

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

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

file 1

Institutional information

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

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1

TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

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

Actions – Global Targets

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

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

and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

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.

If **Yes**, have actions been taken to encourage these non-CPs to join the Convention? **Yes**

If **Yes**, have these actions been successful?

The Southern African Subregional Ramsar meeting in 1998 recommended that South Africa, as host of the meeting, engage the six members of the Southern African Development Community that had not yet joined the Convention. Letters were directed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to his counterparts in each of these non-CPs. To date, Tanzania is the only one of these countries to have joined the Convention. The success of this action has thus been limited, and no follow-up has taken place.

Further actions to encourage African non-CPs to join the Convention are being taken through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This plan represents a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and shared and firm conviction, that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and place their countries on a path of sustainable growth and development. The initiative was endorsed by the Organisation of African Unity summit of Heads of State and Governments in Zambia in July 2001. As one of the original drafters of NEPAD, South Africa will be expected to assume a prominent role in its implementation.

NEPAD recognises that, as a result of the reliance of many African communities and economies on their environmental resource base, a healthy and productive environment is a prerequisite for the success of its broader objectives. The result of this recognition is the inclusion of an Environment Initiative as one of the sectoral priorities of NEPAD. Within the Environment Initiative, wetland conservation forms one of the themes targeted for priority interventions.

Under the theme of wetland conservation, international cooperation has been identified as an area for intervention. One objective of these interventions will be to promote the ratification of relevant regional and global instruments. Projects and actions to achieve this objective have yet to be implemented.

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By the end of 2003, South Africa is participating in at least one NEPAD project targeted at promoting international cooperation for wetland conservation and expanding membership of the Convention.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

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 Reply**

If **Yes**, have these actions been successful? **[Redacted]**

If **No**, what has prevented such action being taken? **[Redacted]**

Proposed national actions and targets: **[Redacted]**

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

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2
 TO ACHIEVE THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS BY IMPLEMENTING AND
 FURTHER DEVELOPING THE RAMSAR WISE USE GUIDELINES**

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

and institutions relating to wetlands by COP8.
Has your country completed a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? No
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Several analyses of the laws and institutions relating to wetlands have been undertaken, in support of various initiatives. The scope of these analyses has been restricted by the specific purposes for which they were undertaken, and as a result, there has been no single or collective review of laws and institutions that complies with the guidelines adopted by Resolution VII.7. For example, reviews have been completed in relation to water law and wetland rehabilitation, but not in relation to biodiversity conservation. This is partly a result of the cross-sectoral nature of wetland conservation and management in South Africa. A systematic and wide ranging review of laws and institutions has been overlooked in the law reform programme of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) as a result of more pressing legislative priorities, and a lack of capacity to address this particular need. Once the immediate priorities of the law reform programme have been addressed, the relevant component within the Department will be engaged with a view to initiating a comprehensive review. Any future review will require close cooperation with other sectors, particularly agriculture and water. This is necessary not only to be able to complete the review effectively, but also for the acceptance by these sectors of the results of the review. To date, suitable cooperative governance structures through which to engage the national departments involved in these sectors have not been used to their full potential. Discussions between DEAT, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and National Department of Agriculture are underway, focused on the establishment of a single structure for joint decision making and cooperation around wetland-related matters of common interest.
If a review is planned , what is the expected timeframe for this being done? Although a review is still considered necessary, in view of the uncertainties mentioned above, it is not yet possible to set timeframes for its completion.
If the review has been completed , did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? No Reply
If No , what are the impediments to these amendments being completed?
If Yes , and changes to laws and institutional arrangements were made, please describe these briefly.
Proposed national actions and targets: Target: By 2004, a suitable environment exists both within DEAT, and in its relations with other key departments, for a review of laws and institutions, that complies with the guidelines adopted by COP7, to be completed and its recommendations implemented. In order to reach this target, the following actions will be taken:

1) A joint statement of intent by the Ministers of the three key national departments, concerning cooperative governance for wetlands is developed by April 2003 (see also 4.1.1)

2) The DEAT Directorate Law Reform, Planning and Conciliation is engaged by the end of 2003 around the need to initiate a comprehensive review of laws and institutions

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

2.1.2 Promote much greater efforts to develop national wetland policies, either separately or as a clearly identifiable component of other national conservation planning initiatives, such as National Environment Action Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies, or National Conservation Strategies. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

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

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

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

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

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? **No**

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

South Africa has the following related policy instruments:

1) National Water Policy

2) Water Resource Protection Policy

3) National Policy on Environmental Management

4) National Policy on Integrated Pollution and Waste Management for South Africa

5) Marine Fisheries Policy for South Africa**6) Coastal Management Policy****7) River basin management plans.**

Although the National Water Policy, and in particular the Water Resource Protection Policy strongly incorporate the relevant obligations to the Convention, river basin and related plans developed prior to this policy frequently lack explicit consideration of water allocations to maintain basic ecological functioning of wetlands. However, as new plans are developed and existing plans are revised, they will be required to comply with relevant policy and legislation.

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

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?

South Africa has undergone an extensive review of its coastal zone policy, which resulted in the development of the White Paper on Sustainable Coastal Development. The definition of the coast includes intertidal areas. Policy objectives contained in this white paper are being translated into legislation through the Coastal Management Bill, which is due to be tabled in Parliament in the second half of 2002.

A significant policy shift was the recent banning of off-road vehicles from the coastal zone throughout South Africa, a move which is widely believed to have positive environmental spin-offs.

Intertidal resource utilisation is governed by the Marine Living Resources Act (1998) which was based on South Africa's revised fishing policy (National Marine Fisheries Policy, 1996).

Included in the Act is a section that authorises the creation of marine protected areas.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, a national action plan for wetlands is in place. This plan will expand on the existing policy framework, by outlining targets, actions and timeframes, and will integrate with other appropriate strategic and planning processes. The enabling environment for this action plan to be developed will be created through the joint interministerial statement of intent described in 2.1.1.

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

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.

Coastal zone management:

South Africa's entire coastal zone is affected by the new policy, and will be covered by the Coastal Management Act. There are currently several coastal protected areas. These include Tsitsikamma; West Coast, Cape Peninsula, and Wilderness National Parks; De Hoop; Goukamma; Robberg; Sardinia; Bay; Hluleka; Dwesa-Cebe Mkabati; St Lucia and Maputaland Marine Protected Areas.

River basin management:

The National Water Act (1998), which provides for an integrated and catchment-based approach to water resource management, is being implemented incrementally across the country. Through this act and relevant policies, the principles of integrated water resource management are applied to all water development initiatives.

A working document has been developed on guidelines for determining water allocations for wetlands (the Ecological Reserve) as part of the National Water Act Resource Protection and Assessment Policy Implementation Process. The intention behind determining the Ecological Reserve for individual wetlands is to allocate sufficient water to maintain ecosystem functioning.

Currently, for all water development initiatives, Reserve requirements are considered before any water use licences can be issued. If the Reserve requirements cannot be met during the low flow season, or the catchment is stressed, the application is not recommended until a further more comprehensive Reserve determination is completed.

The Orange River Replanning Study was completed in 2001. This study attempted to

take a more integrated and sustainable approach to the management of water resources in the Orange River catchment. The Orange is South Africa's largest river, with a catchment covering 47% of the country's surface area.

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

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

Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (COP7 Resolution VII.18)? **No**

If **Yes**, please describe them briefly. **██████████**

Proposed national actions and targets: **██████████**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and DEAT (Marine and Coastal 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.

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

- oil spill prevention and clean-up? **Yes**
- agricultural runoff? **No**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes**
- invasive species? **Yes**
- other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **Yes** – **Research funded by DEAT in 2000 produced WETLAND-USE, a set of methods for**

<p>evaluating the impact of different activities on wetlands, and management guidelines for a range of land uses in wetlands, including burning, grazing, cultivation, impoundment, water abstraction, filling, mining, road construction, powerlines, ecotourism, harvesting of resources, afforestation and wastewater treatment.</p>
<p>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 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>Target: By 2003, South Africa has completed a review of resource information in relation to the subjects listed above, and has forwarded any material that has not already been sent to the Bureau.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: DEAT</p>

<p>2.3.2. Publicize examples of effective application of existing Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting and improving the availability of such resource materials is a priority under the <i>Convention's Outreach Programme (Resolution VII.9)</i> 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.
<p>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 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this being done?</p> <p>Delays in initiating the process of developing a communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) action plan for South Africa have meant that this initial step has not yet been taken. These delays have resulted from a lack of funding to drive such a process, and a lack of capacity within DEAT and its partner organisations.</p> <p>Funding has now been sourced through the Working for Wetlands partnership, and a team of specialists has been appointed to drive the CEPA action plan process. One of the first steps to be taken will be the review of resource materials relating to wetland management policies and practices.</p> <p>In preparation for World Wetlands Day 2002, a comprehensive review of traditional and indigenous management practices relating to wetlands has been undertaken. This will be combined with the broader review to produce a thorough overview of existing material in South Africa.</p>
<p>If Yes, have copies of this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau? No Reply <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this being done? <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By April 2003, South Africa has a CEPA action plan, consistent with the guidance provided by the Convention's Outreach Programme. This action plan will include a review of existing resource materials.

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

Working for Wetlands partnership (DEAT, Working for Water and Mondi Wetlands Project)

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? **In some cases.**

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?

There are no immediate plans for this to be required in all cases. The decision by the regulatory authority as to whether an economic valuation will be required as part of an impact assessment is made on a case by case basis. In making this decision, the magnitude of the proposed project, the extent of its likely impacts and the importance of the affected environment are taken into consideration.

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:

Target: By COP8, economic valuations of the full range of services, benefits and functions of wetlands are required by environmental authorities as part of impact assessments, where such valuations are warranted by the magnitude of potential impacts and the importance of the affected wetlands.

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

DEAT and provincial environmental departments

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? **No**

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

Since 1997, legislation has been in place to ensure that an EIA will be carried out in all cases where change in the ecological character of a Ramsar site is possible. Legal tools include the National Environmental Management Act (1998) and regulations published in 1997 under the Environment Conservation Act. This Act makes provision for the Minister to identify activities that may have a detrimental effect on the environment, and prohibits the undertaking of these activities without prior authorisation by a designated authority.

Prior to 1997, very limited legal means existed to force the completion of an EIA in cases where a development had the potential to change the ecological character of a Ramsar site. During this time, EIAs were generally undertaken voluntarily or as a result of public pressure. To further compound the situation, Ramsar status is not recognised by South African law as automatically conferring statutory protection on a designated wetland. Unless already protected under other legislation, Ramsar status adds little statutory protection to a site.

Other impediments to adequate attention being given to activities with the potential to affect the ecological character of Ramsar sites have included the lack of political will and capacity, both at national and provincial level.

Despite the historical lack of a strong legal basis for requiring EIAs, several thorough assessments have been done at Ramsar sites where threats to ecological character were

posed by development.

In one instance, St Lucia was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 in response to a mining application within the Ramsar site. Following a detailed EIA and strong public involvement, Cabinet rejected the application in favour of conservation and ecotourism land uses, thus paving the way for the designation of St Lucia as a World Heritage Site. The results of the EIA were transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau, resulting in the removal of the site from the Montreux Record.

At Blesbokspruit, the outcome was less fortunate. An EIA and cost-benefit analysis were undertaken for the proposed discharge of large quantities of polluted mine water into the Ramsar site. In a decision based primarily on economic considerations and political pressure, Cabinet opted in favour of keeping the mine open and permitting the discharge to go ahead. The results of the EIA were transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau, and as a result of the impact on the wetland, the site remains listed on the Montreux Record.

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 Reply**

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

If No, what has prevented this from occurring? **[Redacted]**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: Using all legislative tools at its disposal, DEAT will insist that any proposed activity with the potential to affect the ecological character of a Ramsar site will be subject to an EIA that takes into account the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the site.

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

DEAT and provincial environmental departments

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?

Legislation relating to EIAs in South Africa is structured in such a way that it regulates activities that may have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment, rather than regulating impacts of any activity on particular areas such as wetlands. This has

resulted in certain unlisted activities, which may take place in wetlands, falling outside the scope of the EIA legislation. However, experience has shown that the majority of activities that have the potential to significantly impact upon wetlands are covered by this legislation.

The National Water Act and Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act also require authorisation to be given before a range of activities can be carried out in wetlands. An EIA is however not a prerequisite for authorisation in all of these cases.

As part of the DEAT law reform process, EIA legislation is currently under review. Regulations to be published in the second half of 2002, under the National Environmental Management Act, will give legal effect to the entire Integrated Environmental Management procedure. These regulations will replace the existing EIA legislation, which covered only certain components of this procedure.

Proposed revisions include expanding the list of activities that may have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment. The current list includes activities with strong potential to affect wetlands, such as construction of canals and channels; river diversions; water transfer schemes; impoundments, levees or weirs; schemes for the abstraction or utilisation of ground or surface water for bulk supply purposes; marinas and harbours; changes in land use; and the reclamation of land below the high water mark of the sea and in inland water including wetlands. Proposed additions to this list include activities such as peat extraction, the cultivation or any other use of virgin ground, and disturbance of land below the high-water mark of the sea and wetlands.

Further proposed schedules to the regulations will provide additional means to include wetlands under the scope of the regulations. One schedule covers activities within sensitive areas, including those protected by legislation for the conservation of biodiversity, those designated in terms of international agreements, and those in other designated geographical areas. Another schedule addresses the lack of integration that currently exists between land use planning and environmental decision making. This has far reaching implications, as any form of land use planning, from national to local level, would be subject to authorisation by environmental authorities.

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**

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:

Target: By mid 2003, legislation is in place that gives legal effect to the Integrated Environmental Management procedure, and that includes wetlands in the schedule of sensitive environments.

In order to reach this target, the following actions will be taken:

1) DEAT will engage the team leading the law reform process for this legislation, in

order to ensure that wetland aspects are adequately incorporated into the new legislation

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

DEAT and provincial departments

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

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

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

To date, more pressing priorities in the relevant components of DEAT have resulted in this review being overlooked. There are however a number of processes underway that will result in much of the required information being produced. These include:

- 1) a proposed schedule to the draft Integrated Environmental Management regulations, as discussed above, that will require any new land use policy, programme, plan or project be authorised in terms of the prescribed process**
- 2) a means to review the impact of all government plans, programmes and policies on the environment, including wetlands, is provided by chapter three of the National Environmental Management Act. This chapter requires environmental implementation plans and management plans to be submitted by organs of state (scheduled national departments and all provinces) exercising functions that may either affect the environment, or that involve management of the environment.**

The purpose of these plans is to coordinate and harmonise the environmental policies, plans, programmes and decisions of the relevant organs of state. Every environmental implementation plan must contain a description of policies, plans and programmes that may significantly affect the environment. The Act further requires a description of the manner in which the organ of state will ensure that these policies, plans and programmes will comply with the environmental principles contained in the Act, and with other national norms and standards. Organs of state are required to exercise their functions in compliance with the approved plans.

Progress has been made to the point where received plans have been analysed and recommended for adoption. Gaps identified in the plans have been addressed by an alignment report. A consolidated action plan, which draws together all commitments made in the plans by the organs of state, will be used as a tool for monitoring compliance. The office of the Auditor-General will assist in the monitoring of compliance.

Once these reports and action plans have been finalised in April 2002, it will be possible for more detailed and focused analyses, such as those targeting wetlands, to be

undertaken on the implementation and management plans. Analysis of the plans will thus allow measures to be identified in order to protect wetlands through cooperative environmental governance, minimise duplication of procedures and functions, and promote consistency in the exercise of functions that may affect wetlands.

If **Yes**, has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) **No Reply**

Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? **No Reply** –

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, South Africa has undertaken a comprehensive review, using environmental implementation plans and management plans submitted in terms of chapter three of the National Environmental Management Act, to identify government plans, programmes and policies that may impact on wetlands.

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

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

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

Upper Mokolo and Nyl River catchments (Northern Province)

Upper Wilge and Klip River catchments (Free State)

Upper Mooi and Mgeni River catchments (KwaZulu-Natal)

Upper Blyde, Olifants, Usutu, Inkomati, Sand, Hlelo, Elands and Crocodile River catchments (Mpumalanga)

Kromme, upper Mzimvubu and upper Mzimkulu River catchments (Eastern Cape)

Upper Jukskei River catchment (Gauteng)**Other significant wetlands, including Ramsar sites, and their adjacent catchments**

If **Yes** (that is, an assessment has been **completed**), have actions been taken to undertake the restoration or rehabilitation of these priority sites? **No Reply**

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Although an assessment for the entire country has not been completed, rehabilitation projects have started at several priority sites, under the banner of the Working for Wetlands programme. This public private partnership uses Poverty Relief funding to implement wetland rehabilitation projects across the country, while providing jobs, skills and opportunities to previously disadvantaged people. The programme has been active since 2000, and its annual budget of R30 million (~\$3 million) is currently allocated to 30 rehabilitation projects around the country.

Proposed national actions and targets:

In 2001, Working for Wetlands commissioned the development of protocols for assessing and prioritising wetlands for rehabilitation, in order to build a firm foundation for the national wetland rehabilitation programme.

Target: By April 2003, Working for Wetlands has used this protocol to complete a national assessment of priority wetlands for rehabilitation.

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

Working for Wetlands

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

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

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

If **Yes**, has this been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre and for consideration by the STRP Expert Working Group on Restoration? **Yes**

If this material has not been forwarded to the Bureau, what has prevented this from occurring? **[Redacted]**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: South Africa, through the Ramsar Administrative Authority, will continue to forward newly developed resource material on wetland rehabilitation to the Ramsar Bureau, for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre.

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

Working for Wetlands and DEAT

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? **[Redacted]**

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).

In addition to actions listed under 2.7.2, 2.7.3 and 2.7.4, examples of other significant actions are described below:

- 1) Through Working for Wetlands, rehabilitation projects in community-owned wetlands have been identified, with the aim of using these projects to stimulate awareness of wetlands in local communities, and support emerging community-based**

conservation, management and wise use initiatives.

Workers in rehabilitation projects implemented through the Working for Wetlands partnership are selected from communities adjacent to the wetlands to be rehabilitated. The policy of Working for Water (the parent organisation of Working for Wetlands) dictates that at least 60% of the contractors and workforce should be women. Through training and awareness programmes, the workers are trained to promote the wise use of the rehabilitated wetlands in their communities, thereby contributing to the sustainability of the rehabilitation actions.

2) Similarly, several poverty relief projects undertaken through the Coast Care programme aim to involve local people in management activities. For example, at Langebaan Ramsar site, community members are clearing invasive alien mussels that have unexpectedly settled on a sandbank and are threatening to change the ecological character of the system. The mussels are used for human consumption.

3) A process is underway to submit the community-owned Limpopo-Levuvhu floodplain for designation to the Ramsar List. Should this site be designated, it will be South Africa's first community-owned Ramsar site.

4) A proposal to transfer ownership of the Orange River mouth Ramsar site to the communities of the Richtersveld region is being explored. Should this initiative succeed, the community will co-manage the site with the provincial conservation authority, and will derive direct benefits from the wetland.

5) DEAT and LandCare have provided funding to an ongoing community-based wetland management project at Mbongolwane wetland in KwaZulu-Natal. The project is building partnerships between the local community and service provider organisations. This will help to develop the management capacity of local organisations, in order to ensure that the community derives benefits from the wetland, and is able to manage its wetland sustainably. Lessons learned from this case study are being examined for their applicability to other parts of the country.

6) Wherever possible, government is supporting community-based organisations that have been formed in order to further local interests in conserving and managing wetlands. An example of one such organisation is the Wakkerstroom Heritage Association, which was formed in order to secure an adjacent wetland and promote its ecotourism value. The association, comprising local residents, landowners and scientists, has leased the land from the municipality, implemented a management plan, encouraged participation in the conservation of the wetland by all sectors of the community, and marketed the tourism opportunities arising from the wetland. An application to designate the wetland to the Ramsar List is being prepared.

7) Led by the National Department of Agriculture, the LandCare South Africa programme promotes the adoption, by communities and individuals, of an ecologically sustainable approach to the management of South Africa's environment and natural resources, while improving their livelihoods. The programme supports the general objectives of chapter 10 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda, and takes into account South Africa's international obligations to Ramsar, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework

Convention on Climate Change. The involvement of indigenous people, local communities and women is specifically addressed through the programme's activities.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, further measures, including the national wetlands action plan and CEPA action plan, are in place to give effect to the Guidelines on establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands.

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

DEAT and Working for Wetlands.

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? **[REDACTED]**

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

Through a range of programmes, local communities are increasingly being encouraged to take ownership of their natural resources, including wetlands. These programmes complement the initiatives to recognise and promote the application of traditional knowledge and management practices discussed in 2.7.4. Part of this ownership includes monitoring, in order to ensure that resource use is sustainable. See also 2.7.1 (7).

However, the success of initiatives to promote the involvement of communities and site managers in monitoring is constrained by a lack of practical scientific tools, standards and training to carry out the monitoring.

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

If **No**, what prevents this from happening? **[REDACTED]**

Proposed national actions and targets: **[REDACTED]**

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

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? **[Redacted]**

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

With the exception of committees at Ramsar sites, it is not possible to provide an exact number, but it is likely that such committees remain uncommon in South Africa.

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites?

Management committees are in place for twelve (70%) of South Africa's seventeen Ramsar sites.

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

Nine of these twelve committees include representatives of local stakeholders.

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

Women's groups are represented on four of these committees

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By 2004, DEAT, through the CEPA action plan and other mechanisms, is promoting the application of the Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands, with special emphasis on Ramsar sites

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

DEAT, Ramsar site management authorities and Working for Wetlands

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? **[Redacted]**

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

Refer also to 2.7.2. As the conservation paradigm in South Africa continues to evolve in response to broader changes taking place within the country, the role of traditional knowledge and management practices in promoting the sustainable use of natural resources is becoming increasingly recognised.

In preparation for World Wetlands Day 2002, a comprehensive review of traditional and indigenous management practices relating to wetlands was undertaken for Working for Wetlands. The resulting report will be popularised and made readily accessible in order to ensure it is widely used.

Useful examples of traditional knowledge were showcased in a booklet produced for World Wetlands Day 2002. Copies of this booklet were widely distributed in advance of wetlands day, and will continue to be used around the country. Through a series of case studies, the booklet aims to revive interest in traditional knowledge and management practices as tools for promoting and achieving wise use of wetlands.

A large amount of research into traditional knowledge around wetlands has been done by several universities and other institutions. This body of knowledge not only ensures the preservation of traditional knowledge and practices, but is also becoming more frequently used by conservation and development organisations, in and outside government, to promote sustainable use practices and instill into communities a sense of ownership over their natural resources.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By 2004, traditional knowledge and management practices relating to wetlands are included in wetland conservation and awareness programmes, and are being actively promoted by government

In order to reach this target, the following actions will be carried out:

- 1) Publish the survey of traditional knowledge and management practices relating to wetlands in South Africa.**
- 2) Incorporate elements around traditional knowledge and management practices into the national CEPA action plan**
- 3) Engage national focal points for the Convention on Biodiversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as the LandCare Programme, in order to determine what related initiatives are underway, and examine opportunities to develop synergies**
- 4) Identify opportunities to launch pilot projects through Working for Wetlands focusing on traditional knowledge and management practices relating to wetlands**

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

DEAT and Working for Wetlands

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.

In addition to several small scale and localised initiatives, three national efforts are described below in more detail.

1) Peatland conservationists, together with government, have engaged the peat industry, including both users and miners. These interventions have aimed at encouraging the industry to minimise the extraction of peat, and promoting environmentally appropriate extraction practices. This was done by raising the industry's awareness of the in situ value of peat and impacts associated with peat mining, and starting discussions on the availability of alternatives to peat.

Emphasis has been placed on the need for the primary users of peat, the mushroom and horticultural industries, to source their peat only from suppliers that have completed EIAs and environmental management plans and are authorised to extract peat. This move to encourage a measure of self regulation in the industry has been put forward as an alternative to an outright ban on the mining of peat in South Africa.

Emphasis has been placed on creating an understanding of the issues in the peat industry, in order to find mutually acceptable solutions. A recognition by the peat industry of the in situ value of peat and peatlands may also have the effect of reducing resistance to any future ban on peat mining, should such a measure be considered desirable by government.

2) Forestry companies Mondi, Sappi and SAFCOL, which have historically been responsible for significant wetland degradation, have demonstrated recent commitment to wetland conservation. Partly brought on by the need to comply with international environmental certifications and changes in water legislation, these companies have invested money in creating buffer zones around wetlands, rehabilitating degraded sites and clearing invasive alien plants from wetlands and riparian zones.

The recognition by these companies of wetland values is also attributable to intense

lobbying by non-governmental organisations. This has been a particularly effective strategy, as forestry companies are the largest private landowners in South Africa, and are already committed to environmental certifications such as FSC and ISO.

Mondi's recognition of the value of wetlands is expressed through its sponsorship of the non-governmental Mondi Wetlands Project for a five year period. This has allowed the project to engage Mondi and its parent company, Anglo American, more closely on the development of environmental and wetland policy for all companies falling under the Anglo American umbrella.

Sappi have sponsored the WWF/Sappi Forests and Wetlands Venture, which commenced in 1999 and aims to facilitate conservation through the development of sustainable and financially viable ecotourism facilities at sites of high biodiversity importance within forests and wetlands

3) Mondi Wetlands Project has recently expanded the scope of its activities to include a Wise Use Programme. This programme will have two staff dedicated full time to promoting the wise use of wetlands in the commercial agriculture sector. This sector is considered to be one of the largest impactors on wetlands in South Africa. Other focal areas of the Wise Use Programme include communal areas and commercial forests.

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?

1) Some of the most visible and effective measures of success, particularly in relation to the private sector, are financial indicators. Success has been gauged through the magnitude of Mondi's sponsorship of the Mondi Wetlands Project, and the value of areas cleared of planted trees in order to create setback zones from wetlands. Further measures of success in relation to the forestry industry include the voluntary involvement by companies in rehabilitation and alien plant eradication projects on their properties. The willingness of Mondi and Anglo American to engage external organisations in developing environmental policy is also considered a significant indicator of success.

2) Success with respect to the peat industry has not been as marked, and is being measured in terms of progress made with the industry on exploring alternatives to peat, through the openness of the industry to find genuine solutions, and through the compliance of peat mining operators with their approved environmental management plans.

3) The Mondi Wetlands Project wise use programme is in its infancy, and it is thus too early to be able to judge its success..

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By 2006, ongoing and increased engagement with the forestry and peat

industries has resulted in a demonstrated recognition by these industries of wetland attributes, values and benefits.

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

DEAT, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, National Department of Agriculture, Mondi Wetlands Project

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

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

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

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

This review will form part of the review of laws and institutions relating to wetlands. Refer to 2.1.1 for a discussion of the impediments to the completion of this review.

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). **[Redacted]**

AND: Have these actions been effective? **No Reply**

If **No**, why not? **[Redacted]**

If **Yes**, please describe how. **[Redacted]**

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 Reply**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: Refer to 2.1.1

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

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.

Two particular efforts are described in more detail below:

1) Working for Wetlands

Wetland rehabilitation projects implemented through Working for Wetlands on private land are subject to an agreement being signed by the landowner to maintain the wetland in its rehabilitated state. Part of this obligation includes monitoring of the wetland. These projects have presented opportunities for the private sector to be drawn into wetland projects, to take ownership of the outcome of the rehabilitation work, and to monitor the response of the ecosystem. A good example of the success of this approach is the Wakkerstroom wetland in Mpumalanga.

2) Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC) programme

The CWAC programme of the Avian Demography Unit, based at the University of Cape Town, monitors South Africa's waterbird populations and the conditions of those wetlands that are important for waterbirds. This is done by means of biannual censuses at over 350 wetlands around the country. Data generated by CWAC contributes to the African Waterbird Census, coordinated by Wetlands International. The programme has been successful in securing private sector participation, in terms of both the volunteers who do the counts, and sponsorship for the programme.

AND: How successful has this been?

Working for Wetlands has been established for less than two years, and it is thus premature to assess the long term success of the strategy of drawing the private sector into monitoring wetland condition. Initial indications are that the strategy is bearing fruit, especially on commercial plantations (see also 2.8.1).

Now ten years old, CWAC has been successful in mobilising resources to undertake the waterbird counts, despite cuts in funding from government sources. A key feature of the programme's success has been its ability to mobilise volunteers for the undertaking of waterbird counts and acquire corporate sponsorship for the coordination and management of the programme.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Actions:

1) Over the coming year, Working for Wetlands will strengthen the involvement of the private sector in the monitoring elements of the programme, by developing a standard landowner agreement that will be used in all rehabilitation projects on private land

2) DEAT will support, wherever possible and appropriate, efforts by programmes such as CWAC to increase private sector involvement in monitoring.

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

Working for Wetlands, DEAT and Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town

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

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

Refer to 2.7.3 above

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3

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

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

Actions - Global Targets

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

Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below

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

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

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

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).

1) The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa is the implementing agent for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Environmental

Education Programme. The purpose of the programme is to enable environmental education practitioners in SADC to strengthen environmental education processes for equitable and sustainable environmental management choices.

The programme focuses on four themes, namely support for policy development, networking, resource development and inventory, and training. Through activities carried out under these themes, progress has been made towards identifying regional needs and prioritising the development of relevant resources for the region.

2) South Africa, as a driving force behind the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD, see 1.1.1), was responsible for drafting the theme on wetland conservation under the Environment Initiative. One of the projects identified under this theme is training and capacity building within the African region. Determination of regional needs has been identified as a preliminary step in developing this project, which is still in the planning stages.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By the completion of the projects described above, South Africa has contributed to the best of its ability to the regional analysis of education and public awareness needs.

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

Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa and DEAT

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 SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme has been active in developing relevant resource material for the region. This involves supporting the development of capacity within the SADC to access, use and develop appropriate resource materials, as well as the development and updating of a database on environmental education materials and expertise in the region.

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

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

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.

1) The SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme aims to support environmental education processes through enabling decentralised networking of environmental education practitioners within the region. Sharing and transfer of information, knowledge and skills has been facilitated through the construction by the programme of a regional environmental education centre in South Africa. Environmental educators from within SADC utilise the facilities and expertise at the centre to develop resources for their countries, while at the same time sharing experience from their own countries.

2) South Africa is a member of Wetlands International, which works to encourage the transfer of information, knowledge and skills relating to wetland education.

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

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

DEAT, as Ramsar Administrative Authority, is not aware of any South African institutions participating in the programme, nor has it been active in encouraging institutions to participate in the programme. It is likely that this has led to a general lack of awareness in South Africa of the existence of, and opportunities presented by the programme.

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:

Target: By 2003, at least one South African institution is participating in the Wetland Link International initiative.

In order to reach this target, the following actions will be carried out:

1) DEAT will determine whether any South African institutions are currently participating in the initiative

2) DEAT will publicise the opportunities presented by Wetland Link International among the wetland and environmental education sectors in South Africa

3) DEAT will target institutions that can potentially participate in the initiative and encourage them to investigate the possibility of participating

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

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

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

No

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

Administrative oversight by DEAT. This report contains the names of the governmental and non-governmental nominees to serve as focal points.

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **[REDACTED]**

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

Technical staff and communicators from Working for Water, Mondi Wetlands Project, DEAT, National Department of Agriculture and Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

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

No

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

Delays in initiating the process of developing a CEPA action plan for South Africa have resulted from a lack of funding to drive such a process, and a lack of capacity within DEAT and its partners to manage the process.

Funding has now been sourced through the Working for Wetlands partnership, and a team of specialists has been appointed by the task team to drive the CEPA action plan process.

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

If **No**, what is preventing this from occurring? **[Redacted]**

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By April 2003, South Africa has a CEPA action plan, consistent with the guidance provided by the Convention's Outreach Programme. This action plan will include a review of existing resource materials.

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

Working for Wetlands

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? **[Redacted]**

If **Yes**, how successful has this been?

Some success has been achieved, with the recent opening of at least two educational centres at wetland sites (see below). Beyond these wetland-oriented centres, further success has been achieved through the inclusion of wetland topics in the activities of many existing environmental education centres, of which there are at least 250 in South Africa. Educational material on wetlands is readily available to these centres, and new material is continuously being developed.

A range of organisations are active in education for wetlands, including provincial authorities, South African National Parks and NGOs.

A clearer picture of the extent of wetland education activities will exist once a

comprehensive review of wetland-oriented education centres is completed. This will be done as part of the development of the CEPA action plan.

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites?

A comprehensive and current list of education centres focusing on, or including activities based on wetlands does not exist at present. This list will be developed during the implementation of the CEPA action plan.

The following centres are situated at wetland sites and have a strong focus on wetlands:

Edith Stephens Wetland Park, Cape Town

Grootvaly Education Centre, Blesbokspruit Ramsar site

Lydenburg Waterfocus Centre, Mpumalanga

Umgeni Valley, Howick, KwaZulu-Natal

Geelbek, Langebaan Ramsar site

Rietvlei, Cape Town

Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga

Although St Lucia Ramsar site does not have the physical structures, an active environmental education programme is run by KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife for the surrounding communities.

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

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By April 2003, an audit of environmental education centres that include wetland activities exists, developed as part of the CEPA action plan (see 3.2.1)

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

Working for Wetlands

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?

A systematic survey of the number and type of exhibits and programmes in place at these facilities does not exist. This survey will be done as part of the development of the CEPA action plan, and will run parallel to the audit of education centres described in 3.2.3.

Existing facilities and programmes include aquaria in various coastal cities (eg. Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town), exhibits and collections of wetland related species (eg. wetland plants at the National Botanical Institute in Pretoria), and interpretive trails through wetlands (eg. Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden).

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? [REDACTED]

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By April 2003, an audit of existing exhibits, materials and programmes relating to wetland EPA exists.

In order to reach this target, the following actions will be taken:

- 1) The development of the national CEPA action plan will begin by auditing existing exhibits, materials and programmes relating to wetland EPA**
- 2) The results of this audit will inform the development of the national CEPA action plan**

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

Working for Wetlands

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? [REDACTED]

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

Modules related to wetlands have not yet been systematically built into primary and secondary level curricula across the country. This is a task that the CEPA action plan is expected to address, using the existing National Environmental Education Partnership between DEAT and the Department of Education.

Despite the lack of formal incorporation of wetlands into syllabi, many teachers have utilised wetlands in developing lesson plans under the recently adopted outcomes based approach to education in South Africa. One example is Ramsgate College in KwaZulu-Natal, which won a national award for the manner in which a wetland on the school property was rehabilitated and incorporated into the curricula of a variety of subjects. Treverton College, also in KwaZulu-Natal, has won a similar award for its involvement in wetland education.

Integration of wetlands into syllabi has been facilitated by the production of a teacher's resource pack by Share-Net, an initiative of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa. Titled Exploring Wetlands, the pack aims to assist teachers in incorporating wetlands into educational activities.

The Mondi Wetlands Project has developed modules and provides lectures to forestry, agriculture and nature conservation students at Technicon level. Mpumalanga Parks Board provides similar training to Technicon students.

South Africa has eighteen universities, of which sixteen offer formal courses in aquatic science and related disciplines, including biology, botany, zoology, ichthyology, aquaculture, limnology, geography, fluvial geomorphology, hydrology and engineering. Many of these courses are offered at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, modules related to wetlands have been included in curricula in South Africa.

In order to reach this target, the following actions will be taken:

- 1) The national CEPA action plan will target this area for intervention**
- 2) The Department of Education will be engaged through the National Environmental Education Partnership**
- 3) Any resulting curriculum materials will be forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre.**

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

Working for Wetlands and DEAT Directorate Capacity Building

Operational Objective 3.3: To improve the Ramsar Bureau's communications activities and to develop a Convention Communications Strategy, capable of further promoting the Convention and its wider application, and of raising awareness of wetland values and functions.

Actions - Global and National Targets

3.3.1 Review the Bureau's communications activities, especially those related to the

creation and functioning of regional and national communication networks; develop new material and use of technology, and improve existing material. [Bureau]

Refer to 3.2.1 “To secure the resources to increase the Bureau’s capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.”. Has your government provided any voluntary contributions to increase the Bureau’s capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme? **No**

If Yes, please provide details. **[REDACTED]**

Proposed national actions and targets: **[REDACTED]**

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

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? **[REDACTED]**

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

Managers of ten (59%) of South Africa’s seventeen Ramsar sites have Internet access.

AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility?

Blesbokspruit, Barberspan, St Lucia, uKhahlamba, Seekoeivlei, De Hoop, Langebaan, Verlorenvlei, Wilderness Lakes and Orange River mouth

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, at least 75% of South African Ramsar site managers have access to the Internet

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

Ramsar site management authorities

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Please go to file 2.

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

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

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file 2

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Has your country reviewed the national institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise use and the “designated national Administrative Authority for the Convention to ensure [that] these have the necessary resources to support the increasing demands being placed upon them by the growing expectations of the Convention” (COP7 Resolution VII.27)? **No**

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

This review will form part of the review of laws and institutions relating to wetlands. Refer to 2.1.1 for a discussion of the impediments to the completion of this review.

A rudimentary review of national institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise use has already been undertaken through the analysis by DEAT of environmental implementation plans and management plans, submitted in terms of chapter 3 of the National Environmental Management Act (see 2.5.4).

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: Refer also to 2.1.1. By April 2003, a cooperative governance structure is in place, consisting of key national institutions with direct responsibility for wetland issues. This structure will aim to increase cooperation and synergy between the participating institutions, and provide a mechanism for joint decision making on wetland-related matters of common interest.

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

4.1.2 On the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:

- **increase cooperation and synergy between institutions;**
- **promote the continued operation of these institutions;**
- **provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, for these institutions. [CPs]**
- **Global Target - By COP8, to see coordinating mechanisms in place in all CPs, and more particularly to see National Ramsar Committees including government and non-government stakeholder representatives, in place in more than 100 CPs. In addition, by COP8, all CPs that have reported the existence of NRCs at COP7 to have evaluated their effectiveness (COP7 Resolution VII.27).**

Refer also to 8.1.9. Does your country have a National Ramsar Committee or similar body?

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?

In an effort to rationalise and streamline environmental governance, the original Ramsar Committee, established in 1991, has been absorbed into a structure established to promote coordination between national and provincial government institutions involved in the management and conservation of biodiversity. This structure, the Working Group on Biodiversity and Conservation, is chaired by DEAT and consists of provincial conservation authorities, National Botanical Institute and South African National Parks. Non-governmental experts and stakeholder groups are not represented.

Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? **No**

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

A formal evaluation of the working group's effectiveness seems not to have been considered necessary.

The lack of a formal evaluation notwithstanding, it is clear that the effectiveness of the working group, in functioning as a national Ramsar committee, is limited. Reasons for this include:

- 1) the workload of the working group. The number of issues falling within the scope of the working group is so broad that wetland and Ramsar related activities are frequently overshadowed by higher priority issues.**
- 2) the current representatives on the working group are generally not appropriate to be representing their institutions on Ramsar related matters**
- 3) the working group does not include representatives from non-government and**

stakeholders groups
4) follow up on Ramsar related issues raised at the working group frequently does not reach the relevant components of represented institutions
If Yes , did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? No Reply
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.
Proposed national actions and targets: Action: DEAT will investigate the possibility of re-establishing a national Ramsar committee that is separate from the Working Group on Biodiversity and Conservation
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: DEAT

Operational Objective 4.2: To identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries, and to implement follow-up actions.

Actions - Global and National Targets
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? Reviews of training needs have been done for certain sectors or themes, but an overall systematic review is lacking. This is the result of a lack of capacity dedicated to training, and training not featuring as a top priority in planning. A regional review of training needs has been partly completed at the Southern African Development Community level for sectors such as water and conservation.
If Yes , have the results of this analysis been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? No Reply
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
If Yes , how has this been done? [REDACTED]
AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort? [REDACTED]
Proposed national actions and targets: Target: By COP9, a training needs analysis is completed for South Africa

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

DEAT, through Working for Wetlands

4.2.2 Identify current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to have reviews of training opportunities completed in more than 75 CPs.**

Has your country **completed** a review of the training opportunities which exist therein? **Yes**

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

If **Yes**, have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? **Yes**

If **No**, why not? **[Redacted]**

If **Yes**, how has this been done?

Results have been used to develop training modules and programmes for biomonitoring of aquatic systems, through the River Health Programme, and the development of postgraduate courses relating to various aspects of the aquatic environment.

AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort?

The initiatives mentioned above are in their infancy, and it is thus too early to accurately gauge their effect on the national training effort.

Has this information on training opportunities been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities? (Refer to 4.2.3 below also) **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **[Redacted]**

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

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.

Although a systematic review of all wetland-related training needs has not been completed, a clear need for training relating to wetland rehabilitation was identified once Working for Wetlands embarked on the large-scale implementation of rehabilitation projects. This resulted in the development of a wetland rehabilitation training course by the Mondri Wetlands Project.

Several universities have also developed modules relating to various aspects of wetlands, while others are under development.

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **[REDACTED]**

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

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? **No**, **[REDACTED]**
- Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites? **Yes**, **courses on the development of adaptive management systems have been held at Nylsvley Ramsar site**
- Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites? **No**, **[REDACTED]**
- Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? **Yes**, **training opportunities within and outside of South Africa are distributed to interested parties by a number of methods.**

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

If **Yes**, please provide details. **[REDACTED]**

Proposed national actions and targets: **[REDACTED]**

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

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.

1) Through NEPAD (see 1.1.1 and 3.1.2), South Africa has participated in establishing a framework for international cooperation and exchange of information and expertise for wetland conservation in Africa. NEPAD has identified projects relating to wetland conservation, to be implemented by 2003, under the following themes: training and capacity building; communication, education and public awareness; rehabilitation; and international cooperation. These projects will focus on sharing best practice and exchanging information and expertise.

Under NEPAD, eleven African countries, including South Africa, have started a collective project on the protection and development of the coastal and marine environment. Further projects have been identified under the coastal management component of NEPAD: training and capacity building; coastal tourism, leisure and recreational development; and a representative system of coastal protected areas.

2) South Africa is participating in phase two of the SADC Regional Wetlands Conservation Project, which is being implemented by IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa and SADC Inland Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife Sector. The project aims to establish a coordination framework for wetland conservation and management efforts in the region. This is being achieved through the development of technical capacity, facilitation of the development of management plans for key wetlands, and the promotion of cross-boundary exchange of information. South Africa is contributing information and expertise to the project, through government institutions and private sector service providers.

3) South Africa is involved in developing a system of transfrontier conservation areas with its neighbours. Six of these areas are proposed, one of which is already functioning as a jointly managed, continuous transfrontier park, while the others are in various stages of development. Included in these areas are flagship wetlands such as:

a) the Kosi Bay, Ndumo, Lake Sibaya, St Lucia and Tongaland Ramsar sites in the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area (South African and Mozambique);

b) uKhahlamba Ramsar site in the Maloti/Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area (South Africa and Lesotho); and

c) the proposed Limpopo-Levuvhu Ramsar site in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique).

Should any of these countries join the Convention, the conversion of the Ramsar sites listed above to transboundary sites will be explored.

In addition to these areas, South Africa and Namibia are collaborating closely on converting their respective adjacent Ramsar sites at Orange River mouth into a jointly

managed transboundary site. Discussions are at an advanced stage, and it is proposed that this transboundary Ramsar site ultimately be incorporated into the Ais-Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Conservation Area.

4) A project for the Identification and Mapping of Peatlands in Southern Africa (IMPESA), funded through the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), is being implemented in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. This is currently the sole GPI project in Africa, and is being driven by experts from South Africa, the Technical University of Munich (Germany) and the University of Botswana. The project is fully supported by DEAT and the National Department of Agriculture. The first phase of the project aims to:

- a) develop the Southern African Peatland Group
- b) produce an overview of the current status of peatland inventory and the knowledge base of peatlands in the participating countries
- c) train individuals in each country on peatland inventory and evaluation issues.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Actions:

- 1) South Africa will strengthen its participation in the exchange of information, expertise, technical assistance and advice, especially with neighbouring countries and SADC member states, through mechanisms such as NEPAD, the SADC Regional Wetlands Conservation Project and the Transfrontier Conservation Area programme.
- 2) See target for 7.1.2, relating to twinning of Ramsar sites

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

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 5

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

5.1.1 Define and apply the precise measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, in the light of the working definitions of ecological character adopted at the 6th COP (1996) and amended by 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? **No**

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

A lack of national norms and standards for Ramsar sites in South Africa has led to a wide variety in the quality and depth of documentation of the measures required to maintain the ecological character of each site. While some sites have been intensively studied, and management recommendations produced in order to maintain or restore desirable ecological features, other sites have been characterised by a virtual absence of management.

This wide divergence in the quality of management, and the information on which this management is based, is also attributable to the assignment of responsibility for management of Ramsar sites in South Africa. Sites are managed either by provincial conservation authorities or South African National Parks. Vast differences in capacity, resources and expertise between these institutions have led to some sites being neglected in terms of determining and implementing measures to maintain ecological character.

If **Yes**, has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? **No Reply**

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

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, South Africa has documented the measures required to maintain or restore the ecological character of at least 75% of its Ramsar sites.

In order to reach this target, the following actions will be taken:

- 1) National norms and standards for South African Ramsar sites will be developed, including minimum standards for management planning and implementation**
- 2) Current management plans and documentation of the measures required to maintain the ecological character of each site will be reviewed**
- 3) DEAT will engage with management authorities whose sites do not comply with national standards, in order to identify shortfalls and develop corrective action**

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

DEAT, in collaboration with Ramsar site management authorities

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?

The same reasons advanced in 5.1.1 apply:

- 1) Lack of national norms and standards for Ramsar sites in South Africa.**
- 2) Differences in capacity, resources and expertise among the range of institutions responsible for managing Ramsar sites. Those sites with no or poorly developed management plans lack built in reviews of threats to ecological character, while sites with adaptive management regimes are regularly subject to internal review.**

If **Yes**, have these reviews detected situations where changes in ecological character have occurred or may occur? **No Reply**

If **Yes**, for how many sites was this case, which sites were they, and what actions were taken to address these threats? **[REDACTED]**

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

If **No**, why not? **[REDACTED]**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, 75% of South African Ramsar sites have mechanisms in place to identify factors with the potential to affect ecological character.

In order to reach this target, the following actions will be taken, in conjunction with those listed in 5.1.1:

- 1) National norms and standards for South African Ramsar sites will be developed, including minimum standards for mechanisms to identify change in ecological character**
- 2) Current monitoring and surveillance plans and regimes at each site will be reviewed**
- 3) DEAT will engage with management authorities whose sites do not comply with national standards, in order to identify shortfalls and develop corrective action**

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

DEAT, in collaboration with Ramsar site management authorities

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

- **Global Target - CPs with Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record, and for which**

Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) have been completed prior to COP7, are expected to have taken the actions necessary to warrant their removal from the Record before COP8.
For those CPs with a site, or sites, included in the Montreux Record, and for which RAMs (previously Management Guidance Procedures, MGPs) have been completed, have all actions recommended by the RAM been undertaken for each site? No Reply
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
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.

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 ? No
If No , how many sites do not have management plans in place and which sites are they? Of South Africa's seventeen Ramsar sites, two do not have management plans in place. These are Blesbokspruit and Orange River mouth.
If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. The development by Namibia and South Africa of a joint management plan for the Orange River mouth is almost complete. A development plan has been completed for the site, and the management plan will be finalised once ownership and management arrangements for the site have been resolved. Although the Gauteng Provincial Government commissioned the development of a management plan for Blesbokspruit in 1998, the process appears to have stalled subsequent to the initial stages of the project being completed.

For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they?

Management plans are being implemented fully for ten sites (59%), namely Barberspan, Turtle Beaches and Coral Reefs of Tongaland, St Lucia, uKhahlamba, Seekoeivlei, De Hoop, De Mond, Langebaan, Verlorenvlei and Wilderness Lakes.

Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done?

See discussion above for Orange River mouth and Blesbokspruit.

The principal impediments to management plans not being in place or not being fully implemented are the lack of capacity, funding and expertise in management authorities.

In other instances, the political will to drive the necessary processes is lacking. Problems associated with the transformation of conservation institutions inherited from the previous government are also impeding management planning and implementation in some provinces.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, all of South Africa's Ramsar sites will have management plans in place. Of these, 80% will be fully implemented by COP9.

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

DEAT, in collaboration with Ramsar site management authorities

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?

Zoning measures are in place for fourteen (82%) of South Africa's Ramsar sites, namely Nylsvley, Verloren Valei, Barberspan, Kosi Bay, Lake Sibaya, Turtle Beaches and Coral Reefs of Tongaland, St Lucia, Ndumo, uKhahlamba, De Hoop, De Mond, Langebaan, Verlorenvlei and Wilderness Lakes.

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool?

Yes, at only one of the fourteen sites listed above, Lake Sibaya, were zoning measures not considered to be a successful management tool. A lack of resources for the effective enforcement of zoning measures is cited as the reason for this lack of success.

Site managers were however quick to point out that the enforcement of zoning measures is an intensive task, especially in large, complex and heavily utilised sites. Enforcement

of zoning measures was also considered particularly difficult in instances where part of the site is open-ended and has a connection to an unregulated area. Estuaries are a good example of such sites.

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:

Target: By COP9, the national norms and standards for Ramsar sites referred to in 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 will include recommendations on zoning, and lessons learned from other Ramsar sites. By COP9, useful case studies of zoning will be forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre.

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

DEAT, in collaboration with Ramsar site management authorities

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?

Strict protection measures are in place for fifteen sites (88%), namely Nylsvley, Verloren Valei, Barberspan, Kosi Bay, Lake Sibaya, Turtle Beaches and Coral Reefs of Tongaland, St Lucia, Ndumo, uKhahlamba, Seekoeivlei, De Hoop, De Mond, Langebaan, Verlorenvlei and Wilderness Lakes.

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

Yes, protection measures were considered successful in all but two of these sites, Verloren Valei and Kosi Bay.

In the case of the former, uncontrolled access was cited as undermining the effectiveness of the reserve's statutory protection.

For Kosi Bay, factors include a history of conflict between the reserve and surrounding communities, lack of capacity to enforce certain protection measures, and divergent views between reserve management and some user groups on the concept of wise use.

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases for possible

inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? Yes
Proposed national actions and targets: By COP9, strict protection measures are in place for all Ramsar sites where these measures are considered necessary and appropriate.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: DEAT, in collaboration with Ramsar site management authorities

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.3.1 Ensure that the maps and descriptions of Ramsar sites submitted to the Ramsar Database by the Contracting Parties at the time of designation are complete, in the approved standard format of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, and provide sufficient detail to be used for management planning and monitoring of ecological character. [CPs, Bureau, Wetlands International]
5.3.2 Ensure that missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of listed sites are submitted as a matter of priority and in the shortest possible time, as a means to enhance the relevance and use of the Ramsar Database. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target – By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites for which appropriate sites descriptions and maps are still required.
If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided a Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet in the approved format, with a suitable map, in one of three working languages of the Convention, has this now be rectified? Yes
If No , what is preventing this from being done? [REDACTED]

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites designated before 31 December 1990 for which updated site descriptions are still required.
If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided an updated Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet for sites designated before 31 December 1990, has this now be rectified? Does Not Apply
If No , what is preventing this from being done? [REDACTED]
Proposed national actions and targets: Target: Before each Conference of the Parties, South Africa will ensure that updated

Ramsar Information Sheets exist for those sites whose Information Sheets will be older than six years by the date of the next COP

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

DEAT, in collaboration with Ramsar site management authorities

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.

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

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

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

If **No**, what is preventing such a database being established?

Development of a national wetland database is part of the national wetland inventory, currently underway. A trial web interface, which was produced during the pilot project for the inventory, is available via the internet and contains a small sample of wetland data collected during the pilot project (http://wetlands.csir.co.za/website/wetlands_inventory/intro.htm).

The closest that South Africa presently has to a national wetland database is a directory of approximately 1300 wetlands. This directory was published by DEAT in 1998 and is freely available in printed form.

If **Yes**, is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? **No Reply**

If **No**, why not?

AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) **No Reply**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

If **No**, why not?

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

If No , why not? <input type="text"/>
Proposed national actions and targets: Target: By COP9, South Africa has a national wetland database that is accessible via the internet
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: DEAT

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 6

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
6.1.1 Develop, regularly update -- especially in the case of Africa -- and disseminate regional wetland directories, which identify potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Partners]
Refer to 6.1.2 and 6.2.1. Does there exist for your country a directory or similar listing of sites which are potential Ramsar sites? <input type="text" value="No"/>
If No , what are the impediments to such a list of sites being prepared? The development of such a list was not considered a priority. Rather than the systematic identification of potential Ramsar sites on a national scale, conservation authorities, such as provincial authorities or South African National Parks, have been encouraged to nominate the priority sites under their jurisdiction for designation to the Ramsar List.
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)? <input type="text"/> <input type="text" value="No Reply"/>
AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country? <input type="text"/>
Proposed national actions and targets: See 6.2.1
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: <input type="text"/>

6.1.2 Establish, update and disseminate national scientific inventories of wetlands which identify potential Ramsar sites and wetlands of provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party. [CPs, Partners]
• Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland inventories completed by over

50 CPs and the information housed in databases (Refer to 5.4.4) which are accessible globally
Does there exist a comprehensive national inventory (as opposed to a directory of important sites; see 6.1.1 above) for your country? No
If No , what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared? To date, funding to undertake such an inventory has been the principal impediment. However, this has been overcome with financial assistance from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), The Green Trust (through WWF-SA), US Fish and Wildlife Service and Working for Water. The six month pilot phase of the inventory has been completed, and it is anticipated that the full scale mapping project will start in the second half of 2002.
If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are. A review completed by DEAT in 1998 revealed the existence of 69 wetland inventory datasets for various parts of the country, and covering various wetland types. In compiling this list, it was discovered that most of the datasets were not compatible with one another and could not simply be combined to produce a national overview. The catalogue of inventories, including the part of South Africa covered by each dataset, is available at http://www.ccwr.ac.za/wetlands/inventory_catalogue.htm
AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory? It is anticipated that the inventory should be completed during 2005.
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?
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: Target: By 2006, South Africa has a comprehensive inventory of the extent, diversity and distribution of its wetlands, linked to a national database, and available via the internet. Data on wetland condition and values, collected through programmes such as the Coordinated Waterbird Counts, will be linked to this information, in order to add value to the national wetland database.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: DEAT

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? [REDACTED]
If Yes , is this information provided to Wetlands International? Yes
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
Proposed national actions and targets: Target: By COP9, South Africa, through its waterbird monitoring programme (CWAC), has published an updated national report on the status and distribution of waterbird populations. This will aid in identifying potential Ramsar sites and will provide useful information on the status of waterbird populations at those current Ramsar sites designated using waterbird criteria. By COP9, a regional analysis of waterbird count data for southern Africa is completed, under the framework of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, if funding for this purpose can be secured. This will inter alia identify important migratory and non-migratory waterbird sites, identify potential Ramsar sites, estimate regional population sizes and strengthen regional monitoring initiatives. Information gathered through the analysis will help to fill the southern African gaps in the estimates of waterfowl populations compiled by Wetlands International.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town

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
<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.
Refer also to 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.2.3. Has your country taken a systematic approach to identifying its future Ramsar sites (as promoted in the <i>Strategic Framework for the List</i> – COP7 Resolution VII.11)? No

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

Refer to the explanation under 6.1.1.

It has also not been possible to realise the full strategic value of designating Ramsar sites as a result of proposed sites already needing to have statutory protection before being eligible for designation. Although there are historically valid reasons for having to use this approach, in order to ensure maintenance of ecological character, limitation has been placed on which sites are eligible for designation. Draft legislation currently being prepared by DEAT will ensure that Ramsar status for an area automatically carries statutory protection.

If **Yes**, has this included considerations to ensure the designation of a representative range of wetland types? **No Reply**

If **No**, why not? **[Redacted]**

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

No Reply

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, South Africa has developed a strategic and systematic approach to the designation of Ramsar sites, taking into account the framework provided by the Convention and national considerations

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

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

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

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

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **[Redacted]**

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

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

Proposed national actions and targets: **Target: See 6.2.1**

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

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

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

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

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

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Two sites, Orange River mouth and Verlorenvlei, lacked statutory protected status at the time of their designation. Only part of a third site, Blesbokspruit, was protected at the time of its designation. It is highly significant that the two sites currently listed by South Africa on the Montreux Record are Blesbokspruit and Orange River mouth, while placement of Verlorenvlei on the Record was briefly considered in 1996. This indicates that, historically, South Africa lacked the necessary legal instruments to ensure the maintenance of ecological character of Ramsar sites that did not already have protected status.

A policy decision was thus made in South Africa that only sites already afforded statutory protection would be eligible for designation. This policy remains in place, although the advent of new legal tools such as the National Environmental Management Act, and the soon to be passed Biodiversity Bill, warrant a review of the need for the policy.

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

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, please elaborate.

It is recognised that the policy of designating only those areas that already have protected status does not realise the full strategic potential of Ramsar status, either internationally or within South Africa. However, it is unlikely that any further designations of sites lacking protected status will take place until the review of the policy described above has taken place. There are a number of non-protected sites that clearly meet the criteria for designation, but certainty on the existence of the necessary legal instruments to ensure maintenance of ecological character will first be required.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By 2004, South Africa, through the National Environmental Management Act and Biodiversity Act, has legal tools in place that allow the designation of non-protected

areas as Ramsar sites while ensuring that means exist to maintain the ecological character of those sites.

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

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:

Target: By COP9, final arrangements are in place to allow the announcement of the amalgamation of the South African and Namibian Ramsar sites at Orange River mouth into a jointly managed transboundary Ramsar site.

In order to reach this target, the following actions will be taken:

- 1) Finalisation of management and ownership arrangements for the South African Ramsar site**
- 2) Adoption of the draft management plan by both countries**
- 3) Transformation of the existing Orange River Mouth Interim Management Committee into the transboundary management structure**
- 4) Signing of a management agreement by both countries**

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

Northern Cape Province Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment and Conservation, in collaboration with other departments

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 7

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>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]</p> <p>Refer to 6.2.5 above.</p>
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.19) and the <i>Convention’s Outreach Programme</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.9) promote site twinning as a mechanism for accelerating the flow of knowledge and assistance and promoting training opportunities. • Global Target - By COP8 to have in place over 100 Ramsar site twinning arrangements. The Bureau will keep a record of which sites are twinned and make this available through the Convention’s Web site.
Does your country have Ramsar sites twinned with those in other CPs? No
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening?</p> <p>Final formal arrangements for twinning the Ramsar sites at the Orange River mouth are being put in place (see 6.2.5). There is no potential for further twinning of transfrontier wetlands until Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique or Zimbabwe join the Convention.</p> <p>There has not to date been a process in South Africa to identify sites with similar characteristics to South African Ramsar sites, and which have the potential for twinning to South African sites. However, one of the objectives of the international cooperation component of the wetland conservation theme of NEPAD is the development of twinning arrangements between countries for particular Ramsar sites. Projects implemented under NEPAD will address this objective.</p>
If Yes, please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved. [REDACTED]
AND: Do these arrangements involve:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing of information resources? No Reply • transfer of financial resources? No Reply • exchanges of personnel? No Reply • other activities?
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>Target: By COP9, South Africa has, through NEPAD, identified Ramsar sites in other Contracting Parties with the potential for twinning to South African sites, and has twinning arrangements in place for at least one of these sites.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: DEAT</p>

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.

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>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</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced? </p>
<p>If Yes, describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider.</p> <p>Established through the National Environmental Management Act, the Committee for Environmental Coordination aims to promote the integration and coordination of environmental functions by the relevant organs of state. The Committee is chaired by DEAT and comprises the Departments of Water Affairs and Forestry; Minerals and Energy; Land Affairs; Constitutional Development; Housing; Agriculture; Health; Labour; Arts, Culture, Science and Technology; provincial heads of department and representatives of local government.</p> <p>Although integrating the implementation of international agreements is not explicitly listed in the brief of the Committee, the implementation of these agreements is part of the work of the departments comprising the Committee. Agreements covered include Ramsar, Convention on Biodiversity, Bonn Convention, CITES, Convention to Combat Desertification, World Heritage Convention and Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p>

AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? Yes
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
If Yes , please elaborate. At a broad level of coordinating and integrating the work of the relevant departments, the Committee has been effective. Most of the arrangements for cooperative implementation are however made at lower level and through less formal channels.
Proposed national actions and targets: [REDACTED]
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [REDACTED]

7.2.2 Prepare project proposals together with other conventions and partner organizations, and submit them jointly to potential funding agencies. [CPs, SC, Bureau, Partners]
For eligible countries, have there been project proposals prepared and submitted to funding agencies which were intended to assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? [REDACTED]
If Yes , were such proposals successful in gaining funds? Yes - A Medium-Size Project proposal has been approved by the GEF for community-based conservation activities in the Richtersveld region of the Northern Cape province. A component of this project will focus on activities in the Orange River mouth Ramsar site. Funding for the national wetland inventory has been secured through the Norway - South Africa Environmental Cooperation Agreement, for the period 2000 - 2004. The Identification and Mapping of Peatlands in Southern Africa (IMPESA) is the first African project of the Global Peatlands Initiative, and is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Proposed national actions and targets: [REDACTED]
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [REDACTED]

7.2.3 Strengthen cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular as regards inclusion of wetland concerns in national biodiversity strategies, and planning and execution of projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - To see the Joint Work Plan implemented in full and resulting in cooperative implementation of both Conventions at the international, national and local levels.
Further to 7.2.1 above: Has there been a review completed of the Joint Work Plan between Ramsar and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish the areas of priority for

cooperative implementation of these Conventions? No
If No , what has prevented such a review being done? Lack of capacity has to date prevented such a review from being completed.
If Yes , what are the areas established as priorities for national cooperation between Ramsar and CBD implementing agencies/focal points?
Proposed national actions and targets: By COP9, South Africa has completed reviews of Joint Work Plans between Ramsar and other conventions and international programmes, in order to determine areas of priority for cooperative implementation.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: DEAT

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention propose an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CMS (COP7 Resolution VII.19)</i> • 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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention propose an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CITES (COP7 Resolution VII.19)</i> • 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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - To progress to closer working relations with these and other relevant initiatives, as appropriate.
Refer to 7.2.1 above.

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Wetlands, published by OECD's Development Assistance Committee (Recommendation 6.16). [Bureau, Partners]

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

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

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? **No Reply**

[Redacted]

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

Refer to 7.4.2 to 7.4.6 below.

Proposed national actions and targets: **[Redacted]**

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

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? **[Redacted]**

If **Yes**, is this:

- As a separate allocation to a Wetlands Programme (or similar)? **No**
- As part of a broader allocation for the environment? **Yes**

- As part of the programmes maintained by a range of Ministries? **Yes**

AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds?

Two mechanisms are in place:

1) DEAT goes through an annual business planning process as well as a strategic planning process for a three year cycle. The business planning process starts at the level of operational units (sub-directorates), with these plans being condensed to form the business plan of the next level in the hierarchy, and so on. These processes comprise the mechanisms by which priorities for the coming financial year are determined and budgets accordingly allocated.

2) Working for Wetlands follows a similar approach of annual business plans and three yearly strategic plans. In addition, the steering committee evaluates proposals for rehabilitation plans and produces a shortlist of priority projects to be implemented in the coming financial year.

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **Yes**

The mechanisms described above are informed by the requirements of the legislative and policy mandate of DEAT and the partners of Working for Wetlands. In the case of DEAT, the primary guiding document is presently the National Policy on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity. In future, it is anticipated that other proposed instruments, such as the wetlands action plan, Biodiversity Act and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, will be influential in determining priorities.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Target: By COP9, the national wetlands action plan referred to in 2.1.2, in addition to other relevant instruments, is providing a systematic framework for the determination of priorities and allocation of budgets in the relevant programmes.

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

DEAT, Working for Wetlands

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

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

If your country has a bilateral development assistance programme, does it allocate funds for

wetland-related projects on a regular basis? No Reply
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? [REDACTED]
If Yes , are these projects subjected to rigorous impact assessment procedures, which take account of the full environmental, social and economic values of wetlands? No Reply
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
If Yes , is the Ramsar Administrative Authority consulted during the screening and assessment phases of the projects? No Reply
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
AND: Is there a formal consultative process in place (such as a National Ramsar Committee) which ensures that the development assistance agency is fully aware of the Ramsar Convention obligations of the country with respect to international cooperation? No Reply
If No , why not? [REDACTED]
If Yes , please elaborate. [REDACTED]
Proposed national actions and targets: [REDACTED]
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [REDACTED]

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

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

Refer to 7.4.2 above

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

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

8.1.9 Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees to provide the

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

Refer to 4.1.2.

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

Refer to 4.1.1

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

Actions - Global and National Targets

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

- **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? **[Redacted]**

Proposed national actions and targets: **[Redacted]**

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

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? No
If No , what prevents this from occurring? Refer to 4.1.2 for an explanation of the composition of the Working Group on Biodiversity and Conservation.
Proposed national actions and targets: [Redacted]
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [Redacted]

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]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - To establish a mechanism to ensure one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (COP7 Resolution VII.28).
Refer also to 8.2.4. For developed countries, do you provide additional voluntary contributions to support the Small Grants Fund? No Reply
If No , what prevents this from happening? [Redacted]
If Yes , is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution? [Redacted]
Proposed national actions and targets: [Redacted]
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: [Redacted]