



**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.

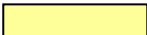
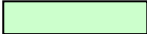
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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: HUNGARY

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	State Secretariat for Nature and Environment Protection, Ministry of Environment and Water
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. László Haraszthy, State Secretary
Mailing address:	Fő u. 44-50. 1011 Budapest, Hungary
Telephone/Fax:	Tel.: +36-1-3957093 Fax: +36-1-2008880
Email:	Haraszthy@mail.kvvm.hu

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Mr. András Schmidt, counsellor
Mailing address:	F u. 44-50. 1011 Budapest, Hungary
Telephone/Fax:	Tel.: +36-1-4573300/162 Fax: +36-1-2014617
Email:	schmidt@mail.kvvm.hu

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

Name and title of focal point:	Mrs. Szilvia G ri, PhD ecological officer
Name of organisation:	Hortobágy National Park Directorate
Mailing address:	4024 Debrecen Sumen u. 2. Hungary
Telephone/Fax:	Tel.: +36-52-529920 Fax: +36-52-529940
Email:	gori@www.hnp.hu

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

Name and title of focal point:	Mr. András B hm, counsellor
Name of organisation:	National Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management
Mailing address:	1016 Budapest Mészáros u. 58/a Hungary
Telephone/Fax:	Tel.: +36-1-2249232 Fax: +36-1-2249274
Email:	bohmm@mail.kvvm.hu

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

Name and title:	Mr. László Musicz
Name of organisation:	Által-ér Association
Mailing address:	Erzsébet királyné tér 13. 2890 Tata, Hungary
Telephone/Fax:	Tel.: +36-34-589-849 Fax: +36-34-589-850
Email:	fabalis@gmail.com

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?

5 new Ramsar sites and 2 extensions have been declared, with a total area of over 53,000 ha; an already existing Ramsar site was declared a transboundary site with Slovakia (Ipel/Ipoly); the Ramsar game has been translated into Hungarian and Slovak languages and published in order to support education work on wetlands alongside the common border of the two countries; major wetland restorations have taken place, for example the large-scale, landscape level restoration projects in the Hortobágy National Park; establishment of new education and visitor centres that support raising awareness for wetland conservation issues (Sarród, Hortobágy, Biharugra). Update of all Ramsar Information Sheets by 2008.

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

Successful use of European Union funding for, e.g., large-scale wetland restorations and the establishment of education and visitor centres; extensive education work with schools.

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

Removal of perverse incentives and legislation supporting cultivation of regularly flooded areas; lack of capacity of conservation staff to survey wetlands and finalise the national wetland inventory; slow progress with the New Vásárhelyi Plan that aims to solve flood mitigation problems along the river Tisza and harmonise this interest with nature conservation as well as with environmentally friendly, sustainable land use.

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

Implementation of the Water Framework Directive of the European Union, in order to create the national database for wetlands over 50 ha, to reach good ecological status of wetlands by 2015 and to elaborate river basin management plans by 2015. Continuation of on-going activities, such as wetland restoration projects and nature education work.

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

Guidance on the recommended scale and detail for the National Wetland Inventory.

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

No recommendation.

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?

Close collaboration with CBD on integrating conservation issues into various policy areas, consultation of national focal points on reporting.

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)?

Through the approval of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that contains a chapter on wetland management policy and incorporates conservation issues into water policy, energy policy, etc.

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

No general comments.

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}	C - In progress
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	B - No
1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed]	A - Yes
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	B - the same B - the same

Additional implementation information:

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

1.1.1. The National Wetland Inventory database was established in 2004 and data cover approximately 70 % of the country. The process of data collection stalled but it is planned to be resumed.

1.1.3. The Nature Conservation Information System operated by the Ministry of Environment and Water summarises information on the ecological character of protected wetlands, including Ramsar sites and collects data from the National Biodiversity Monitoring System, including data on wetland species and habitats; a national database is also operated by the Tiszántúli Regional Inspectorate for Environment Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management based in Debrecen, but this database only covers certain ecological parameters. The National Wildfowl Database is operated by the University of Western Hungary and is published annually in the Magyar Vízivad Közlemények (Hungarian Waterfowl Bulletin).

1.1.4. As far as the above-mentioned databases allow us to estimate on a national scale, the overall general character of Hungary's wetlands including its Ramsar sites did not change significantly.

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

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

Indicator questions:

1.2.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {2.1.1} [If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
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}	A - Yes
1.2.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development (including National Poverty Reduction Plans called for by the WSSD and water resources management and water efficiency plans)? {2.1.2}	A - Yes
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	C - Partly
1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2}	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 ...]"

1.2.1. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan proposed by the Ministry of Environment and Water has not yet been endorsed by the Government. The Water Framework Directive can be considered the wetland policy of the European Union, as river basin management plans are to be elaborated by 2015 for all river basins. Therefore, these plans will include the management policy for Hungary's wetlands. The Water Framework Directive has been incorporated into Hungary's legislation by three government decrees: 219/2004 on the protection of groundwaters, 220/2004 on the protection of surface water quality and 221/2004 on the rules of water catchment management.

1.2.2. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has a chapter on wetland management policy containing the aspects of wise use and incorporating WSSD targets and actions.

1.2.3. The National Sustainable Development Strategy was approved in 2007, in line with the renewed sustainable development strategy of the European Union approved on 16 June 2006. The National Climate Change Strategy was endorsed by the Government in February 2008. Both strategies have incorporated wetland issues.

1.2.4. The necessary quantity and quality of water have been assessed in wetlands where an environmental impact assessment became necessary due to developments (for example in Kis-Balaton) or where a wetland restoration took place (for example, Nyirkai-Hany, Montág-puszta).

1.2.5. The strategic environmental assessment directive of the Parliament and the Council of the European Union (2001/42/EC) is implemented by Government Decree 2/2005 (I.12.)

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

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

Indicator questions:

1.3.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar sites? {3.3.1} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in the Additional implementation information below, the year of assessment and from where or from whom this information can be obtained]	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}	C - Partly
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 ...]"

1.3.1. The ecosystem benefits of Kis-Balaton Ramsar site have been assessed, as regards water quality of Kis-Balaton and Lake Balaton Ramsar sites (DÉVAI, GY. – DEVAI, I. – DELAUNE, R.D. – NAGY, S.A. 2006: Phosphine production and its importance in wetland area Kis-Balaton (Hungary). – Verh. internat. Verein. theor. angew. Limnol. 29/5: 2330–2333.; and in preparation: DÉVAI, GY. - TÓTH A. (eds.): Studies on the Kis-Balaton Water Protection System. In: Acta Biologica Debrecine, Supplementum Oecologica Hungarica Vol. 19, 2008. Institute of Biology and Ecology, University of Debrecen and Hungarian Ecological Society).

Ecosystem benefits are also assessed in fishponds (several fishpond systems in Hungary are important wetlands and comprise several Ramsar sites). These assessments refer to fish production benefits from extensive production systems. Unpublished manuscripts can be found for example at the Hortobágyi Halgazdaság Rt. (Mr. Béla Halasi-Kovács Assistant Director of the Hortobágy Fish Farm Ltd, <http://eng.hhgrt.hu/index.php>, 4071 Hortobágy-Halastó ; Tel.1: +36 52 369 110; Tel.2: +36 52 369 131; Fax: +36 52 369 134; E-mail: hhgrt@hhgrt.hu):

Halasi-Kovács B. 2005. A Hortobágyi Halgazdaság Rt. halastavainak természetvédelmi jelentősége, a halastavak természeti értékei. Kézirat. (Conservation importance of the fishponds of the Hortobágy Fish Farm Ltd.)

1.3.2. The implementation of the Vásárhelyi Plan, aiming at flood control, flood plain wetland restorations and poverty eradication along the river Tisza (the second river in Hungary) through support to sustainable, extensive land use in flood plains, has begun. WWF Hungary has also operated a project on wise use of flood plains at Nagykör (middle section of river Tisza). Extensively managed fishponds also support rich wildlife and at the same time alleviate poverty in poor regions.

1.3.3. Mires are protected by law and the protection is enforced by state nature conservation bodies. However, peat mining is still carried out in certain peat bogs.

1.3.4. The cultural values of wetlands are taken into consideration in planning for protected areas. Two of Hungary's Ramsar sites are also listed on the World Cultural Heritage: Lake Fertő and the Hortobágy.

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

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}	A - Yes
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}	E - Not applicable
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	B - No

Additional implementation information:

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

1.4.1. Major projects are obliged to pass an environmental impact assessment in the planning phase, which integrates wetland protection aspects, CEPA tools, etc.

1.4.2. River basin management planning has only recently begun, under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The structural frame of the planning process (how to do the planning) has been formulated in a participatory way, and the WFD also precribes a participatory approach to actual planning.

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

STRATEGY 1.5: *Identify priority wetlands where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites.*

Indicator questions:

<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>	A - Yes
<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>	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

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

1.5.1. Landscape level marsh restoration in the Egyek-Pusztakócs Marshes within the Hortobágy Ramsar site in 2006, affecting 3 000 ha, and in the Kunmadarasi-puszta (steppe) and Ecsezug area within the same Ramsar site, affecting 2500 ha; Wetland restoration in the Kardoskút Ramsar site affecting 560 ha in 2006; Flood plain and bog meadow restoration in the Alpár-bokrosi area (near river Tisza) and in the Mártély Ramsar site, affecting 2000 ha in 2006.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

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 ...]”

1.6.1. Volume II on invasive alien plant species and their management was published in 2006 (Botta-Dukát, Z. & Mihály, B. (2006): *Biológiai inváziók Magyarországon. Őzönnövények II.* KvVM Természetvédelmi Hivatalának tanulmánykötetei 10. 412 p.), summarising eradication practices and case studies from national park directorates for species additional to those treated in volume I, including wetland species, such as *Azolla mexicana*, *A. filiculoides*, *Cabomba caroliniana*, *Elodea canadensis* and *E. nuttallii*. The compilation of the first annotated species list of invasive fauna began in 2007, with participation from the national park directorates and co-ordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Water. The list also aims to identify possible species-specific measures.

1.6.2. Both the publications and this latter work were carried out in collaboration with the focal points for the Bern, Bonn and Washington Conventions.

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

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

Indicator questions:

2.1.1 Have a strategy and priorities been established for any further designation of Ramsar sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {10.1.1}

[If further Ramsar site designations are planned, please indicate in Additional implementation information, the number of sites and anticipated year of designation]

C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

After several 'designation waves' (the last ones in 2006 and 2008), the designation of further sites is no longer considered a high priority task in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Hungary. Further designations may take place, but are not planned in such number that a strategy or priorities should be identified (over 2.2 % of the country's territory is already designated to the list of Ramsar sites). The Ramsar National Committee discussed the question in detail at its meeting on 19 February 2008, and agreed that further designations may be possible for sites holding habitat types that are under-represented on the global list of Ramsar sites, as well as sites where major wetland restorations will have taken place (a potential candidate might be the Ecsedi marsh for the latter category). Other possible further designations may include the Virágoskúti Fishponds in the Hortobágy area, based mainly on its migrant avifauna. No designation year has been identified for this site.

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

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

Indicator questions:

2.2.1 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {10.2.3}

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 ...]"

2.2.1. After three and a half years of work, the update procedure was finally accomplished in January 2008.

2.2.2. The RISs are used for reference in other reporting processes, for example under the Birds Directive of the European Union. They are not used in daily implementation of the Convention.

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

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

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	A - Yes
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]	B - No
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]	C - Some sites

Additional implementation information:

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

2.3.1. Management measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been identified in general terms in the respective RISs, more precisely in the 2007 publication on Hungary’s Ramsar sites (Tardy J. (ed.) (2007): A magyarországi vadvizek világa. Alexandra Kiadó, 416 p.), and most precisely in the management plans (where the latter exist, see below).

2.3.2. Because of the very strict legislation concerning the approval procedure for management plans of protected areas, presently no Ramsar site has a legally approved management plan. However, the technical draft of the management plan is available and is used by the responsible national park directorates in daily conservation management for 16 sites and is underway for 4 sites. No management plan exists or is planned to be drafted in the near future for 8 sites.

2.3.4. Monitoring systems operating in some of the Ramsar sites (e.g. Nyirkai-Hany, Hortobágy, Lake Fert) provide feedback on management measures which are then accordingly modified, if necessary.

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

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>---</p>
<p>2.4.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record? {r11.2.viii}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]</p>	<p>D - Not applicable</p>

Additional implementation information:

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

2.4.1. The national park directorates are responsible for the conservation management of Ramsar sites, and they are obliged to submit annual reports to the Administrative Authority on their activities, whereby they must also report on any major ecological changes. The head of the Administrative Authority (State Secretary for Nature and Environment Protection) has a meeting with the NP directors every month, which is another forum for reporting on any serious change. Disasters (such as the cyanide pollution in the river Tisza in 2000) are reported immediately. The NP Directorates are consulted by the conservation authorities (the regional environmental protection, nature conservation and water management inspectorates) on major projects that may affect protected areas, Ramsar sites, etc., before decision-making.

2.4.2. Not applicable as changes reported in the RIS update process were all positive (Lake Balaton and Hortobágy have improved due to conservation measures and Velence Bird Reserve and Dinnyés Marsh Ramsar site as well as Lake Fehér at Kardoskút Ramsar site had better hydrological conditions due to wet years).

2.4.3. No Hungarian Ramsar site is listed on or proposed to the Montreux Record.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

2.5.1. -2.5.2. Border-region water management committees have been set up with all neighbouring countries and they identified all transboundary wetland systems (see attached list of agreements). Hungary has presently three transboundary Ramsar sites (Upper Tisza, Aggtelek and river Ipoly), along the Hungarian/Slovak boundary (the Upper Tisza site extends along the Ukrainian and Romanian borderline, too).

2.5.2. Effective co-operative management is in place for several of our shared wetland systems, for example the three transboundary Ramsar sites and the adjacent Lake Fert - Lake Neusiedl Ramsar sites (Hungary and Austria). Unfortunately, co-operation is problematic in some wetland systems, for example the river Rába in the Rába Valley Ramsar site is regularly polluted by leather manufacturers in Austria.

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH HUNGARY’S NEIGHBOURS ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

years in brackets: signature, entry into force

Agreement between the People’s Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Austria on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1956, 1959)

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Co-operation in the Field of Water (1994, 1996)

Agreement of Co-operation in the field of protection and sustainable use of transboundary waters between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Romania (2003, 2004)

– preceeding: Agreement of 1987

Serbia: Agreement between the People’s Republic of Hungary and the Federal People’s Republic of Yugoslavia in the field of water management(1955, 1956)

Agreement between the People’s Republic of Hungary and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1976)

The new agreement with Slovakia has already been elaborated and is awaiting authorization for signature on Slovakian side

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of Water Management (1994, 2001)

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Ukraine in the field of transboundary water management (1997, 1999)

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

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

Indicator questions:

2.6.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development of a regional initiative under the framework of the Convention? {12.3.2}

[If "Yes" or "Planned", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the name(s) and collaborating countries of each regional initiative]

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

2.6.1. Carpathian Wetlands Initiative, whose implementation has been transferred to the Carpathian Convention. Collaborating countries: Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia.

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

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	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}	B - No
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	E - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

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

3.1.1. The Ramsar Administrative Authority closely co-operates with the focal points of CBD, Bern, Bonn and Washington Conventions (they are also officers of the same Ministry, although in another department within the Ministry)

3.1.2. National focal points of other MEAs are not invited to National Ramsar Committee meetings but are informed of developments.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1. The river Bodrog has been surveyed in co-operation by Hungarian and Slovak researchers, and a book was published on the results jointly; twinning arrangements are in place on the Austrian and Hungarian side of Lake Fertő/Lake Neusiedl (involving the national park administrations), the Hungarian and Slovak side of the Baradla - Domica cave system (involving the national park administrations) and along the Upper Tisza/Tisa river (involving researchers), between Kopacki Rit Nature Park in Croatia and the Béda-Karapanca Ramsar site of the Duna-Dráva National Park in Hungary, the conservation managers of the Biharugra Fishponds in Hungary and the Cséffai Fishponds in Roumania. An Interreg project was carried out along the river Ipoly/Ipel transboundary Ramsar site from March 2006 to March 2008 to help the interpretation of wetlands along the rivers Ipoly and Danube, and to establish a transboundary Natura 2000 monitoring system. This project included knowledge sharing in publications, information boards and joint presentations for the local public.

Wetlands International organised a training session to help establish the monitoring system of the Nyirkai-Hany Ramsar site.

3.2.2. Regularly updated information on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Hungary is published on the internet at: www.termeszetvedelem.hu (http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu/index.php?pg=menu_583)

Hungary's Ramsar sites also featured on an NGO's website, too, at www.ramsar.hu during 2006-2007

In October 2007, a major publication was published after twelve years of preparation, on Hungary's Ramsar sites: Tardy J. (ed.) (2007): *A magyarországi vadvizek világa*. Alexandra Kiadó, 416 p.

Each national park directorate maintains a website on which Ramsar sites also feature. For example www.dinpi.hu features the Rétszilás Fishponds Ramsar site, the Velence Bird Reserve and Dinnyés Marsh Ramsar site and the Ócsa Ramsar site.

The University of Debrecen is launching a new training course in Hungary, providing Master of Science degree in hydrobiology (more information is available in Hungarian at <http://www.detek.unideb.hu/index.php?sect=KOZ&ValHirAzon=687>). The course will hopefully be attended by Hungarian and foreign students, too.

A new updated edition of 'Vadásziskola', a study book for hunters, will be published in 2008, containing information on Hungary's Ramsar sites. Magyar Vízivad Közlemények (Hungarian Wildfowl Bulletin) publishes wildfowl monitoring data from numerous Hungarian wetlands, including many Ramsar sites.

Under the 'Restoration of pannonic steppes and marshes' LIFE project, the Hortobágy National Park Directorate published their experience on the management of the Great Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), an Annex I species on the Birds Directive. The study was coordinated by RSPB experts (White G, Purps J and Alsbury S (2006): *The bittern in Europe: a guide to species and habitat management* . The RSPB, Sandy. In: *Restoration of the steppe marshes at Hortobágy National Park, Hungary*, 137-139.pp.)

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

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.1.1. The Hortobágy National Park Directorate will publish a book dealing partly with traditional cultures in the Hortobágy area in 2008. Part of this compilation has already been published in the 'Daru' booklets. Andrásfalvy Bertalan (2007): A Duna mente népének ártéri gazdálkodása (flood plain management by Danubian people). Ekvilibrium Kft., 440 p. is a major work on the subject published in the reporting period.

Numerous publications were issued already before the reporting period, such as Bellon Tibor(1996): Ártéri gazdálkodás az Alföldön az ármentesítések előtt (Flood plain management in the Great Plain before river regulations). In: Frisnyák Sándor (szerk.): Kárpát medence történeti földrajza. Nyíregyháza 311-321.; Lászlóffy Woldemár (1982): A Tisza. Vízi munkálatok és vízgazdálkodás a tiszai vízrendszerben. (The river Tisza. Water management in the Tisza river basin). Budapest, Akadémiai Kiadó; Bellon Tibor (2001): Együttélés a természettel. Ártéri gazdálkodás a Tisza völgyében. (Living in harmony with nature. Flood plain management in the Tisza valley) Belügyi Szemle (Vol. 49) 3: 20-47; and Andrásfalvy Bertalan (2004): Ártéri gazdálkodás Magyarországon. História (Vol 26.) 4: 15-19.

4.1.2. Major projects supporting the maintenance of traditional knowledge on wetland management include a GEF project along the river Tisza and a WWF Hungary project carried out at Nagykör (middle section of river Tisza); the use of traditional knowledge is encouraged in particular in craftsmanship, such as the use of reed for thatching, and reedmace (Typha sp.) for hand-made utilities. Traditional flood plain management methods are encouraged in certain projects, especially along the river Tisza and the Gemenc Ramsar site.

4.1.3. Protected area designation, including Ramsar site designation, is subject to a conciliation procedure among ministries. One stage of this procedure also includes placing the proposal on the internet for comments. The management planning exercise includes the involvement of local stakeholders, but Ramsar site designation does not.

4.1.4. There are several visitor centres and museums operated by national park directorates and dealing, at least partly, with wetlands and their cultural issues. A documentary film series has also been produced recently on national parks and their natural and cultural heritage. A half-year course was launched in 2007 by the Tessedik Sámuel College at Szarvas on flood plain management. The training provides information on traditional management methods, too.

The Hortobágy National Park Directorate has organised training courses for boat tour guides operating in Lake Tisza (part of the Hortobágy Ramsar site) for six years now. Approximately 30 trainees participate yearly.

4.1.5. Cultural aspects, where they are significant, have been included in management planning. Best examples are Lake Fert Ramsar site (part of the World Cultural Heritage since 2002), the Hortobágy Ramsar site (part of the World Cultural Heritage since 2000), and Lakes by Tata Ramsar site with the old town of Tata. In other areas, traditional land use is encouraged and prescribed by the management plans (for example grazing with native, traditional breeds, traditional flood plain management, etc.).

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

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

Indicator questions:

4.2.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands? {7.1.1}	C - Partly
4.2.2 Have private-sector "Friends of Wetlands" fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]	B - No

Additional implementation information:

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

4.2.1. There are some examples for encouragement, for instance at Lakes by Tata Ramsar site: the local entrepreneurs are encouraged to support nature-friendly rehabilitation and management of Lake Öreg.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.3.1. The Ministry of Environment and Water has made available EU grants to the national park directorates and the water management directorates for projects of wetland restorations, and investments that make wise use management (for example, creation of fish bypasses) possible. However, regular management measures (for example, wise use of fish pond systems, the actual removal of invasive plants) cannot be financed from this source. Also, this grant is not available to other stakeholders than the mentioned state bodies.

Grants are also available from the Regional Operative Programmes of the EU for interpretation of and ecotourism development in wetlands.

In the Natura 2000 programme (nearly all of Hungary's Ramsar sites are fully within the Natura 2000 network), farmers will get regular payments for their grasslands from 2008 onwards. This entails restrictions, for example farmers may not drain their fields from spring floods. Agri-environmental subsidies are also paid for extensive fishpond management.

From 2008, the Fisheries Operative Programme provides grants for the keeping and breeding of native fish species; In 2006, subsidies were available from the national fishery fund for stocking natural wetlands with native fish species or restoring natural wetlands (this funding is no longer available). hallépcs re pályázati lehet ség KEOP-ból;

The Ministry of Environment and Water has also supported financially the eradication of Silver Carp, an introduced fish species from Lake Balaton.

4.3.2. The Ramsar National Committee indicated several times to the Ministry of Environment and Water that the legal obligation of water management companies to drain flooded fields is in conflict with nature conservation interests. Applying authoritative measures, draining was successfully halted in several cases, but the perverse incentive is still in force. Dredging of canals is also required even in canals that receive hardly any water (and thus dredging unnecessarily increases draining); one member of the Ramsar National Committee made an unsuccessful attempt to amend agri-environmental measures (so that regularly flooded land should not be cultivated).

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

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

Indicator questions:

<p>4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]</p>	<p>A - Yes</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:</p> <p>a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or</p> <p>b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values,</p> <p>please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

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

4.4.1. The National Ramsar Committee members include both the governmental and the NGO CEPA Focal Points.

4.4.2. The National CEPA Action Plan was developed and published in 2002: B hm, A. & Szabó M. (2002): Országos stratégia a a vizes él helyek védelmének kommunikációjáért. In: Vizes él helyek: a természeti és a társadalmi környezet kapcsolata. (National strategy for the communication of wetland conservation, In: Wetlands: the interrelation of the natural and the social environment. In Hungarian, 17 pages.)

4.4.3. The National Ramsar Committee has representatives from the nature conservation and the water management state secretariats of the Ministry of Environment and Water, and a representative of the department responsible for fisheries and hunting within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Legislative acts, including those concerning wetlands, have to pass an inter-ministerial consultation process before approval. Thus, all ministries are informed and can express their opinion.

WWDs are also used as a good opportunity to invite stakeholders and share information with them.

4.4.4. The Ramsar game has been translated into Hungarian and Slovak languages to support CEPA activities along the common border between Hungary and Slovakia. This project was also co-financed by the Netherlands Embassy to Budapest and an NGO, the Által-ér Association.

A poster was published in 2007 on all the protected fish, amphibian and reptile species of Hungary. It has been distributed widely among schools, for example, and was also distributed at WWD2008. Two of the presentations at WWD2008 dealt with ecosystem benefits, covering flood plain management along rivers and fish production in extensively managed fish ponds in the Hortobágy Ramsar site.

In 2005, 2006 and 2007, the Wild Goose Festival (Tatai Vadlúd Sokadalom) was organised at Lakes by Tata Ramsar site for the 5th, 6th and 7th times, and the occasion had by now grown into a national event. In 2007, the number of participants reached 6,000 and people came from all over the country to celebrate the arrival and migration of wild geese and to learn about the Ramsar site, its wise use in the heart of a city, as well as the cultural and natural heritage of the city in general. The Festival will be held in 2008, too.

WWF Hungary implemented a wise use project at Nagykör (middle section of river Tisza) in collaboration with and co-financed by the local government. A LIFE Nature project along the middle section of the River Tisza also promotes flood plain wise use (see http://www.vituki-consult.hu/sumar/angol/projekt_eng.html). There are several other completed and running projects.

4.4.5. WWD is celebrated each year throughout the country by various organisations (national park directorates, NGOs such as Nimfea and WWF). The Ministry of Environment and Water organised national celebrations in 2007 and 2008. The General Assembly of the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) was also deliberately organised to coincide with this occasion at Miskolc, Hungary, for WWD in 2007, with the topic 'Wetlands in the Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive & Public Participation in the EU WFD implementation'.

4.4.6. Salamandra House Forest School in the Baradla subterranean Ramsar site (completed in 2006); Forest School buildings at Drávatamási and Drávaszentes along the river Dráva; Mekszikó-Pusztaközpont at Lake Fert Ramsar site (completed in 2006); Hortobágy Education and Visitor Centre at Hortobágy Ramsar site (completed in 2007); Körösvölgyi Visitor Centre and Exhibition by the river Körös; Kontyvirág Forest School at T serd , by an oxbow of the river Tisza 'completed in 2006); Csapaksemlyék Forest School by a marsh at Mórahalom (completed in 2007).

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

STRATEGY 4.5 *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.5.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only] Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {15.1.1} [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 ...]”

Sectoral priorities of Hungary’s International Development Co-operation Activities include

- contributing to water management and water resources development, planning and providing technical advice
- providing technical advice on environmental protection.

Projects worthy of mention are:

support for breeding economically important freshwater fish species in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam;

national park management in Mongolia;

See Article on Hungarian International Development Policy at the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: http://www.kulugyminiszterium.hu/NR/rdonlyres/933C1461-8F65-403A-B841-B0A37C755BF4/0/061206_newdonor.pdf

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

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>	

4.6.2 {16.1.2}	A - Yes
a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity?	
b) If yes, please state the amounts:	
Support to the organisation of the European Regional meeting is considered, but no amount is known at the time of reporting.	

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 ...]”

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

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

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

Indicator questions:

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]	B - No
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<p>4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2}</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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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 ...]”

4.8.1. No full review has been made and there have been no proposals for changes in institutional responsibilities.

4.8.2. The Minister of Environment and Water issued an order on establishing the Ramsar National Committee in November 2004. According to this order, the Bureau for Water Management of the Ministry of Environment and Water has to be represented in the Committee, and this is in fact so. The Ramsar National Committee includes members from various sectors (the chair is from a university, one member is a private fishfarmer, one member from the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for fishing and hunting, two members from water management, one member from a municipality managing a Ramsar site, three national park directors, one member from a fisheries research institute, one member from the national authority for nature conservation, one member and two observers from the Ministry of Environment and Water and one member from an NGO, BirdLife Hungary). The membership of the Committee will be renewed for the next triennium during 2008, which may bring some changes in representativity. Meetings are held twice a year.

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

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

Indicator question:

<p>4.9.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention’s IOPs* in its implementation of the Convention?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention’s IOPs*?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	<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

4.9.1. BirdLife International has supported, among others, the Common Bird Census monitoring programme in Hungary, which provides data on bird population trends, including some waterbird populations. Wetlands International organised a training on monitoring to support the monitoring activities at Nyirkai-Hany Ramsar site.

4.9.2. BirdLife Hungary has supplied data to various BirdLife International projects (for example, on bird population trends, including waterbirds). The University of Western Hungary regularly provides data to Wetlands International on waterbird populations in the most important Hungarian wetlands. (annual January census).

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

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

Indicator questions:

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)]	B - No
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}	A - Yes
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 ...]”

4.10.2. In the preparation phase of the Hidrobiology Master of Science training launched by the University of Debrecen (starting from September 2009) a national inventory was made to reveal training needs, involving nearly all Hungarian universities

4.10.3. Fishery engineer training has been provided for several years; Master of Science in Hidrobiology training will start from September 2009; nature conservation engineer training has been implemented by the University of Western Hungary, and will be launched by the Szent István University (Gödöll) as well as by the University of Debrecen in 2009); wetland managers are also trained in the environmental engineer and environment management engineer training (Szent István University and University of Debrecen, as well as other universities).

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