

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: THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

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



GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1

TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

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

| Actions – Global Targets |
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| <p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gaps remain in Africa, central Asia, the Middle East and the Small Island Developing States. Refer to Recommendation 7.2 relating to Small Island Developing States. • Global Target - 150 CPs by COP8 • These are the countries which at present are not CPs of the Convention: Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, 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, Libya, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe. |
| <p>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? Yes</p> |
| <p>If Yes, have these actions been successful?</p> |

The Netherlands is the lead country for the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) (www.unep-wcmc.org/aewa) under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention). The Netherlands considers the Ramsar Convention as the main instrument to achieve the goals of the AEWA on habitat conservation in the whole geographical region of the AEWA, which includes 117 countries. The AEWA has entered into force on 1 November 1999, at the first meeting of the parties in South Africa. 23 states have ratified the AEWA: 18 from Eurasia and 15 from Africa.

Through the Programme International Nature Management (www.minlnv/international/policy/inta) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries (and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) substantial support for wetland projects has been given to a number of countries such as the Baltic Republics, Ukraine, Russian Federation, countries in West Africa. The accession of non CP's to join both the Convention and the AEWA has been strongly promoted throughout the wetland projects and programmes. The Netherlands has financially contributed to wetland inventory & policy work in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and the Baltic countries. This has contributed to the renewed designation of sites when Ukraine and Russia separated, possibly to Belarus becoming a Party and by identifying potential sites, it supported Azerbaijan in becoming a Party. More initiatives, via Wetlands International, are underway in the Central Asian Republics.

The Netherlands has Sustainable Development Treaties with three developing countries: Costa Rica, Benin and Bhutan. One of the specific topics of collaboration is wetlands. Costa Rica was already a CP and Benin has become a Contracting Party in May 2000.

If No, what has prevented such action being taken?

Proposed national actions and targets: **To encourage states, especially in Africa, to become a Contracting Party.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries; Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

1.1.2 Promote membership of Ramsar through regional meetings and activities, and through partners' regional offices. [SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]

- **These efforts are to continue and to focus on the above priority regions and the Small Island Developing States.**
- **The current member and permanent observer States of the Standing Committee are Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Costa Rica, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uganda**

Is your country a member of the Standing Committee? **No** If No, go to Action 2.1.1.

If Yes, have actions been taken to encourage the non-CPs from your region or subregion to join the Convention? **No**

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| If Yes , have these actions been successful? |
| If No , what has prevented such action being taken? The Netherlands is a permanent observer in the Standing Committee, in its capacity as the host country of the headquarters of Wetlands International. The Netherlands does not represent a region in the Standing Committee. Promotion of Ramsar activities in Europe, see 1.1.1 |
| Proposed national actions and targets: None |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Agriculture Nature management and Fisheries |



**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.

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| 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] |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This remains a high priority for the next triennium. The <i>Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions</i> (Resolution VII.7) will assist these efforts. • Global Target – For at least 100 CPs to have comprehensively reviewed their laws and institutions relating to wetlands by COP8. |
| Has your country completed a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? Yes |
| If No , what are the impediments to this being done? |
| If a review is planned , what is the expected timeframe for this being done? |
| If the review has been completed , did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Yes |
| If No , what are the impediments to these amendments being completed? |
| If Yes , and changes to laws and institutional arrangements were made, please describe these briefly. The review by the National Audit Office (1999) has accelerated the designation of 25 new Ramsar Sites in March 2000. The new Nature Conservation Act 1998 is being amended to create a better national legal basis for the designation and conservation of sites under international instruments, mainly the EU Birds Directive and the EU |

Habitats Directive.

Proposed national actions and targets: **All Ramsar wetland sites will be also a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive or a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. This will give them a high level of legal protection as far as EU habitattypes and species are at stake.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries**

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? **In the Netherlands wetland policy is a prominent but integrated part of general nature and biodiversity policy.**

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide brief details. **National Wetland Policy is the chapter "Water Programme" in the second Nature Policy Document (Nature for People, People for nature, 2000) (www.minlnv/policy/green/pna), that includes a national biodiversity strategy. Wetlands is a priority issue, both national and international. The wetland obligations have been taken into account in the Fourth Policy Document on Water**

Management (1998), the Management Document for the State Waters 1997-2001 and the river basin management plans for our large rivers Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt. The wetland area targets will be laid down in the Fifth Memorandum on Spatial Planning and the Second Structure Plan for the Rural Areas.

The Netherlands Antilles has adopted a new Nature Policy Plan (2001-2005) which includes wetlands and Ramsar sites policy objectives.

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? **Every year the nature policy is reviewed by the Nature Planning Agency in the so-called Nature Balance Report. In the Nature Balance Report 2000 the policy for the Wadden Sea, our largest intertidal area, has been reviewed. The conclusions were that sound environmental policy has diminished water pollution, which has led to recovery of the seal population. The salt marshes are managed properly. However there has been a mass mortality of eider ducks in the years 1999 and 2000, probably because of a shortage of shell fish. Mature mussel beds have not recovered yet from the destruction by fishermen in the late eighties.**

Specific information on the status of the Wadden Sea has been published in the fifth Wadden Sea Year Book (2000, English summary at www.waddensea.org) and in the Quality Status Report (1999, see website of Common Wadden Sea Secretariat cwss.www.de).

A scientific research programme has been started to investigate the effects of shellfish fishery. This will enable the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries to take a sound decision in 2003 on shellfish fishery. After the mass mortality of eider ducks the *Spisula* fishery in the coastal zone of the North Sea adjacent to the Wadden Sea has been subjected to a licence under the Nature Conservation Act.

The Schelde-Maas-Rijn estuary is subject to a permanent review to balance between flood protection & security, water management and estuary restoration (salt-fresh water gradients)

Proposed national actions and targets:

The second Nature Policy Document (2000) has two main objectives for wetlands. Strengthening wet nature areas, in combination with measures to increase the resilience of water systems and strengthen the identity of the Netherlands as a land of water. Promote sustainable use of sea, coast and large areas of water.

At the Ninth Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference (Esbjerg, 2001) the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark have agreed to apply at IMO for a designation of the Wadden Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). In the Third Key Planning Decision for the Wadden Sea a sustainable development perspective has been announced for the Wadden Sea region.

In the Rhine-Meuse estuary first steps are to be taken towards restoration of the

estuarine conditions by an adapted management of the locks in the existing Haringvliet storm surge dam. Part of the original tidal dynamics will be restored which will also benefit the surface of intertidal freshwater areas. Further steps towards a more complete restoration of estuarine conditions are expected in near future. In the Westerscheldt-estuary realistic compensation for loss of intertidal areas by dredging activities for navigation is under discussion within the framework of the bilateral cooperation between the Netherlands and Belgium on the river Scheldt.

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

Policy for wetlands and for shellfish fishery: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries.

PSSA: Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

Third Physical Planning Key Decision for the Wadden Sea: Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If integrated management approaches are being applied in part of the country, indicate the approximate percentage of the country's surface area where this is occurring and to which river basins and coastal areas this applies. **Integrated management is being applied for all state waters, including the major rivers Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt, most larger lakes and the whole of the coast. The Fourth National Water Management Plan and the Management Document for the State Waters are the framework for this.**

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| If Yes , are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? Yes |
| If No , what are the impediments to this being done? |
| Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.18).? Yes |
| If Yes , please describe them briefly. Along the rivers Rhine and Meuse ecological restoration is an integrated part of a long term scheme for flood protection by increasing the capacity of the floodplains, the so called Space for the Rivers project. |
| Proposed national actions and targets: The Fourth National Water Management Plan has been published in December 1998. It has a cross-sectoral approach, involving spatial planning and environmental policy. Water management is treated on different levels of scale, i.a. the river basin and the sea coast. New topics have been identified, namely climate change and soil subsidence. The capacity of the rivers will be enlarged. The Management Document for the State Waters 2001-2004 is a framework for implementation of the new water policies. Integrated management of wetlands will get a further incentive by the coming implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management |

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.

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| 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] |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>Invasive Species and wetlands</i>) CPs are requested “to provide the Ramsar Bureau with information on databases which exist for invasive species, information on invasive species which pose a threat to wetlands and wetland species, and information on the control and eradication of invasive wetland species.” |

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

- oil spill prevention and clean-up? **Yes**
- agricultural runoff? **Yes**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes**
- invasive species? **Yes**
- other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **Yes –**
- **ALTERRA Green World Research www.alterra.nl. The Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment www.riza.nl, the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management www.rikz.nl, the Dutch Foundation for Applied Water Research www.stowa.nl, the International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering www.ihe.nl have got resource information on many aspects of management of wetlands. The latter institute (IHE in Delft) is since November 2001 the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education. See also websites of Netherlands Water Partnership www.nwp.nl and of Coastal Zone Management Centre www.netcoast.nl within the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management.**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **To maintain the mentioned sources of information.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management and the Ministry of Agriculture Nature Management and Fisheries.**

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

- **Promoting and improving the availability of such resource materials is a priority under the Convention's Outreach Programme (Resolution VII.9)**
- **Global Target - By COP8, to have included in the Wise Use Resource Centre 500 appropriate references and publications as provided to the Bureau by CPs and other organizations.**

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

If **No**, what has prevented this being done? **Wetland and wise use issues are part of broader oriented outreach programmes. No specific wetland outreach programmes and no need to do so. No overview available; most material in Dutch only.**

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **None**

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. **No Reply**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Role, functions and benefits of wetlands are incorporated in policy and the decision making process. Economic aspects are part of this.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries.**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Documents not available in Convention language, besides volume of documentation (size & weight) is substantial.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To carry out EIAs in all cases where a change in the ecological character of a Ramsar site is possible.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment**

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

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

Are EIAs required in your country for **all** cases where a wetland area (whether a Ramsar site or not) may be adversely impacted due to a development proposal or change in land/water use? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **The legal need of an EIA depends on type and size of projects. In practise most interventions need impact assesmenets. Some and specific interventions are founded by specific law and not subject to the standard EIA. This was the case for the deepening of the Western Scheldt in 1995. In this case compensation measures were arranged under that specific case related legislation.**

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

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| 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: None. |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: |

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| 2.5.4 Take account of Integrated Environmental Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment (at local, provincial and catchment/river basin or coastal zone levels) when assessing impacts of development proposals or changes in land/water use. [CPs] |
| (Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country undertaken a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? Yes |
| If No , what has prevented this from occurring? |
| If Yes , has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) No |
| Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? Yes – The conclusions of the annual Nature Balance Reports are taken into account when drafting new Nature Policy Documents (every ten year). |
| Proposed national actions and targets: To continue to review nature policy in the annual Nature Balance Reports of the Nature Planning Agency. |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Nature Planning Agency (a statutory institute under the Nature Conservation Act), based at the Institute for Public Health and the Environment. |

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

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| 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] |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completion of such inventories is a continuing area of priority for the Convention. Global Target - Restoration/rehabilitation inventories to be completed by at least 50 CPs by COP8. |

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? .

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Some examples:

In the river forelands and adjacent to the riverine site Biesbosch in the nineties more than 4000 ha of agricultural land has been acquired and will be converted to nature areas.

Adjacent to the site Wadden Sea in two projects in total about 200 hectares of agricultural land have been outbanked to convert them to natural or semi-natural salt marsh.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Priority wetland types for restoration and rehabilitation are listed in the Water Programme, part of our second Nature Policy Document (2000).

Some examples:

More agricultural land in the river forelands (3000-4000 ha) and adjacent to the Wadden Sea (c. 800 ha) will be converted into natural and semi-natural areas.

Brackish gradients will be partly restored, i.a. in the Wadden Sea and between the Ramsar sites Haringvliet and Voordelta.

In the IJsselmeer area adjacent to existing sites 3000 ha will be converted to nature areas.

The same will be done in the Delta area in the south west of the Netherlands.

In the north of our country, in the province of Friesland, brook valleys and former inlets (500 ha) will be restored, partly adjacent to existing Ramsar sites.

More general, the creation and restoration of wetlands is an important element in the implementation of the Ecological Network in the Netherlands. Creation and restoration of wetlands is part of the flood prevention policy.

The Ecological Network in The Netherlands is planned to be finished by 2018. Apart from 6.5 million ha of national waters it consists of 700 à 750,000 ha terrestrial and regional waters. Wetlands as such not defined.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries and Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.**

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

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

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

If **Yes**, has this been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre and for consideration by the STRP Expert Working Group on Restoration? **No**

If this material has not been forwarded to the Bureau, what has prevented this from occurring? **There is a considerable amount of knowledge and experience on wetland restoration and rehabilitation available in the Netherlands. Instead of forwarding part of this to the STRP working group or the Wise Use resource Centre it is considered more effective to provide information on the institutes where this knowledge and experience are located:**

ALTERRA Green World Research www.alterra.nl. The Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment www.riza.nl, the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management www.rikz.nl, the Dutch Foundation for Applied Water Research www.stowa.nl, the International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering www.ihe.nl . See also websites of Netherlands Water Partnership www.nwp.nl and of Coastal Zone Management Centre www.netcoast.nl within the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management.

Proposed national actions and targets: ?

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment**

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

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

Refer to 2.6.1 above.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

Is your government **actively** promoting the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the management of wetlands? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, describe what special actions have been taken (See also 2.7.2, 2.7.3 and 2.7.4 below) (COP7 Resolution VII.8). **Nature management and agri-environmental schemes to enable farmers and private land owners to participate in nature management. In development co-operation projects in general, including those on wetlands, the involvement of indigenous people and local communities is a priority.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continuation of the described actions.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agency for Development Co-operation (DGIS).**

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** **The government supports and encourages site managers in monitoring as part of the schemes, as mentioned in 2.7.1. Besides BirdLife/Vogelbescherming Nederland has a network of voluntary wetland caretakers.**

Departments, organisations and agencies involved in monitoring (not just birds) have joined forces by mutual agreement, the so called Network Ecological Monitoring. This co-operation creates added value, standardized methods, exchange of information, support and participation in civil society etc. The independant quality of data is secured by Statistics the Netherlands.

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continuation and further development of this Network Ecological Monitoring, a.o. to meet the monitoring obligations of the EU Birds and Habitats Directive.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries**

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?

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

Participation of civil society and NGO's in planning issues is a key characteristic of the Netherlands and applied throughout.

In one specific site, the Oostvaardersplassen, is a management committee in place. Also, but without reference to the Ramsar Convention, such initiatives exist for municipalities, and in planning in rural development schemes by a committee representing the local community.

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? **At least one**

AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? **At least one**

AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented? **None**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Installation of a Trilateral (NL, DE, DK) Wadden Sea Forum**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **For Oostvaardersplassen this is the National Forest Service (site manager) and for Wadden Sea Forum the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries.**

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice. **To a limited extent traditional management practices, e.g. reed cutting, willow coppice and graziers (traditional cattle, sheep), are supported by financial schemes to support local communities.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To continue the existing financial support of traditional management practices.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries**

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?

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts. **The combined consultancy firms operate internationally along the lines of a code of conduct that relates to increased recognition of wetland values. Several wetland projects and some sites are sponsored by the private sector, e.g. the sponsoring of the Ramsar site Weerribben by the Australian wine estate Banrock. An "initiative group on outgoing tourism, environment and nature" has been established with representatives of the tourist industry, transport sector, government, NGOs and education sector.**

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

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, how do you judge this success? Financial support for management or monitoring? Active involvement in management or monitoring? (Refer to 2.8.3 below) Application of Ramsar's Wise Use principles by private sector interests? (Refer to 2.8.2 below)? Other criteria? **Raising awareness and stimulate co-operation in management practices. The tourist sector started a process to a "product oriented environmental system" . Awareness is developing, although slowly. Customer information is growing. Specifically, co-operation on more environmental friendly tourism to the Netherlands Antilles..**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Ongoing.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries**

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?

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). **There are fiscal and non-fiscal measures aiming to lowering the pressures of economic activities, promoting market creation, conservation and wise use. The fiscal measures include: ecotaxes (i.a. on groundwater extraction), tax exemptions (e.g. for green investment funds) and accelerated depreciation of assets important for conservation. Participation in wetland development projects by private companies which extract sand, gravel and clay from our river valleys. An agri-environmental scheme for farmers which manage their fields in a sustainable way in Environmentally Sensitive Areas, including wetlands. Together with the private sector a promotion video-project was developed advertising the wise use of wetland and the technical possibilities of mitigative measures in wetland interventions. "Green investing" is a growing market**

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

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, please describe how. **See text above.**

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:

Extension of fiscal "green investing" scheme.

Policy document "Partners for water, Programme Foreign Water Involvement" (november 1999), to strenghten the synergy between all partners involved in water issues and combine efforts along the lines of existing national policies, international agreements and treaties like Agenda 21, CBD and Climate Change. In this program wetland issues play an important role.

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

Green investing: Ministry of Finance.

Programme Foreign Water Involvement: Ministry of Transport, Public Works and water Management.

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? **Yes**

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

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

AND: How successful has this been?

Is part of legislation.

The larger part of the monitoring of plant and animal taxa in the Netherlands is done by volunteers, organised in NGO's, and these NGO's again organised under an umbrella organisation. Coordination of monitoring and staff of NGO's are financially supported by the government partnership of the Network Ecological Monitoring.

Proposed national actions and targets: **ongoing**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries; Statistics the Netherlands; Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management; Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, related agencies, Provinces (=partnership Network Ecological Monitoring).**

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



**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?

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).

This is a cross-cutting element in Netherlands funded wetlands programmes world wide (Development Co-operation), notably in Central and Eastern Europe, West Africa and globally in the Global Wetlands Programme by Wetlands International.

It is also a regular subject of small Embassy funded projects and the small grants wetland scheme run by the Netherlands Committee IUCN.

The international courses on wetlands organised by RIZA in Lelystad, with participants from all over the world and the twinning operations from these courses in Kenya.

Proposed national actions and targets: **Ongoing and support the related recommendations from the World water Forum II in particular by funding the Dialogue on Water and Environment.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, development Co-operation.**

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). **The Russian Wetlands Programme 2000-2002, operated by Wetlands International.**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Ongoing.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.**

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details. **Supported the start of the West Africa oriented Centre for African Wetlands Research in Ghana, Legon University.**

The Global Wetlands Programme run by Wetlands International contains a capacity enhancement and training facility.

RIZA, running the international wetland management courses supports regional wetland training facilities in Kenya.

This element is normally part in international wetland programmes and projects funded by the Netherlands Government.

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

If **No**, what is preventing this from happening? **This has been incorporated in other projects & programmes.**

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: **ongoing and increase with the development of new water and wetland related programmes (World Water Forum)**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development Co-operation, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.**

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.

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| Actions - Global and National Targets |
| 3.2.1 Encourage partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations capable of developing national EPA programmes on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners] |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8 to see the global network of proposed CP and non-government focal points for Wetland Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) in place and functioning effectively in the promotion and execution of the national Outreach Programmes in all CPs. To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme. |
| Did your Government inform the Ramsar Bureau by 31 December 1999 of the identity of its Government and Non-Government Focal Points for wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? No |
| If No , what has prevented this from occurring? On the national level no need for separate CEPA for wetlands. This is an integrated part of the broader oriented nature and biodiversity awareness programmes. |
| Has your country established an "appropriately constituted Task Forces, where no mechanism exists for this purpose (e.g., National Ramsar Committees), to undertake a review of national needs, capacities and opportunities in the field of wetland CEPA and, based on this, to formulate its National Wetland CEPA Action Plans for priority activities which consider the international, regional, national and local needs" (COP7 Resolution VII.9). No |
| If No , what has prevented this from occurring? On the national level no need for separate CEPA for wetlands. |
| If Yes , please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force. |
| AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000? No |
| If No , what has prevented this from occurring? There is no separate National Wetland CEPA Action Plan, but an integrated multi-year plan on environmental education and public awareness was developed by six ministries. This plan "Learning about Sustainability" is focused on stimulating and strengthening environmental education in primary education, secondary education, vocational and adult education. |
| If Yes , is the Action Plan being implemented effectively? No Reply |
| If No , what is preventing this from occurring? |

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Implementation of the integrated multi-year programme on environmental education and public awareness. The plan has a total budget of €16 million.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, how successful has this been? **Since 1998 two new educational centres have been established in the wetland site Gelderse Poort.**

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites? **21: Oosterschelde (2), Wieden, Weerribben, Saeftinghe, Waddenzee together with Noordzee kustzone (localities Schiermonnikoog, Texel, Terschelling, Vlieland, Ameland), Gelderse Poort (4), Biesbosch (2), Alde Feanen, Lauwersmeer, Groote Peel, Grevelingen, Oostvaardersplassen.**

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

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

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?

In December 2001 a list of ten centres, located in Ramsar sites, was sent to convention Bureau to serve the Ramsar Outreach Programme. The centres are located at the Oostvaardersplassen, Weerribben, Groote Peel, Biesbosch, De Wieden, Texel (Ecomare), Vlieland, Terschelling, Ameland, Schiermonnikoog.

Proposed national actions and targets: **continuation of the current policy**

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

the local management organisations

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

- **Global Target - see 3.2.3 above**

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

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

If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? **Not centrally registred. Don't know how many, but thematical presence at zoos, nature reserves, municipality centres, natural history museums etcetera.**

If **Yes**, how many facilities does this apply to and how many of these are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and which facilities are they?

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

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

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

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

If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details. **There are tertiary courses and post-docs at universities and institutes, e.g. Nijmegen, Delft, Wageningen, Amsterdam, Enschede, Lelystad, and Groningen.**

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: **Continuation of the tertiary courses. Development of environmental modules at nautical colleges, initiated by shipping companies and the NGO Seas at Risk.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management**

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? **Yes**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **provided a list of education centres**

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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

- **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?

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

AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? **All**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **The site management organisations themselves.**



Please go to file 2.

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

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



file 2

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4

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

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

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| Actions - Global and National Targets |
| 4.1.1 Review existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs] |
| Has your country reviewed the national institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise use and the “designated national Administrative Authority for the Convention to ensure [that] these have the necessary resources to support the increasing demands being placed upon them by the growing expectations of the Convention” (COP7 Resolution VII.27)? No |
| If No , what is the impediment to this being done? The available resources are adequate. |
| If Yes , what were the conclusions and outcomes of the review? (Refer to 4.1.2 also). |
| Proposed national actions and targets: None |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: |

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| 4.1.2 On the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to: |
| <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). |

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| Refer also to 8.1.9. Does your country have a National Ramsar Committee or similar body? Yes |
| If No , what has prevented the establishment of such a committee? |
| If Yes , is the committee cross-sectoral, including representatives of appropriate government ministries and non-government expert and stakeholder groups? No |
| What is the composition of this Committee? It is a NGO Ramsar Committee, including NGO experts and one representative of the national Administrative Authority, i.e. the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, acting as a permanent observer. |
| Besides there is an inter-ministry wetlands coordination commission with participation from the secretariat of the National NGO Ramsar Committee. |
| For internal Government communication on international wetland issues, there is a formalised Inter-ministerial Wetland Consultation Group. |
| Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? No |
| If No , what has prevented this from happening? This was not a priority. |
| If Yes , did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? No Reply |
| If No , why not? |
| Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions. |
| Proposed national actions and targets: To evaluate the effectiveness of the Committee before COP9. |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: BirdLife/Vogelbescherming Nederland |

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.

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| Actions - Global and National Targets |
| 4.2.1 Identify at national, provincial and local level the needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines. [CPs, Bureau, Partners] |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have training needs analyses completed in more than 75 CPs. |
| Has a training needs analysis been completed? No |
| If No , what has prevented this from happening? Not relevant in The Netherlands. |
| If Yes , have the results of this analysis been used to provide direction for training priorities in |

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| the future? No Reply |
| If No , why not? |
| If Yes , how has this been done? |
| AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? |
| Proposed national actions and targets: None |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: |

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| <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? No |
| <p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done? There are ample training facilities and opportunities in the Netherlands (see also 3.2.5), in particular based at Universities and specialised institutions. Many NGO's have their own training programmes to support their objectives.</p> <p>Major institutions are: the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad www.riza.nl, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft www.ihe.nl , EUROSITE (in Tilburg) workshops www.eurosite-nature.org, the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC, Enschede) www.itc.nl and the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl .</p> |
| If Yes , have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? No Reply |
| If No , why not? |
| If Yes , how has this been done? |
| AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? |
| Has this information on training opportunities been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities? (Refer to 4.2.3 below also) Yes |
| Proposed national actions and targets: Continuation and improvement of the existing training opportunities; promote cooperation between facilities in particular between the "blue cluster" concentrated in Delft and the "green cluster" concentrated in Wageningen. |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management and Ministry of Agriculture, |

Nature Management and Fisheries

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

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

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

If Yes, please provide details. **For international use:**

1. **Accession-oriented Dutch European Proficiency Training (ADEPT) River Basin Management related to the European Water framework Directive and (ADEPT) Environmental Issues and European Policies on Water Management, both courses run by the International Agricultural Centre (IAC);**
2. **International Course on Wetland Restoration (6 weeks) organised bij the Intstitute for Inland Water Management and Wastewater Treatment (RIZA)**

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture Nature Management and Fisheries and the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management**

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 , In the framework of a EUROSITE project management staff of wetlands has been exchanged. See also 3.1.4).**

- Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? **Yes , as part of the West Africa project and programmes in Ukraine and Russia run by Wetlands International, but see also 4.2.3.**
- Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? **Yes , in Ukraine and in West Afrika, both as part of programmes run by Wetlands International.**
- Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? **Yes , The Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft, EUROSITE www.eurosite-nature.org, the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC, Enschede) www.itc.nl and the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl have training courses relevant for wetland managers.**

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) **Yes**

If **Yes**, please provide details. **See 3.1.4.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To continue to provide resources for Wetlands for the Future style programmes.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries and the Agency for Development Co-operation (DGIS).**

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

There was a wetland project in the framework of the Sustainable Development Treaty between the Netherlands, Benin, Bhutan and Costa Rica, that includes co-operation between the three developing countries involved.

The Netherlands funded Wetlands International Project Capacity Enhancement in West Africa contains south-south elements.

The Netherlands funded start of the Centre for African Wetlands in Ghana is based around a West African partnership of research capacity.

Support to Wetland management training in East Africa to be linked to training facilities in West Afrika as initiated by RIZA and implemented by Wetlands International.

Proposed national actions and targets: **The Water Forum related pledges from the Netherlands on Water for Food and Environment including south-south lessons learnt and exchange of expertise.**

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

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Agency for Development Co-operation (DGIS), Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.



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]

- **Global Target - By COP8, each CP will seek to ensure that the measures required to maintain the ecological character of at least half of the Ramsar sites have been documented.**

Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites in your country been documented? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? **Yes**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Each Ramsar site will also be a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive or a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. As requested by the European Commission, specific management plans will be drafted for those sites in near future. This will be incorporated in a new Nature Management Act.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries**

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? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **Is not yet in place systematically on a site level. Is in place on a higher aggregation level, i.e. for types of wetlands. Factors potentially altering the character of sites are noticed though by site managers and/or following the activities by the Network Ecological Monitoring. A systematic site based review system is under construction following the EU Bird Directive monitoring requirements (Ramsar Sites thus covered).**

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? **Westerschelde, Wadden Sea, IJsselmeer. Actions taken: zoning/buffer zones, compensation, regulation, legal-, management-, and policy measures**

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

If **No**, why not?

Proposed national actions and targets: **All Ramsar Sites under the EU Bird Directive and consequent regulations**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries**

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

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| (previously Management Guidance Procedures, MGPs) have been completed, have all actions recommended by the RAM been undertaken for each site? No Reply |
| If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? No sites on Montreux Record. |
| If Yes , have these actions resulted in a restoration of the ecological character? No Reply |
| AND: If Yes , has the site been removed from the Montreux Record following the completion of the necessary questionnaire (COP6 Resolution VI.1)? No Reply |
| Proposed national actions and targets: |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: |

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

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| Actions - Global and National Targets |
| 5.2.3 Ensure that, by the 8th COP (2002), management plans or other mechanisms are in preparation, or in place, for at least half of the Ramsar sites in each Contracting Party, beginning with pilot programmes at selected sites with input from local communities and other stakeholders. [CPs, Partners] |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, management plans will be in preparation, or in place, for at least three-quarters of the Ramsar sites in each CP and all CPs will seek to ensure that these are being implemented in full. |
| Do all the Ramsar sites in your country have management plans in place ? Yes |
| 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? All |
| Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done? |
| Proposed national actions and targets: Each Ramsar site will be a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive or a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. As suggested by the European Commission, specific and standardized management plans will be drafted for those sites in near future. Management plans will be under the amended Nature Management Act, now in process for adoption. |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries |

5.2.4 Promote the establishment and implementation of zoning measures related to

larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves and other wetlands (Kushiro Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

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

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

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **In all when relevant and related to recreational use, agricultural practices, fisheries and military use.**

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

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases of zoning for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continuation of zoning as part of site management.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, site managing agencies and organisations.**

5.2.5 Promote the establishment and implementation of strict protection measures for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

- **This aspect of Ramsar site management was not considered in the COP7 National Reports and will have to be reviewed in time for COP8.**
- **Global Target - Provide for consideration at COP8 detailed information on the implementation of strict protection measures at small and/or sensitive sites.**

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

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

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place? **Many Ramsar sites are partly no-use area, e.g. small parts of the site Waddensee.**

AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool? **Yes, e.g. major bird breeding colonies and seal rookeries in the Wadden Sea are protected by this tool.**

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **To continue to use strict protection in the parts of wetlands, where it is warranted. and as part of the site management plans.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what is preventing this from being done? **Will be delivered in March 2002.**

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

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

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

If **No**, what is preventing this from being done? **Will be delivered in March 2002.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **All missing data will be provided by March 2002.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries**

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

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| <p>provided by Contracting Parties. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]</p> <p>Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.</p> |
| <p>5.4.4 Support the establishment of national wetland databases compatible with the Ramsar Database and develop a common protocol to facilitate exchange and interaction. [CPs, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland databases in over 50 CPs which are accessible globally. |
| <p>Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? No</p> |
| <p>If No, what is preventing such a database being established?</p> <p>Currently under construction as part of the database for the EU Bird Directive. Is not specifically aimed at Ramsar Sites, but they are part of it.</p> <p>There are good databases (but not the national wetland database), produced and managed by BirdLife/ Vogelbescherming Nederland and by SOVON (funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries).</p> |
| <p>If Yes, is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? No Reply</p> |
| <p>If No, why not? Under construction</p> |
| <p>AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No Reply</p> |
| <p>If Yes, please provide details.</p> |
| <p>If No, why not? Under construction</p> |
| <p>AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No Reply</p> |
| <p>If Yes, please provide details.</p> |
| <p>If No, why not? Under construction</p> |
| <p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>Each Ramsar site will be a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive or a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive, The special database for those sites (the Natura 2000 database) match Ramsar sites. Information on new Ramsar sites will be delivered in March 2002.</p> |
| <p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, National Reference Centre for Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries.</p> |



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.

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| Actions - Global and National Targets |
| 6.1.1 Develop, regularly update -- especially in the case of Africa -- and disseminate regional wetland directories, which identify potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Partners] |
| Refer to 6.1.2 and 6.2.1. Does there exist for your country a directory or similar listing of sites which are potential Ramsar sites? Yes |
| If No , what are the impediments to such a list of sites being prepared? |
| If Yes , when was it prepared and was it prepared taking into consideration the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.11)? 1999 (For COP7) No |
| AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? 26 potential Ramsar sites have now formally designated as Ramsar sites. 15 potential Ramsar sites on the list have not been designated yet: "Friese IJsselmeerkust", "Kwade Hoek", "Gooimeer", "Eemmeer", "Lepelaarsplassen", "Eilandspolder", "Wormer- en Jisperveld", "Iiperveld, Varkensland en Twiske", "Nieuwkoopse Plassen", "Gelderse Poort", "Nederrijn", "IJssel", "Waal", "Zwarte Water" en "Oude Maas" . The five latter sites are riverine sites; this type is still underrepresented in the Ramsar sites. |
| Proposed national actions and targets: In addition to the in 1999 published potential sites, it has been recognized that also the Special Protection Area (EU Birds Directive) Grote Wielen is a potential Ramsar site. |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries |

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| 6.1.2 Establish, update and disseminate national scientific inventories of wetlands which identify potential Ramsar sites and wetlands of provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party. [CPs, Partners] |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland inventories completed by over 50 CPs and the information housed in databases (Refer to 5.4.4) which are accessible globally |
| Does there exist a comprehensive national inventory (as opposed to a directory of important sites; see 6.1.1 above) for your country? No |

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| If No , what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared? Not a priority. Most provincial or wetlands of local importance are (part of) Ramsar sites and/or subject to local and provincial policy. |
| If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are. |
| AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory? |
| If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized? |
| AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) No Reply |
| If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? see above. |
| Has national/subnational inventory information been provided to the Ramsar Bureau (if it is not accessible through the Internet)? No Reply |
| Proposed national actions and targets: None |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: |

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| 6.1.4 Support the work of Wetlands International and IUCN in updating information on population sizes of waterfowl and other taxa, and utilize these data in identification of potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners] |
| Does your country regularly gather waterbird population data? Yes |
| If No , what prevents this from happening? |
| If Yes , is this information provided to Wetlands International? Yes |
| If No , why not? |
| Proposed national actions and targets: Systematic monthly waterbird counts of all internationally important wetlands. Development of a warning system in case of serious change in trends of waterbird numbers. |
| Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries; Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management; Netherlands Statistics Bureau. |

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 |
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| <p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - As proposed in the Strategic Framework, the short-term target of the Ramsar List should be to achieve the designation of 2000 sites, in accordance with the systematic approach advocated therein, by the time of COP9 in the year 2005. In addition, by COP8 the target is to have at least 20 CPs that are applying a systematic approach to site selection nationally. |
| <p>Refer also to 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.2.3. Has your country taken a systematic approach to identifying its future Ramsar sites (as promoted in the <i>Strategic Framework for the List – COP7 Resolution VII.11</i>)? Yes</p> |
| <p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done?</p> |
| <p>If Yes, has this included considerations to ensure the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes</p> |
| <p>If No, why not?</p> |
| <p>If Yes, has this resulted in the designation of a representative range of wetland types? No</p> |
| <p>Proposed national actions and targets: Considerable progress has been made in designation of a representative range of wetland types. New designations, in particular riverine sites will be considered.</p> <p>In the Netherlands Antilles potential sites will be considered for designation.</p> |
| <p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, at The Netherlands Antilles; VOMILNA, at Aruba, the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment Aruba.</p> |
| <p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Targets - The long-term targets are set by the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.11). Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived [by the STRP]. |
| <p>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</p> |
| <p>If No, what has prevented this from occurring?</p> |

If **Yes**, has this included designations of wetlands including:

- coral reefs? **No**
- mangroves? **No**
- seagrass beds? **No**
- peatlands? **No**
- intertidal wetlands? (COP7 Resolution VII.21) **No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

In The Netherlands the major peatlands and intertidal wetlands, including seagrass beds, are designated. In the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba coral reefs and intertidal areas are represented in the Ramsar sites. New sites in the Netherlands and the Antilles will be considered before COP9.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, VOMIL for the Netherlands Antilles and the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment at Aruba.**

6.2.4 Pay particular attention to the designation of new sites currently enjoying no special conservation status at national level, as a first step towards developing measures for their conservation and wise use. [CPs]

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

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

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

They were protected already.

If **Yes**, please provide details.

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

If **No**, why not? **The intention is to combine the status of each new Ramsar site with the Special Protection Area status under the EU Birds Directive or Special Area of Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive.**

If **Yes**, please elaborate.

Proposed national actions and targets: **None**

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

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, are there arrangements in place between the CPs sharing the wetland for the cooperative management of the site? **Yes**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continuation of existing arrangements.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries and Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management**



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? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved. **The following five Ramsar sites are twinned by the EUROSITE projects:**

"Grevelingen" to "Tipperne (Denmark, part of "Ringkobing Fjord")

"De Boschplaat" to "Spiekeroog Ostplate" (Germany, part of "Wattenmeer")

"Dollard" (part of "Waddenzee" site) to "Elisabeth-Aussengroden" (Germany, part of "Wattenmeer")

"Schiermonnikoog" (belongs to "Waddenzee" site and "Noordzeekustzone" site) to "Slowinski National Park" (Poland)

"Bargerveen" to "Clara Bog" (Ireland)

In addition the "International Waddenzee" is twinned to "The Wash" (UK) and the coastal wetlands of Guinee Bissau.

Co-operation between Direccion General de Fauna from the Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales, Venezuela and the Dept of Health and Environment, Netherlands Antilles on 5 Ramsar sites on Bonaire and 2 Ramsar sites in Venezuela (Cuare and los Olivitos)

AND: Do these arrangements involve:

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continuation of existing twinning relations.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **EUROSITE (Tilburg, NL) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries.**

Dept of VOMIL, Netherlands Antilles

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?

If **Yes**, describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider. **There is an inter-ministry committee coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, i.e. the Government Commission on Biodiversity and Environment, that integrates international environmental conventions at the national level among all relevant ministries.**

The Netherlands strongly advocates and supports the development and implementation of the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement under the CMS and its close links with the Ramsar Convention.

AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? **Yes**

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, please elaborate. **This inter-ministry commission is an effective means to compose delegations and to approve delegation mandates.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continuation of this commission.**

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

7.2.2 Prepare project proposals together with other conventions and partner organizations, and submit them jointly to potential funding agencies. [CPs, SC, Bureau, Partners]

For eligible countries, have there been project proposals prepared and submitted to funding agencies which were intended to assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention?

No Reply

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **The Netherlands is not a eligible country.**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **None**

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

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?

If **Yes**, what are the areas established as priorities for national cooperation between Ramsar and CBD implementing agencies/focal points? **The Ramsar Administrative Authority and the CBD focal point are the same institute, namely the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries. Restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands is major priority from the Joint Work Plan. Monitoring and assessment is an other priority. This is elaborated in the Nature Policy Plan which is synonym to the national biodiversity strategy. The international components of these policys are detailed in the International Biodiversity Policy Plan, encompassing the co-operation and integration of international conventions etc (CBD, CITES, AWEA, CITES, CMS, Desertification, UNFCCC).**

The International Water Assessment Centre (www.iwac-riza.org) at the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment has prepared the UN ECE Guidelines on water quality monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers. This has been done for the UN ECE Convention on the protection and use of transboundary rivers and international lakes (Helsinki 1992).

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continuation of restoration and rehabilitation and of monitoring and assessment.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Restoration and rehabilitation: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries and Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.
Monitoring and assessment: Institute for Inland Water Management and WasteWater Treatment.

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**

Briefing at the inter-ministry Government Commission on Biodiversity and Environment.

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: **Continuation of contribution to GEF and of several programmes aimed at wetlands: bilateral programmes via Development Co-operation, regional programmes in CEE and West Africa via development Co-operation and the Ministry of Agriculture Nature Management and Fisheries, the Small Grants for Wetlands Programme of the Netherlands Committee for IUCN (2001-..) www.wetlands.nl ; programmes of Wetlands International (wetland inventory, wise use, global peat initiative, capacity enhancement) www.wetlands.org ; Partners for Water Programmes following the Water Forum, European and international programme of Institute for Water Management and Waste Water Treatment www.riza.nl ; programmes of UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education www.ihe.nl .**

Promote Wise Use of wetlands issues at Netherlands Embassies in developing countries(a manual is in prep. providing a step by step plan to incorporate wetlands policy in bilateral cooperation and the integration of wetland wise use in poverty alleviation programmes (and vice versa)).

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development Co-operation.**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, is this:

- As a separate allocation to a Wetlands Programme (or similar)? **Yes**
- As part of a broader allocation for the environment? **Yes**
- As part of the programmes maintained by a range of Ministries? **Yes**

AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds? **National Policy documents, inter ministerial co-operation**

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **Yes There is a Water Programme in the second Nature Policy Plan (2000) (and attached to that an international programme).**

Proposed national actions and targets: **substantial; difficult to relate specifically to wetlands.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management**

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

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

If your country has a bilateral development assistance programme, does it allocate funds for wetland-related projects on a regular basis? **Yes**

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

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

If **No**, why not?

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

If **No**, why not? **Occasionally consulted but mostly this is done by our own agencies, institutions and organisations.**

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. **The Agency for Development Co-operation (DGIS) has been working together with the Ramsar Administrative Authority, i.e. the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, in the framework of the Programme International Nature Management 1996-2000. Furthermore these two institutions are both presented in the inter-ministry wetlands coordination commission. Please refer to 7.3.3.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **The international co-operation on wetlands will continue in a new joint programme of the Agency for Development Co-operation (DGIS), the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries and other related Ministries (International Biodiversity Programme.**

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

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

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

Refer to 7.4.2 above



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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Refer to 4.1.2.

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

Refer to 4.1.1

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Continuation of payment of annual contribution in time.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries**

8.2.4 Give priority to funding for training programmes, education and public awareness work, development of the Ramsar Database, and the Convention's Communications Strategy. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - To secure the resources needed to establish regional training initiatives (like *Wetlands for the Future*) in other regions, to allow the Bureau to progress the implementation of the Outreach Programme, and to support the proposed developments for the Ramsar Sites Database into a fully online and Web-based promotional and planning tool of the Convention.**

Refer to 3.3.1 (Convention Outreach Programme), 4.2.4 (Wetlands for the Future).

Operational Objective 8.3: To maximize the benefits of working with partner organizations.

Actions - Global and National Targets

8.3.1 Strengthen cooperative planning mechanisms with the partners and improve communications and information exchange, including exchange of staff. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.2.1 and 4.1.2. Does your country include representatives of the Convention's official International Organisation Partners (BirdLife International, IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International) on its National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies, where they exist? **Yes**

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **continuation and strengthening the government and non-government partnership including secondments of staff, internship, information exchange, and internationally operating in coalitions.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Agency for Development Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries.**

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? **Yes/No**

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

If **Yes**, is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution? **An irregular voluntary contribution. But separately and on a regular and programmatic basis several wetland programmes and small grant initiatives operated world wide.**

Proposed national actions and targets:

All wetland related programmes and initiatives are in line with the Ramsar Conventions and/or the Wise Use principles of the Convention. They contribute to the implementation and development of the Convention. These contributions could be considered as a contribution to the Convention.

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

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Mangement and Fisheries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agency for Development Co-operation, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

