

**Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in general,
and of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 1997-2002 in particular,
during the period since the National Report prepared in 1995
for Ramsar COP6 and 30 June 1998**

Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution: MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

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**Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 1
To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.**

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

Slovenian government did not make any particular efforts to encourage other countries to join the Convention.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 2

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

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

National Wetland Strategy/Policy is in preparation. The compilation of fragmented work which has been done so far as well as harmonisation with the existing and planned national legislation should start in autumn 1998. It is also expected to be sound with the Ramsar strategic plan.

a. What are/will be its main features?

Slovenia is in a transition period with great difficulties concerning wetland conservation. Although wetlands in Slovenia represent only about 4-6% of its territory (rough estimation), they are still under great pressure mainly due to intensive urbanisation and infrastructure development and different agriculture activities. The National Wetland Policy/Strategy will focus on different aspects of wetland conservation and wise use. Among others, its main issues include:

- *assessing Slovenian wetlands (wetland inventory is currently in preparation);*
- *promoting conservation and wise use of wetlands locally and nationally;*
- *implementing the integrated wetland management and a catchment area approach;*
- *providing legal measures for wetland conservation;*
- *involving other sectors in co-operation;*
- *adding new Slovenian Ramsar Sites to the List, including some internationally important wetlands in the karst or in the Slovenian lowlands;*
- *implementing wetland conservation and wise use also through other international conventions and international activities, e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Barcelona Convention, Danube Convention, Bonn Convention, etc.*
- *providing and ensuring financial support for wetland conservation and management from state budget and other sources in the long-term;*
- *raising public awareness through effective communication and education;*
- *ensuring participation of all stakeholders including local communities and decision makers;*
- *including wetlands in planning procedures at national and local levels;*
- *strengthening the partnership with NGOs and scientists working on wetlands.*

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

All the issues of the National Wetland Strategy should be harmonised between sectors. Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning is responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. Water management and land use planning are also covered by the same Ministry. Due to diversity of Slovenian wetlands and various intentions for their use, cross-sectoral co-ordination is critical (e.g. water management, forestry, tourism, energy, agriculture, etc.). It has to be achieved within the Ministry and between other respective Ministries.

It is most feasible to incorporate National Wetland Strategy in the auspicious of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans for the adoption in the Parliament.

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

The National Wetland Strategy is planned to be sound with all the existing and planned documents in the field of nature conservation, such as the National Environmental Action Programme and National Nature Conservation Strategy. These documents are in preparation. National Environmental Action Programme takes into account the nature conservation conventions as well as the EU legislation in that field. Particularly it refers to preparation of the National Wetland Strategy.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan include wetland conservation and management in several of its thematic groups.

National Nature Conservation Strategy was drafted in 1994. Recognised as one of the most threatened habitats in Slovenia wetlands were to be given priority in conservation policy.

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

Policy is not yet in place. Difficulties concerning its implementation could not be discussed.

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

a. a single Government Ministry,

b. a committee drawn from several Ministries, or

c. a cross-sectoral committee?

Please provide details.

Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning which is responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention has established the National Ramsar Committee. Due to the complex issues, wetland policy should be the responsibility of a cross-sectoral body. It is anticipated that the responsible body would be the National Ramsar Committee. If one of the tasks of the Committee is to provide guidelines for a National Wetland Strategy and to co-ordinate its implementation it requires cross-sectoral co-operation, the National Ramsar Committee has to be extended to include members from other sectors.

When the policy documents are adopted the responsibility for the implementation of the National Wetland Strategy will thus include both: Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning and a cross-sectoral body (the National Ramsar Committee).

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

If yes, please give details. /

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

A brief review of the current status of biodiversity related legislation and policy has been carried out (Beltram & Skoberne, 1997). It also relates to legislation and practices which impact on wetlands. However, no official review of the legislation and practices affecting wetlands has been undertaken to date.

Environmental framework legislation passed in 1993 was to create a regulatory system for both environmental protection and nature conservation. A number of existing and planned laws and documents do not deal explicitly with wetlands, but they provide some legal basis for wetland conservation. Habitat conservation is only partly covered by existing laws. Natural and Cultural Heritage Act passed in 1981, and currently still in use, can not adequately address wetland conservation and the whole environmental situation. The Nature Conservation Act which is currently in the process of adoption will, among other provisions, establish the legal basis for integration of nature conservation principles into other sectors. The Water Law (in preparation) will also directly or indirectly affect wetlands. A decree on implementation of the EIA was adopted in 1996. This document listed activities which are subject to EIA procedure, and particularly refers to interventions in protected areas. In 1994, the first draft of the Nature Conservation Strategy was prepared as a long term vision for activities at international, national and local levels. It is based on European and global strategic documents. The focus of the Strategy is on "in situ" conservation with integration of nature conservation principles into other policies. In conclusion, there are attempts to consider wetlands in sectoral legislation which is currently in preparation, but due to ignorance of the sectors the success might be only partial.

- 2.6 Describe the efforts made in your country to have wetlands considered in integrated land/water and coastal zone planning and management processes at the following levels:
- a. national
 - b. provincial
 - c. local

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

If Yes, please provide details and copies.

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

No such cases are known for the Slovenian Ramsar Site. However, including other wetlands, the outstanding case is Skocjanski zakok (Skocjan lagoon), a brackish coastal wetland which had been filled-in with the sludge from the harbour. In 1998, it was protected by law as a managed nature reserve and currently restoration plan is in preparation.

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

None.

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

Comment: EIA does not explicitly refer to wetlands, although it is compulsory for agricultural activities (e.g., draining 4 ha and more), construction of fisheries and mariculture facilities and, dikes, water retention areas, exploitation of gravel, etc. Additionally, it refers to the activities affecting those wetlands that are part of protected areas.

- 2.11 Is wetland restoration and rehabilitation considered a priority in your country? Yes/No.

If Yes, describe the actions that have been taken to identify wetlands in need of these actions and to mobilise resources for restoration or rehabilitation.

Restoration and rehabilitation is the second priority, listed after conservation and appropriate management of wetlands. Some examples of individual actions include:

Skocjanski zatok, a brackish wetland in the coastal area has been recently protected by law and a restoration plan is in preparation. International experts have already provided some input for its rehabilitation.

Ljubljansko barje, a bog area much degraded due to agriculture and urban pressures is to be partly restored.

A number of small wetlands in the Slovenian lowlands.

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

Based again on individual initiatives, these include:

- the local community is involved in preparation of the management plan for the Secoveljske soline (Ramsar Site) and has a member in a committee for the preparation of the management plan

- local communities are also involved in activities on the Mura and Sava wetlands (NGOs and local conservation institutes work with schools or local groups and wetland owners).

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

If yes, please provide details.

- In the preparation of the management plan for Secoveljske soline a private enterprise is involved. To date no fiscal measures have been introduced that would favour wetland conservation and wise use.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 3

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

- 3.1 Is there a government-run national programme for Education and Public Awareness in your country which focuses on, or includes, wetlands? Yes/No? If yes, what are the priority actions under this programme and who are the target groups? (Refer also to question 9.4) /
- 3.2 Describe the steps taken to have wetlands issues and Ramsar’s Wise Use principles included as part of the curricula of educational institutions. Has this been at all levels of education (primary, secondary, tertiary and adult)? Please give details.

No such curricula has been implemented. Nevertheless, the new curricula for the primary and secondary schools give a possibility for inclusion of the issue. Very often the problem is that the textbooks are prepared by teachers who are not aware of wetland values and functions.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 4

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

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

In 1996, the Slovenian National Ramsar Committee (SNRC) was established to increase co-operation between different organisations responsible for actions which can impact on the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

The SNRC consists of six permanent members from GOs and NGOs:

- Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning, 1*
- State Authority for Nature Conservation, Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning, 2*
- Regional Institute for Conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage - Piran, 1*
- Bird Watching and Bird Study Association Slovenia, 1*
- Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, 1*

Depending on the issue to be discussed, the Committee is open for experts, scientists, managers, land owners, NGOs and any other organisations or persons interested in conservation and wise use of wetlands.

The main tasks of SNRC are:

- to consider and forward proposals for inclusion of new sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance;*
- to communicate with the Ramsar Convention Bureau and other national/international organisations dealing with wetlands;*
- to organise and supervise the preparation of management plans for Ramsar sites and other wetlands in Slovenia;*
- to guide preparation of a national wetland strategy;*
- to overview monitoring of the Ramsar localities and other wetlands and inform the Ramsar Bureau, Governmental organisations and the public on all eventual changes of the wetland ecological character;*
- to coordinate preparation of National Reports for Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention;*
- to prepare proposals for financing the projects from WCF and other sources;*
- to cooperate with national and international organisations for nature conservation, especially wetlands conservation;*
- to strengthen the cooperation with NGOs and other sectors dealing with wetlands;*
- to inform the public in general about its activities and promote the Ramsar Convention;*
- to co-ordinate nature conservation and other projects concerning wetlands;*
- to attend international meetings concerning conservation of wetlands and related issues;*

- 4.2 Of the following, indicate which have been undertaken:

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

Comment: Certain needs have been identified on case by case basis. Currently, the main requirement is the preparation of management plans and their implementation.

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

In this respect (see a)), a training course will be organised within the framework of MedWet and with the technical assistance of the Tour du Valat.

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

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

We were informed about two persons attending wetland course. One was organised for the Mediterranean wetlands in and the other for the Danube basin.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 5

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

- 5.1 Of the Ramsar sites in your country, how many have formal management plans:
- being prepared? *The management plan is in preparation*
 - fully prepared?
 - being implemented?

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

Secoveljske soline, man-made wetland (5)

- 5.2 Of the management plans referred to above, which ones have included a monitoring scheme or programme to allow changes in ecological character to be detected? Please indicate this in the attached table of Ramsar sites also. /
- 5.3 Has there been a change in the ecological character (either positive or negative) at any of your Ramsar sites or is this likely to occur in the near future? Yes/**No**. If Yes, please give details. /
- 5.4 In the case of Montreux Record Ramsar sites where the Management Guidance Procedure has been applied, what is the status of the implementation of the MGP report recommendations? What is the expected time-frame for removing the site from the Montreux Record? /

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

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 6
To designate for the Ramsar List those wetlands which meet the Convention’s criteria, especially wetland types still under-represented in the List and transfrontier wetlands.

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

Comment: It is currently in preparation.

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

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

- 6.2 Does there exist a list or directory of “important” wetlands for your country or region? *Yes/No*.

Comment: A list of protected areas including wetlands has been compiled in 1992.

If yes, please provide details of when it was finalised, where it is kept, what criteria for “important” were used, and the types of information it contains.

So far a wetland inventory has not been done. Since 1980 data on the Natural Heritage of Slovenia have been collected. Two issues of the Inventory of the Most Important Natural Heritage for eastern and central Slovenia are completed and published, while the part for the western Slovenia is still in preparation. The basis for this inventory was the first inventory, compiled in 1976, to which new data were added. It focused on the natural heritage which importance has been recognised at the national level. It should be used as the basis for the preparation of the policy documents, research work and raising public awareness. For each locality it is given the detailed location, short description, threats and conservation status, general conservation measures and proposed use.

- 6.3 If it is known, please provide an estimate of the area of wetlands in your country at present and any information on rates of loss or conversion to other activities.

To date wetlands cover about 4-6 % of the surface area of the territory of Slovenia. Available data on conversion to other uses are scattered. However, most wetlands have been converted to agricultural areas (over 100.000 hectares between 1972 and 1990 in the lowlands). There are no data for conversion due to industrial, urban and infrastructural development. Statistical data shows a decrease of 40% in “reedbeds, marshes and ponds” between 1950 and 1992.

If this information is available, please indicate what definition of “wetland” was used.

“Wetlands” have mainly been referred to as areas too wet for intensive agricultural development, most often including floodplains and riparian belt - marshes, reedbeds, wet meadows, floodplain forests.

- 6.4 Have any actions been taken in response to the COP6 Resolutions and Recommendations that Contracting Parties should give priority to listing Wetlands of International Importance which:
- meet the criteria for fish habitat (Resolution VI.2),
 - meet the 1% criterion for waterbird populations using data provided by the International Waterfowl Census (Resolution VI.4),
 - are subterranean karst or cave wetland systems (Resolution VI.5),
 - are peatland ecosystems (Recommendation 6.1)
 - are coral reefs and associated systems (Recommendation 6.7)
 - are under-represented wetland types (which apart from d. and e. above include mangroves and sea grass beds) (Strategic Plan Action 6.2.3)

Yes/No? If yes, please describe these actions.

(C)

*At the national level, action has been undertaken to list karst surface and subterranean wetlands. An ad hoc group has been established to prepare the proposal.
At the subregional level, an initiative to provide further guidelines for inclusion of these wetland types has been started.*

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

Slovenian government did not attend COP6, nevertheless, in 1997, activities started to add new sites to the Ramsar List.

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

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

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 7

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

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

Slovenia is involved in different projects within the Danube programme which relate to wetlands in the Danube catchment basin.

- 7.2 Do you have Ramsar sites that are “twinned” with others, either nationally or internationally? Yes/No.

If yes, please give details.

- 7.3 Where your country is also a signatory of any of the following Conventions, describe what mechanism(s) exist to assist regular dialogue and cooperative actions between the personnel responsible for their implementation and the Ramsar Administrative Authority:
- a. Convention on Biological Diversity
 - b. Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - c. Convention to Combat Desertification
 - d. Convention on Migratory Species
 - e. World Heritage Convention

There is constructive cooperation with the CBD, CMS (and WHC).

- 7.4 Is your country cooperating as part of any bilateral or multilateral activities directed at the conservation of migratory wetland species? Yes/No. /

If yes, please provide details.

- 7.5 Are there multilateral and/or bilateral donors supporting projects which contribute to implementation of the Ramsar Convention in your country? Yes/No.

If yes, please provide details.

- 7.6 Does your government make an annual budgetary allocation to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands within your country? Yes/No.

If yes, is this a specific allocation to a wetlands programme or as part of a larger environment or natural resource management budget?

It is a specific budget line for implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Slovenia.

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

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

If yes, what is that process. /

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 8

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

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

If yes, please provide details.

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are app. 30 NGOs dealing with wetlands.

Most of the Slovenian non-governmental organizations are national. Many of them have good cooperation with international organisations dealing with nature conservation.

Eight NGOs are active at regional level.

International:

- REC - Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe

NGOs with international co-operation:

- DOPPS - Bird Watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia - Birdlife Int, Wetlands International
- Ornithological Society Ixobrychus - Medmaravis, Wader Study Group, Alghero Convention, EUBB Atlas etc.
- Society for Bird Research and Nature Protection - IUCN/SSC
- Hunters Association of Slovenia - Federation of Fieldsports Associations of the EU (F.A.C.E.)

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

- 9.2 Is there a regular forum or mechanism through which these NGOs express their views on wetland conservation and Ramsar implementation:
- a. to each other? Yes/**No**
 - b. to the government? **Yes**/No

There is no regular forum through which NGOs express their views on wetland conservation. Slovenian National Ramsar Committee (SNRC) includes a representative of the Bird Watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia which is one of the most active NGOs in that field. NGOs express their views on wetland conservation through press conferences, brochures and leaflets, articles in daily and other newspapers as well as every day contacts with the government officials.

If yes in either case, please give details.

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

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

Despite the fact that there is not one NGO in Slovenia dealing only with wetlands conservation, some NGOs are very active in the field of Education and Raising Public Awareness about wetlands.

The most important work on education and public awareness about wetlands has been done by the following NGOs:

- *Ornithological Society Ixobrychus*

The Society has its publication "Falco" (two issues per year). There has been a special issue dedicated to Škocjanski zatok (a coastal brackish wetland). The Society co-operates with other NGOs in the preparation of a restoration programme of Škocjanski zatok Managed Nature Reserve. For the 1998 World Wetland Day, the Society and the local conservation institute prepared an article on the Secoveljske soline Ramsar site. The members regularly contribute to local and national media. In the cooperation with the Society a number of research projects have been carried out mostly dealing with Škocjanski zatok.

- *Society for Bird Research and Nature Protection*

In 1997 the research project "Hoce 97" was carried out. The main point of the project was to raise the awareness among the youth (secondary school children) about wetlands.

Contributions about the project were made for daily newspapers and radio.

The society was active with the project "Save the Wet Meadows". The aim of the project was to raise awareness of the public in general on the functions of these wetland habitats. The photo exhibition "Save them" was mostly dedicated to wetlands. The posters and the leaflets "Ox-bows" and "Water and amphibians" were issued to promote conservation of the endangered animal groups and their habitats.

- *The society "Rosika"*

The NGO "Rosika" is very active locally in the Ljubljansko barje (Ljubljana moor) area. Their activities aim at the conservation, renaturation and management of the raised bog "Mali plac" in the vicinity of Ljubljana. The society was very active in raising public awareness and produced a number of projects and publications among which the most important are:

- a leaflet and the postcard "Mali plac";

- a training course organised for the guides on Ljubljansko barje

- a seminar on Ljubljansko barje, etc.

The Society made a great contribution to promote the Agreement on co-operation for the designation of the Ljubljansko barje Landscape Park.

- *Societas Herpetologica Slovenica*

This young organisation (established in 1996) is very active in the field of wetland research and conservation as well as in raising public awareness about wetlands. The leaflet "Bloska planota - the wetland pearl of Notranjska" was issued in co-operation with the Slovenian Odonathological Society. The aim was to make the general public aware about the importance of the area and its inclusion in proposed Regional Park Sneznik. In spring 1998, in co-operation with Bird Watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia, Societas Herpetologica Slovenica participated in the activities for inclusion of Krakovski gozd in the list of Important Bird Areas of Europe. This organisation is also involved in the preparation of the National Wetland Inventory.

- *REC (Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe)*
REC is autonomous, non profitable international foundation. Its main goals are to promote and support co-operation between different groups that are dealing with nature conservation in the region. The financial support is provided through different programmes, e.g. . the Danube Programme.

The Slovenian REC-FP (co) financed some important projects related to wetlands. In the last three years the following are included:

- *Proposal for the land use of the Nature Reserve Škocjanski zatok (Bird Watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia)*
- *Water and the human perception (The Ecological Society of Slovenia)*
- *Conservation of some parts of Ljubljansko barje (Society "Rosika")*
- *Nature reserve "Barje" (SEZAM, the society of parents and children)*
- *Organisation of the congress "The Drava - Mura rivers Biosphere Reserve" - an opportunity for transboundary co-operation between Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary (Bird Watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia)*
- *How to live with the Landscape Park Lahinja? (Society Krnica)*
- *Jovski - Nature Reserve (Tourist society Kapele)*
- *Bloska planota - the wetland pearl of Notranjska (Slovenian Odonathological Society)*
- *Project "Mura - Drava" (Bird Watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia)*
- *Šturmovci (Bird Watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia)*
- *Geese (Bird Watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia) etc.*

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

No Ramsar site management advisory committee has been establish to date.

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

The main themes for national or local NGOs include:

- *raising public awareness*
- *encourage active participation of local communities*
- *achieving conservation and wise use of wetlands*
- *monitoring*

Final comments:

- 10.1 General comments on implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan.
- 10.2 Observations concerning the functioning of, relations with, and services provided by:
 - a. The Ramsar Standing Committee
 - b. The Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel
 - c. The Ramsar Bureau
 - d. The Ramsar NGO partners
- 10.3 Any other general observations and/or recommendations for the future.

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