



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 10th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Republic of Korea, 28 October – 4 November 2008**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **31 March 2008**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org)

Introduction & background

1. This Ramsar COP10 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Republic of Korea, October/November 2008).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 35th meeting in February 2007, and its Decisions SC35-22, -23 and -24, this COP10 National Report Format has been significantly revised and simplified in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In particular this National Report Format provides a much smaller number (66) of implementation "indicator" questions, compared with the much larger suite of questions on all aspects of national implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 included in previous NRFs.
4. The COP10 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee (Decision SC35-24), certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) and CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention.
5. The 66 indicator questions are grouped under each of the implementation "Strategies" approved by the Parties at COP9 (Resolution IX.8) in the Convention's "A Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006 -2008 period" (www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_08_e.htm). The indicators have been selected so as to provide information on key aspects of the implementation of the Convention under each of its Strategies.
6. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply **additional information** concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.

The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention, and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's Web site.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
 - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) capture lessons/experience, so as to allow Parties to develop future action;
 - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention through Convention processes;
 - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable against their obligations under the Convention;
 - v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and plan for its future implementation and priorities; and
 - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. In addition, the data and information provided by Parties in their COP10 National Reports now have another important purpose, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation will provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP10 consideration.

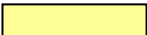
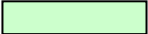
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each COP on the global and regional implementation, and progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at COP as a series of Information Papers including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 5);
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 6); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP9 DOCs 10-13);
 - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at COP. Examples at CO9 included:
 - Resolution IX.15, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
 - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC 15) and *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC 25);
 - iii) providing the source of time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention, included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (3rd edition, 2007); and
 - iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for the CBD for wetlands.

The structure of the COP10 National Report Format

12. In line with Standing Committee Decisions SC35-21 and SC35-22, the COP10 National Report Format is in three sections.
13. **Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.
14. **Section 2** is a "free-text" section in which to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.
15. **Section 3** provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy, and with a "free-text" section under each Strategy in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of the Strategy and its indicators.

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP10 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

16. All three Sections of the COP10 National Report Format should be filled in, in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
17. The deadline for submission of the completed National Report Format is **31 March 2008**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received from Parties after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP10.
18. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
19. 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 in the COP10 NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since it is the experience of the Secretariat that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.
20. In order to assist Contracting Parties in their provision of such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the "Additional implementation information" fields.
21. The Format is created as a "Form" in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to, and between, each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information. All other parts of the form are locked.
22. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, 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.
23. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the "Tab" key on the computer keyboard.
24. For a "free-text" field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow "free-text" box, it is recommended that you 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. This is because within the "Form" format there is limited facility to make editorial changes within the "free-text" box once text has been entered.
25. 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 asked in the indicator, but are in general of the form: "Yes", "No", "Partly", "In progress", etc.
26. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can provide this in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
27. 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.

28. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given.
29. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP10NRF [Country] [date].
30. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by email, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, email: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
31. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP10 National Report.**
32. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP10 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: CANADA	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Virginia Poter, Director General
Mailing address:	351 St Joseph Blvd, Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3
Telephone/Fax:	(819) 994-1360 / (819) 953-7177
Email:	Virginia.Poter@ec.gc.ca
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Robert McLean, Executive Director, Habitat Conservation and Protected Areas
Mailing address:	351 St Joseph Blvd, Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3
Telephone/Fax:	(819) 997-1303 / (819) 994-4445
Email:	Robert.McLean@ec.gc.ca
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Randy Milton - Manager, Wetlands and Coastal Habitats Program
Name of organisation:	Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Mailing address:	136 Exhibition St., Kentville, Nova Scotia B4N 4E5
Telephone/Fax:	(902) 679-6224 / (902) 679-6176
Email:	miltongr@gov.ns.ca
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	No designated government focal point for CEPA
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title:	No designated non-government focal point for CEPA
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP9 reporting):

A. What new steps have been taken to implement the Convention?

- 1) New Ramsar Site designated: Columbia Wetlands, a 15,000 ha wildlife management area in British Columbia, was designated in June 2005 as Canada's 37th Wetland of International Importance.
- 2) Survey of Ramsar Site Managers conducted: The 2007 survey re-established links with site managers, clarified the status of management plans and other key documents, characterized means of public identification of sites with Ramsar, and gathered perspectives on the benefits and challenges associated with Ramsar site designation.
- 3) Canadian Wetland Inventory (CWI) methodology developed: The development phase of the CWI was concluded in March 2007. National wetland inventory mapping has been completed for approximately 10% of the country during the pilot projects. Regional wetland inventory projects completed include a Ducks Unlimited Canada project to map wetlands of the western boreal, and an online interactive mapping project for wetlands of the St. Lawrence Valley.
- 4) New initiatives to conserve wetlands announced: The Government of Canada announced in March 2007 a \$225 million investment in a new initiative to conserve ecologically significant lands across Canada. The initiative is led by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada and involves the Canadian Land Trust Alliance who will work with landowners and communities to conserve critical lands - including wetlands -- nationwide. New incentive programs were also announced at the provincial level such as the New Brunswick Biodiversity Enhancement Program and the Ontario Natural Spaces Program. The Nature Conservancy of Canada continued to protect important wetland areas, such as a portion of the Minesing Wetlands in 2007, a Ramsar Site and one of the largest and most diverse wetland complexes in southern Ontario, as well as two raised bogs in Nova Scotia in 2005.
- 5) Wetland restoration approved as a beneficial management practice under Canada's Agricultural Policy Framework: For landowners in provinces that include these BMPs on their eligibility lists, the decision will result in access to technical assistance and funding for activities to restore drained wetlands to their original size, depth and ecological function.
- 6) Awareness of ecological goods and services provided by wetlands, promoted: Activities include three achievements in 2006: a National Symposium on Ecological Goods and Services, a National Survey of Farmers and Ranchers on Ecological Goods and Services, and a national report on Canada's watersheds by Statistics Canada cited the increasing importance of recognizing the rural contribution to ecosystem goods and services, for the management of water resources in Canada. Delta Waterfowl's Alternate Land Use Services (ALUS) ecological goods and services program -- piloted in Ontario and Manitoba over the last triennium -- is driven by farmers and promotes the value of conserving and restoring Canada's natural capital among rural communities.
- 7) Wetland policy and guidance efforts advanced: Efforts focused on Alberta and Nova Scotia, as well as a national review of wetland functional assessments drafted.
- 8) Industrial Research Chair on Peatlands Management renewed: At the University of Laval, Montreal, Quebec. Peatland restoration and reclamation design and implementation is based on the extensive research results associated with this Chair, which have directly influenced the Convention's guidance for wetland restoration. This initiative represents a good example of a successful collaboration between the Government of Canada, academic institutions, the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association and its producer members.

9) International efforts initiated: Canadian, Italian and other partner agencies are assisting organizations in Iraq to implement the Key Biodiversity Areas and related wetland restoration programs in the Mesopotamian marshes of southern Iraq. This may expand into a regional initiative in the Tigris-Euphrates Basin. A project to assist NGOs in North Africa is in the inception phase funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in cooperation with Wetlands International. A peat swamp forest project in Indonesia with Wetlands International was concluded in 2006-07, funded also by CIDA.

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

The most successful aspect for Canada has been the designation of wetlands for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance. With the addition of the Columbia Wetlands in 2005, Canada has designated 37 Ramsar sites with a total surface area of more than 13 million hectares.

In Canada's Survey of Ramsar Site Managers 2007, two-thirds (67.6%) of Ramsar site managers think that the designation helps to maintain the ecological character of the site, because it 1) communicates a higher level of importance, 2) influences land use planning, development decisions and environmental assessment, and 3) improves management through greater attention and a long-term focus on ecological health.

C. What have been the greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

The greatest difficulty relates to the lack of financial and manpower resources devoted to implementing the Convention in Canada, to: 1) actively promote at the national level the Convention's goals, principles and practical guidance 2) facilitate communications and sharing of Ramsar and wetland conservation resources among managers and decision-makers and 3) contribute to the proactive management and conservation of Ramsar sites, the monitoring and assessment of their ecological character, and communication and education programs.

Canada's Survey of Ramsar Site Managers 2007 identified the top three challenges specifically related to managing Ramsar sites are 1) effects of surrounding land uses and activities, 2) invasive species and 3) visitor impacts.

D. What proposals and priorities are there for future implementation of the Convention?

Implementation of the Canadian Wetland Inventory, focused initially on protected areas, is planned for the next triennium, in addition to making existing CWI maps available online through GeoBase.

Improved national coordination on wetlands is proposed for the next triennium. The 2007 Survey of Ramsar Site Managers and the feedback received while preparing this national report indicate a need for a strong coordinating Committee to facilitate communications on Ramsar objectives, strategies and resources among Canadians involved in wetland conservation.

As the major national source of information on Ramsar and wetland conservation, support of the WetKit: Tools for Working with Wetlands in Canada website [<http://www.wetkit.net>] is a priority. WetKit tracks Canada's progress on implementation of all aspects of the Convention, and supports federal policy and international treaty commitments for communications, information sharing and regular reporting.

E. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

Canada's Survey of Ramsar Site Managers 2007 indicated no consensus regarding the type of support that would help in the future. Comments regarding support for Ramsar site management primarily call for financial and human resources.

F. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)?

No specific recommendations.

G. 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?

No specific recommendations.

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

In most parts of Canada, the Ramsar principles and approach are reflected in policies and strategies at all levels related to water, sustainable development and extractive industries. However, explicit promotion of the Ramsar Convention as a legal international treaty for which all sectors of Canadian society are responsible, may improve success in implementing these strategies in the face of major resource development pressures expected in the next 10-15 years.

I. Does the Contracting Party have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

The Ramsar Convention Secretariat has made available some excellent, practical guidance on wise use of wetlands. More resources need to be invested in ensuring that this guidance is communicated to decision makers in all sectors across Canada, and that Ramsar site managers have the financial and manpower resources to proactively manage sites and meet Ramsar Convention requirements.

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in 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 either one or more of the specific indicators for each strategy, and/or for other aspects of the national implementation of this strategy, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions for each Strategy.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you 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. So as to assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP9, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP9 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1: *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1}	B - No
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	B - No
1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed]	C - For some sites
1.1.4 If the answer is “Yes” in 1.1.3, does this information indicate that the need to address adverse change in the ecological character of wetlands is now greater, the same, or less than in the previous triennium, for: a) Ramsar sites b) wetlands generally	A - Greater A - Greater

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.1.1 – 1.1.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.1.1 A methodology for the Canadian Wetland Inventory (CWI) has been developed in the last triennium (see <http://www.cwi-icth.ca>), and national wetland inventory mapping has been completed for approximately 10% of the country during the pilot projects. Detailed wetland mapping on Canadian Wildlife Service and possibly other federal protected areas is proposed for the next triennium. The project team is building a business case intended to position the project for implementation. CWI partners include the Canadian Space Agency, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service HQ, Natural Resources Canada - Centre for Topographic Information, North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada), provincial and territorial governments, University of Victoria and Université de Sherbrooke.

However, provincial/territorial wetland and peatland inventories have been available for priority areas across Canada for 10 years or more. [See www.wetkit.net, tool type=inventories and assessments]

In 2005, an interactive mapping tool [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=1629] was launched to inform users about the characterization and evolution of wetlands in the St. Lawrence Valley. Ducks Unlimited Canada completed an ambitious program to map the wetlands of the western boreal forest.

1.1.2. CWI partners plan to make the existing CWI maps available to all stakeholders through Geobase in the next triennium. GeoBase [<http://www.geobase.ca>] is a federal, provincial and territorial government initiative to ensure the provision of, and access to, a common, up-to-date and maintained base of quality geospatial data for all of Canada.

1.1.3 Environment Canada continues monitoring land use change on Creston Valley (biology@crestonwildlife.ca) and Lac Saint Pierre wetlands (guy.letourneau@ec.gc.ca). There are a number of volunteer-based, long-term programs that monitor wetlands and wetland species throughout Canada, such as the multi-partner, binational Marsh Monitoring Program that continues on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence shorelines.

1.1.4 Canada's Survey of Ramsar Site Managers (2007) identifies changes to ecological character in 15 Ramsar sites, tied to water level changes (Peace-Athabasca Delta, Southern James Bay, Beaverhill Lake and Old Crow Flats), lack of connectivity to historical watershed (Point Pelee), invasive species (Long Point, St. Clair, Malpeque Bay and Musquodoboit Harbour), water temperature increase and oxygen depletion from algal blooms (Malpeque Bay), habitat degradation due to snow geese (McConnell River, Queen Maud Gulf, and Dewey Soper) unspecified vegetation changes (Creston Valley and Delta Marsh), and local effects of off-highway vehicle use (Hay-Zama Lakes).

There is concern about the very low water level, likely due to ongoing long-term drought conditions, in Beaverhill Lake. The Government of Alberta is monitoring the situation.

Follow-up to these survey results is required to determine whether any reported changes in ecological character is significant and human-induced.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.2: *Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supranational policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied, where possible specifying the appropriate policy instrument(s) in each Contracting Party which ensures wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

1.2.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {2.1.1} [If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in Additional implementation information]	B - No
1.2.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {2.1.2}	---
1.2.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development (including National Poverty Reduction Plans called for by the WSSD and water resources management and water efficiency plans)? {2.1.2}	A - Yes
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	C - Partly
1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.2.1 – 1.2.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.2.3: [.. additional information ...]"

1.2.1 Canada has a Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (1991) [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=13], and most provinces and territories and some municipal level governments have entrenched wise use of wetlands in public policy. Six provinces have wetland policy in place (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick). A number of recent policy initiatives include:

- In April 2007, the Nova Scotia Legislature passed the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. The Act calls for a policy to prevent the net loss of wetlands by 2009.
- Administrative guidelines for the management and development of peatlands by the Government of New Brunswick
- Alberta recently conducted public consultations for a proposed broadly-based Wetland Policy, to gather ideas from Albertans on what they think is required for successful wetland conservation in the province.

1.2.3 No further progress has been made on this in the last triennium. There is still a requirement for all federal departments to update their sustainable development strategies. Those departments with large landholdings such as National Defence and Environment Canada explicitly recognize the value of wetlands on their landholdings in their SD strategy.

1.2.4 Water requirements for wetlands are normally assessed during permit applications and environmental assessments. Federal and provincial governments have in the past shared the cost of hydrometric stations (for water quality and quantity) in some parts of the country. Diminishing federal funding for stations may affect the availability of information relevant to wetlands in the future.

1.2.5 Most jurisdictions in Canada conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments of policies, programmes and plans with the potential for important environmental effects, which would include impacts on wetlands.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.3: *Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defence, climate change mitigation, food security, poverty reduction, cultural heritage, and scientific research, with a focus on under-represented ecosystem types, through developing and disseminating methodology to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

1.3.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar sites? {3.3.1} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in the Additional implementation information below, the year of assessment and from where or from whom this information can be obtained]	B - No
1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4}	F - Not applicable
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	A - Yes
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.3.1 – 1.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.3.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.3.1 No comprehensive assessments have been conducted to measure ecosystem services provided by Ramsar sites in Canada, although all management plans make reference to the benefits and services of the designated sites.

1.3.3 The peat industry in Canada has been an active supporter of the implementation of this initiative both at home and abroad. The Canadian government participated in the Coordination Committee for Global Action on Peatlands Committee up to 2006 but has pulled back due to a lack of capacity for international work.

1.3.4 No national action has been taken to promote or implement the Convention's guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands, however Canada's incorporation of cultural values in the planning and management of Ramsar sites, National Wildlife Areas, and other wetlands has progressed over the past triennium and is described in section 4.1. Canada remains an active participant in the Convention's debate on cultural criteria and guidelines for Ramsar sites.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 national implementation:

General recognition of the significance of wetlands for a range of ecological services continues to grow, see details in section 4.4.

STRATEGY 1.4: *Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change, all in the context of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).*

Indicator questions:

1.4.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1, Annex C) been used/applied in decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {3.4.2 – r3.4.xiv}	C - Partly
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	C - Partly
1.4.3 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5}	C - Partly
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.4.1 – 1.4.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.4.1 While principles for development and implementation of Ramsar's water-related guidance, such as sustainability as a goal, clarity of science and process, and equity in participation and decision-making, are upheld in Canada's water policies and strategies, the 'Critical Path' sequencing covered by Resolution IX.1, Annex C, which provides a template for selection, recording, analysis and presentation of river basin management case studies, has not to our knowledge been undertaken in the 2006-2008 triennium.

1.4.2 Many integrated watershed planning and management efforts are underway, which make efforts to mainstream the wise use of wetlands and enable people to act to conserve wetlands.

1.4.3 While not explicitly referenced, Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Canada (a joint jurisdiction of federal and provincial governments) is generally consistent with the principles and guidelines laid out by the Ramsar Convention.

1.4.4 The implications of wetland conservation and wise use for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol have been recognized in Canada but not assessed. Further study is needed on the role of wetlands in carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas cycling and the natural abilities of these systems to mitigate climate change. Dr. Pascal Badiou, a research scientist with Ducks Unlimited Canada's Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research stated in 2007 'There are many different types and classes of wetlands and additional research is required to determine how these differences influence the ability of wetlands to mitigate climate change. Although more research is needed our results indicate that wetlands store more carbon than surrounding agricultural lands and therefore may be valuable for fighting climate change.'
[http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=7646]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.5: *Identify priority wetlands 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.*

Indicator questions:

1.5.1 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {4.1.2} [If "Yes", please identify any major programmes or projects in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
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1.5.2 Has the Convention's guidance on wetland restoration (Annex to Resolution VIII.16; Wise Use Handbook 15, 3rd edition) been used/applied in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {4.1.2}	C - Partly
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.5.1 – 1.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.5.2: [.. additional information ...]”

1.5.1 Five public-private joint venture partnerships of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) have spent over \$9 million over the past three years enhancing more than 36,000 hectares of wetland habitat. Other restoration/rehabilitation projects have been completed by, for example, provincial governments as local stewardship initiatives carried out in cooperation with landowners, as projects of the Government of Canada's EcoAction program, the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, Atlantic Coastal Action Program, and as compensatory mitigation required by the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation, or as a permit requirement for unavoidable loss of wetland area or function under provincial legislation. The producing members of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association are restoring or reclaiming 1,800 ha of peatlands (as compared to 13,000 currently under production), with an additional 3,100 ha projected for restoration or reclamation in 2007-2011.

1.5.2 Although Ramsar guidance is not specifically used, the principles and approaches are applied in the design and implementation of projects involving wetland restoration and rehabilitation. The mitigative sequence is applied with the preferred option being restoration/ rehabilitation of wetland area or function in the same watershed for unavoidable loss.

Peatland restoration and reclamation design and implementation is based on the extensive research results from the Industrial Research Chair on Peat Management, University of Laval, Montreal, Quebec. These results have directly influenced the Convention's guidance for wetland restoration.

The Industrial Research Chair on Peatlands Management has recently been renewed for an additional five years and is a good example of a successful collaboration between the Government of Canada, academic institutions, the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association and its producer members.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 national implementation:

Priority wetlands for restoration include estuaries on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, wetlands of the shorelines and watersheds of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, prairie pothole regions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and commercial peatlands.

STRATEGY 1.6: *Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems.*

Indicator questions:

1.6.1 Have national policies, strategies and management responses to threats from invasive species, particularly in wetlands, been developed and implemented? {r5.1.ii}	A - Yes
1.6.2 Have such policies, strategies and management responses been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organisations/processes? {r5.1.ii}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.6.1 – 1.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.6.2: [.. additional information ...]”

In the past triennium, the Government of Canada reaffirmed its commitment to conserve and protect aquatic resources, and its recognition that aquatic invasive species constitute a serious threat to those resources. Through a number of measures, including implementation of the National Plan on Invasive Alien Species, the government continues to address the threat of invasive species.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 national implementation:

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

STRATEGY 2.1 *Apply the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Handbook 7, 2nd edition; Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

Indicator questions:

2.1.1 Have a strategy and priorities been established for any further designation of Ramsar sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {10.1.1} [If further Ramsar site designations are planned, please indicate in Additional implementation information, the number of sites and anticipated year of designation]	A - Yes
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

The report entitled Strategic Overview of the Canadian Ramsar Program [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=10071] was published in 1995 but has not been acted upon.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.2 *Maintain the Ramsar Sites Information Service and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the Ramsar Sites Database as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.*

Indicator questions:

2.2.1 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {10.2.3}	B - No
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2.2.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its database used in national implementation of the Convention concerning Ramsar site issues?	B - No
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.2.1 – 2.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.2.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.2.1 Canada's Survey of Ramsar Site Managers 2007 has identified which Ramsar site Information Sheets require updates; follow-up is planned in the near future.

2.2.2 A link to the Ramsar Sites Information Service is provided on Canada's Ramsar website (<http://www.wetkit.net/ramsar>), to facilitate research on Wetlands of International Importance in this country. The 1995 Strategy for guiding further designation of Ramsar sites in Canada was developed in advance of the Ramsar Sites Database and remains relevant today.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.3 *Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites.*

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	C - Partly
2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised]	C - Some sites
2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information]	C - Some sites
2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out? [if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available]	B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.3.1 – 2.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.3.3: [.. additional information ...]”

2.3.1 Measures required to maintain the ecological character of each Ramsar site are identified in management plans (see 2.3.2). Changes in ecological character occur despite these efforts, due to natural cycles or effects on the wetland beyond the control of site managers or jurisdictions. It is important to note that some large, remote Ramsar sites in Canada have little or no active management.

2.3.2 Management plans have been completed and implemented for 16 of Canada’s 37 Ramsar sites. As of March 2007, three additional management plans were in preparation (Oak Hammock Marsh, Tubusintac Lagoon and Estuary, and Quill Lakes) and five were under revision (Point Pelee, Baie de l’Isle-Verte, Whooping Crane Summer Range, Mer Bleue Conservation Area and Last Mountain Lake).

2.3.3 Many Ramsar sites in Canada have active site management due to their protected areas status as National Wildlife Areas, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, provincial Wildlife Management Areas, etc. Four Ramsar sites report management committees: Hay Zama Lakes, Lac Saint-Pierre, Matchedash Bay, and Old Crow Flats. Another manager reports that there is a committee associated with the Ramsar site, mainly for funding purposes. Comments from two of the sites indicate that while they do not have formal management committees, they have developed partnerships for managing the site. Comments associated with several Ramsar sites that are also National Wildlife Areas indicate there is a management committee for the NWA.

2.3.4 Two main reasons were provided: 1) minimal active management of sites; and 2) lack of resources for evaluation.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 national implementation:

In Canada's Survey of Ramsar Site Managers 2007, two-thirds (67.6%) of Ramsar site managers think that the designation helps to maintain the ecological character of the site, because it 1) communicates a higher level of importance, 2) influences land use planning, development decisions and environmental assessment, and 3) improves management through greater attention and a long-term focus on ecological health.

STRATEGY 2.4 Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Secretariat without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.

Indicator questions:

<p>2.4.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {r11.2.iv}</p> <p>[If "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>2.4.2 Have all cases of change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {11.2.4}</p> <p>[If "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which Ramsar sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>2.4.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record? {r11.2.viii}</p> <p>[If "Yes" or "Partly", please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]</p>	<p>D - Not applicable</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.4.1 – 2.4.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "2.4.3: [.. additional information ...]"

2.4.1 Communication links with all Ramsar site managers have been re-established and a national survey of site managers was conducted in March 2007.

2.4.2 Canada's Survey of Ramsar Site Managers 2007 identifies change in ecological character in 15 of 37 sites. Site managers report changes due to water level changes (Peace-Athabasca Delta, Southern James Bay, Beaverhill Lake and Old Crow Flats), lack of connectivity to historical watershed (Point Pelee), invasive species (Long Point, St. Clair, Malpeque Bay and Musquodoboit Harbour), water temperature increase and oxygen depletion from algal blooms (Malpeque Bay), habitat degradation due to snow geese (McConnell River, Queen Maud Gulf, and Dewey Soper) unspecified vegetation changes (Creston Valley and Delta Marsh), and local effects of off-highway vehicle use (Hay-Zama Lakes).

Canada is concerned by the very low water level, likely due to ongoing long-term drought conditions, in Beaverhill Lake. The Government of Alberta is monitoring the situation.

Follow-up to these survey results is required to determine whether any reported changes in ecological character is significant and human-induced.

2.4.3 No sites in Canada are on the Montreux List.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.5 *Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

Indicator questions:

2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}	A - Yes
2.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (including regional site and waterbird flyway networks)? {12.1.2; 12.2.2} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.5.1 – 2.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.5.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.5.1 Main transboundary wetlands have been identified.
2.5.2 Water supply in shared watersheds is covered by agreements between Canada and the United States. Cooperative management in wetland systems include: Old Crow Flats (Yukon), Fraser River estuary coastal wetlands (Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Ecosystem), Columbia River in British Columbia, Washington State and Oregon. Across the country, some conflicts persist with respect to water level management and species and population objectives for shared waterways and wetlands in some regions. Cooperative wetlands management is also facilitated through the Joint Ventures of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 national implementation:

As part of Phase II of the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium program, a binational team completed a comprehensive Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Inventory [<http://glc.org/wetlands/inventory.html>]. Built on the best coastal wetland data available and incorporating a standard classification process, the binational inventory provides a standard reference for the Great Lakes wetland community.

STRATEGY 2.6 *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

Indicator questions:

2.6.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development of a regional initiative under the framework of the Convention? {12.3.2} [If “Yes” or “Planned”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the name(s) and collaborating countries of each regional initiative]	A - Yes
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

Canadian, Italian and other partner agencies are assisting organizations in Iraq to implement the Key Biodiversity Areas and related wetland restoration programs in the Mesopotamian marshes of southern Iraq. This may expand into a regional initiative in the Tigris-Euphrates Basin. A project to assist NGOs in North Africa is in the inception phase funded by CIDA in cooperation with Wetlands International. A peat swamp forest project in Indonesia with Wetlands International was concluded in 2006-07 funded, also by CIDA.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 national implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGY 3.1 *Collaboration with other institutions: Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies.*

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	C - Partly
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}	E - Not applicable
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	E - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.1.1 – 3.1.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “3.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

3.1.1

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 3.2 *Sharing of expertise and information: Promote the sharing of expertise and information.*

Indicator questions:

3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]	A - Yes
3.2.2 Has information about the country's wetlands and/or Ramsar sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a Web site)? {14.1.1}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1 Joint Ventures of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan continue to operate.

Other networks include British Columbia Wetland Stewardship Partnership, Atlantic Region Wetland Technical Group, Atlantic Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Ontario Natural Spaces Leadership Alliance, and Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Consortium. A network of managers of important shorebird wetlands in North America with links to central and South America has been created.

Through membership on the International Peat Society (IPS) the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA) participates and supports the exchange of research information regarding peatland and wetland restoration. Through the Industrial Chair for Peat at University of Laval workshops are held yearly to promote the findings on peatland restoration. This past year (2007) participants from Chile attended the sessions. Further, the CSPMA supports the ongoing work of the IPS related to Climate Change and its effects on wetlands and peatlands.

3.2.2 WetKit [<http://www.wetkit.net>] is Canada's premier website for sharing and promoting wetland expertise and information. It has been supported primarily by Ducks Unlimited Canada for the past triennium, with some support from Environment Canada. As a module of the WetKit website, the Ramsar website [<http://www.wetkit.net/ramsar>] focuses on linking Canadians with information about the Ramsar Convention, Ramsar Sites in Canada, the process of nominating Ramsar sites, etc. Many Canadian organizations are members of NatureServe [<http://www.natureserve.org>], a non-profit, international conservation organization that acts as the leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems, in Canada, the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean. There are many other websites that communicate the importance and status of wetlands in Canada, and they can be found on the WetKit website [<http://www.wetkit.net>], including Regional Environment Canada websites that communicate information about Canada's Ramsar sites, and NAWMP Joint Venture websites.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 national implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

STRATEGY 4.1 *Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values: Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, including women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including in relation to understanding the dynamics of cultural values.*

Indicator questions:

4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5}	C - Partly
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	C - Partly
4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party promote public participation in decision-making (with respect to wetlands), especially with local stakeholder involvement in the selection of new Ramsar sites and in Ramsar site management? {6.1.4}	A - Yes
4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii}	C - Partly
4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} <small>[if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]</small>	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.1.1 – 4.1.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.1.3: [.. additional information ...]"

4.1.1 Information on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management can be gleaned from many environmental studies/reports in Canada, including environmental assessments. Local communities and indigenous peoples play an critical role in Ramsar site management (for example, Old Crow Flats, Whooping Crane Summer Range, Shepody Bay, Hay-Zama Lakes, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Dewey Soper, Malpeque Bay) and other wetlands (for example, Walpole Island (Ontario)).

4.1.2. Traditional knowledge and management practices often documented in management plans and environmental assessments.

4.1.3 Public participation can be achieved in general through the environmental assessment process or regional planning initiatives, and for Ramsar sites through Management Boards (e.g. Old Crow Flats, Creston Valley), or through periodic Management Plan Reviews (e.g. Alaksen National Wildlife Area). Education/empowerment to encourage participation has been developed in the form of the Citizen's Guide to Protecting British Columbia's Wetlands.

4.1.4. Some limited educational and training activities concerning cultural aspects of wetlands have been developed for Hay Zama, Old Crow Flats, Columbia Wetlands, Creston Valley. Of particular note are the exhibits planned for the new Visitor Reception Centre for Old Crow Flats, and a new Wildland Guardian position at Hay-Zama Lakes. Interpretation programs at many of the wetland centres identified on the WetKit website [<http://www.wetkit.net>, select tool type=interpretation centres] include cultural values of wetlands. Widespread comments indicate much more could be done were resources available.

4.1.5. Most management plans for Ramsar sites refer at least in a general way to cultural values. Management for cultural values more challenging due to remote nature of sites, or lack of resources. Cultural values of wetlands have been included in management plans for Ramsar sites including Old Crow Flats, Creston Valley, Columbia Wetlands, Alaksen, Whooping Crane Summer Range, Shepody Bay, Hay-Zama Lakes, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Dewey Soper, Malpeque Bay, Last Mountain Lake, and Quill Lakes. National Wildlife Areas now incorporate cultural values as a key component in the designation of these sites in Canada, but first recognizing the biological importance of these areas, a possible point of reference in the debate on cultural criteria for Ramsar sites internationally.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 national implementation:

Participation of Aboriginal peoples is an integral element of natural resource management in Canada. Rare are the environmental initiatives that do not feature a significant traditional knowledge component, or environmental management boards that don't involve Aboriginal peoples. In areas of land claim agreements, Aboriginal people play a lead role in decisions concerning wildlife management, land use, protected areas, etc.

Information on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management can be gleaned from many environmental studies/reports in Canada, including environmental assessments. Local communities and indigenous peoples play an critical role in Ramsar site management (for example, Old Crow Flats, Whooping Crane Summer Range, Shepody Bay, Hay-Zama Lakes, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Malpeque Bay and Dewey Soper) and other wetlands (for example, Walpole Island (Ontario)).

STRATEGY 4.2 *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

4.2.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands? {7.1.1}	C - Partly
4.2.2 Have private-sector "Friends of Wetlands" fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.2.1 – 4.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.2.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.2.1 The private sector is encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities concerning wetlands, through the environmental assessment process. In some provinces, information has been provided to developers through workshops on planning requirements around wetlands. In addition, industry has been contacted through outreach activities undertaken through Joint Venture partnerships of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Producer members of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA) strongly endorse and have directly applied the wise use principles in their development policies, programs and implementation activities on bogs throughout Canada. The members agree to an Association Code of Conduct that was influenced by the Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands document developed through the International Peat Society and the International Mire Conservation Group.

The peat community (through the International Peat Society and International Mire Conservation Group) in Canada and internationally have been active supporters and participants in the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands (CC-GAP) of the Ramsar Convention.

Wetland restoration was approved as a beneficial management practice under Canada's Agricultural Policy Framework. For farmers and ranchers in provinces that include these Best Management Practices on their eligibility lists, the decision will result in access to technical assistance and funding for activities to restore drained wetlands to their original size, depth and ecological function.

4.2.2 ‘Friends of Wetlands’ fora are popular in some regions of Canada, with dozens of citizens groups supporting conservation of particular sites through fundraising, marketing, restoration, interpretation and other efforts. These community-based groups sometimes involve private sector partners; examples include: General Motors of Canada, Rogers Communications Inc., Ducks Unlimited Canada, Sierra Club of Canada, Ontario Federation of Naturalists, West Coast Environmental Law Association, etc. Of particular note, the Friends of Second Marsh are planning construction of the Great Lakes Wetlands Centre.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.3 *Promote measures which encourage the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

4.3.1 Have actions been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	A - Yes
4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.3.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.3.1. and 4.3.2. A measure that can be considered an incentive for conservation and wise use of wetlands is the requirement to undertake compensation for the loss of wetland area and function which greatly exceeds the market value of the wetland (thus the removal of a perverse incentive).

4.3.1 For example, Wildlife Habitat Canada's Grant Program, the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, EcoAction Fund, EcoGifts Program, Ontario's Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program, Ontario's Species at Risk Stewardship Fund (that can apply to species in wetlands), and the Ontario Wetland Habitat Fund, New Brunswick tax incentives for the conservation of wetlands, British Columbia's Licensing and Stewardship Agreements used by the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program; Covenants, Easements or Stewardship Agreements completed by Ducks Unlimited Canada and other NGOs. Pilot projects of Delta Waterfowl's Alternate Land Use Services (ALUS), a unique ecological goods and services program proposal designed by farmers, for farmers, were conducted in the last triennium. It recognizes the value of conserving and restoring Canada's natural capital while respecting and rewarding the important role that farmers play in environmental management [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=10062].

4.3.2 The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation is designed to eliminate federal money for wetland destruction. Although many drainage impacts continue under Ontario's Drainage Act, the Ontario government no longer provides grants for the construction or improvement of drainage systems that drain through or from Provincially Significant Wetlands, unless an engineer's report demonstrates that there will be no negative impacts on the wetland's natural features or their ecological functions. British Columbia has identified additional policies in need of review to further increase wetland protection (e.g. Forest Practices Code Riparian Setbacks, Municipal Act and Endangered Species Act).

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.4 Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Programme (Resolution VIII.31) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA).

Indicator questions:

<p>4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii}</p> <p>[If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.4.2 Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the subnational, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? {r.9.iii.iii}</p> <p>[Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.4.3 Have actions been taken to communicate and share information cross-sectorally on wetland issues amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {r9.iii.v}</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>

<p>4.4.4 Have national campaigns, programmes, and projects been carried out to raise community awareness of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {r9.vi.i}</p> <p>[If: a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.4.1 – 4.4.6 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

4.4.2 Communication, Education and Public Awareness objectives are incorporated in federal and provincial wetland policies, stewardship initiatives and habitat conservation programs. Most CEPA activities in Canada are carried out by provincial government agencies, the private sector, especially Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), and at the local level in interpretation/education centres associated with wetland sites. Notable examples of national CEPA programs in Canada include DUC's Healthy wetlands, Healthy you -- A Clean Water Project [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=583]; Greenwing Program [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=270]; and Project Webfoot, an international, interdisciplinary wetland education program [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=242].

4.4.3 For example, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is developing a wetlands extension project directed at municipal planning authorities.

4.4.4 The National Survey of Ecological Goods and Services, Farmers and Ranchers was conducted in 2006 by Environics Research Group for Wildlife Habitat Canada.

In February 2006, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Government of Manitoba and Environment Canada co-hosted a national symposium on ecological goods and services in Winnipeg, to bring together stakeholders to develop a common understanding of the Canadian approach and to contribute to policy development.

Statistics Canada released a report in 2006 entitled: 'Canada's watersheds: the demographic basis for an urban-rural dialogue,' citing the increasing importance of recognizing the rural contribution to ecosystem goods and services, for the management of water resources in Canada.

Henry David Venema, Director of Sustainable Natural Resources Management for the International Institute of Sustainable Development, promotes payments for natural ecosystem solutions in his 2007 publication 'Put ecosystem to work: Restoring wetlands, managing watersheds could save Lake Winnipeg.'

[http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=10070] The paper builds on work accomplished in 2004 by Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada entitled 'The Value of Natural Capital in Settled Areas of Canada' [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=1619].

Delta Waterfowl's Alternate Land Use Services (ALUS) ecological goods and services program, gaining increasing recognition in the last triennium, is driven by farmers and promotes the value of conserving and restoring Canada's natural capital among rural communities [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=10062].

The producer members of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association have developed information articles to inform and educate the public, gardening community and horticulture growers of the efforts for restoration as well as the intrinsic ecosystems values of wetlands and peatlands.

4.4.5 As described on the Ramsar Secretariat website [<http://www.ramsar.org>].

4.4.6 Education centres at Ramsar sites and other wetlands are listed on the WetKit website [<http://www.wetkit.net>, select tool type=interpretive centres].

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.5 *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.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.5.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only] Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {15.1.1}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.5.2 [For Contracting Parties in receipt of development assistance only] Has funding support been mobilized from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {15.1.8}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the agencies from which support has been received since COP9]</p>	<p>D - Not applicable</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.5.1 – 4.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.5.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.5.1

Iraq: The Canada-Iraq Marshlands Initiative (CIMI), a CIDA supported project, assisted the Iraqi government in becoming a signatory agency to the Ramsar Convention, this occurring in October 2007. CIMI is assisting Iraqis to create in-country experts and governance structures for the conservation and management of wetlands in southern Iraq. The project runs 2004-2009.

Indonesia: The Climate Change, Forests and Peatlands in Indonesia (CCFPI) project (2001-2007), was supported by CIDA and implemented jointly by Wetlands International-Indonesia Program (Indonesian NGO) and Wildlife Habitat Canada in collaboration with the Global Environment Centre. The project assisted with sustainable management and restoration of degraded peatland ecosystems in order to support local livelihoods, reduce peat swamp fires and restore ecosystem services of the wetland. CCFPI helped enhance the management of two peatland areas (Jambi, Sumatra and in Central Kalimantan). In addition to community livelihoods CCFPI promoted carbon storage and sequestration and contributed green house gas reduction.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.5 national implementation:

Iraq: CIMI assisted the Government of Iraq to achieve signatory status for Ramsar as well as building national expertise for managing, administering and protecting their wetlands.

Indonesia: The Indonesian co-implementing agency WIIP and their network of collaborating scientists institutions benefitted from the CCFPI's technical skills and capacity in community wetland management and protection.

STRATEGY 4.6 Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Indicator questions:

<p>4.6.1 {16.1.1}</p> <p>a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>b) If “No” in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p>	

See comments below for 4.6.1.

4.6.2 {16.1.2}	
a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity?	B - No
b) If yes, please state the amounts:	

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.6.1 – 4.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.6.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.6.1 Our dues are fully up to date but due to our fiscal year structure, payments fall into the April-October period usually for invoices received in January each year.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.6 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.7 *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Framework.*

Indicator questions:

4.7.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring]	B - No
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.7 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.8 *Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]</p>	C - Partly
<p>4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2}</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]</p>	B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.8.1 – 4.8.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.8.2: [.. additional information ...]”

A review of federal, provincial and territorial mandates was completed in 1999
[\[http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=20\]](http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=20).

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.8 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.9 *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention’s International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

Indicator question:

<p>4.9.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention’s IOPs* in its implementation of the Convention?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	A - Yes
<p>4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention’s IOPs*?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	B - No

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.9.1-4.9.2

4.9.1 BirdLife International Middle East and HQ, Wetlands International HQ and Asia plus likely Neotropical offices.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.9 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.10 *Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.10.1 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? [If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.10.2 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention, including in the use of the Wise Use Handbooks, been made? {20.1.2}</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.10.1 – 4.10.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.10.3: [.. additional information ...]"

4.10.1 Canada assisted the Ramsar Regional Centre in Panama up to 2006, and provided instructors or funds or both to National Wetland Manager Courses in Mexico and Iraq.

4.10.3 No opportunities have been provided on a national scale. However, provincial or regional training has been provided. The Temperate Wetland Restoration Training Course [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=1463] is offered each year in Ontario, by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada, Trent University and Ducks Unlimited Canada. Training is also offered for Ontario's wetland evaluation system, a science-based approach to assessing relative wetland values for land use planning purposes. The British Columbia Wildlife Federation offers the Wetlands Institute [http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/showtool.php?tool_id=305], an intensive seven-day course held annually since 1998. Participants learn how to successfully implement their own wetland projects in their own communities. Environment Canada Pacific and Yukon region held a Habitat Practitioners' Workshop two years ago. In the same region, Environment Canada offers Training on Wetland Conservation Planning (e.g. how to use municipal bylaw toolkits). Wetland training is also available in the prairies.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.10 national implementation: