



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.

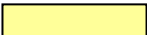
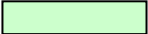
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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: GERMANY	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU), Referat / Division N I 4, Internationaler Naturschutz
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Email:	christiane.paulus@bmu.bund.de
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
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DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
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DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
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Email:

stefan.stuebing@gmx.de

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?

Regarding the challenges and risks affecting natural habitats, the German Government's adoption of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity in November 2007 represented significant progress towards an holistic and systematic approach. Inter alia, the Strategy's section on 'Risks' explicitly cites hydraulic engineering and related obstructions as a threat, and demands that particular consideration be given to the conservation of 'migratory species of which significant portions of the global population rest or overwinter in Germany', thereby making a clear reference to waterfowl and Ramsar sites.

The Strategy sets out qualitative and quantitative targets for the various ecosystem types listed - lakes, ponds, pools and lagoons, together with rivers and meadows, peatlands and groundwater ecosystems - and links these to both EU legislation (Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Water Framework Directive) and flood control.

The Strategy also calls for a concretisation of the tasks of waterbody protection and flood prevention at all levels of Federal and Länder Government, as well as among other players. Alongside measures to protect biodiversity and reduce climate change, it also cites eradicating poverty and promoting development cooperation as principal action areas, including a reference to the Ramsar Convention and the links between biodiversity and the eradication of poverty. Germany's priority action areas for implementing the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment include limiting the further conversion and degradation of semi-natural ecosystems, particularly wetlands and watercourses, in the numerous interconnected ecosystem services (cf. chapter B 1.2.3, B 1.2.4, B 1.2.5, C 4); and promoting greater political and social consideration of the impacts of Germany's activities on the threat to and degradation of ecosystem services in other parts of the world.

Reports on the Strategy's implementation will be published at regular intervals, once per legislative period. Key indicators relating to wetlands include the conservation status of habitat types and species under the Habitats Directive, the protection of migratory species of water bird pursuant to Article 4 (2) of the EU Birds Directive, the designation of areas under the Natura 2000 scheme, endangered species, and water body quality (cf. http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/pdf/biolog_vielfalt_strategie_nov07.pdf)

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

Within the context of implementing international, European and national obligations and other, farther-reaching commitments, the following steps are considered the most successful aspects of implementation of the Ramsar Convention:

- a) The designation of 'Bayerische Wildalm' (wetland of international importance no. 1723) as Germany's 33rd Ramsar site and the updating and revision of the RIS for 31 wetlands of international importance
- b) The preparatory work to designate the Upper Rhine as a further transboundary Ramsar site, inter alia by publicising the wetlands of international importance and the objectives of the Ramsar Convention, to the general public in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg

- c) The integration of specific targets pertaining to the protection and conservation of wetlands and waterbodies into the Strategy on Biological Diversity,
- d) The notification and designation of Natura 2000 areas (acceptance of the EU's Community List of Natura 2000 areas from the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive) has secured additional protection for those wetlands which are simultaneously designated as Ramsar sites (however, not all Ramsar territories are designated as EU bird sanctuaries in their entirety)
- e) The publication of a special booklet on the Ramsar Convention (development, national importance) in the 'Natur- und Landschaft' series by the Federal Office for Nature Conservation (Natur und Landschaft 11/2007)
- f) The provision of extensive funding for renaturation and conservation projects in wetland areas and river basins and for usage regulation in agriculture (cf. 4.2.1 and 4.3.1).
- g) The Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten (DDA) has volunteered to monitor the population situation of breeding waterfowl in Germany and those passing through Germany with the support of the Federal Government and Länder, and to develop the information system 'Vögel in Deutschland' ('Birds in Germany') (www.dda-web.de)

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

Within the national framework of nature and environmental conservation legislation, also in compliance with EU statutory regulations, implementation of the Ramsar Convention is not viewed as an isolated task. Instead, the challenge is to combine implementation of the European directives, i.e. the Natura 2000 network and the Water Framework Directive, in a profitable manner.

The implementation of nationwide measures is also proving time-consuming, since under Germany's federal system, each of the Federal Länder also have their own nature conservation and water legislation alongside EU and national law.

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

As nature and environmental conservation work is continuously evolving, priorities relating to the Ramsar Convention have been set in the following areas:

- a) The continuing implementation of the Natura 2000 network via the development of regional management plans, the Water Framework Directive and the National Strategy on Biological Diversity (cf. 1.2.1)
- b) The use of available data for Natura 2000 areas so that sites may be analysed according to their representativeness in terms of size and uniqueness, with a particular emphasis on under-represented wetland types, and the selection of potential areas selected for designation as a wetland of international importance; initial analyses are already available (articles by Petersen & Ssymank and Sufeldt & Wahl in the publication 'Schwerpunktheft Ramsar', NuL 11/2007);

c) The drafting of outstanding management plans for selected wetlands of international importance, where applicable within the context of plans for Natura 2000 areas

d) The more widespread promotion of cross-sectional/interdisciplinary public relations work in Germany, in order to educate the general public about the importance and benefits of the Ramsar Convention and its Wise Use approach

e) The support of wetland protection at international level via the provision of funding for development cooperation work (cf. 4.5.1)

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

Overall, communication between the Ramsar Secretariat and the German Federal authorities is rated as good.

Earlier availability of the national reporting format would be desirable. This would enable more effective incorporation of information and coordination with the Federal Länder. In the long term, not only would this facilitate a technically superior report, but would also allow the permanent communication and mediation of content and references between wetlands of international importance and other protected area categories.

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

The relevant nature conservation and environmental organisations in Germany are integrated into the social environment in a multitude of ways, and active at various different levels. In particular, the three IOPs active in Germany (NABU as Birdlife partner, IUCN, WWF) make a significant contribution towards implementation of the Convention through their work, albeit not in an IOP capacity. This NGO work enjoys support at both national and international level, and its involvement in wetland areas and in water catchment area-related bodies is well-regarded.

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?

For Germany, the closest link to each of these agreements is via EU environmental legislation. The EU is Party to the CBD, and CITES became directly valid law in all EU Member States via an EU Regulation.

Decisions made within the context of national implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) also benefit wetland and water conservation, their habitats and species. One current example is the National Strategy on Biological Diversity, which contains extensive targets and approaches for measures relating to waterbody/wetland area protection (cf. 1.2.1).

Moreover, the majority of German Ramsar regions and other wetlands have close links with the AEWA Agreement, in view of their significance as breeding, resting or overwintering grounds for migratory birds. Further links to the framework convention CMS may be made for other migratory species of the wetlands and waterbodies. Coastal and marine wetland areas have close links with work under the Helsinki Convention (Baltic Sea) and the OSPAR Convention (North Sea). In the field of wetland protection, there are also links with the UN Water Convention (UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes) and the UN Convention on the Law on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (not yet in force), both of which have been ratified by Germany.

In future, cooperation with the World Heritage Convention could become more important, because in January 2008 Germany and the Netherlands submitted a joint application for the Wadden Sea to be included in the list of world natural heritage sites. The Wadden Sea comprises 5 German Ramsar sites, although candidacy will only include 4 sites initially. Hamburg, within whose territory the fifth site is located, has an option to join the nomination at a later date. Denmark is already considering supporting the candidacy. Overall, links between the biodiversity-related conventions could be improved still further, particularly within the context of CEPA's work.

Within the German Government, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is responsible for implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) which aims to actively help tackle desertification through development work. This is to be achieved primarily by ensuring that sustainable land use is firmly anchored in strategies for eradicating poverty, and via the more widespread use of the UNCCD as a strategic framework for sustainable resource management in development cooperation with countries and regions. Combating desertification has been a key funding priority of German bilateral development cooperation since the mid-Eighties. The BMZ has directly supported the national focal points in the formulation and implementation of national action programmes (NAPs) in more than 20 countries (cf. 4.5.1).

The linking of the Ramsar Convention to the UNFCCC (cf. 1.4.4) is supported by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, with its reference to the World Commission on Dams (WCD). The German Emissions Trading Authority (DEHSt) within the Federal Environmental Agency is the competent national authority for implementing the market-based climate protection tools of the Kyoto Protocol, both with regard to emissions trading and also with regard to the project-based mechanisms of joint implementation (JI) and the clean development mechanism (CDM) (<http://www.dehst.de>). The 'Guide to verifying compliance with the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams in hydropower projects with an electrical generation capacity in excess of 20 MW within the context of the JI and the CDM' (UBA, DEHST 2007) governs its application. For hydropower projects whose generation capacity exceeds 20 MW, the Project-Based Mechanisms Act (ProMechG) stipulates compliance with the international criteria and guidelines set out in Article 11b, para. 6 of the Emissions Trading Directive (§ 3, para. 1, sentence 2 of the ProMechG). The relevant international criteria and guidelines include the basic principles drawn up by the World Commission on Dams, published in 2000.

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 the EU, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides the basis for an integrated water policy. Its implementation is designed to ensure the sustainable use and management of waters. River basins, i.e. all rivers with their tributaries, corresponding coastal waters and groundwater, are viewed as one ecosystem, even on a transboundary basis. The WFD stipulates that the protection and use of waterbodies should be harmonised as far as possible, e.g. with regard to hydropower generation or mining. The aim of the WFD is to achieve a good status throughout all waterbodies. In contrast to earlier water directives, the WFD is strongly geared to waterbody ecology, and also makes allowance for protected areas that are dependent on waterbodies. As such, implementation of this Directive also helps to conserve biological diversity. Within the context of the joint implementation strategy by the European Commission and the EU Member States, the 'General guideline on the importance of wetlands in conjunction with the WFD' was drafted to serve as an aid.

A further contribution is provided by the position paper 'WFD AND HYDROMORPHOLOGICAL PRESSURES' (Nov. 2006), which was drafted within the context of a cooperation programme between EU Member States. Its proposals for integrated, strategic action in the fields of hydropower, shipping and flood control are coordinated with the joint implementation strategy of the Water Framework Directive. Particularly with regard to the dynamics of wetlands and waterbodies as defined by the Ramsar Convention, the development of the water sector in respect of the use of renewable energies, their legal foundations and implementation methods represents an important area, both in respect of new constructions and existing hydropower plants on rivers (cf. BMU publication 'Leitfaden zur Vergütung von Strom aus Wasserkraft' (Guide to fees for electricity from hydropower), July 2005 as well as the Federal/Länder Information and Communication Platform at www.wasserblick.net). Inland navigation is a further aspect of water usage, whereby the expansion and maintenance of waterways are significant for the Ramsar Convention.

The development of the Environmental Code (UGB) should also be viewed in this context. The relevant German Environment Ministry draft (as per November 2007) envisages that nature conservation and water legislation are to be combined at national level. It is hoped that the new Environmental Code will be adopted during the current legislative period in 2009 (cf. 1.5.1).

Biodiversity also features on all work plans and programmes associated with the CBD COP9 taking place in Bonn in May 2008. The aim is to ensure that all departments and institutions involved in natural resources and biological diversity are included in the PR work, and to address the links between these topic areas.

Another key document is the national sustainability strategy 'Perspektiven für Deutschland' (Prospects for Germany), adopted in 2002, which provides practical guidance on sustainable action for politics and society. An indicator report was published for the first time in 2007, outlining the development and trends of the 21 indicators in the sustainability strategy. One of the indicators is species diversity; in order to calculate this indicator, the population development of 59 selected bird species representing the status of the most important landscape and habitat types in Germany are being recorded. This includes inland waters as well as coastal and marine regions (cf. 'Dialog Nachhaltigkeit' (Dialog on Sustainability) at www.bundesregierung.de).

In an international context, Germany's development cooperation work aids the development of integrative water policies in keeping with the principle of IWRM in a wide range of projects. In the long term, this should help to conserve natural resources and eradicate poverty (cf. 4.5.1).

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

In Germany, implementation of the Ramsar Convention occurs against a complex backdrop of legal regulations and approaches. The relevant mechanisms are not usually tailored specifically to wetland areas, but instead address the handling of nature and the environment, their services and values as a whole, to which end mechanisms have been developed over the course of several decades.

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}	A - Yes
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	A - Yes
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	--- ---

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 ...]”

Re 1.1.1) Germany has a National Wetland Inventory; however, this was not developed systematically in a single operation, but instead has evolved gradually over the course of

several decades. Today, it is comprised of various sub-inventories of wetland types (e.g. peatlands, lakes, watercourses, sea inlets, Wadden Sea) which are continuously extended, supplemented and updated. The precise number of inventorised wetlands is not known. The competent authorities of the Federal Länder collate data on the various wetland types (watercourses, lakes, peatlands, wetland meadows, river meadows etc.) according to various criteria (biotope protection, water conservation, flood control, water supply) and methods (e.g. biotope mapping at the site, colour/infrared aerial picture or satellite picture evaluation), and process this information with the aid of databases and geographical information systems (GIS). As such, allowance has already been made for the methodological recommendations of Resolution VIII.6.

Overall, we are unable to specify the number of wetlands falling under the individual categories, since no evaluation using these categories has been implemented to date.

Systematic monitoring and reporting occurs for the wetland habitat types pursuant to the Habitats and Birds Directives and designated Natura-2000 areas. For areas which are largely identical to the Ramsar sites, this is used to aid development (cf. www.bfn.de/0316_bericht2007.html)

Re 1.1.2) All data is available to the authorities and other institutions for evaluation of the wetlands, for designating protected areas and planning, and for management and monitoring of the wetlands. This information is also available to all interest groups and interested members of the general public, firstly via publication on the Internet, on the homepages of the environmental, nature conservation, agriculture, water and other specialist authorities at Länder or Federal Government level; and secondly, for viewing directly at the offices of the relevant authorities.

Re 1.1.3) Information regarding changes in wetlands is collated, supplemented and updated by the specialist Länder authorities and administered in databases to facilitate more in-depth analyses, evaluations and reports. Such information cannot cover all wetlands in Germany; instead, data collection focuses primarily on surface waters, protected wetlands, and wetlands meriting protection.

Also increasingly important as a basis for monitoring and evaluation is the national report pursuant to the Habitats Directive, which contains data on the ecological character of the Natura-2000 areas which are entirely or partially identical to the territory of the Ramsar sites. All German Ramsar sites are at least 75 % part of the Natura-2000 network (cf. 2.2.B). Acceptance of the list of Natura-2000 sites in 2007 was followed by the first inventory of the conservation status of habitat types and species as per the Habitats Directive in the nominated areas. This evaluation also provides the basis for the development and further adaptation of related management plans (cf. www.bfn.de/0316_bericht2007.html) (cf. 1.1.1)

Re 1.1.4) The national report pursuant to the Habitats Directive indicates that inland waters (freshwater habitats) of the Atlantic and Continental zone are in a poor to inadequate conservation status. Raised bogs/mires/fens in the Atlantic and Continental zone are likewise assessed as having a poor to inadequate/unfavourable conservation status. In the Alpine zone, both freshwater habitats and raised bogs/mires/fens are classified as favourable. For riparian forest types, the conservation status in the Atlantic to Continental zone is assessed as poor to unfavourable, and only in the Alpine zone is it classed as favourable. The relevant information was prepared on the basis of habitat types and biogeographical regions, rather than specific sites.

It is not yet possible to compare the current conservation status assessment with the previous conservation status on the basis of the Natura2000 mechanism, since this evaluation was only conducted for the first time in 2007 (cf.

http://www.bfn.de/0316_bewertung_lrt.html

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

The foundations for assessing still water and watercourse habitat types are compiled and published by the Federal/Länder working party on 'FFH-Berichtspflichten Gewässer' (Habitats Directive reporting obligations for waterbodies) (cf. www.bfn.de/0316_akgewaesser.html). A separate party has drawn up and published corresponding recommendations for monitoring and assessing the conservation status of peatlands and heathlands (cf. www.bfn.de/0316_ak_moore.html). These records and assessments were prepared for protected sites, whose land is exempt from usage.

For wetlands with only limited or no protection, the landscape plans prepared at local authority level provide the main basis for assessment. These describe and evaluate the natural areas and assess them for use. Depending on the Land in question, they either become binding directly after adoption, or are integrated into local authority land use plans. Superordinate to this process, at regional level there are framework landscape plans and landscape programmes setting out fundamental objectives, measures and areas.

Furthermore, the programmes of measures and management plans for waters in river basins which are currently prepared at national and international level in accordance with the requirements of the WFD will have a positive influence on Ramsar sites. The first programmes and plans must be completed by the end of 2009, and thereafter will be revised on a 6-year cycle.

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:

<p>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]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

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}	A - Yes

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 ...]”

Re 1.2.1) In Germany, the national wetland strategy is part of a more comprehensive nature conservation policy by the Federal Government and Länder. Wetland conservation plays a central role in the nature conservation laws, protection programmes and projects of the Federal, Länder and district governments. There are independent protection strategies for individual wetland types, e.g. for the Wadden Sea within the context of trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation and the OSPAR Convention, for the Baltic Sea in conjunction with the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), and for rivers such as the Rhine, Elbe and Danube to a certain extent also within the context of the International Commissions for the Protection of the Rhine (IKSR), the Elbe (IKSE) and the Danube (IKSD). The Federal Länder have regional strategies and action programmes for the protection of watercourses, peatlands, lakes, water meadows, wetland meadows and other wetland types.

Wetlands are also an important aspect of the 2007 National Strategy on Biological Diversity, within whose framework the aim is to create a national water meadow programme by 2009 (cf. summary A) incorporating requirements relating to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. Preparations already completed in this connection include 1) the development of a water meadow typology of the rivers and streams as a basis for nationwide evaluation (2005), 2) a feasibility study on the nationwide audit of water meadows, and 3) based on these two foundations, an audit of river meadows on large streams along a watercourse section of 10,000 km, corresponding to the water meadow typology already developed (2005 - 2008). The aim of this research work is to develop a policy-making basis for the water meadow programme defining priorities, time scales and measures.

Re 1.2.2) The Strategy on Biological Diversity (2007) integrates the targets and actions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relating to the conservation of biological diversity, the eradication of poverty and development cooperation. In the field of biodiversity and the eradication of poverty, we would refer you directly to the efforts made within the context of the Ramsar Convention.

Re 1.2.3) Under German water legislation, the programmes and plans for water abstraction are designed with a view to sustainable use and protecting water resources, with due regard for aspects relating to the conservation and protection of wetlands.

Because of Germany's federal structure, the requirements of waterbodies and wetlands, as a sub-section of waterbody and nature conservation, are taken into account in other sector-specific plans at national, regional and local level, and in planning for the region as a whole (cf. 1.2.4).

Re 1.2.4) The monitoring of water quality in accordance with various water-related legislation, also with reference to waterbody conservation, nature conservation, drinking water quality, transport etc., is primarily the responsibility of the Federal Länder, and is coordinated by the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) for the purposes of reporting at EU level. Extensive monitoring programmes have also been prepared on the basis of the Water Framework Directive. As part of the German Government's public relations work, a national report on 'Wasserwirtschaft in Deutschland' (Water management in Germany) was published in 2006. Part 2 outlines the results of studies into the water quality of watercourses, lakes, coastal and marine waters and groundwater on the basis of biological, chemical and hydromorphological conditions and pressures. (www.uba.de)

Overall, evaluations to date have been geared primarily to the quality of waters, with due consideration for the ecological correlations of wetlands based on the waterbody morphology. With regard to individual water user groups, these evaluations are also linked to quantities, not only in terms of the needs of ecosystems and environmental flows, but also in the sense of re-assessing water use, together with aspects of waterbody ecology and nature conservation. The Water Framework Directive also stipulates that water ecology aspects such as environmental flows, the presence of certain fauna and flora living in the water etc. are to be monitored from now on.

Re 1.2.5) The Federal Government, Länder, districts and local authorities regularly review all policies, programmes and plans which could impact the conservation of wetlands in accordance

with the valid legal foundations, such as the intervention provisions relating to nature conservation, the environmental impact assessment (EIA), and the strategic environmental assessment (SEA). § 35 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) requires that these legal foundations should be applied directly to all plans under the Federal Highways and Federal Waterways Act, as well as to regional planning and other plans in general.

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

2004 saw the adoption of the Act Introducing the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, whereby selected plans and programmes are to be subjected to a systematic, in-depth review of their impacts on the environment. This law served to implement the European 'Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. At the same time, German law is being adapted in line with other international legal provisions, such as the UN-ECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Plans relating to Natura2000 areas with potential impacts on such areas are also subject to an environmental impact assessment within the context of the Natura-2000 network pursuant to §§ 32-38 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG).

Furthermore, model methodologies for implementing the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) have been drafted for a number of plans and programmes (e.g. construction planning, transport planning, regional planning).

The Environmental Impact Assessment Act (UVP G) was comprehensively amended in 2001 and adapted in line with EU Directives. Where projects are planned in wetland areas or in Ramsar sites, an EIA must be carried out in accordance with the valid legal provisions.

There are plans to restructure German environmental legislation in 2009 with the adoption of the Environmental Code. According to the relevant German Environment Ministry draft (as per November 2007), this will amalgamate the various specialist laws as well as the processes for environmental assessment and licensing (cf. summary H).

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]	C - Partly
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}	A - Yes
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}	A - Yes

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 ...]”

Re 1.3.1) An assessment of the services provided by the wetland ecosystems has not yet been compiled in the form of a comprehensive analysis. The assessment of individual services, such as drinking and service water use, flood prevention, hydropower, shipping, fishing and angling or recreation are, on the one hand, part of area-specific plans, and on the other, subject to sectoral planning by the Federal Länder e.g. on raw materials use.

The Federal Environmental Agency and the Federal Statistical Agency regularly publish data on water supply (www.uba.de). Information on tourism significance tends to be recorded at a regional level. In recent years, moreover, the topic of flood prevention has gained significance, partly with the aim of improving the retention capacity of wetlands, river meadows and riparian forests (cf. 1.2.4).

Re 1.3.2) The development and promotion of sustainable wetland use is part of a comprehensive nature conservation and environmental policy in Germany, much of which also serves to implement EU legislation. Programmes to promote individual projects and usage forms therefore originate from various different sectors, including nature conservation (LIFE+), flood prevention, and agriculture. Many of these are linked to promotional programmes by the Federal Länder aimed at preserving and maintaining cultural landscapes (cf. summary H, 1.3.1, 1.4.4). The Federal Länder have developed specific programmes and funding mechanisms depending on the landscape features. In this connection, particular attention is devoted to peatlands (cf. 1.3.3).

For example, as part of its landscape maintenance programme, Baden-Wuerttemberg has conducted extensive annual biotope management and species conservation measures in the Ramsar sites of Mindelsee and Wollmatinger Ried totalling 230,000 euros. Moreover, 9 of the 11 LIFE nature projects implemented to date in Baden-Wuerttemberg include elements designed to strengthen wetland protection. In addition to the water meadow programme (www.lfu.bayern.de/natur/fachinformationen/auenprogramm), Bavaria also has a programme for sustainable flood control (www.lfu.bayern.de/wasser/fachinformationen/hochwasser_grundsaeetze_ziele), while in the field of nature conservation, it operates a contract-based nature conservation programme with hardship compensation (VNP/EA), offering financial recompense for income losses and conservation expenditure. Exemplary projects are found in the Ramsar sites Donauauen and Donaumoos as well as Lech-Donau-Winkel. The LIFE projects 'Südlicher Chiemgau' (southern Chiemgau region), 'Hochmoore und Lebensräume des Wachtelkönigs im südlichen Chiemgau' (peatlands and habitats of the corncrake in southern Chiemgau), 'Auen, Haiden und Quellen im unteren Isartal' (water meadows, heathlands and springs in the lower Isar Valley) and 'Unterer Inn mit Auen' (Lower Inn and water meadows) (whose coverage is partially identical with the Ramsar site Unterer Inn) are now complete. The LIFE projects 'Rosenheimer Stammbeckenmoore' (Rosenheimer Stammbecken peatlands) and 'Schwäbisches Donautal' (Swabian Danube Valley), parts of which are identical to the Ramsar sites of Donauauen and Donaumoos, are currently in the process of being implemented.

In Brandenburg, projects aimed at the development of waterbodies from former mining applications (e.g. LENAB, SUBICON) contribute to the development of wetlands.

For the Ramsar sites of Unterer Niederrhein, Riselfelder Münster and Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg in North-Rhine Westphalia, there is documentation of projects aimed at ensuring balanced wetland use with varying emphasis on flood prevention, cultural heritage and research.

With reference to the underrepresented wetlands on the Ramsar list, the designation of Bayerische Wildalm is the first karst region in Germany to be added to the Ramsar list.

Re 1.3.3) The guidelines adopted in Resolution VIII.17 have been applied in Germany for many years. The protection of peatlands is a top nationwide priority, based on statutory protection pursuant to § 30 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) and the legislation at Länder level, the latter being responsible for implementation. There are a wide range of activities for peatlands at local, regional and national level aimed at protection, management, sustainable use

and public education of the affected individuals and decision-makers.

The following examples demonstrate the intensity of protective measures for peatlands in Germany:

- The vast majority of Germany's remaining semi-natural peatlands are currently protected under the EU system of protected areas, NATURA 2000.
- Of the 18 large-scale nature conservation projects begun nationwide since November 2007, seven cite the conservation of peatlands of varying characteristics and conservation statuses as one of their priorities (cf. 1.5.1) (cf. www.bfn.de/0203_liste_laufend.html)
- Those Federal Länder with peatlands of ecological value have prepared special protection programmes, development concepts, framework plans and renaturation projects (Lower Saxony, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Bavaria and Brandenburg), and have also created financial incentives in addition to action proposals and guidelines (cf. 1.3.2).
- Peatlands are a key theme of the nationwide competition for large-scale nature conservation projects (cf. www.idee-natur.de/moor.html)
- Conservation and protection measures are being carried out using funding from the EU-LIFE nature programme in order to conserve selected peatland areas in different parts of Germany (e.g. Baden-Wuerttemberg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania).
- In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, which is heavily influenced by peatland areas, as part of the funding programme 'conservation-friendly grassland use', during the period 2000 to 2006 funding was allocated to peatland-conserving agricultural usage on an area of around 40,000 ha, including organic farming. Under the funding programme 'Measures for the conservation and development of peatlands', which is also co-financed by the EU (EAGFL), between 2000 and 2006, some 42 projects were approved on an area of 8,716 ha, most of which have since been implemented.
- In Brandenburg, a special programme for forest peatlands has been ongoing since 2005. Additionally, a concept has been drawn up for the protection of peatlands used for agricultural purposes.
- There is a wealth of scientific studies available investigating the spread and ecological significance, biological diversity, balance of materials, management, wise use and renaturation of peatlands (cf. the literature database of the BfN, www.dnl-online.de).
- For the purposes of information, awareness-raising and education, Germany publishes a series of brochures and books, prepares exhibits, educational trails, information centres and websites, and hosts specialist conferences.

Re 1.3.4) For centuries, wetlands in Germany have been characterised by cultural development, particularly the nature of land and resource use. Today, this is reflected primarily in an understanding of the cultural landscape. In this connection, the formulation and implementation of management plans make allowance for cultural heritage. Implementation of the resolution is achieved a) by anchoring the cultural values in law in the form of intervention provisions, land use and protected area planning, and b) by using our understanding of the particular cultural values of wetlands in order to maintain the cultural landscape.

Some Federal Länder, including Baden-Wuerttemberg, Brandenburg, North-Rhine Westphalia and Thuringia, have developed their own cultural landscape programmes which are supported by measures aimed at the extensive use and conservation of historical landscapes. The wetlands of international importance also benefit from this.

Examples include, firstly, the development of the Ramsar site 'Steinhuder Meer' (cf. www.naturpark-steinhuder-meer.de) and the 'Federseelandschaft' (cf. <http://www.federseemuseum.de>), and secondly, the 'Haus im Moos' in Donaumoos and the information office 'Schwarzes Moor' in the Rhön region, which also teaches visitors about the wetlands and their traditional usage forms.

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

The wetlands inventorised within the framework of special registration programmes are often significant in several of the aforementioned respects. For example, river meadows may serve the purposes of water supply, flood control, nature conservation, extensive agricultural use and/or scientific research. The protective purpose of the wetland is outlined in the legal provision for that area or in the landscape and regional plans.

In Germany, wetlands of particular importance for water supply (such as meadows, reservoirs) may be protected by the Federal Government and Länder under water legislation (e.g. as water protection areas).

Wetlands on the Wadden Sea coast may be protected by planning legislation or nature conservation legislation of the competent Federal Länder.

In 2004, the German government adopted a law to improve preventive flood control, whereby former natural flood plains were to be restored as far as possible, including the restoration of water meadows. For example, the instrument of the biosphere reserve pursuant to § 25 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz, 2002) serves to protect large wetlands for cultural-historical reasons and/or for scientific research purposes. The biosphere reserve (BR) Mittlere Elbe is one such example.

Research into waterbodies and wetlands focussing on water supply, coastal protection, flood control and various other priorities are executed by the competent specialist authorities of the Federal Länder, as well as by professional organisations, nature conservation groups, biological centres, universities, and other research institutes.

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?	A - Yes
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}

C - Partly

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 ...]”

Re 1.4.1) In Germany, the fundamental principles and guidance contained in Resolution IX.1 Annex C are implemented by the water legislation provisions of the Federal Government and Länder, particularly in order to implement EC water law. The cycle outlined in Annex Ci for the development of river basin management is equivalent in structure to the basic planning procedures for land and water use, e.g. national implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). In particular, cooperation between local authorities and river basins (nature conservation and waterbody planning) has been intensified under the WFD, in accordance with the WFD's holistic approach to river basins in the preparation of programmes of measures and management plans for the respective catchment areas.

For the river basins of the Rhine and the Elbe, aspects of integrated planning, development and use are addressed in the International Commissions for the Protection of the Rhine (IKSR - www.iksr.de), the Elbe (IKSE - www.ikse.de) and the Danube (ICPDR - www.icpdr.org).

The Internet platform 'WasserBLiCK', operated by the supreme water authorities of the Federal Government and Länder, makes an important contribution with regard to the mediation of information and communication within the water management authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany, who are responsible for implementing the WFD (<http://www.wasserblick.net>).

Re 1.4.2) The Federal Water Act and the water acts of the Länder, in implementing the European Water Framework Directive, require the notification and participation of the general public in the preparation of management plans for river basins and waterbodies (cf. 1.4.1).

Moreover, the international river basin commissions, such as the International Commissions for the Protection of the Danube, the Elbe, the Oder and the Rhine, together with a number of environmental protection organisations, contribute significantly to the understanding of these plans through their public relations work and educational courses, as well as by offering publicly accessible information materials.

Re 1.4.3) The Federal Länder of Bremen, Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania are responsible for the development of an integrated coastal zone management plan (ICZM) along the German North and Baltic Sea Coast. Res. VII. 4 contains numerous proposals and suggestions which are valuable for implementation of an ICZM in Germany.

Re 1.4.4) The Strategy on Biological Diversity (cf. summary A, inter alia) identifies the need for action to widen measures to counteract climate change, both via prevention (causes) and adaptation (consequences), since this influences the status of numerous ecosystem services. This concerns the eradication of poverty, reducing climate-relevant gases, and the development of measures to adapt to anticipated climate changes (cf. www.bmu.de).

In October 2006, a competence centre for climate change impacts and adaptation was created in the Federal Environmental Agency. Its mandate will include analysis of the importance of rivers vis-a-vis the increase in flooding and related consequences, as well as low water levels in rivers during summer. The related consequences for the functioning and conservation of wetland ecosystems have not yet been explicitly investigated. Moreover, the importance and protection of peatlands as CO₂ sinks is widely understood, as recently communicated in the designation of Bayerische Wildalm as a Ramsar site.

For further research into the importance of wetlands in the era of climate change, the Federal Office for Nature Conservation has submitted a research proposal on the 'Climate relevance of water meadows and wetlands' in the 2008 environmental research plan (UFOPLAN) (not yet approved).

January 2008 saw the publication of a report on the 'Assessment of climate change for the Baltic Sea Basin' (BACC). Under this report, the GKSS research centre has prepared the first

comprehensive assessment of climate change in the Baltic Sea region, which will serve as a basis for analysing the consequences for the biodiversity of ecosystems.
(Cf. also section 2 G)

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

Case examples and publications are made accessible via the Internet. The private organisation 'EUCC - The German Coastal Union' has begun to compile German projects on ICZM and other publications associated with ICZM in a database (www.eucc-d.de). This also contains a reference to ENCORA, the European coastal platform which aims to improve the linking of ICZM in Europe. The Curatorium für Forschung im Küsteningenieurwesen (German Coastal Engineering Research Council, KFKI) is working to optimise the benefits and efficiency of fundamental research in coastal engineering (www.kfki.baw.de).

In Germany, a number of concepts and case studies on ICZM have been carried out for parts of the North and Baltic Sea coastal regions in recent years.

Up until 2006, the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) financed a research project in the 'Odermündung' region for integrated coastal zone management, representing one of the two national reference projects for ICZM. The research was linked to Polish projects and the UNEP activities on 'Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM)'.

Within the context of developing climate protection measures and programmes, some of which are highly relevant to wetlands, especially river valleys and water meadows, interdisciplinary cooperation between Federal Government departments, such as the Federal Environmental Agency and the Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde (Federal Institute for Hydrology) (cf. www.umweltbundesamt.de/klimaschutz, www.bafg.de), as well as government and private research institutes, is constantly improving.

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:

<p>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]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>

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 ...]"

Re 1.5.1) Since COP9, a number of projects encompassing a significant proportion of wetlands (watercourses, river meadows, wetland forests, peatlands (cf. 1.3.3) and water meadows) have been continued under the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) programme for the protection of nature conservation areas of national importance. Key objectives of these projects include the restoration and permanent improvement of the ecological functions of wetlands.

Four large-scale nature conservation projects in wetlands of national importance have now been completed, with an average project duration of 10 years. One of the project areas was in the Ramsar site 'Unteres Odertal', while the others were in the region of the River Ahr in Rhineland-Palatinate, the Ill in Saarland, and the ponds of the Niederspree-Hammerstadt (cf. www.bfn.de/0203_abgeschl.html).

Since November 2005, 18 further large projects for the conservation and renaturation of wetlands have been launched in 9 Federal Länder, with an average funding period of 10 years and project budgets of up to 15 million euros. One of the projects refers to the Ramsar site 'Untere Havelniederung' (Brandenburg). In seven of these projects, the main emphasis is on the conservation of peatlands of varying characteristics and conservation statuses (cf. 1.3.3). (cf. www.bfn.de/0203_liste_laufend.html)

Since January 2006, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) has funded 25 national projects focussing on wetlands in line with the Ramsar Convention totalling €4,065,000, as well as 9 international projects with Ramsar relevance totalling €2,018,000 (www.dbu.de)

Peatlands also represent one of the four priority ecosystems in the national competition for new large-scale nature conservation projects which is currently ongoing. The jury is due to make its decision in July 2008 (cf. www.idee-natur.de/moor.html).

Other programmes and funding mechanisms aimed at the conservation and renaturation of regionally and locally important wetlands exist in the majority of Federal Länder.

The following examples illustrate the commitment of the Länder:

- In Baden-Wuerttemberg, habitat optimisation work was carried out in the areas of 'Blitzenreuter Seenplatte' (2002-2007), 'Rheinauen bei Karlsruhe' (2004-2009) and 'Oberer Hotzenwald' (2005 - 2011) with funding from the 'LIFE Natur' fund.
- In Bavaria, 249 projects with an emphasis on wetland protection are currently being implemented within the context of the Bayern-Netz-Natur (Bavarian Nature Network).
- North-Rhine Westphalia is supporting 2 large-scale nature conservation projects on the 'Unterer Niederrhein' (Alter Rhein near Bienen-Praest and Bislicher Insal), together with numerous measures in many sub-regions of wetlands of international importance, e.g. Kranenburger Bruch, Düssel, Hetter, Orsoyer Rheinbogen, aimed at improving and stabilising the hydrological situation and water quality, creating new flood plains, and protecting banks from over-intensive grazing. In the Ramsar site 'Rieselfelder Münster', new shallow water zones are being created within the context of a LIFE project, and the extensive grazing of water meadows and the development of a visitor guidance system are supported.
- In Lower Saxony, nature conservation subsidy programmes make an important contribution towards wetland protection, such as the wet grassland protection programme, the white stork protection programme, and the fish otter protection programme.

Re 1.5.2) Germany has several decades of experience in the renaturation of wetlands. As such, it can be assumed that the proposals and suggestions cited in the resolutions and related guidelines

are widely observed and applied when carrying out projects for the renaturation of wetlands.

Above and beyond the technical descriptions and recommendations developed by Ramsar, the procedure for the planning and implementation of projects is regulated in a legally binding manner by German environmental legislation, related standards, and the planning and licensing procedures.

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

Information and case studies, together with the results of restoration projects, are generally available in the literature database of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and may be used by interested parties (www.bfn.de). In addition, research reports, studies and expert opinions by universities, specialist authorities, NGOs and other research institutions are also published, and may be accessed via an Internet search engine.

Landmark conservation legislation generally makes allowance for cultural-historical peculiarities and archaeological findings, which also extend to wetland restoration projects (cf. 1.3.4).

The following mechanisms and projects are recent examples of sustainable water management and of measures to improve the ecological functions of river basins:

1. The research projects by the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) on sustainable water management include implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), cooling water conditioning from power plants, and nutrient discharges into water (www.umweltbundesamt.de/wasser).
2. For nearly 30 years, the large-scale nature conservation projects of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) have served to promote and improve the ecological functions of sections of watercourses, for example, via the purchase of land, relocation of dykes, and removal of bank obstructions. In this way, in particular, the endangered habitats of animals and plants can be restored, and natural watercourse dynamics are encouraged (cf. www.bfn.de/0203_liste_laufend.html).
3. The 'Action Plan Flood Control of the Elbe' aims to legally protect and revitalise the remaining flood plains along the Elbe and its subsidiaries (www.ikse.de).
4. The project to revitalise degraded sections of riverbank along the Rhine by means of exemplary measures is the result of cooperation between the Federal Land of Rhineland-Palatinate, the Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. (NABU) and other partners, and is being funded by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) (cf. www.lebendiger-rhein.de).
5. Measures by the Federal Länder to revitalise watercourses have long received Federal Government funding within the context of the Community task 'Improving agricultural structure and coastal protection'.

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 ...]”

Re 1.6.1) According to the Federal Nature Conservation Act (2002), it is the task of the Federal Länder to adopt suitable measures to avert the risk of adulteration of the fauna and flora associated with the establishment and dispersion of alien species of fauna and flora (§ 41, paragraph 2 of the BNatSchG). Furthermore, the Federal Nature Conservation Act in conjunction with the Federal Ordinance on the Conservation of Species (BArtSchV) prohibits the ownership and marketing of species which may adulterate or endanger the flora and fauna (§ 42, paragraph 3, no. 2 of the BNatSchG in conjunction with § 3 of the BArtSchV). In the area of hunting, the Federal Hunting Act contains provisions regulating the release and establishment of alien species in the wild.

Invasive non-native species which pose a threat - whether direct or indirect - to plants are monitored and controlled on the basis of the Plant Protection Act, and measures are taken to prevent their introduction. At international level, this work is incorporated into the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the statutory provisions under EU law (Council Directive 2000/29/EC). The CBD and IPPC have concluded an international Memorandum of Cooperation. The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) issues member countries with recommendations on preventing the introduction and dissemination of invasive non-native species; these are also mandatory for Germany. For example, organisms listed in the EPPO Alert List must be notified by the plant protection services (cf. general administrative regulation on notifications, data and surveys of organisms harmful to plants and plant products). This also affects plant species whose spread poses a threat to the fauna of wetlands, such as the chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*) or the alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*).

A superordinate framework is provided by the binding provisions of EU law under Article 22 of the Habitats Directive (29/43/EEC), which state that Member States must ensure that 'the deliberate introduction into the wild of any species which is not native to their territory is regulated so as not to prejudice natural habitats within their range or the wild native fauna and flora' and Article 11 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) which states that 'Member States shall see that any introduction of species of bird which do not occur naturally in the wild state in the European territory of the Member States does not prejudice the local flora and fauna'.

The strategy on invasive species developed within the framework of the Berne Convention (cf. <http://www.coe.int/de>) provides guidance for Germany but is not binding. The same applies to other international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (particularly the guiding principles on invasive species) and the Washington Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) or the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Since COP 6 of the CBD (2002), the following new steps have been introduced for dealing with invasive species:

- a) The National Strategy on Biological Diversity (2007) (cf. 1.2.1) cites the drafting of a national strategy to protect against invasive species as one of its goals. The cited measures include the implementation of international and national provisions to prevent the spread and introduction of invasive species. In the chapter on waterbodies, lakes, ponds and rivers, reference is explicitly made to the risk of entrainment and appropriate preventive measures for wetland ecosystems. The sector strategy on agro-biodiversity (2007) also includes approaches for addressing the sector-specific requirements of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to protect against invasive non-native species.
- b) In 2007, the Working Group of the Federal States on Nature Conservation (LANA) drafted a position paper on invasive species. Inter alia, this contains legal recommendations regarding an amendment to the Federal Nature Conservation Act (in the form of an Environmental Code - UGB) and includes aspects relating to the enforcement of measures.
- c) In a currently ongoing research and development project by the BfN on the topic of climate change, a system of criteria is being developed to classify the level of invasiveness (Black List) of vascular plants and fish. Its time frame encompasses developments over the past 20 years, as

well as a look at the future.

d) There are plans to draft a national strategy on the handling of invasive species.

Concrete data on the presence of invasive species and individual measures to tackle this problem is not available for all Ramsar sites. In some regions there are local initiatives, primarily NGOs, which carry out small-scale measures to inhibit neophytes.

In accordance with the CBD's three-stage approach for dealing with invasive species, however, the main emphasis is on preventive measures rather than management measures. For example, various players (botanical gardens, landscape gardeners) have developed voluntary codes of practice for dealing with invasive non-native species.

Re 1.6.2) The National Strategy on Biological Diversity of November 2007 incorporated the obligation pursuant to Article 6 of the Biodiversity Convention (CBD). The same applies to the agro-biodiversity strategy.

In developing selected policies, strategies and management principles, technical competence is accumulated at the responsibility of Federal and Länder governments, which ensure cooperation and involvement by means of administrative structures. Furthermore, regional agreements such as the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine contribute towards intensive cooperation between different authorities and help to promote participatory structures (cf. section A and 2.6).

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

For most of the neophytes which have become established in Germany, analyses by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) suggest that there are no risks to nature or health, nor have there been any explicit adverse economic impacts. However, certain species may cause economic damage, such as smaller harvests, increased use of pesticides in agriculture and forestry, or increased costs associated with the maintenance of roads, waterways and railways. Furthermore, health problems such as allergies can also arise. Alien species of fauna in waterbodies pose the biggest problem. As a result of shipping and the construction of canals, many invertebrate species have been introduced into rivers and lakes, posing varying levels of threat to native species. A number of invasive plant species also pose a threat by displacing other plants and impairing the balance of light and materials in waterbodies.

There are fears of future conflicts with native species e.g. in process protection land and Natura 2000 sites if invasive species are allowed to exceed the limit of 30 percent area coverage. This problem was addressed, inter alia, at a BfN and WWF event in September 2007 on the spread of the Green Ash (*Fraxinus pensylvanica*) in the water meadow regions of the Middle Elbe near Dessau.

Practical instructions on dealing with invasive species are provided on the homepage of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) (www.neophyten.de) and on the website of the Federal Institute for Cultivated Plants (Julius Kühn Institute, JKI) at www.jki.bund.

The problems posed by introduced species for the North Sea coastal region were investigated and summarised in 2004 (see 2.6 B); the five German Ramsar sites in the Wadden Sea are affected by this. The existing international cooperation arrangements for Central European river systems and for the North Sea (OSPAR) and Baltic Sea (HELCOM) also address the problem of invasive species where necessary (see 2.6.B).

The situation of invasive species in the Rhine was outlined by the ISKR in the year 2000 (www.IKSR.de - Report no. 128). It found that the biotic communities of the Rhine are influenced primarily by south-eastern European species introduced via the Main/Danube Canal, including the Ramsar site 'Rhine between Eltville and Bingen'.

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]

D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

Re 2.1.1) On 9 October 2007, the Federal Environment Ministry reported the karst peatland region 'Bayerische Wildalm' (wetland of international importance no. 1723) to the Ramsar Secretariat as Germany's 33rd wetland of international importance. This wetland of international importance intersects with the Austrian Ramsar site 'Bayerische Wildalm and Wildalmfilz' (wetland of international importance no. 1489).

The increase in size of the Lech-Donau-Winkel site (wetland of international importance no. xx) was reported to the Ramsar Secretariat at the same time.

After 10 years of preparatory work to designate the 'Oberrhein / Rhin superieur' as a transboundary German-French wetland of international importance, at a meeting in December 2007 a joint timetable was drawn up, whereby the site, covering an area of approximately 25,000 ha, is to be designated in summer 2008 ahead of COP10 in Korea. The sites on both sides of the border are submitted separately to the Ramsar office by the national competent bodies. In order to stress the character of the joint site, however, a joint declaration will be submitted in the form of a preamble to the application. Furthermore, when designating the Ramsar site, a jointly drafted letter from Germany and France will be addressed to the Ramsar Office.

Now that the nomination process for Natura-2000 areas is complete, we can assert that 3,077 out of a total of 4,617 Natura 2000 sites in Germany contain wetland habitat types. Of these, 125 sites have an area in excess of 5,000 ha (cf. Petersen & Ssymank 2007: Die Feuchtgebiete internationaler Bedeutung und das Schutzgebietsnetz Natura-2000 in Deutschland, Natur und Landschaft 11/2007, page 494 ff).

On the basis of the area data available, a review of potential Ramsar sites is conceivable. As well as overall national representativeness and uniqueness, the criteria for such a review would primarily include those wetland types which are underrepresented on the Ramsar list, such as peatlands, alluvial waterbodies, riparian forests and mountain waterbodies, as well as the consideration of important fish populations. Generally, the intention is to forge ahead with this type of development within the context of a strategy for the conservation of wetlands based around the objectives of the Ramsar Convention's strategic framework plan.

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

On the basis of regular waterfowl monitoring, the Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten (DDA) has identified a total of 207 IBAs (Important Bird Areas) which either wholly or partially satisfy the criteria as Ramsar sites (cf. Sudfeldt u. Wahl, 2007: Die Ramsar-Konvention: Starthilfe und Impulsgeber für den Wasservogelschutz in Deutschland, Natur und Landschaft 11/2007, page 485

ff.; cf. www.dda-web.de). Many of these areas are either already, or will be, protected as 'Special Protected Areas' (SPAs) under the EU Birds Directive. Analyses of the population status of waterfowl species were also published in the report 'Vögel in Deutschland 2007' (Birds in Germany 2007), in a joint publication by the DDA, the Federal Office for Nature Conservation and the Länderarbeitsgemeinschaft der Vogelschutzwarten (Working Group of the Federal States on Ornithological Stations).

Annex I to the Habitats Directive alone lists 30 wetland-specific habitat types for which waterfowl are not necessarily an indicator, such as active raised bogs (7110), turloughs (3180) or petrifying springs with tufa formation (7220). This typological description and recording will continue to serve as the basis for discussions and developments in the Ramsar context in the long term.

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}	A - Yes
2.2.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its database used in national implementation of the Convention concerning Ramsar site issues?	C - Partly

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 ...]”

Re 2.2.1) The process to update the Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) in line with the modified format as per the resolutions of COP9 was introduced in 2006 in the 12 affected German Länder responsible for monitoring and reporting. At the current time, 31 of the 33 data sheets for German Ramsar sites are in need of an update. All RIS are being edited, and the advanced coordination process both between German Länder (for those sites which straddle two or more Federal Länder) and with the Federal Office for Nature Conservation has been initiated. For some of the German wetlands of international importance, information sheets are being drawn up for the first time.

The documents will be completed over the next few months and sent to the Secretariat ahead of COP 10.

Re 2.2.2) We are not aware of regular usage of the RSIS and its database within the context of implementation, but this could be more widely encouraged by publicising the related benefits. However, this would require up-to-date data, which is currently lacking, at least in the case of Germany. The fact that data is not presented in the German language also presents an obstacle to its usage.

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

Site information is recorded and forwarded on the basis of various protected area types. All German Ramsar sites are predominantly Natura 2000 sites as well, for which information sheets in a format similar to the RIS must be forwarded to the European Commission. The recording and updating of these two formats could be harmonised more effectively at national level and included in the instructions from the Ramsar Secretariat. Furthermore, Germany has begun to input basic

GIS data for the Ramsar sites into the EIONET database of the European Environmental Agency (in accordance with the agreement between the Ramsar Secretariat and EEA in 2006). This database compiles Ramsar site maps and other data on European protected areas and makes it available to the general public (<http://nmc.eionet.europa.eu>)

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 ...]”

Re 2.3.1) The objectives and definition of measures to conserve the ecological character are based to a large extent on the national protection status of the Ramsar sites (categories outlined in the Federal Nature Conservation Act).

Germany's Ramsar sites enjoy varying forms of legal protection, some as national parks and biosphere reserves, others as nature conservation areas. The management plans are geared to the respective requirements and objectives of the national protection category, which is also decisive for management of the Ramsar sites.

In the following 8 Ramsar sites, the management plans are geared primarily to the objectives as a national park: All 5 Ramsar sites in the Wadden Sea (the national park plans implement the objectives of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan, inter alia); Ostufer Müritz, Ostseeboddengewässer and Unteres Odertal.

In most of the other Ramsar sites, management has until now been geared to the objectives as a nature conservation area and corresponding regulations, which are outlined in maintenance and management plans. For the bulk of 'Special Protected Areas' (SPA) under the EU Birds Directive or sites under the Habitats Directive, over the next few years management plans will be drawn up within the context of implementing the Natura-2000 network, including explicit measures to conserve the ecological character of wetland sites. Furthermore, country-specific action recommendations, which are binding for the authorities, will be drawn up providing guidance on the conservation of habitat types and fauna and flora species in wetlands, and outlining more extensive voluntary agreements. In the Bavarian sites, voluntary agreements are being drawn up for the Ammersee and Starnberger See wetlands of international importance, while a rest zone concept has been prepared for Chiemsee. Furthermore, there are waterbody development plans available for Chiemsee and Starnberger See, and preparations for such plans are underway for Ammersee.

The specific measures required to conserve the ecological character of Ramsar sites are defined and implemented in these plans. The management plans that exist for the majority of Germany's Ramsar sites or other concepts to conserve or improve the ecological character will be revised over the next few years in accordance with the requirements of protected area management of Natura-2000 sites; for sites outside of the Natura-2000 network of protected areas, new management plans will be drawn up (cf. also 1.3.2)

Re 2.3.2) 29 of Germany's Ramsar sites have management or maintenance and development plans in accordance with applicable nature conservation standards. Two further site management plans are currently being drawn up in this way. For the remaining 2 sites, suitable management foundations have been lacking to date, but these are at the planning stage.

Below is a summarised overview of the Ramsar sites:

- Maintenance and management plans exist for Mindelsee and Wollmatinger Ried. When preparing the management plan under the Habitats Directive for Boanrück, which covers a more extensive geographical area, the management plans for these two sites will be combined during 2008/2009.

- All 8 Bavarian Ramsar sites are simultaneously SPA sites, and some of them are also sites under the Habitats Directive, in which the new management plans for these Natura 2000 sites will fulfill this function. The management plan for Starnberger See is already under preparation.

- A maintenance and development plan is being drawn up for the wetland of international importance 'Niederung der Unteren Havel/Gölper See/Schollener See'.

- In accordance with the National Parks Act for Unteres Odertal, a national parks plan is being

prepared for the wetland of international importance 'Unteres Odertal bei Schwedt'.

- The Ramsar sites of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania are all subject to the same management: Krakower Obersee (wildlife reserve plan), Ostufer Müritz (national parks plan), Ostseeboddengewässer (national parks plan), Krakower Obersee (wildlife reserve plan), Galenbecker See (planning permission).

- Management and development plans exist for the Unterer Niederrhein, Rieselfelder Münster and Weserstaustufe Schlüsselberg sites.

- In Lower Saxony, maintenance and development plans exist for some of the 8 Ramsar sites. Initial management plans within the context of Natura 2000 are under preparation for the Elbe and Wesermündung sites.

- The management plan for Inselrhein between Mainz and Lorch includes the Ramsar site 'Rhein zwischen Eltville und Bingen'.

- The required measures for conserving the ecological character of Aland-Elbe-Niederung / Elbaue Jerichow in Saxony-Anhalt have already been addressed within the context of Natura 2000 site plans.

- Management plans exist for sub-areas of the designated site on the Upper Rhine.

- No concrete management plans exist as yet for the Hamburgisches Wattenmeer & Mühlenberger Loch national park sites.

Over the next few years, Ramsar sites which are part of the NATURA 2000 network will be subject to management plans in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

Re 2.3.3) In the process of preparing and implementing management plans in Ramsar sites, German law generally prescribes that all departments, land users, interest groups and affected individuals should be included in the debate. In addition to the nature and environmental conservation departments, representatives of the water management, agriculture, forestry and tourism sectors are already included in the majority of cases.

Site management committees are used in parts of the Ramsar sites to notify and involve the various interest groups and participants on measures for the maintenance and development of the site.

Also worth mentioning are the interdisciplinary working parties which are responsible for preparing the waterbody development plans (e.g. in the Ramsar sites Chiemsee, Ammersee and Starnberger See).

Re 2.3.4) There has been no analysis to date of effective management practices in Ramsar sites. It is possible that the monitoring envisaged for Natura 2000 sites will allow conclusions to be drawn regarding the success of management in areas identical to, or overlapping with, Ramsar sites on the basis of the observed conservation status, allowing suitable corrections to be made where applicable.

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

- Generally speaking, the development and planning of management concepts in Germany's Ramsar sites was begun many years ago. As a result, Germany has many years of experience

and expertise in the preparation and implementation of management plans for wetland areas.

For the most part, the criteria cited in the guidelines of the Ramsar Convention for the development of management plans are already standard practice in Germany, and are currently being extended, primarily as a result of the growing requirements of EC law with regard to public participation and the participation of other sectors.

The development of management plans for Natura 2000 sites offers new opportunities for Germany's Ramsar sites to specify special measures aimed at conserving their ecological character. The greatest challenge here lies in the timely preparation of plans, coupled with a broad-based integration and participation process for various specialist sectors.

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>C - Some cases</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>A - Yes</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 ...]"

Re 2.4.1) It is the task of the specialist authorities of the Länder to monitor any ecological changes in Ramsar sites and, where applicable, to report these to the Federal Environment Ministry, which decides whether the impairments merit notification of the Ramsar Secretariat pursuant to Article 3.2. Overall, there are mechanisms at all administrative levels for pursuing any reports of threats or site impairments and, where applicable, forwarding these to the competent higher nature conservation authority.

In future, compulsory monitoring and reporting for Natura-2000 sites will constitute an important basis for detecting changes in the ecological character of wetland areas.

Re 2.4.2) It is the task of the specialist authorities of the Länder to monitor ecological changes in the Ramsar sites. Only changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites which are characterised as particularly important at national level are reported to the Federal Government and the Ramsar Secretariat by the Länder. In accordance with this procedure, not all impairments have been reported to the Secretariat, because - as described in 2.4.1 - there are other national mechanisms for addressing such effects, assessing them, and counteracting them by means of suitable decisions.

Since COP9, no German Ramsar sites have been added to the Montreux Record (MR). Regarding the site 'Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer mit Dollart', part II of the questionnaire will be submitted over the forthcoming weeks with evidence of the measures implemented to remove the site from the MR.

Re 2.4.3) The damming of part of the Ramsar site 'Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer mit Dollart' (wetland of international importance no. 82), which was approved in a planning decision of 1985 to protect a storm flood-proof dyke in order to improve protection of the lowland behind the new dyke, led to the 121,620 ha site being added to the Montreux Record by Germany on 4 July 1990.

A ruling by the European Court of Justice of 1991 declared the plans and process legal, because adequate compensation measures had been specified with legally binding effect. In particular, the Court of Justice asserted that the ecological character of the region would not be impaired by the planned measures and that rather, in conjunction with the specified compensation measures, the ecological quality of the site would be improved.

The coastal protection project Leybucht, with its extensive package of compensatory and substitute measures, was implemented by 2005. The dyked site is protected as the nature conservation area 'Leyhör'n' and as the EU bird sanctuary V06 'Krummhörn'. Areas of land outside of the dyke are part of the national park 'Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer', and also part of the EU bird sanctuary V01 'Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer und angrenzendes Küstenmeer'.

Many years of monitoring of visiting bird populations proves that Leybucht, as part of the wetland of international importance 'Wattenmeer: Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer mit Dollart', has retained its outstanding function as a resting, migration and overwintering site. Even when considered in isolation, a number of species in Leybucht continuously meet criteria 5 and 6. Species that inhabit the unused salt meadows (such as the redshank) have seen a sharp increase in population numbers, while species which previously benefited from more intensive use or intermediately from the construction work (such as the avocet) indicate declining populations.

The current assessment of parts of Leybucht from an avifaunist viewpoint illustrate that Leybucht, as part of the Ramsar site 'Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer und angrenzendes Küstenmeer', has maintained its outstanding importance as a resting, migration and overwintering ground for waterfowl.

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

The daily influences on the sites, e.g. from agriculture, tourism, shipping, construction development and road-building, pose considerable threats, and in some cases may cause negative impairments to wetland areas. Depending on their extent, these are monitored, subjected to legally binding decision-making and inspected within the context of German nature conservation law and construction code on intervention provisions, and subjected to an impact assessment under the Habitats Directive or environmental impact assessment.

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 ...]”

Re 2.5.1) In recent years, the transboundary river basins and water catchment areas existing in Germany have been defined within the context of implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD). There are 10 relevant river basins for Germany, 8 of which have an international character (in some cases very limited): Maas, Rhine, Danube, Elbe, Oder, Ems, Schlei/Trave and Eider. International agreements exist for most of these river basins, within the framework of which management is coordinated. The fundamental objective of the international commissions which have been set up for most of these river basins, as well as implementation of the WFD, is to provide general protection from contamination, improve the water quality, coordinate flood prevention, and overall, achieve semi-natural aquatic and related terrestrial ecosystems wherever possible, as well as to intensify the mutual exchange of information.

Hence, transboundary cooperation in water management is one of the most important foundations for an integrated protection strategy and cooperative management mechanism for transboundary river basins.

In the reported and planned transboundary Ramsar sites Wattenmeer, Unterer Niederrhein, Unterer Inn and Unterer Odertal as well as Oberrhein, furthermore, intensive relationships have existed for many years to coordinate protection measures and for management of the sites.

Moreover, all transboundary protection areas, including those which incorporate inland wetlands or coastal sections, together with their maintenance and development requirements, have been regarded in a BfN project (cf. 2.1.1).

Re 2.5.2) For the Wadden Sea, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, together with all major river basins which Germany shares with neighbouring countries, multilateral agreements and river basin commissions have been concluded for the purposes of protection, management, monitoring and sustainable management. The effectiveness of these has to date been derived primarily from transboundary cooperation, and in some cases also from trans-sectoral cooperation.

For the planned transboundary German-French Ramsar site 'Oberrhein', the intention is to practice coordinated management. In the area of international waterfowl counts, there have been various endeavours towards transboundary cooperation in the north and south of the country.

With the development of management plans for Natura-2000 sites, joint development and conservation concepts will also be created for those wetlands of international importance which are close to national borders: 'Unterer Niederrhein', 'Unterer Inn zwischen Haiming und Neuhaus', 'Unteres Odertal bei Schwedt', and 'Bayerische Wildalm'.

The joint management of divided wetlands along flight routes does not currently exist in this form, however, there are partnerships and exchanges between sites with migrating species - for example, between the Ramsar site Rieselfelder Münster and the 'Djoudj' national park in Senegal (cf. www.rieselfelder-muenster.de). (cf. 3.2.1).

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

With the revision of the Federal Nature Conservation Act in 2002, the legal provisions of the EU Birds Directive and the EU Habitats Directive were transposed into German nature conservation law. Articles 32 to 38 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act are aimed at the development and protection of the European NATURA 2000 ecological network, especially the protection of sites of Community importance and European bird sanctuaries. In this way, a new regional system of protected areas for breeding and migratory bird species in the wetland areas has been created.

In addition, the system of protected areas under the EU Birds Directive also provides the basis for Germany's territorial system under the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

River basins under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), for which joint management plans are to be prepared, constitute a further network. Cooperation with the relevant specialist authorities and institutions is desirable for the long-term protection of the functionality and environmental flows of Ramsar sites.

Issues relating to waterbody regulation, water quality, waterbody structure, the ecological situation, the system of interlinked biotopes and sustainable management are discussed within the context of existing multilateral agreements. The guidelines of Resolution VIII.1 are largely taken into account.

Germany is a Member State of the Espoo Convention, which regulates environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context. The implementation of suitable assessments is ensured with binding legal effect within the European Union by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and consequently, at national level, the Environmental Impact Assessment Act.

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]

B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

To date, Germany has not been directly geographically involved in any of the regional initiatives within the framework of the Convention. However, the Secretariat of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation is planning to present the Wadden Sea and Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation at Ramsar COP 10 (www.waddensea-secretariat.org) (see also section 2, G).

Moreover, Germany is intensively involved in other regional initiatives which include both wetlands in general and Ramsar sites, but which are not explicitly listed under the umbrella of the Ramsar Convention (cf. 2.6.B).

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

Germany is involved in the following regional initiatives for marine areas, river basins and inland lakes which also serve the objectives of the Ramsar Convention:

- OSPAR Convention for the North-East Atlantic (www.ospar.org)
- Helsinki Convention on the Baltic Sea (www.helcom.fi)
- International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution (IKSR, www.iksr.de)
- International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe (IKSE, www.ikse.de)
- International Commission for the Protection of the Oder (IKSO, www.mkoo.pl)

- International Commission for the Protection of the Danube (IKSD, www.icpdr.org)
- International Commission for the Protection of the Moselle and the Saar (IKSMS, www.iksms-cipms.org)
- International Maas Commission (IKM, www.cipm-icbm.be)
- International Commission for the Protection of Lake Constance (IGKB, www.igkb.de)
- International Convention Concerning the Protection of the Alps (<http://www.convenzionedellealpi.org>)
- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Convention)

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}	A - Yes
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}	D - Planned
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 ...]”

Re 3.1.1) The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) ensures cooperation between the various international agreements and conventions.

The framework for this is provided by concrete thematic task areas in the implementation of the Strategy on Biological Diversity, and coordination of the implementation of EC law (Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, Water Framework Directive) and other multilateral agreements (cf. 2.6.1).

Re 3.1.2) Cooperation between the various activities at national level is performed by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

To date, the national focal points of other MEAs have not been invited to participate in the National Ramsar Committee. For future work, it would be both conceivable and desirable to invite the focal points of other regional or international MEAs on thematically relevant issues (cf. 4.8.2).

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

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) ensure cooperation between Ramsar and Unesco Man and the Biosphere (MAB) issues.

The coordination of activities relating to European wetlands protection occurs within the framework of the EU, the European Council, the bilateral and multilateral commissions for river basins, and the international conventions for the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the Baltic Sea (HELCOM), as well as within the framework of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Convention.

Agreements on tasks and measures relating to the Ramsar Convention at government level are always performed by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). This includes intersectoral coordination with the competent specialist departments at national level. Fundamental principles

in the areas of waterbody conservation, hydraulic engineering and climate protection are also provided by the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), the Federal Institute for Hydrology (BfG), and the Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW).

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

Indicator questions:

<p>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}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

Re 3.2.1) In recent years, Germany has made a particular effort to step up its cooperation with eastern and south-eastern European countries. To this end, the Internationale Naturschutzakademie Insel Vilm of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) held a series of seminars, workshops and expert meetings aimed at the exchange of information and experience regarding mechanisms for the protection of the Baltic Sea.

In October 2007, with support from the staff of the Ramsar Secretariat, the academy hosted a workshop on the development of management plans in Ramsar sites, which was attended by 31 individuals from projects and programmes in eastern and south-eastern Europe.

The nature conservation academies of the Federal Länder are also involved in the advanced training of specialist nature conservation personnel in Germany and eastern Europe. Examples include the nature conservation academies in Bavaria (ANL) and Lower Saxony (NNA). The implementation of LIFE nature projects can also contribute to an expert exchange at regional/local level within the context of conferences and excursions.

Cooperation arrangements and multilateral agreements exist in the transboundary Ramsar sites (Wattenmeer, Unterer Niederrhein, Unteres Odertal, Unterer Inn, Bayerische Wildalm) and in other wetland areas (such as Oberrhein, Saar-Moselle, Danube, Oder-Neiße, Elbe), within whose framework an intensive exchange of information takes place.

Examples of transboundary cooperation include the cooperation with Austria in the EuRegio Salzburg/Berchtesgadener Land/Traunstein: 'Moor & Torf' and within the context of the INTERREG project 'Moor & More am Wilden Kaiser' (cf. 1.3.3).

There are also networks with other wetlands in Europe and other parts of the world which are organised autonomously by individuals, nature conservation groups and scientific institutions.

The existing twinning arrangements have been continued:

- Common Waddensea Secretariat with The Wash/Norfolk and with Guinea Bissau (see www.waddensea-secretariat.org)
- Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park with the Lahemaa National Park in Estonia
- Unteres Odertal National Park with the 'Biebrza' National Park in Poland
- Ramsar site 'Rieselfelder Münster' with the 'Donaudelta' National Park in Romania, Kamanos reserve in Lithuania, and 'Djoudj' National Park in Senegal (see www.rieselfelder-muenster.de)
- Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer National Park with tidal flats in South Korea - Saemangeum region (see www.wattenmeer-nationalpark.de).

German nature conservation groups also support wetlands in Europe and other continents through project work, e.g.:

- EURONATUR (www.euronatur.de) is dedicated to the protection of wetlands for migratory birds and coastal regions, particularly with projects in the catchment area of the rivers Save, Drau and Mur, the Narew region (Poland) and Lake Skadar in Montenegro
- Global Nature Fund carries out projects with EU funding for the protection and management of wetlands and lakes in Europe. In recent years, the annual Living Lakes Conference has been supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation using BMU funds

(www.livingwetlands.org and www.livinglakes.org)

- At national level, WWF-Deutschland works mainly in the Elbe river basin, particularly with the large-scale nature conservation project on the Middle Elbe. At European level, the WWF supports the development of an integrated river basin management system on the Oder, Theiss and Danube, inter alia with renaturation work on the Oder in Poland and on the Lower Danube in Bulgaria and Roumania. The international priorities of WWF Germany are promoting nature conservation and nature resources work, including advanced technical training in the following river basins: the Mekong river basin (Cambodia, Vietnam, PDR Laos, Thailand, Myanmar), the Amer river basin in eastern Russia and northern China, the Yangtze in China, the Indus in Pakistan and the Amazonas in South America, as well as the Mara catchment area in Kenya and Tanzania. In addition, the WWF supports the development of a water management system for the south-west of Madagascar. WWF Deutschland is also patron of the Dams Initiative, which calls for the sustainable, ecological and socially compatible development of hydropower use worldwide (www.wwf.de).

Re 3.2.2) Any designated wetland which is placed under protection in accordance with the protection categories in the Federal Nature Conservation Act is announced in the official journal of the Länder / Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt (Länder Gazette) / Ministerialblatt (Ministerial Gazette) or in the Bundesgesetzblatt (Federal Gazette) (in the form of the National Parks Act, Act on Biosphere Reserves, ordinances on nature conservation acts).

For the majority of protected wetlands, including less-protected sites, public relations work includes the publication and circulation of information materials regarding the status, objectives and measures for conservation of the site, which are prepared by the competent institutions or the NGOs which manage the sites in the form of printed documents or Web pages.

15 of Germany's 33 Ramsar sites have their own website, which is maintained either by the site administration or a nature conservation group (e.g. www.ramsar-bw.de, www.wattenmeer-nationalpark.de, www.naturschutzring-duemmer.de, www.bskw.de, www.ramsar-ammersee.de, www.nationalpark-mueritz.de, www.unteres-odertal.de, www.nabu-rheinauen.de, www.nabu-wollmatingerried.de, www.lbv-starnberg.de). All Ramsar sites are presented under various different categories, but not always with an explicit reference to their status as 'wetlands of international importance'. To date, there is no joint website presentation of all Ramsar sites in Germany. The WWF Deutschland website contains an overview of the Convention and Germany's wetlands of international importance.

Most of the Federal Länder which carry out nature conservation in Germany have their own websites on the Natura-2000 areas, whose territory includes the relevant Ramsar sites (e.g. www.ramsar-bw.de, www.natura2000-bw.de, www.umwelt.nrw.de, <http://www.mu.sachsen-anhalt.de/start/fachbereich04/schutzgebiete/main.htm>). Some Federal Länder provide information on all protected areas and are planning a website of their Ramsar sites, or offer more in-depth information on wetlands, e.g. Gutachtliches Landschaftsprogramm Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (<http://ikzm-oder.de/download.php?fileid=456>).

In November 2007, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation published a special booklet on the development of the Ramsar Convention and the wetlands of international importance in Germany, in the journal 'Natur und Landschaft'. It examines overlaps with both Natura-2000 sites and important bird areas (IBAs), and highlights aspects of communication and public relations work, future development prospects, and the potential for designating additional Ramsar sites in Germany. This publication gave a broad expert audience an insight into recent developments, key topics and potential synergies in conjunction with Natura 2000.

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

It has not been possible to further broaden the exchange of information at national level regarding the objectives, implementation and development of the Ramsar Convention, in particular the CEPA Programme, due to limited personnel and financial resources.

There is no central Internet portal available in Germany covering all topics and aspects of wetlands.

Various mechanisms contribute to an Internet-based exchange of information and transfer of knowledge which are continuously being updated. These include:

- a) The homepage of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (www.bmu.de)
- b) The project and literature database of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (<http://www.dnl-online.de>) and a separate information page on the Ramsar Convention (www.bfn.de/0310_ramsar.html)
- c) The homepage of the Federal Environmental Agency on water issues (www.umweltbundesamt.de/wasser)
- d) The directory of monitoring programmes for waterbirds (www.vogelmonitoring.de; www.dda-web.de)
- e) The websites of the competent authorities of the Federal Länder (cf. 3.2.2)
- f) At EU level, another source of information is the EIONET database of the EU Environment Agency, which also incorporates Ramsar site data and maps (<http://eionet.europa.eu/>)
- g) The websites of non-government organisations (such as NABU, WWF, local NGOs)
- h) Further information on the use of waterways, together with quantitative and qualitative hydrology, may be found on the homepage of the Federal Institute for Hydrology (www.bafg.de)
- i) A meta-data information system for the German coastal regions is available at the Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW) in Hamburg 'NOKIS++' (www.nokis.org)

Germany developed the Internet-based network GLOBWINET, an Associated Program of the Global Water Partnership. It is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). Its mission is to promote the Rio/Dublin principles on integrated water resources management and to provide access to information on materials, organisations and people in water management (see www.globwinet.org) (cf. 4.5.1)

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}	A - Yes
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	A - Yes
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 ...]"

Re 4.1.1) The EC Water Framework Directive (WFD) from the year 2000 is decisive for the involvement of the general public in conjunction with the use of water catchment areas with regard to water management. This Directive calls on Member States to promote the active involvement of interested agencies and organisations in the preparation of management plans and programmes of measures for waterbodies. The amendment to the Federal Water Act, adopted in 2002, requires the Federal Länder to outline the necessary provisions as per the WFD in their own water legislation.

In addition to the numerous authorities and institutions with responsibility within river basins, important wetland management information is often contributed by local initiatives, citizens' groups or associations (such as the Schutzgemeinschaft Ammersee-Süd, an organisation dedicated to the protection of the southern Lake Ammersee). (see 4.2.2)

Well-established forms of this procedure include the following examples:

a) There are plans to create networks of authorities, associations, local authorities and other interest representatives in order to revitalise degraded sections of the Rhine and implement exemplary measures. The project is being financed by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) and the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and other partners, and implemented by the Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. (NABU) (www.lebendiger-rhein.de)

b) The 'Regiowasser' initiative is a group of individuals and institutions who are concerned with all aspects of water in the Freiburg region. Together with other water experts from the region, steps are being developed towards a future-viable, sustainable water management policy in the Freiburg region. Members of the initiative include authorities, consultants, the university and private individuals (<http://www.regiowasser.de>)

c) The organisation 'Flussgebietsgemeinschaft Elbe' represents 10 Federal Länder as riparian owners which are home to sections of the River Elbe or other rivers which feed into the Elbe. These are linked together by the river basin unit Elbe. This natural association has led to a shared responsibility for the German part of the international river basin community Elbe (<http://fgg-elbe.de>)

Re 4.1.2) The preparation of maintenance and development or management plans, particularly in wetlands which have been used by the local population for many years, should incorporate knowledge of traditional uses and historical management practices of the local population and landowners. The authorities and project managers must give particular consideration to these issues on all aspects of wetland management.

Generally speaking, the use of ancient maintenance techniques is particularly applicable to wet grassland. The Ramsar site 'Rieselfelder Münster' is a very good example of a site where traditional use is combined with its importance as a wetland. Its origination dates back to the irrigation of land using waste water from the city of Münster. After its sewage treatment role was discontinued, the irrigation system was continued with purified water, in order to preserve the character of a wetland (cf. 2.3.2)

Re 4.1.3) The general public is involved in a wide range of decision-making processes, including those with reference to wetlands and waterbodies and the protection thereof; public participation is also regulated with legally binding effect under German legislation. The competent authorities are required to inform the general public in a suitable manner of the opportunities for participation.

Re 4.1.4) Public relations work on wetland sites which are operated by authorities, associations and educational facilities in landscapes with a particular cultural-historical significance makes allowance for this development and the importance of the wetland.

Examples of cultural-historical focal points include the following:

a) The museum and nature conservation centre at 'Federsee-Moor' in Baden-Wuerttemberg (<http://www.nabu-federsee.de>, <http://www.federseemuseum.de>) and the Zentrum für Umwelt und Kultur (Centre for the Environment and Culture) in Benediktbeuern, the 'Haus im Moos' in Karlshuld/Donaumus, and the Moor- und Fehnmuseum (Bog and Fens Museum) in northern Lower Saxony (www.fehnmuseum.de)

b) The 2006 annual conference of the heritage organisation Deutscher Bundesverband der Landeskonservatoren was entitled 'Archäologie in Feuchtgebieten und Flusstälern' (Archaeology in Wetlands and River Valleys). A volume of lectures from the conference were subsequently published (Archäologisches Nachrichtenblatt, vol. 12, 2/2007)

c) Maintaining and conserving the cultural values of wetlands is a permanent feature of advanced training courses and educational events staged by the Naturschutzakademien (Nature Conservation Academies) of the Federal Länder. (cf. 4.10.3)

d) Cultural significance is often addressed within the context of public relations work in LIFE nature projects on wetland conservation.

Re 4.1.5) The wetlands in Germany have been influenced by humans for hundreds of years, and shaped by cultural development. Cultural heritage is taken into account when formulating protection strategies and when implementing management plans. Allowance is made in principle for the guidelines of Res. VIII. 19 and IX.21.

Cultural assets, as protected commodities, also feature in all environmental impact assessments, a principle which is anchored in law, and the relevance of planned impairments is incorporated into the decision-making process. By involving various interest groups and public institutions within the context of existing nature conservation, water and planning laws, Germany ensures that the culturally relevant aspects of the respective wetland are duly taken into account.

The protection of old cultivated landscapes is an essential component of the protection targets for wetlands. Examples include protecting traditional cultivated agricultural landscapes, which incorporate elements such as traditional pollarded willows, or open peat-ditches.

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

The literature database of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) includes numerous examples of and publications on the cultural importance of wetlands, the transformation of landscapes, and the current significance of the culture/nature alliance for tourism, revenues from which are used to safeguard some of the conservation measures (<http://www.dnl-online.de>).

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}

A - Yes

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]

A - Yes

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 ...]”

Re 4.2.1) As a general principle, activities only refer to those wetlands which do not enjoy absolute protection under the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) and which therefore permit ecosystem-compatible usage.

Individual projects by the private sector in wetland areas - such as industrial facilities, commercial developments or excavations - are subject to the statutory provisions under the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Construction Code, Excavations Act, mining legislation and Nature Conservation Act. These are designed to prevent or compensate for any adverse ecological effects that may emanate from such measures.

Application of the wise use principle by agriculture is important for many wetland areas. Management contracts within the context of the EC agricultural funding programmes for rural development and payments under the EC structural fund can help us to achieve a more sustainable, better-adapted management of wetlands, e.g. salt meadows in the Wadden Sea, extensive use of grassland, and organic farming in river meadows. The Federal Länder have devised specific programmes and mechanisms depending on the landscape characteristics. For example, Bavaria operates a contract-based nature conservation programme, whereby owners and authorised users receive financial compensation for the income losses and additional costs associated with voluntary services in the management of valuable wetland areas. The North-Rhine Westphalian cultivated landscape programme also promotes contract-based nature conservation measures in addition to agro-environmental measures.

Most of these financial incentives and compensation payments for wise use provided the basis for the success of sustainable wetland management.

Recreational and tourism use impairs the ecological functions and wild fauna and flora of many wetlands. With the aid of geographical and temporal access restrictions, uninterrupted signposting and other visitor guidance measures designed to provide information and support, Germany is endeavouring to implement the wise use principle in cooperation with tourism organisations and tourism suppliers.

There are no sustainable solutions as such for the shipping and the raw materials mining industries. Uses in this respect are decided via an assessment process under the Habitats Directive and/or environmental impact assessments.

Re 4.2.2) There is a wide diversity of organisational forms for the conservation and protection of wetland areas aimed primarily at selected areas. Overall, it is the concern and duty of private NGOs to promote and support the protection and management of wetland areas, both in terms of process and in a financial sense. An unquantifiable number of local initiatives by private individuals, companies, foundations and associations have accepted responsibility for the protection and management of corresponding landscapes and ecosystems in this way.

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

Until now, promoting the involvement of the private sector in sustainable wetland or waterbody

management has primarily taken the form of financial incentives and compensation (cf. 4.2.1).

Within the context of recent developments relating to the use of renewable energies, as well as a growing interest in hydropower use, the interest of companies (ranging from farmers to energy suppliers) has focussed in particular on the alternative use of biomass (renewable raw materials) in river meadows.

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 ...]”

Re 4.3.1) The existing financing measures for the protection and sustainable management of wetland areas in need of conservation-friendly agricultural use - such as management contracts for wetland meadows, or hardship compensation - are continuously being adapted in line with the latest ecological findings and economic framework conditions (see 4.2.1).

The EC funding programmes for the extensification of agricultural use, the EU programmes for the development of rural regions in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005, and funding via the joint 'Federal/Länder task for the improvement of agricultural structures and coastal protection' (MSL) have particular significance for wetlands used for agricultural purposes.

Basic mechanisms are based on:

- Financial support (also of secondary income uses)
- The use of tax advantages in certain agricultural structures
- The agricultural reform initiated in early 2001 brought with it a comprehensive ecological reorientation of agricultural policy. The Luxembourg Resolutions of 2003 led to a fundamental reform of EC agricultural policy. Severing the link between direct payments and production, and linking direct payments instead to environmental protection and nature conservation requirements, creates scope for more sustainable agricultural practices.
- The development of biotope type-specific usage compensation models for land used for agricultural purposes (Lower Saxony, NNA, 2006).

Occasionally, the benefits from these mechanisms are complemented by local initiatives calling for the conservation or renaturation of certain areas, such as the redevelopment programme for the Oberschwäbischer Seen at the Landratsamt Ravensburg (Baden-Wuerttemberg), or diversionary feeding strategies for resting cranes at the Ramsar site Helmestausee Berga-Kelbra, which helps to minimise conflict with agricultural practices (see 1.3.3, 1.3.4 and 4.2.1)

Re 4.3.2) German legislation on nature conservation, also in the implementation of relevant EC Directives, provides the basis for the prevention and elimination of perverse incentive measures. In this way, via the designation of nature conservation areas, by prohibiting access and providing visitor or user guidance measures, rest zone concepts and other voluntary support mechanisms, positive developments may be facilitated. This includes educational and public relations work, which should be as broad-based as possible, also with a focus on user groups.

Based on this legislation, furthermore, the instruments of landscape and regional planning and zoning provide opportunities for defining concrete usage restrictions and exclusion zones for certain influences on the one hand, and priority areas on the other, and to arrive at a binding solution via the political coordination process.

For matters concerning particularly critical usage entitlements and projects in particularly valuable or sensitive areas, analyses must be conducted in accordance with German intervention provisions, or in the case of larger projects, environmental impact assessments or assessments under the Habitats Directive.

In the past, particularly problematic wetland uses have included peat harvesting and the use of river sediment. The requirements and demands of shipping are assessed in environmental compatibility studies and decided on this basis.

(See 2.3.1, 4.2.1)

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

The agricultural funding programmes were developed at EU level with the aim of linking environment-related measures with selected management preconditions, in order to derive the maximum possible ecological benefit. In this way, it is hoped that it will become easier to achieve conservation-friendly management by farmers in wetland areas.

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>A - Yes</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>A - Yes</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>C - Partly</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 ...]”

Re 4.4.1) To date, a separate CEPA task force has not been set up. In 2001, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) published a study summarising and evaluating the current status of activities in Germany which may be classified under CEPA for the Ramsar Convention.

Re 4.4.2) In 2001, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) published a study outlining considerations and proposals for a CEPA national action plan.

The German action plan (German Wetland CEPA Action Plan) has been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat.

Re 4.4.3) There are sufficient, established communication channels between the competent authorities, departments and agencies to facilitate the exchange of information with one another. With further implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD), these will be supplemented by new communication and work channels, thanks to the new work structures based on river basins.

Re 4.4.4) Here are a few examples of current national implementation campaigns which may contribute towards raising awareness of wetlands and their importance in Germany:

a) Ahead of the CBD COP9 in May 2008 in Bonn, the BMU has launched a national campaign on the topic of biological diversity, which it hopes will serve to inform the general public and awaken interest in biological diversity, so as to attract maximum publicity for the conference. Moreover, numerous public activities on biodiversity by a wide range of players will be taking place ahead of and during COP9. Wetland aspects are often addressed as part of these measures, but the campaign and the actions are not specifically tailored to this topic.

b) The BMU has developed a series of posters on issues relating to waterbody conservation, waste water, water quality and the water framework directive, as well as flood control and water use at national and international level. (www.bmu.de).

c) In 2006 the annual publicity campaign by the BfN, 'NATURATHLON', centered around the theme of 'water'. Publicity activities highlighted topics relating to the protection and use of rivers and lakes (www.naturathlon2006.de).

d) Following the flood disaster of 2002, Germany decided that raising awareness of preventive, sustainable flood control would be one of the priorities of CEPA activities. It aims to considerably strengthen awareness of the risks associated with flooding among local authorities and the general public. In this way, Germany hopes to avoid future mis-planning and advance the renaturation of river meadows. Various players, including Federal and Land ministries, specialist institutions, nature conservation groups, youth initiatives etc. are involved in public campaigns (e.g. www.hochwasser-special.de, www.umweltbundesamt.de).

Re 4.4.5) We were unable to communicate World Wetlands Day in the desired manner in Germany due to a lack of capacity. In some of the Ramsar sites, events have been organised for many years, some of them with a local theme. These include, for example, the events on the Upper Rhine near Straßburg (the event will take place in Baden-Wuerttemberg in 2009), on Lake Starnberg and Lake Ammersee, and in the biosphere reserve Mittlere Elbe, which includes the Ramsar site 'Aland-Wlbe-Niederung & Elbaue Jerichow'. In recent years, this has been supplemented by numerous press releases issued by larger organisations and institutions.

Re 4.4.6) The individual information and educational centres which carry out CEPA activities in wetland areas draw on a variety of funding resources for their facilities and staff (government subsidies e.g. in national parks, private funding from nature conservation organisations,

foundations and sponsors). Overall, the number of information centres at local level is constantly increasing. According to a 2001 publication by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, there were more than 500 environmental, nature conservation and educational centres, a large proportion of which are located in wetland areas, particularly on rivers and in peatlands. More accurate figures are not yet available.

Germany's Ramsar sites (currently 33) contain at least 56 permanent information or educational centres, in addition to project-related educational work. Those Ramsar sites which are located within large protection areas (e.g. in the national parks Wattenmeer, Ostufer Müritz, Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft and the biosphere reserve Mittlere Elbe) are served by the educational and information centres of the large conservation areas.

In a number of wetlands of international importance, nature conservation facilities are operated with the involvement of the respective Federal Land, e.g. national parks buildings and national parks centres in the Wadden Sea, nature conservation stations in the Untere Elbe, Dümmer and Steinhuder Meer regions, and the government nature conservation centre Obere Donau (Upper Danube). In addition to this, nature conservation groups provide vital educational work, such as the NABU nature conservation station at Kranenburg (wetland of international importance 'Unterer Niederrhein'), the biological station in the Wesel district (wetland of international importance 'Unterer Niederrhein'), and the BUND nature conservation centre Möggingen and NABU nature conservation centre Radolfzell (wetland of international importance 'Bodensee Wolmatinger Ried & Mindelsee'), the NABU centre in Rheinauen (wetland of international importance 'Rheinauen bei Eltville & Bingen') and the nature conservation and youth centre Wartaweil on Lake Ammersee (wetland of international importance 'Ammersee').

A new information and education centre is currently being planned for the Ramsar site 'Galenbecker See'.

For many years, the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) has promoted the establishment of environment centres, which include the following wetland-related centres in accordance with the Ramsar Convention:

- Development of the environmental communication centre at the national park Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer on the island of Spiekeroog (wetlands of international importance 'Wattenmeer', 'Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer mit Dollart'), funding period 2004-2006, funding total: € 575,000
- Development of the centre for Wadden Sea monitoring and information in Tönning (Schleswig-Holstein) (wetland of international importance 'Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer'), funding since 2000, funding total: € 102,000
- Development of the environmental education facility 'Europäisches Zentrum für Auenökologie, Umweltbildung und Besucherinformation' (European Centre for Water Meadow Ecology, Environmental Education and Visitor Information) in Burg Lenzen (Elbe), Brandenburg, funding since 1998, funding total: € 3,434,000 (www.burg-lenzen.de)
- Development of the national park centre 'Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft' in Wieck, on the island of Darß (wetlands of international importance Boddengewässer Ostufer Zingst, Westküste Rügen-Hiddensee), funding period 1995-2004; funding total: € 2,556,000.

Within the context of the Lower Saxony funding programme 'Natur erleben und nachhaltige Entwicklung' (Experiencing Nature and Sustainable Development), nature conservation is being promoted in various different projects relating to wetlands of international importance (www.natur-erleben.niedersachsen.de).

Educational work is not confined to existing centres, but also comprises a range of lectures, guided tours and exhibitions for local citizens, tourists, schools and other interested groups that

are inspired by renaturation projects, annual conferences (e.g. WWD) or seasonal peculiarities.

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

The topics of wetlands and wetland ecosystems, wetland-related fauna and flora, and water resources already feature in the curricula of German schools. Exploring these types of topics provides a wide range of opportunities for experiencing nature in a practical way (e.g. mobile environmental school in Bavaria) in suitable educational centres (see 4.4.6) and/or a growing diversity of teaching media and materials.

There is an ever-expanding range of electronic teaching media for learning and discovering through play. Just one example which addresses the topic of flooding is a game developed by the Elbe River Basin Community (<http://fgg-elbe.de/flasspiel>).

Deutsche Umwelthilfe has developed the very broad-based project 'Schulen für lebendige Flüsse' (Schools for Living Rivers), which is available to schools within the catchment areas of large rivers, particularly the Elbe, Neckar and Weser (www.duh.de).

Websites and learning platforms are not only aimed at children and young people (e.g. <http://www.diesaale.de>); they often provide content for adults as well, encouraging them to discover and identify wetland landscapes and their natural habitats (e.g. <http://www.saalepfad.de>). (cf. also 4.4.6).

There is intensive cooperation with the media, both by government institutions and authorities, and by non-government organisations. Depending on the mandate and the demand for more in-depth educational and public relations work, a variety of organisations offer training events, and further information centres are in the pipeline.

One area which could be improved would be for Germany's Ramsar sites to cooperate in a national network, in order to achieve better coordination of CEPA activities in the individual areas and communicate the objectives, tasks and importance of the Ramsar Convention within Germany, as well as highlighting Germany's contribution towards the globalisation of wetland and waterbird protection worldwide.

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} [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} [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 ...]”

Re 4.5.1) The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has its own water protection department, one of whose aims is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Germany is the world's second-largest bilateral donor in the water sector with annual funding of around 350 million euros for bilateral measures in a total of 28 priority countries. Of this, 2 % is allocated to water resource conservation, 9 % to water resource policy and administration, 0.3 % to river development and regulation, 26.7 % to the basic supply of drinking water and wastewater disposal, primarily in rural regions, and 1 % to education and training in the field of water supply and disposal. Just under half of the funds benefit rural systems, while 56 % are allocated to larger (generally urban) water and wastewater systems (cf. www.bmz.de).

Development cooperation is divided into two areas: financial cooperation, which is executed by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Reconstruction Loan Corporation (KfW) - www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de) and technical cooperation, which is predominantly carried out by the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ, www.gtz.de).

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit supports numerous projects worldwide with links to the protection and sustainable management of wetlands, e.g. Ramsar sites, water catchment areas, drinking water supply and management, integrated water management and sewage disposal. These projects are based on the principles of sustainable development, and make particular allowance for the ecological functions of wetlands (see www.gtz.de - Projects).

Projects such as TRANSWATER are gaining particular significance as a way of averting conflict over water resources. TRANSWATER is an example of integrated water resource management in the African river basins of the Nile, Limpopo and Orange Senqu; since 2001, the project has been executed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) (see www.gtz/transwater).

Overall, around one-third of the BMZ funding budget is spent on multilateral development cooperation, whose aims include achievement of the MDGs and tackling poverty. Within this context, the BMZ and Germany cooperate closely with international organisations, including the 'water and sanitation program' (WSP) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

As well as development work under the direct control of the government, the BMZ, the KfW and the GTZ also allocate project funding to the protection of wetland areas and the development of integrated water resource management mechanisms. Within the context of trust funds, for example, the BMZ is supporting the WWF project to develop a water policy and water management system in the Mara river basin in Kenya and Tanzania (2008/2009).

Participation is one of the basic principles of Germany's development cooperation work. In all projects supported by the BMZ dedicated to the protection of wetlands, therefore, great importance is attached to the concept of co-management. Alongside the financial aspects of sustainable funding, this is by far the most important aspect for boosting the acceptance of these areas and developing ownership.

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

The inventorisation of wetlands worldwide is organised and implemented by Wetlands International. Germany is a member of Wetlands International and hence also supports the inventorisation of wetlands in developing countries.

In Germany, there is a long tradition of involvement by the private sector (companies, sponsors, foundations etc.) in protective measures for wetland areas. These mechanisms are used both by the national nature conservation organisations BUND (Friends of the Earth Partner), EURONATUR, NABU (Birdlife Partner) and the WWF, as well as by NGOs operating at regional and local level. Increasingly, government institutions are also making use of 'public private

partnership' (PPP) schemes for project financing purposes (e.g. national park administrations).

Cooperation with the private sector is also becoming increasingly significant at international level. For example, the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) is constantly expanding its relationships and contacts with private industry to forge new alliances and partnerships for development cooperation purposes (see www.gtz.de). In addition, we have stepped up our efforts at international level to win private investors, particularly in the private sector, and to widen the involvement of the mining and oil industries (e.g. Mauretania).

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>A - Yes</p>
<p>b) If "No" in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p>	
<p>In accordance with the UN scale for the Ramsar Convention, Germany's annual contributions were as follows:</p> <p>2007: 346,945 CHF 2008: 360,458 CHF</p> <p>This makes Germany the third-largest contributor after the USA and Japan.</p> <p>The contribution for 2008 was transferred on 14 January 2008. Due to staff changes, the contribution for 2007 was not transferred until 22 June 2007.</p>	

<p>4.6.2 {16.1.2}</p> <p>a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity?</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>b) If yes, please state the amounts:</p>	
<p>The last time additional financial support was given was in 2005 for the VSK in Uganda.</p> <p>For 2008, there are plans to donate 10,000 euros towards the regional conference in Stockholm to prepare for the next VSK. This money is intended to cover the travel expenses of representatives from European countries on the OECD's DAC list.</p>	

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 ...]"

Re 4.6.2) Above and beyond the funds provided by Germany in the form of annual contributions and additional funding, a further contribution is paid in the form of support for development work in other regions, for developing capacity and administration, for the management of protected areas, and for cooperation arrangements (cf. 4.5.1).

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

Re 4.7.1) The National Report Format is a helpful instrument for the documentation and planning of activities associated with the Ramsar Convention. The drafting process and the associated coordination with and between the Federal Länder and the Federal Government authorities entails a kind of evaluation, but the Report does not have a monitoring function.

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

Cooperation between the various individuals entrusted with functions within the context of the Ramsar Convention is coordinated by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and exchanged with the relevant institutions and organisations. This facilitates a technically precise and concrete contribution towards the efficient working of the Convention's bodies. In future, Germany hopes to continue supporting this work, as far as capacities allow.

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:

4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed?
{18.1.1}

[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]

A - Yes

4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2}
[If "Yes", please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]

D - Planned

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 ...]"

Re 4.8.1) The authorities, specialist institutions, NGOs and other organisations existing in Germany at international, Federal, Länder and regional level cooperate in accordance with specific regulations, as well as on a voluntary basis. The efficiency of official organisational forms and cooperation structures is reviewed within the context of on-going work processes.

Re 4.8.2) In Germany a National Ramsar Committee has existed since 1993. It is headed by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and is formally composed of representatives from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the nature conservation ministries of the Federal Länder, together with private ecological research institutions, nature conservation groups and associations of land users.

However, no meetings have occurred since Ramsar COP9. In view of the general high work load and special priorities of European nature conservation, to date the National Ramsar Committee has played only a subordinate role. Given that in Germany's federal administrative structure, the statutory mandate to implement nature conservation is fulfilled by the Federal Länder, in future, the Ramsar Committee could contribute towards communication and the linking of the Natura 2000 networks and the Ramsar sites. Approaches for such a platform would initially lie in the drafting of generally intelligible information, in German, about the Ramsar Convention and our national wetlands of international importance. Germany is also considering intensifying the involvement of river commissions and NGOs which are active at national level.

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

Cooperation at international and national level is the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). At Federal Länder level, the competent Land Ministries regulate the distribution and coordination of tasks relating to the Ramsar Convention. Agreement, coordination and cooperation between the Federal and Länder level occurs within permanent bodies such as the Conference of Environmental Ministers ([www.umweltministerkonferenz](http://www.umweltministerkonferenz.de)), the Working Group of the Federal States on Nature Conservation, Landscape Management and Recreation (LANA - www.la-na.de) and the Working Group of the Federal States on Water Problems (LAWA - www.lawa.de).

In Germany there are a large number of scientific institutions, NGOs, initiatives and educational establishments involved in wetland-related issues and activities. Cooperation takes place at both international and national level, through to local level.

The existing institutional structures and capacity within the Federal Government and the Federal Länder are adequate to provide suitable support for the objectives and tasks of the Ramsar Convention in Germany, and to advance new tools and mechanisms. Capacities are continuously reviewed in order to improve implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the COP resolutions, for example, with regard to:

- Cooperation with the water management authorities when implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD)

- Reviewing potential Ramsar sites
- Developing a network of Ramsar sites and site managers (Ramsar wetland manager network)
- Establishing a nationwide monitoring programme for bird species in Germany, including waterfowl and waders
- Improving the monitoring, management and wise use of Ramsar sites, inter alia by safeguarding incentive mechanisms for wetlands that are exposed to utilisation
- Intensifying the global interlinking of Germany's Ramsar sites
- Publicly representing the Ramsar Convention in Germany (website, World Wetlands Day) to implement the CEPA strategy
- Developing nationally differentiated measures to implement the objectives of Germany's Strategy on Biological Diversity in conjunction with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (see section 2 A)

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? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs*? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

* 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

Re 4.9.1) Overall, there are a large number of organisations in Germany that contribute to the protection and conservation of wetlands and waterbodies through local, regional and national projects. These include the Naturschutzbund (Nabu, see 1.5.1), which is a BirdLife partner at international level.

One of the central priorities of WWF Deutschland's work is the protection and conservation or renaturation of wetlands and the management of river basins. This is visible, firstly, via diverse project work in its offices along the North and Baltic Sea coastline and in the Wadden Sea office, and through innovative large-scale nature conservation projects on the Mittlere Elbe and Schaalsee in Schleswig-Holstein. Secondly, through its involvement in the river commissions for the Elbe, Rhine, Danube and Oder, for example, the WWF also contributes to the advanced development of integrated waterbody management approaches at a national and European level (cf. 3.2.1).

Re 4.9.2) By co-financing the projects of NABU and the WWF, Germany supports IOP organisations at national level, and also at international level via the provision of development aid

funding (BMZ) - such as IUCN, Wetlands International and WWF projects (cf. 1.5.1 and 4.5.1).

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

Within Germany, a diverse structure of nature conservation and environmental protection organisations has emerged and become established over a period of several decades, both self-funded and funded by Government and European subsidies. These organisations are devoted in a multitude of ways to the protection, conservation and maintenance and renaturation of wetland areas, as well as to comprehensive education and public relations work in the water sector in its broadest sense. The international partner organisations to the Ramsar Convention elected by the Parties do not play an obvious role in this function in Germany.

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:

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)]	A - Yes
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}	B - No
4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}	A - Yes

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 ...]"

Re 4.10.1) In addition to the nationwide training courses offered by the Länder nature conservation academies and private organisations, which are wholly or partially government-funded, in October 2007 a special training course on management planning in Ramsar sites was offered to site managers from eastern and south-eastern Europe at the BfN's international academy on the island of Vilm, which was attended by representatives of 31 projects and areas (see 3.2.1).

Re 4.10.2) Such an assessment has not been implemented to date. Moreover, the structures and capacities of the management institutions and responsibilities in the individual Ramsar sites are very varied (see 2.3.1).

A comprehensive German-language information campaign on Ramsar sites, their implementation and their benefits could inspire fresh interest, e.g. in the tourism sector.

The absence of German-language translations of relevant resolutions and guidelines and the related obligations for Ramsar sites in Germany hinders the more widespread acceptance of and familiarity with the Convention, both in the individual Federal Länder and among authorities.

The handbooks do not have any practical use at present, not least due to the language barrier. However, there is a desire for additional support from German-language publications. Initially, the BMU is planning to translate the updated 2006 version of the Ramsar Manual into German.

Re 4.10.3) To date, no special education and training programmes for wetland managers of the German Ramsar sites have been developed on implementing the targets and tasks of the Ramsar Convention in the various Ramsar regions. Nevertheless, the nature conservation academies of individual Federal Länder regularly stage educational events for the personnel of protected wetland areas, site managers and other interested parties, which tend to focus mainly on management issues of the respective Federal Länder landscapes.

Moreover, there is an interest in specific events and advanced training courses on the Ramsar Convention in German, which could be used to mediate content and approaches in an application-oriented manner (cf. 3.2.1).

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

In Germany, the authorities, institutions and experts involved in wetland protection, the management of wetlands and sustainable use boast a high degree of expertise which is constantly being expanded and developed through training.

Such training courses are offered, for example, by the International Nature Conservation Academy Insel Vilm of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the nature conservation academies of the Federal Länder, non-government organisations, and scientific institutions. There is a wide range of events, specialist literature, expertise and information materials available on the various topics aimed at advanced training and qualifications-building.

Information centres have been set up in 24 of Germany's 33 Ramsar sites. Additionally, there are more than 300 other information centres in wetland areas (see 4.4.6), some of which offer training and research activities. These centres are funded by the Federal Länder, administrative districts, local authorities and private NGOs. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) subsidise a number of information centres with a model-like character.

The exchange of information and transfer of knowledge on training matters occurs, for example, in conjunction with the implementation of large-scale nature conservation projects, LIFE projects, or other support organisations such as the DBU (see 1.5.1).

The qualification as 'Examined Nature and Landscape Manager', established in 1998, prescribes uniform standards for the qualification of personnel in protected areas employed in information and management roles. Many Examined Nature and Landscape Managers work as rangers in Ramsar sites (e.g. in Wattenmeer, Unteres Odertal, Ostufer der Müritz and Ostseeboddengewässern).