.1 Describe the mechanisms in place, or being introduced, to increase cooperation between the various institutions responsible for actions which can have an impact on the conservation and wise use of wetlands. If one of the mechanisms is a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee, please describe its composition, functions and *modus operandi*.

It is in on-going the Ramsar National Committee of Moldova. The instruments in this field has been presented to the Government of the Republic of Moldova. It contain 12 members: chairman – Minister of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development; secretary – Ramsar Focal Point, biologist and geographer; one person from Government, three persons – experts in biodiversity, landscape and zoological problems, two water experts, one agriculture expert, one forest expert, one ornithological expert and one expert from NGO.

The main function of RNC is to be an advisory board for the Minister in the field of policy, legislation, conservation and wise use of wetlands.

4.2 Of the following, indicate which have been undertaken:

a. a review to identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands Yes/No? If yes, please indicate the major findings of the review.

No.

b. a review to identify training opportunities for these people both within your country and in other countries. Yes/No?

No.

c. the development of training modules or a training programme specifically for wetland managers. If yes, please give details.

d. people from your country have gained wetland-related training either within or outside the country. Yes/No? If yes, please give details.

No.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 5

To ensure the conservation of all sites included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List).

5.1 Of the Ramsar sites in your country, how many have formal management plans:

- a. being prepared?
- b. fully prepared?
- c. being implemented?

Please indicate in the attached table of Ramsar sites which sites these are and what category they fall into.

5.2 Of the management plans referred to above, which ones have included a monitoring scheme or programme to allow changes in ecological character to be detected? Please indicate this in the attached table of Ramsar sites also.

5.3 Has there been a change in the ecological character (either positive or negative) at any of your Ramsar sites or is this likely to occur in the near future? Yes/No. If Yes, please give details.

Not determined.

5.4 In the case of Montreux Record Ramsar sites where the Management Guidance Procedure has been applied, what is the status of the implementation of the MGP report recommendations? What is the expected time-frame for removing the site from the Montreux Record?

We shall be requested the Management Guidance Procedure for the future activities.

5.5 For those countries referred to in COP6 Recommendations 6.17.1-4, "Ramsar sites in the Territories of Specific Contracting Parties", please provide advice on the actions that have been taken in response to the issues raised at that time.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - 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.

6.1 Has a national inventory of wetlands been prepared for your country? Yes/No.

Some wetland inventory exist, mainly fragmentary. More detailed can be provided on the basis of further research.

If no, are there plans for this to be done? Yes/No.

Where a national inventory exists please provide details of when it was finalised, where it is kept and what information it contains.

6.2 Does there exist a list or directory of "important" wetlands for your country or region? Yes/No. If yes, please provide details of when it was finalised, where it is kept, what criteria for "important" were used, and the types of information it contains.

Exist a preliminary list of "important" wetlands, which are need to be investigated.

6.3 If it is known, please provide an estimate of the area of wetlands in your country at present and any information on rates of loss or conversion to other activities. If this information is available, please indicate what definition of "wetland" was used.

There are not exactly information on the area of wetlands at present.

6.4 Have any actions been taken in response to the COP6 Resolutions and Recommendations that Contracting Parties should give priority to listing Wetlands of International Importance which:

- a. meet the criteria for fish habitat (Resolution VI.2),
- b. meet the 1% criterion for waterbird populations using data provided by the International Waterfowl Census (Resolution VI.4),
- c. are subterranean karst or cave wetland systems (Resolution VI.5),
- d. are peatland ecosystems (Recommendation 6.1)
- e. are coral reefs and associated systems (Recommendation 6.7)
- f. are under-represented wetland types (which apart from d. and e. above include mangroves and sea grass beds) (Strategic Plan Action 6.2.3)

Official proposal has not yet been planned.

6.5 If your government indicated at COP6 that it would be proceeding to list further specific sites, please advise of the status of this action.

6.6 Please advise which of the sites included in the Ramsar List from your country are transfrontier wetlands (Refer also to 7.1).

One site: Lower Prut Lakes.

6.7 Describe any plans, or actions being taken for further transfrontier sites to be listed (Refer also to 7.1).

Was signed the agreement between Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine on the creation and management of a transfrontier protected area in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut River, which a included wetlands areas.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 7

To mobilise international cooperation and financial assistance for wetland conservation and wise use in collaboration with other conventions and agencies, both governmental and non-governmental.

7.1 Briefly describe any bilateral or multilateral activities that have been taken, are under way, or are planned for the management of transfrontier wetlands or their watersheds/catchments (Refer also to 6.6 and 6.7).

Discussions of the concept on harmonise of management planning on the Moldovian and Romanian wetlands areas in the Lower Prut River, Moldovian and Ukrainean wetlands areas in the Lower. Nistru (Dnestr) River

7.2 Do you have Ramsar sites that are "twinned" with others, either nationally or internationally? Yes/No. If yes, please give details.

The trilateral agreement between Moldova, Romania, Ukraine contain the "twinned" Ramsar sites, mainly between Moldova and Romania. In the same time exist the "twinned" sites in the Lower Nistru River between Moldova and Ukraine.

7.3 Where your country is also a signatory of any of the following Conventions, describe what mechanism(s) exist to assist regular dialogue and cooperative actions between the personnel responsible for their implementation and the Ramsar Administrative Authority:

- a. Convention on Biological Diversity
- b. Framework Convention on Climate Change
- c. Convention to Combat Desertification
- d. Convention on Migratory Species
- e. World Heritage Convention

Moldova is a signatory of all the above conventions. The Ministry of Ecology, Constructions and Territorial Development is the coordinator of all environmental and nature conservation issues concerning these conventions. For solution of Ramsar problems, now is on – going creation of Ramsar National Committee.

7.4 Is your country cooperating as part of any bilateral or multilateral activities directed at the conservation of migratory wetland species? Yes/No. If yes, please provide details.

Moldova is a Contracting Party of Bonn Convention, Agreement of Conservation of African – Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, Agreement on the Conventions of Bats in Europe and trilateral Agreement between Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, which are foresight conservation on migratory wetland species.

7.5 Are there multilateral and/or bilateral donors supporting projects which contribute to implementation of the Ramsar Convention in your country? Yes/No. If yes, please provide details.

In 1999 ? – 2001 TACIS a support the project “Lower Prut Lakes” in the framework of the joint project with Ukraine. The financial part of Moldova is not announce.

7.6 Does your government make an annual budgetary allocation to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands within your country? Yes/No. If yes, is this a specific allocation to a wetlands programme or as part of a larger environment or natural resource management budget?

No.

7.7 If your country has a development assistance programme, does it include funds earmarked for wetland conservation and wise use in other countries? Yes/No. If yes, please give details.

No.

7.8 Is there a formal process in place for consultation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the development assistance programme in your country, where one exists? Yes/No. If yes, what is that process.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 8

To provide the Convention with the required institutional mechanisms and resources.

8.1 Has your government made voluntary financial contributions, other than the invoiced contributions or to the Small Grants Fund, to further the work of the Convention globally? Yes/No. If yes, please provide details.

No.

8.2 If your country is in arrears with the payment of its annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention, please indicate the reasons for this situation and the prospects for paying these arrears in the near future.

Optional section - Participation of non-government organizations in the implementation of the Convention

These are optional questions relating to cooperation with and involvement of non-government organizations in the implementation of the Convention.

At COP6 some 42 NGOs made the "Brisbane NGO pledge of support for the Ramsar Convention". The Standing Committee agreed that for COP7 there should be an effort made to gauge the level and type of cooperation which is occurring between government Administrative Authorities and the national and international NGOs with an interest in wetlands issues.

In this optional section of the National Report, you are asked to describe the nature of the cooperation and relationship with any other international, regional, national and provincial NGOs operating within your country.

9.1 Approximately how many NGOs have wetlands as part of their regular "business" in your country?

Please break this down between international, regional and national/provincial organizations.

- a. **international organizations - 2**
- b. **, regional - ?**
- c. **national/provincial – about 10**

9.2 Is there a regular forum or mechanism through which these NGOs express their views on wetland conservation and Ramsar implementation:

- a. to each other? Yes/No
No.
- b. to the government? Yes/No
Yes.

9.3 Does your government include one or more NGO representatives on its official delegation to Ramsar COPs? Yes/No

Sametimes yes.

9.4 Do any of the NGOs run programmes aimed at Education and Public Awareness about wetlands in your country? Yes/No. If yes, please give details (Refer also to question 3.1).

The educational establishments run by Moldovian Ecological Movement, which a publishing in the newspaper “Natura” various materials about protections and public awareness in the field of wetlands areas.

9.5 Where they exist, do Ramsar site management advisory committees include NGO representatives? If yes, please give details

Numerous representatives of NGO are involved in nature conservation and in the wetland areas management actions. Same persons responsible for Ramsar sites in the field of state authority are also members on any NGOs

9.6 Describe the themes of the Convention (refer to General Objectives 1-8 of the Strategic Plan) where you perceive the national/provincial NGOs to be most active.

The main themes a refer at the following:

- **surveys and censuses**
- **regulation of activities in the protected areas (wetlands areas)**
- **provision of information, public relation work**
- **promoved the conservation policy, care and sustainable use.**

Final comments:

10.1 General comments on implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan.

The Ramsar National Committee and Focal Point wants to implement the strategic Plan 2003 – 2008 in the country on the themes described in p.9.6.

10.2 Observations concerning the functioning of, relations with, and services provided by:

a. The Ramsar Standing Committee

The Republic of Moldova have a good opinion regarding Ramsar Standing Committee meetings.

The work of the RSC is considered as constructive.

b. The Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel

Information on their work in not much.

c. The Ramsar Bureau

Very good work with Mr. Tim Jones during preparation of accession of the Republic of Moldova to Ramsar Convention.

d. The Ramsar NGO partners

Hope to collaboration with Birdlife International, WWF through different Danube and others Programmes.

10.3 Any other general observations and/or recommendations for the future.

For Republic of Moldova in the field of implementation of Ramsar Convention is very important to have a good collaboration with Secretariat and Bureau of Ramsar Convention.

That collaboration and support from Ramsar Convention is necessary for to change in the more short time the attitude of the local authorities and the peoples towards wetlands areas.

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