



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 12th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Uruguay, 2015**

Please submit the completed National Report in Microsoft Word format (.doc, 97-2003), as an electronic file (not a printed copy) and preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org) by **1 September 2014**.

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

The COP12 National Report Format (NRF) is in four sections:

Section 1 provides the institutional information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

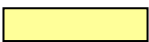

Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional 'free-text' section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

Section 4 is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

1. All Sections of the COP12 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
2. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **1 September 2014**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP12.
3. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
4. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.
5. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word. You are only able to submit replies and information in the yellow or green boxes, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the structure and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties.
6. To select a yellow or green field you wish to complete, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
7. To move down through the sequence of fields, you can also use the 'Tab' key on the computer keyboard.

8. For a 'free-text' field, you can type in whatever information you wish. Note that there is only limited facility within the Microsoft 'form' format to make editorial changes in the 'free-text' box once text has been entered. Therefore, if you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate document, make all the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the box.
9. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic entry of data into the Secretariat's database. For that reason, please **do not use double quote marks " "** in the 'free-text' fields. Please **only use single quote marks ' '**. For the same reason, please **only use simple text in the 'free-text' fields: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
10. For each of the 'indicator questions' in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: 'Yes', 'No', 'Partly', 'In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
11. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).
12. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
13. An NRF is not usually completed by one person alone: for many indicators it is best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP11 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.
14. After each session, **remember to save the file** in Microsoft Word, .doc, 97-2003 format. A recommended filename structure is: COP12NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP12NRFSpain13July2014.doc
15. After the NRF has been completed, please **send it in this format to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (dufour@ramsar.org).**
16. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP12 National Report.**
17. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at www.ramsar.org/contacts_en.

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY:

UNITED KINGDOM

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr Jeremy Eppel
Mailing address:	Area 2E Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR.....
Telephone/Fax:	+44 (0) 207 238 3117.....
Email:	Jeremy.Eppel@defra.gsi.gov.uk

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Mrs Clare Hamilton.....
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Telephone/Fax:	+44 (0) 207 238 0533.....
Email:	Clare.Hamilton@defra.gsi.gov.uk.....

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP)

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Mailing address:	Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY
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Email:	david.stroud@jncc.gov.uk

DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Andy Tully
Name of organisation:	Defra
Mailing address:	Defra Biodiversity Programme, International Protected Areas, Zone 1/16 Bristol Temple Quay, Bristol
Telephone/Fax:	+44 (0)117 372 3543
Email:	Andy.Tully@defra.gsi.gov.uk

DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Chris Rostron
Name of organisation:	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
Mailing address:	Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT, UK
Telephone/Fax:	+44 (0)1453 891214
Email:	Chris.Rostron@wwt.org.uk

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

REMINDER: Please do not use double quote marks “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP11 reporting):

A. What have been the five most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?

- 1) Successful management of 160 Ramsar sites and provision of appropriate and compatible development control in the UK mainland.
- 2) Good implementation within the UK of the EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the EU Nature Directives; and intergration of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Aichi targets into national biodiversity strategies. The manner in which these are implemented in the UK contributes strongly to “wise use” principles as required by the Convention.
- 3) Enhanced emphasis within the UK on restoration at a landscape scale, as reflected in the 'UK Biodiversity Framework'. This is particularly important for wetlands, which benefit from landscape conservation initiatives.
- 4) The UK Special Protected Area (SPA) Review (under the EU Birds Directive) has completed a detailed ornithological review of a number of a Ramsar sites providing updated population estimates for these sites. This new data source is important for site management and future actions.
- 5)

B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

- 1) Challenges of resourcing some sites, including maintaining surveillance. This can be more pronounced within the Overseas Territories (OTs) and Crown Dependencies (CDs).
- 2) A large proportion of the Ramsar Conventions aims are implemented in the UK through the European Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directive, this can make it difficult to raise the profile of Ramsar.
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

- 1) To continue to ensure that Ramsar aims are integrated and reflected in relevant national policies.
- 2) To continue to work with the Governments of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies to fully implement the Convention.
- 3) To continue to work to manage the UK's 160 Ramsar sites.
- 4) Subject to available resources, to update the Ramsar Information Sheets for the network once the new system becomes operational.
- 5) To continue to strive to find ways to balance the needs of human habitation on floodplains with the benefits of rewetting the area for biodiversity. This is particularly important in the face of a changing climate, which may bring more flooding.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

None

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

None

F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the 'biodiversity cluster' (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

The national implementation of the Ramsar Convention could be better linked with the implementation of other MEAs by:

1. Improving communication:

- By encouraging greater communication between Secretariats, in particular with regard to reporting requirements. It would be useful for Secretariats to develop a shared reporting calendar to identify pinch points, that can cause challenges for smaller Parties.

2. Investigating synergies between programmes of work to avoid duplication of effort:

- By acknowledging the overlap between conventions, for example on the requirements for the protection of migratory species.

G. How can implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., on sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

The implementation of the Ramsar Convention can be better linked with other National and EU strategies by identifying shared objectives and integrating these within key policy areas, for example with the timetable for the Post 2015 Framework and Sustainable Development Goals.

At a national level, the UK Biodiversity Framework identifies the activities needed to achieve the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This is then complemented by individual country strategies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The UK Framework and the relevant Country Strategies together make up the UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

Most of the work to implement the Ramsar convention is identified within the individual country strategies for the UK. For more information about the UK and Country strategies, see the UK Clearing House Mechanism for Biodiversity

<http://cms/CHM63/default.aspx?page=7792>.

For Overseas Territories see <http://cms/CHM63/default.aspx?page=7809>.

H. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

No

I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

References within this report to the 'UK' or 'mainland UK' refer to implementation within the administrations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. References within this report to the UKOTs & CDs refer to implementation within the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

UK Ministry of Defence (MOD)

Scottish Government

Welsh Government

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC - advisor to UK Government)

Natural England

Natural Resources Wales

Scottish Natural Heritage

Government of Anguilla

Ascension Island Government

Government of the British Virgin Islands

British Antarctic Territory Government

Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Administration

Falkland Islands Government

Cayman Islands Government

Government of the British Indian Ocean Territory

Government of Gibraltar

St Helena Government

Tristan da Cunha Government

Government of Bermuda

Government of the Turks & Caicos Islands

Government of Montserrat

Government of the Pitcairn Islands

Government of South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands

States of Jersey

States of Guernsey

Isle of Man Government

British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF)


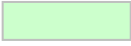
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)

Plantlife

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

1. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the 'drop-down' list in the yellow box. 
2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green 'free-text' boxes below the indicator questions. 
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database National Reports. For that reason, **please do not use double quote marks “ ” in the free text boxes. Use single quotes ‘ ’. Text in the ‘free text’ boxes should be simple text only: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
5. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP11, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP11 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties implementation in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment. *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.*

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	C - In progress
<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>In the UK the Countryside Survey provides a land cover map and associated statistics. While it is not a full site-related inventory, it does provide information on broad scale changes (http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk/). As part of the 2007 Countryside Survey, a Land Cover Map was created and published in June 2011. This provides continuous vector (land parcel) and 25m raster coverage for UK Broad Habitats, including wetland, bog, freshwater and littoral habitats. The map is derived from satellite data and uses a minimum mappable unit of 0.5 hectares.</p> <p>There are national inventories for specific wetland types, such as peatlands, saltmarshes, and estuaries. These inventories give more detail and precise data on the distribution of these wetland types. These datasets are available through the National Biodiversity Network (www.nbn.org.uk).</p> <p>In the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs), there are no systematic wetland inventories. However, data is provided through Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBBA) inventories for wetland sites important for birds. One example of this is the 2014 report for the Caribbean region published by Birds Caribbean that includes information and survey work from the UKOTs on Waterbird and Wetland Conservation https://www.dropbox.com/s/j37xfyjkv4snz3q/Caribbean-Waterbird-Census-Report-2010-2014.pdf.</p>	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The UK has a comprehensive inventory of designated Ramsar sites, which can be found at: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1389. However, there is no specific inventory of wetland data.</p> <p>Further information is available for the UK through the National Biodiversity Network (https://data.nbn.org.uk/), with additional information on the distribution and status of wetlands in England and Wales available through the multi-partner Wetland Vision project (http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/dyndisplay.aspx?d=home).</p>	

1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}

- a) Ramsar Sites
b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

- a) O - No change
b) ---

1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):

UK wetlands generally:

Overall Conservation Status	Wetland Species		Wetland Habitats	
	2007	2014	2007	2014
Favourable	15 (25.9%)	19 (32.8%)	3 (6.3%)	1 (2.9%)
Unfavourable	31 (53.4%)	27 (46.6%)	41 (85.4%)	45 (93.8%)
Unknown	12 (20.7%)	12 (20.7%)	4 (8.3%)	2 (4.2%)

Based on more detailed analysis of the 2013 UK report under the EU Habitats Directive (on which the data above are based), 31% of wetland habitats are currently in an unfavourable condition, a slight increase to the number of sites from 2007. There is an improving trend for wetland species in favourable conditions, with an increase of 7%. (Please note that these statistics refer to features derived from Annexes 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the EU Habitats Directive only and thus do not include the Ramsar avian features reported under Article 12 of the EU Birds' Directive.) For further details, please see: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6387>.

Northern Ireland: The state of Northern Ireland's wetland sites is generally unchanged from the last Ramsar Reprt, however there are improvements in upland habitat sites (reduction in grazing pressure and targeted site management). This said, there are some declines in wintering waterbird sites, which is thought to be due to change in migratory patterns (derived from designated sites (Areas of Special Scientific Interest ASSI) monitoring programme).

STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i
(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

A - Yes

1.3.1 Additional information:

The UK takes a holistic approach to the development of biodiversity objectives in order to ensure greater efficiency of delivery. Whilst the UK as a whole does not have a specific national policy for wetlands, England and Wales have produced Ramsar policy statements, these can be found at the links below:

England: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/protected/ramsar-policy.pdf> and

Wales: http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-list-ramsar-sites-in-wales/main/ramsar/1-31-218%5E21170_4000_0__

Scotland: In Scotland, Ramsar is recognised within Scottish Planning Policy as wetlands designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/archive/National-Planning-Policy/newSPP>. All Ramsar sites in Scotland are also Natura sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and as such are protected under the relevant statutory regimes.

Northern Ireland: In Northern Ireland, Ramsar is recognised within the Planning Policy Statement 'Nature Conservation', further details can be found at the link below. http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/policy_publications/planning_statements/pps2.htm, though part of the Lough Neagh and Beg Ramsar lies outwith Natura or ASSI boundaries.

1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
- b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
- c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
- d) National forest programmes
- e) National strategies for sustainable development
- f) National policies or measures on agriculture
- g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

- a) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes
- e) A - Yes
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

For the UK as a whole, as indicated in the statements above, wetlands are intergrated in a diverse range of policy and planning areas. Further information on Wales is provided below:

Wales: Specific examples of the inclusion of wetlands within National strategies are listed below; The Woodlands for Wales (WfW) Strategy (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wwstrategy>) sets out a 50 year strategy for woodlands and forests. The strategy is supported by a suite of policy position statements, including one for 'Biodiversity and Water' which explains how outcomes will be delivered. The Welsh Government's Agri-environmental scheme Glastir provides two elements of intervention. Glastir Entry is a whole farm scheme designed to deliver general environmental improvements throughout Wales. Glastir Entry is a prerequisite to be able to access Glastir Advanced which involves specific interventions taking place in targeted geographical areas to address key issues including those for wetlands (<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/schemes/glastir/?lang=en>).

1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii

A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information:

In the UK, the requirement for SEAs comes from the EU SEA Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment). SEAs are applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands, where these fall within the prescribed thresholds of the UK's transposing Regulations.

1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

A - Yes

1.3.4 Additional information:

In the UK, the requirement for EIA comes from the EU EIA Directive (European Directive 85/337/EEC, on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment). EIAs are applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands, where these fall within the prescribed thresholds of the UK's transposing Regulations.

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories): Environment Impact Assessments are not mandatory although some UK OTs have developed independent Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	A - Yes
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1.3.5 Additional information:

England: In England, there is a statement of intent in the National Planning Policy Framework, published in 2012, that provides additional clarification that listed or proposed Ramsar sites should be given the same protection as European sites designated under the EU Nature Directives:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Wales: In Wales there is a similar statement of intent in Policy Planning Guidance, Technical Advice Note 5, Nature Conservation and Planning (2009):

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan5/?lang=en>

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories):

Cayman Islands: The National Conservation Law was passed in the Cayman Islands in 2013. Under Part 3 - Conservation of Land - 'The Cabinet may, after consultation with the Council and adjoining land owners, by order designate any area of Crown Land or Cayman waters as a protected area in accordance with this Law.'

Sections 7-14 are relevant to Ramsar and set out the process alluded to above and expands it to include purchasing or entering into management agreements for private land. If a Ramsar candidate area included land that was both public and private, by virtue of the National Conservation Law, the entirety of the area could be managed and protected by the government as part of the Ramsar protected area. More detail of the Cayman Islands legislation can be found here:

http://www.gazettes.gov.ky/sites/default/files/extraordinary-gazettes-supplements/Es052014_web.pdf

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly
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1.4.1 Additional information:

England: In 2011, Defra commissioned a study to explore the range of valuable ecosystem services that the network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) provide, noting that these sites underpin most of England's Ramsar sites. This study estimated monetary values for the benefits derived from protecting biodiversity and clearly showed that such sites provide significantly higher benefits than the costs required to maintain them.

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=17005&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=sssi&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i	C - Partly
<p>1.4.2 Additional information: No specific action has been taken within the UK as a whole, however, with regard to Ramsar sites, the current UK policy is to designate sites based on conservation (natural science) values only.</p> <p>UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories) & CDs (Crown Dependencies): In the OT's there are some good examples of how wetlands projects have contributed to wider strategies. Turks and Caicos Islands: In the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) work has been done to develop educational resources on 'wonderful water'. This resource covers the complex issue of water for biodiversity and people. Another initiative in the TCI is the 'Wise-Water-Use Garden', a project to develop a garden displaying traditional crops and native medicinal plants irrigated with rainwater. The project aims to help the TCI decrease dependence on water that is produced by expensive and environmentally costly diesel-powered desalination and promote awareness of the environment. Further work is being undertaken to develop and improve the Grand Turk Bird Trails and produce guide booklets ("Birding in Paradise" - www.ukotcf.org/birding-in-Turks-and-Caicos/).</p>	
1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): In the UK the majority of Ramsar sites are either Natura sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and as such are protected under relevant statutory regimes. In line with the site protection provisions of Natura 2000 sites, the UK allows socio-economic factors to be considered when developing management measures for sites and/or avoiding site deterioration. In this respect, relevant authorities are able to tailor their arrangements to suit local circumstances.</p> <p>One example is Cors Fochno and Dyfi Ramsar site in Wales (UK14004), which includes a drying estuary, adjacent dunes and a lowland raised mire. It is also a Natura 2000 site, a National Nature Reserve under UK legislation and lies within a larger UNESCO Biosphere Reserve which includes much of the surrounding catchment. The management of the Ramsar site within this wider context is enabling a wide range of ecological, socio-economic and cultural values to be recognised, with particular emphasis placed on local stakeholder engagement. http://www.biosfferdyfi.org.uk.</p> <p>UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories)& CDs (Crown Dependencies): In the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands there is the 'Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies' project (2010 - 2014) as coordinated by UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum with funds from the European Development Fund 9. This project supports the implementation of activities to fulfill the objectives of the environmental agreements and, in turn support sustainable development. For further details please see the link below: http://www.ukotcf.org/pdf/Database/GeneralInformationModule/42_EnvGuidelines_MPASSE_PSC_rev.pdf</p>	

STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention. *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.*

1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
 - b. parliament
 - c. private sector
 - d. civil society
- {1.5.2}

- a. B - No
- b. B - No
- c. A - Yes
- d. A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

Whilst the UK endorses the messages contained in the declaration, no specific action has been undertaken to disseminate the declaration further as the UK has a number of well established policies and procedures that echo its principles (e.g. national biodiversity policies and implementation of relevant EU obligations such as Water Framework Directive and Nature Directives).

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

- a. A - Yes
- b. A - Yes
- c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

b) Climate change

UK: A major review of the impacts of climate change on the UK Special Protection Area network (which is largely the same as the UK Ramsar network) was funded by Defra: see <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=2&ProjectID=16731>. These results were also summarised by: Johnston, A. et al. 2013. Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas. *Nature Climate Change* 3: 1055-1061. doi:10.1038/nclimate2035.

The key conclusion is that: '...future climate change resulting in 4C global warming was projected to cause declines of at least 25% for more than half of the internationally important populations considered. Nonetheless, most EU Special Protection Areas in the UK were projected to retain species in sufficient abundances to maintain their legal status, and generally sites that are important now were projected to be important in the future. The biological and legal resilience of this network of protected areas is derived from the capacity for turnover in the important species at each site as species' distributions and abundances alter in response to climate. Current protected areas are therefore predicted to remain important for future conservation in a changing climate.'

BICCO-Net is a new online collaborative project providing the latest information on the impacts of Climate Change on UK biodiversity. It is a Joint Research Initiative sponsored by Defra and the UK conservation agencies and managed by JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee). Further information is available at: <http://www.bicco-net.org>.

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011b) ranked climate change (moderate impact since 1940s & increasing rapidly) as the fifth major direct impact on wild species diversity.

The Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) partnership produced a Terrestrial Biodiversity Climate Change Impacts Report Card (Morecroft & Speakman 2013) showing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. For example, climate change appears to have affected river biodiversity – populations of trout and salmon have declined by up to 60% in some UK catchments, and this has been attributed to a rise in river temperatures which has occurred over the last 30 years (UK NEA 2011a). Some habitats are recognised as being particularly vulnerable to climate change, such as montane habitats (from increased temperatures), wetlands (from changes in water availability), and coastal habitats (from sea-level rise) (Morecroft & Speakman 2013).

C) The UK has done extensive work on the valuation of ecosystem services. A summary can be found in the UK national ecosystem assessment Synthesis Document for 2011 available here <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/>. In addition to this there is a specific chapter for fresh water including wetlands (chapter 9) and coastal areas including salt planes, in chapter 11 (all within the same document). There is also further work on coastal and marine ecosystem services in the National Ecosystem Assessment follow on (work package 4) also on the same website.

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats to the wetlands? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

In the UK, all wetland management plans are underpinned by national (Special Sites of Scientific Interest/ Areas of Special Scientific Interest) legislation and/or EU legislation are based on sound scientific research.

STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins?
{1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

In the UK the key delivery mechanisms analogous to the 'wise use' principles, are mainly delivered through national implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the Birds and Habitats Directives. The UK takes a strategic approach to ensure that the implementation of these Directives is complementary to deliver common objectives.

The UK government has been working with its delivery agencies to ensure that the Water Framework Directive objectives in relation to Natura 2000 sites, many of which are also Ramsar sites, are met, noting that River Basin Management Plan measures were made operational by 2012, for Natura 2000 protected areas to achieve compliance by 2015, or an extended deadline under Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive.

The Flood and Water Management Act of 2010 applies to England, Wales and Scotland. This Act requires new developments to adopt sustainable drainage systems, including the use of artificial wetlands to manage surface water drainage and diffuse pollution.

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories):

Cayman Islands: Water governance is focused on provision of desalinated municipal water to population centres.

1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see [Resolution X.19](#))? {1.7.3}

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

Communication and educational work has been carried out throughout the UK. Examples include the Environment Agencies Ecohydrological Guidelines and UK Fen Management Handbooks.

Wales: Stakeholder engagement is a key element in Natural Resource Wales' approach to delivering and developing the River Basin Management Plans. The River Basin District Liaison Panels have cross-sectoral representation (land managers, local government, water companies, conservation, recreation and business) and play an important role in developing the River Basin Management Plans.

1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

C - Partly

1.7.3 Additional information:

The UK National Adaptation Programme report (2013) sets out actions and objectives for UK adaptation on English and non-devolved matters. Similar programmes exist in the Devolved Administrations. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/adapting-to-climate-change/supporting-pages/national-adaptation-programme>

England: More geographically explicit guidance on the challenges and opportunities for all landscapes in England is provided by 'statements of environmental opportunity' for all of the 159 National Character Areas. These are set in the context of recent landscape and ecological change, including climate change, to suggest actions and opportunities: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5629923804839936>.

Wales: Natural Resources Wales's (formerly Countryside Council for Wales) Peat Position Statement and the Technical Guidance Note on the Assessing the Impacts of Windfarm Developments on Peatlands in Wales both value the carbon and habitat resources that peatlands represent.

Afforested peatlands in Wales have been identified and prioritised for restoration by Natural Resources Wales using the Forest Research Report "A Strategic Assessment of the Afforested Peat Resource in Wales" (2012) <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-8Z7BSH>. The Welsh Government's Environment Bill white paper consultation explicitly recognises the value of peatland for the provision of carbon sequestration, storage and other ecosystem services and proposes that Natural Resources Wales integrates these services into the proposed area-based approach to natural resource management. <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/environment-bill-white-paper/?lang=en>

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories): In 2008, JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) published a range of materials related to climate change adaptation, mitigation and ecosystem services in the UK Overseas Territories. These materials can be found at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4362> and are relevant to other small island states.

1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

Country Specific Examples

England: Within England, one example of a viable farming system is the England Catchment Sensitive Farming initiative, which delivers practical solutions and targeted support to enable farmers and land managers to take voluntary action to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture thereby protecting water bodies and the environment. <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/csf/>.

Wales: Natural Resources Wales are helping a local creamery develop a scheme to reduce the environmental impact of dairy farming practices in the Western Cleddau catchment. Haverfordwest Creamery, plans to open a new water treatment plant in 2014 to deal with the effluent from its cheese production. This will mean discharging treated waste water into the Western Cleddau, a specially protected area due to its wide range of species, habitats and aquatic plants. The new treatment plant will meet strict environmental standards. In order to offset the increase in nutrient loadings the creamery are working with dairy farmers to improve nutrient management at the farm scale.

STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified?
{1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

In the UK many wetland habitats are included within Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Natura 2000 sites. Where such wetlands are considered to be in an unfavourable condition, by being included in designated sites they can be considered as priorities for restoration.

England & Wales: The ongoing 'Wetland Vision' partnership sets out a 50-year vision for freshwater wetlands and shows where new wetlands could be created and current wetlands restored (<http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/>).

Wales: The Corsydd Môn a Llyn / Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site in Wales (UK14005) is the subject of a major restoration programme.

<http://angleseyandllynfens.com/default.aspx>

Report of the Anglesey & Llyn Fens Technical Workshop. Jones P.S. & Hanson J. (Eds). Natural Resources Wales. <http://www.angleseyandllynfens.com/default.asp>.

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories):

UKOverseas Territories Conservation Forum undertook a major consultation in 2012-13 with UKOTs & CDs (Crown Dependencies) to develop a list of urgent and important activities which would contribute towards protecting and promoting wetland habitats.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

There have been a number of wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes implemented within the UK, country specific examples are given below:

England: The 'Moors for the Future' extends from the Yorkshire Dales to the Peak District, carrying out work on 7 active projects on Sites of Special Scientific Interest and undertaking management on more than 30 sites. Work focuses on encouraging responsible use and care; restoring peatland and conserving important recreational & natural moorland resources; and developing expertise on sustainable management. <http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/>.

Another example is 'The Great Fen Project', first created in 2001 and covering a landscape of 3,700 ha. The project aims to link existing reserves to create a large site with mutual benefits for conservation and increased flood protection. http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/greatfen.aspx. 'Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites', July '12 - June '15: Maintain and enhance the Isles of Scilly SPA by removal of rats from 2 key islands (Scilly rat removal), Oct '12 - Sept '17: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/projects/details/343296-isles-of-scilly-seabird-recovery-project>.

Scotland: Examples within Scotland include the Wetland management and Fen management projects carried out by Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Restoration fund, further details are found at the links below. http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/restoration_fund.aspx. <http://www.snh.gov.uk/about-scotlands-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/lochs-rivers-and-wetlands/fen/>. Restoration work is carried out on the important peatland sites, through a number of projects including; the 'Green Stimulus Peatland Restoration Project' 2013-2015 which aims to reduce carbon release by restoring peatlands. <http://www.snh.gov.uk/climate-change/what-snh-is-doing/peatland-action/> and a second project works on Flow Country, one of the world's largest Atlantic blanket bogs & a peatland of international importance <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=400>.

Wales: In Wales the Corsydd Môn a Llyn / Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site is part of a 5 year project Focusing on habitat restoration and management it is part funded by the EU LIFE fund. The project aims to bring 750 ha of wetlands into favourable or recovering condition and develop economic and social opportunities for local landowners and communities. <http://www.angleseyandllynfens.com/default.aspx>.

Restoration of blanket bog on the Welsh Berwyn Migneint Special Areas of Conservation: an important store of carbon. 170km of ditches blocked to increase resilience of the carbon-rich moorland in the face of climate change, encourage a rich ecosystem, and develop a fully-functioning 5.944ha of blanket bog. Re-wetting allows Sphagnum to flourish, re-instate a natural structure, including bog pools and a naturally functioning ecosystem. Alongside, more than 4,000 locals became involved in the project through walks, talks & education activities, leading to education benefits. <http://www.the-eu-and-me.org.uk/the-eu-near-me/case-studies/wales/life-active-blanket-bog>

Northern Ireland: Significant wetland restoration has taken place through a joint RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) – Northern Ireland Water & NI Environment Agency project. 1000 ha of upland habitats in the Garron Plateau Ramsar site and wet grassland has been restored (for waders) within Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar site.

STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species. *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information:

In the UK, the Non-native Species Information Portal provides access to distribution data for over 3000 non-native species as well as additional information such as place or origin, date of introduction and methods of introduction (<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/index.cfm>). For 300 species more detailed information is provided, including information on identification, impacts and control methods. Distribution data are provided directly by the National Biodiversity Network Gateway (<https://data.nbn.org.uk/>).

The UK's Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy (see 1.9.2 below) lists freshwater, terrestrial plants and animals that were assessed as part of this project. Out of 599 plants, 92 were ranked as critical (55 as urgent) and thus, should be prioritised for a detailed risk assessment; however invasive animals also threaten plant diversity.

In 2014, the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (<http://www.rbbp.org.uk>) published its triennial assessment of the status of rare non-native breeding birds in the UK (and the Republic of Ireland). Most of these are non-native waterbirds: Holling, M. & the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (2014). Non-native breeding birds in the UK, 2009-11. *British Birds* 107: 122-147. The UK also reported on the status of all non-native bird species as part of its national report under Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive (see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6526>). This should showed a difference in overall trends between native and non-native birds with a significantly higher proportion of non-native species expanding their numbers and breeding range in the UK compared to native species.

1.9.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established for wetlands?
{1.9.2} KRa 1.9.iii

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information:

The UK Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy (2008) provides the framework for all action undertaken on invasive alien species in Great Britain (GB). England, Scotland and Wales work together through a GB Programme Board developing both tools and measures while also pursuing individual priorities (e.g. the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/>) Non Native Species Expert Group). Under the Strategy Defra has supported the development of a generic GB risk assessment mechanism (with assessments published on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat website at www.nonnativespecies.org) and the GB Non-native Species Information Portal (see 1.9.1). A rapid response agreement between the GB governments and their agencies has been developed together with joint information and awareness raising campaigns. The Non-native Species Strategy is being reviewed five years after coming into force. The review started in 2013 and will be completed in 2014. In addition, the UK is preparing for the implementation of the European IAS (Invasive Alien Species) Regulation.

England & Wales: The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is the legal instrument that deals with non-native species generally and this covers non-native species that are associated with wetlands.

Scotland: In Scotland, provision is provided by the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act 2011, this enables the adoption of the internationally recognised 3-stage approach to dealing with invasive non-native species

Northern Ireland: A joint initiative between NI Environment Agency and National Parks and Wildlife Service (Irish Republic) titled Invasive Species Ireland phase 3 includes funding for risk assessments, knowledge sharing and practical action. 'Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland' published May 2013 and Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/15/contents>.

STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information:

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:

a. Ramsar Sites

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

There are a number of private sector initiatives in the UK, examples of where these have a particular focus on wetlands are outlined below:

England: In England, the Sustainable Catchment Management Programme, developed by United Utilities in association with the RSPB, aims to apply an integrated approach to catchment management in two key areas of United Utilities land in England (Bowland and the Peak District area) <http://www.unitedutilities.com/scamp.aspx>.

Wales: Natural Resources Wales is compiling a web based 'actions database' identifying site management priorities and key partners for designated sites. This is already being used to engage public, private and voluntary sector organisations in taking forward management actions on sites.

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories) & CDs (Crown Dependencies):

Guernsey: The island government (States) has good relationships with the private sector who provide support for the management of marine wetland areas through corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Turks & Caicos Islands: has put in place an initiative where several private sector companies, particularly in sustainable tourism, are involved in wise use of wetlands, including Ramsar sites, and are exploring involvement in management.

Tristan da Cunha: the Conservation Department works closely with the UK, RSPB and the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa to study and protect the wetland values of both the Gough Island and inaccessible Island Ramsar Sites.

Anguilla: Although, at present there are no Ramsar sites on Anguilla (designations are due to take place by March 2015), there are many good examples of work done on wetland management, monitoring and education. See <https://www.facebook.com/notes/anguilla-national-trust/anguilla-national-trust-receives-funding-from-ramsar-secretariat-to-support-wetl/10152470075186926>

STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information:

In the UK there are various incentive measures to deliver wetland 'wise use' objectives, although these are not necessarily wetland specific. Examples include agri-environment schemes that provide funding to farmers and other land managers to deliver effective environmental management for their land. Another positive example for wetlands is the application of measures under the EU Nitrates Directive. For example, the introduction of no spread zones outside of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) prohibits the application of fertilizer/manure close to watercourses, boreholes, wells and springs. Farmers with land in NVZs already have to follow mandatory rules to tackle nitrate loss from agriculture. See also the Biodiversity Agri-environment indicators: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4243>

England: For examples of wise use objectives in England see the England Catchment Sensitive Farming initiative (further details in 1.7.4).

Scotland: The Scotland Rural Development Programme (2007-2013) includes options to help the restoration and management of wetlands to improve biodiversity, the landscape and flood management. Amongst these, are options to manage grazing on peat-lands and restore peatlands. The 'Management/Restoration of Lowland Raised Bogs' Rural Priorities option provides support to block ditches to raise the water levels on lowland raised bog sites. The 'Moorland Grazings on Uplands and Peatlands' and 'Wildlife Management on Upland and Peatland Sites' options support capital items for ditch blocking and peat dams to benefit upland and peatland sites. There are capital items available under woodland clearance options to assist the felling of tree plantations to restore the hydrology of bog habitats.

The Scottish Government is considering the design of its next rural development programme, which is expected to begin in 2014, and will take account of possible options for the creation, restoration and management of wetlands.

Wales: Details of the Welsh agri-environment scheme Glastir, can be found at the link below
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/schemes/glastir/?lang=en>.

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

The UK has taken a broad approach to identifying and removing perverse incentives. We are currently working towards implementing the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in a way that will have a positive impact on Ramsar sites, for example, where these include grazing marshes. Management agreements and other stewardship schemes also work to address this.

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note: An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP12 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on each of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " "; use single quotes ' ' instead.

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. Apply the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance' (Handbook 14, 3rd edition).

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?</i> {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	B - No
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2.1.1 Additional information:

Whilst there is no specific strategy for Ramsar site designation, the UK continues to work with OTs (Overseas Territories) and CDs (Crown Dependencies) to help facilitate further site designations as requested.

2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii	7 sites
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2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):

Specific country details are outlined below:

England: In 2014 one new site was designated, the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore. Three new sites are set to be designated in the near future; these are Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay.

Northern Ireland: Two Ramsar sites are planned for designation in 2015: Derryleckagh and Teal Lough.

UKOTs:

St Helena - Three new sites have been proposed this year, but have yet to be designated; these are Fisher's Valley; Central Peaks; and Inshore waters, stacks and cliffs.

Anguilla - A project is underway in Anguilla to update their National Wetland Inventory and assess the viability of designating Ramsar site(s), we anticipate the first sites to be designated prior to March 2015.

Cayman Islands - One new site, the Central Mangrove Wetland, has been proposed this year.

Bermuda - Is working towards having the Castle Harbour Islands and Reef designated in 2015 and are drafting a RIS to be added to the new system in the autumn with designation to follow soon after.

STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information. *Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.*

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

More detailed information is available via UK and GB-wide information sources such as The Wetland Bird Survey (<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs>) and The National Biodiversity Network Gateway (<https://data.nbn.org.uk/>) as well as national sources outlined below.

England: The main national information source on freshwater sites is held by ENSIS, this is part of the Environmental Change Research Centre at the University College London, further details on one of their research areas can be found here: <http://www.freshwaterbiodiversity.eu/>.

Wales: The Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) has a series of Ecosystem Groups to coordinate delivery of biodiversity action in an integrated way across habitats and associated species. These groups include a Wetland Ecosystem Group and Upland Ecosystem Group covering lowland and upland wetlands respectively. The Groups have produced action plans to deliver a range of wetland conservation/restoration actions and priority maps showing the key areas where action is needed.

Priority wetland areas to be targeted by local Biodiversity Action Plan initiatives have been published on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website (<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Wetlands>) by the Wetland Ecosystem Group.

The two current Welsh Government Resilient Ecosystems Fund 2013-15 projects with a wetland focus (The Snowdonia & Hiraethog Peatland Partnership (<http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/the-environment/Projects/Peatland-Partnership>) and the Anglesey Mawndir Mon Project are both running public engagement programmes for wetlands.

Northern Ireland: The national information source is Northern Ireland Environment Agency, specific data can be found on a number of sites http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/biodiversity/northern_ireland_s_biodiversity.htm .

STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning - new Ramsar Sites. *While recognizing that Ramsar Site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar Sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.*

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i	C - Some sites
<p>2.3.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Most UK Ramsar sites are notified under national SSSI/ASSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest/ Area of Special Scientific Interest) or equivalent designation before formal designation. This underpinning provides the necessary management mechanism to ensure site conservation measures are achieved.</p> <p>England: Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore now designated as a Ramsar site. There is a Site Management Agreement for Hoylake Beach in place until 2015 and the need for the Management Agreement will be reviewed before expiry.</p> <p>Northern Ireland: There is no management plan for Derryleckagh and Teal Lough as Natura 2000 Conservation Objectives are used to guide decision making on these sites (as is the case for all our Ramsar sites) plus Views About Management linked to the underpinning ASSI designation.</p> <p>UK OTs (UK Overseas Territories): South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands have a Management Plan prepared.</p> <p>Bermuda: the proposed Castle Harbour Islands and Reef site contains the existing Cooper's Island Nature Reserve (management plan 2008), Nonsuch Island Nature Reserve (management plan exists, to be updated in 2014) and the existing Castle Harbour Islands Nature Reserve (management plan in preparation).</p> <p>Tristan da Cunha: There is a combined management plan for the Gough and Inaccessible Ramsar Sites 2010. http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/Gough_Inaccessible_MP_tcm9-273306.pdf</p> <p>St Helena: the Central Peaks has a management plan in place.</p> <p>CDs (Crown Dependencies): Guernsey: for Lihou, a draft management plan has been prepared and full implementation is in preparation. For Herm and The Humps management plans are being developed.</p>	

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	131 sites
2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	131 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	28 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

The UK has a range of different types of management plans and management planning processes in place for the majority of Ramsar sites in the UK. Site specific information is available via respective Ramsar Information Sheets, further details can be found in section 1.1.2.

The figures above were last updated when the Ramsar Information Sheets were comprehensively revised, therefore they are likely to be an under-estimate compared to the current status of sites.

Wales - In Wales all management plans are collected on an online database (link below) this includes all the Ramsar sites, <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape-wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-sites-project.aspx?lang=en>.

Northern Ireland: Derryleckagh and Teal Lough in Northern Ireland have Natura 2000 Conservation Objectives are used to guide decision making on these sites and Views About Management linked to the underpinning ASSI (Area of Special Scientific Interest designation management plans).

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories):

In the OT's there is mixed use of management plans. There are plans in place for sites in the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, with a broader conservation plan currently being developed for the British Indian Ocean Territory.

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv

0 sites

2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v

1 sites

2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

There have been none of ecological character prepared in the mainland UK, however, there is one for the Little Cayman Booby Pond Ramsar Site in the Cayman Islands.

STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness. *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance'.*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i

C - Some sites

2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment

and the source of the information):

Effectiveness of management is assessed through the normal review and feedback processes associated with site management planning.

STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status. *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

Most Ramsar sites are notified as Natura 2000 sites under the EU Birds and Habitats Directive, which provides mechanisms analogous to Ramsar Article 3.2 provisions – i.e. under Articles 6(2), 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive and, where applicable, Article 4(4) of the EU Birds Directive.

Common Standards Monitoring as part of the Habitats Directive is important for detecting the condition of protected areas <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2219>.

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

C - Some cases

2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

Negative human-induced change can be at a variety of scales and have varying implications for the maintenance of the ecological character of a site. Their consequences can range from essentially short-term and local, to sufficiently significant to warrant listing a site on the Montreux Record.

Where appropriate, cases of human-induced negative change have been reported to the Secretariat (see 2.6.3 below). The UK tracks whether change occurs through its statutory site monitoring protocols and in most cases believes that management action and the regulatory systems in place will be sufficient to remedy issues which have been observed.

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

A - Yes

2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

The UK is making good progress to address the issues affecting the sites it has listed on the Montreux Record (Ouse Washes and Dee Estuary). However, the UK considers that it would be premature to remove these sites from the Montreux record at present. A revised Montreux Record was provided for the Dee Estuary when the Dee Estuary extension was submitted in 2011.

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i

C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information:

In the UK any potential Ramsar site is almost certainly already designated as a nationally important site (i.e. SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) or ASSI (Area of Special Scientific Interest)), and will therefore be subject to the management planning processes and requirements to maintain favourable site condition that apply to those sites. It is therefore likely that processes are in hand to maintain the ecological character of these sites through their national status, although no formal national process exists to assess this.

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. *Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).*

3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv

A - Yes

3.1.1 Additional information:

Focal points in the UK work closely through various mechanisms and fora to identify cross cutting issues and promote synergies.

3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv

A - Yes

3.1.2 Additional information:

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i

B - No

3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}

B - No

3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i

A - Yes

3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11):

The Darwin Initiative is a UK government grants scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment by funding projects in developing countries and UK Overseas Territories. Over the years there have been various projects with a wetlands focus or providing benefits to wetland areas. For example, Project 16013: 'Strengthening partnerships for Ramsar implementation in South East Asia'
<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/16013/> .

Darwin-funded projects usually aim to help preserve biodiversity and the local community that lives alongside it. Most projects will include one or more of:

- building environmental knowledge
- capacity building
- research
- implementing international biodiversity agreements

Darwin projects are monitored and evaluated to ensure that they will have a lasting impact and legacy on biodiversity in host countries and helping them meet their obligations under the priority biodiversity conventions.

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories) & CDs (Crown Dependencies): A number of the UK Overseas Territories received funding through the UK Overseas Territory Environmental Programme (OTEP), which will contribute to wetland conservation. OTEP has now been replaced by Darwin Plus, which is jointly funded by Defra, DFID (Department for International Development) and FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) (www.gov.uk/darwin-plus-applying-for-projects-in-uk-overseas-territories).

In addition to the above, it would be appropriate to note that support from UK Government to conservation in the UKOTs is complemented by major contributions to UKOTs & CDs of personnel, expertise and other resources from NGOs in the UK and the UKOTs & CDs themselves.

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii	A - Yes
3.3.2 Additional information:	
3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	Z - Not applicable
3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):	

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}	A - Yes
<p>3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>Twinning arrangements exist for some sites in the UK, for example between the Wash and Waddensee (Netherlands) and between Strangford Lough and sites in Canada and Iceland.</p> <p>Networks have also been established through Wetland Link International (WLI), a support network for wetland centres which provide education and visitor activities on site. The project is run from the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust in the UK, and has around 350 members across six continents (http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli).</p>	
3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A - Yes
<p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>JNCC's (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) web-site provides a range of information about UK Ramsar Sites (http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1388) and Information on the status of UK wetlands is widely available through the UK's National Biodiversity Network (http://www.nbn.org.uk).</p> <p>England: Information is also available through initiatives such as the England 'Wetland</p>	

Vision' work (<http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/>) and Natural England <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/ramsars/default.aspx>.

Wales: Natural Resources Wales works closely with thousands of landowners and many organisations throughout Wales to give Wales' wetlands the intensive care they desperately need. Information is shared through the NRW website or project websites. See for example, <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/about-ccw/newsroom/press-releases/caring-for-wales-wetlands.aspx?lang=en> and <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-landscapes--sites/international-designated-sites/ramsar.aspx?lang=en>. A project that creates strong partnerships with local communities aims to restore or improve 751 hectares of very rare fen habitats, which depend on a delicate water balance and limestone springs that flow into the peat and is described here (<http://www.angleseyandllynfens.com/>). This project has a commitment to developing opportunities for local businesses and the local economy to thrive. Information is shared through the project website. <http://www.angleseyandllynfens.com/>). This project has a commitment to developing opportunities for local businesses and the local economy to thrive. Information is shared through the project website. The Eryri and Hiraethog Peatland Partnership (<http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/the-environment/Projects/Peatland-Partnership>) and the Anglesey Mawndir Mon Project are both running public engagement programmes for wetlands.

Scotland: Information is available via Scottish Natural Heritage: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/protected-areas/international-designations/ramsar-sites/>.

Northern Ireland: Information can be found at: http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/protected_areas_home/ramsar.htm

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii	A - Yes
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3.4.3 Additional information:

STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. *Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

3.5.1 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	A - Yes
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3.5.1 Additional information:

Northern Ireland: Work has been undertaken within the audit process forming part of the cross-border River Basin Management Plan development programme in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland at International River Basin District level.

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii	A - Yes
<p>3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):</p> <p>Northern Ireland: Cooperation occurs through a number of mechanisms: Government bodies with responsibility for cross-border designated wetlands meet bi-annually (Northern Ireland Environment Agency and National Parks and Wildlife Service). This body also considers cross-border policy issues of common interest.</p> <p>Three International River Basin Districts are shared between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – the River Basin Management Plans for these apply to groundwater, all surface water bodies, transitional and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water and address cross-border considerations.</p> <p>A cross-border body, The Loughs Agency, addresses protection and management of those cross-border catchments centred on shared coastal areas (Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough - both Ramsar sites) and their associated catchments.</p>	
3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii	A - Yes
<p>3.5.3 Additional information:</p> <p>The UK is Party to, and active participant in, a number of agreements under the Convention on Migratory Species which have implications for the conservation of wetland-dependent species. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds • Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels • Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic & North Seas <p>The UK is signatory to a number of MoUs (Memoranda of Understanding) which have implications for the conservation of wetland-dependent species. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic & North Seas • MoU on the Aquatic Warbler • MoU on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia • MoU on migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia <p>For information on the UK's involvement in these international initiatives see the most recent UK report to CMS http://www.cms.int/en/documents/national-reports?field_country_target_id_entityreference_filter=217&=Apply.</p>	

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.*

4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

- a) C - In progress
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes

(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)

4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):

UK: The 'UK Biodiversity Framework' is designed to identify the activities needed to galvanise and complement country strategies, in pursuit of the Aichi targets <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>.

Wales: In 2010 the Welsh Government, illustrated how their approach on Integrated Natural Resources Management across all ecosystems (including wetlands) was developed through engagement and communication with targeted stakeholders and the public in general (thereby linking to the CEPA principles). The Welsh Government consulted on the principles against which it would develop its new Natural Environment Framework. This programme entitled 'A Living Wales' included a workstream dedicated to the engagement and communication surrounding the development and promulgation of the new framework. This work lead on to our new approach of Natural Resources Management. Through Natural Resources Management we are aiming to ensure that Wales has increasingly resilient and diverse ecosystems that deliver economic, environmental and social benefits.
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/?lang=en>

4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

- a) at Ramsar Sites
- b) at other wetlands

- a) 50 centres
- b) 0 centres

4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):

a) There are a number of visitor/educational centres in the UK that include a focus on wetlands, for example Arundel, London, Slimbridge, and Martin Mere (see <http://www.wwt.org.uk/learn/>).

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories):

Cayman Islands - b) Although no centres have been established, interpretive signs at 6 non-Ramsar wetlands have been erected.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

a) A - Yes

b) A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

In the UK public consultation precedes all Ramsar site designations, which are selected on scientific criteria only. Public participation is central to the development of site management plans, which may take account of socio-economic and cultural factors.

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?

{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

A - Yes

4.1.4 Additional information:

Training needs in the UK are assessed on an organisation by organisation basis.

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

- a) at Ramsar Sites
- b) at other wetlands

Number of opportunities:

a) 0

b)

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

It is not possible in the UK to give a precise figure as such opportunities are assessed on an organisation by organisation basis (as there is no central co-ordination).

4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

A - Yes

4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since

COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):

UK: Natura 2000 & Ramsar Forum: Membership and Term of Reference (responsibilities) are provided here:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/protected/internationally-designated-sites/n2krftor-0810.pdf>; and Natura 2000 & Ramsar Steering Committee: with revised Terms of Reference here:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/protected/internationally-designated-sites/n2kr-sctor-1011.pdf>

4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:

- a) Ramsar Site managers
- b) other MEA national focal points
- c) other ministries, departments and agencies

{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

a) A - Yes

b) A - Yes

c) A - Yes

4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):

Focal points (both wetland specific and broader conservation) are established throughout the UK administrations and its agencies and have established networks to ensure joined up implementation of 'wise use' principles. JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee), the Government's advisor on nature conservation issues, provides a coordination role for the UK nature conservation agencies.

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust convened a second Wetland Futures conference in Autumn 2013 with about 100 delegates. The conference brought together a range of stakeholders including industry, such as aggregates and water companies; landowners and managers; those in planning and development; environmental NGOs and others involved in wetland management and conservation <http://www.wwt.org.uk/our-work/wetland-futures-conference-2011>.

4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information:

In the UK events took place through the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust centres. In 2014, the events were at Welney, with bird-ringing sessions, children's art sessions, and a bioblitz, with over 250 visitors. Slimbridge held a 'Festival of Birds' on the weekend of WWD, with nearly 3,000 visitors and offered talks on bird conservation activities, arts and crafts activities for children, and a mini-market with stalls selling wetland-related crafts and goods.

England: Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses National Nature Reserve managed in partnership with Natural Resources Wales held a talk by a voluntary

warden called 'A Year on the Mosses' to celebrate World Wetlands Day.

Wales: The Snowdonia National Park provided a field trip for a Young Farmers Group on World Wetlands Day 2014 to a restoration site subject to grip blocking as part of the Welsh Government Resilient Ecosystems Services funded Snowdonia and Mynydd Hiraethog Peatland Restoration Project (<http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/the-environment/Projects/Peatland-Partnership>.)

At Newport Wetlands, children from a nearby junior school and the local mayor spent the morning at the reserve. Activities included pond-dipping, bird watching, bark rubbing, feely boxes, shelter building and fire making (with no matches or lighters). The activities were provided free of charge by Newport City Council Green Team, RSPB staff and volunteers and Natural Resources Wales staff and Voluntary Wardens. This particular school were the first school to visit Newport Wetlands on World Wetlands Day, and since then over 16,500 school children have been on educational visits. Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve, managed in partnership with the RSPB, provided a guided walk. Goldcliff Bird Ringers also put on a bird ringing demonstration which people were able to see at the end of the walk.

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories):

Bermuda - Press release for WWD in 2011 for the 40th anniversary of Ramsar, see <http://bernews.com/2011/02/bermuda-photos-world-wetlands-day/> and <http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20110202/NEWS07/702029988/-1/news07>.

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):

Wales: The Anglesey & Llyn Fens LIFE project (LIFE07 NATUK 000948, <http://www.angleseyandllynfens.com/>) held a technical workshop in October 2013 to showcase the work undertaken as part of the project and to provide a key training and discussion opportunity for practitioners engaged in similar projects across Wales. The workshop proceedings will be published in 2014 and available from the project website.

The two current Welsh Government Resilient Ecosystems Fund 2013-15 projects with a wetland focus (The Snowdonia & Hiraethog Peatland Partnership {<http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/the-environment/Projects/Peatland-Partnership>} and the Anglesey Mawndir Mon Project are both running public engagement programmes for wetlands.

UKOTs (UK Overseas Territories):

Turks & Caicos Islands: UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and the Turks & Caicos National Museum organized an event for RBC's (Royal

Bank of Canada) Blue Water Day 2014 to launch a Wise-Water-Use Garden (see 1.10.2 above).

CDs:

Guernsey: there is an extensive consultation process as part of investigative work into the island's second Ramsar site.

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. *Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.*

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i

4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities

STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness. *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

B - No

4.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, and WWF International.

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
<p>4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):</p> <p>The UK works closely with the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) (the UK partner of Birdlife International) in implementing the 'wise use' principles of the Convention.</p>	
4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
<p>4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):</p> <p>JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) has worked with Wetlands International to seek sustainable funding mechanisms for the International Waterbird Census – the data and information from which is fundamental to the implementation of aspects of the Ramsar Convention, Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Convention on Migratory Species.</p>	