



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.

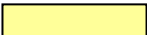
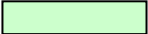
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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: ITALY	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Dr. Aldo Cosentino Director General - Nature Protection Directorate General
Mailing address:	via Capitan Bavastro 174, I-00154 ROME
Telephone/Fax:	0039 06 5722 8510 - 8003 0039 06 57228390
Email:	dpn-dg@minambiente.it dpn-div6@minambiente.it
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Dr. Aldo Cosentino Director General - Nature Protection Directorate General
Mailing address:	via Capitan Bavastro 174, I-00154 ROME
Telephone/Fax:	0039 06 57228510 0039 06 57228390
Email:	dpn-dg@minambiente.it dpn-div6@minambiente.it
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Dr. Aldo Cosentino Director General - Nature Protection Directorate General
Name of organisation:	Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
Mailing address:	via Capitan Bavastro 174, I-00154 ROME
Telephone/Fax:	0039 06 57228510 0039 06 57228390
Email:	dpn-dg@minambiente.it dpn-div6@minambiente.it
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Dr. Aldo Cosentino Director General - Nature Protection Directorate General
Name of organisation:	Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
Mailing address:	via Capitan Bavastro 174, I-00154 ROME
Telephone/Fax:	0039 06 57228510 0039 06 57228390
Email:	dpn-dg@minambiente.it dpn-div6@minambiente.it
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title:	
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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

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

1. Four new priority wetlands for designation under the Ramsar Convention (Lago di San Giuliano, Pantano di Pignola, Medio Corso del fiume Sele - Serre Persano, Paludi Costiere di Variconi - Oasi di Castel Volturno) have been designated.
2. Update of Sites in Montreux List are in progress (see point D).
3. Management plans of Sites of Sardinia (8) have been approved.
4. To follow-up wetlands restoration/rehabilitation programmes, the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea have set-up a co-ordinated project 'the Wetland Project' in order to implement the Guidance Document in a correct way.
5. Some Ramsar Sites and several non-Ramsar wetlands have been proposed as Italian Important Plant Areas (areas of great botanical importance for threatened species, habitats and plant diversity in general, that can be identified, protected and managed as sites) in the IPAs project of the CBD.
6. A plan for periodical monitoring of bird flu has been essted by Ministry of Sanity.
7. Several Guide-Lines have been published by the The Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services - APAT to help Public Administrations to manage wetlands. The APAT/National Topic Center on Nature and Biodiversity have been also published the report 'Wetlands in Italy - facts to support knowledge' dealing with knowledge and definition of wetlands, indices and indicators of state, examples of management.
8. Publications on wetlands concerning Italian habitats of high-altitude lakes, pools, ponds and marshes, volcanic lakes, have been published in the series of books 'Italian Habitats' promoted by Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea; others on subterranean waters, rivers and riparian vegetation and lagoon, estuaries and deltas are planned. These volumes are finalised at promulgating recent results of scientific research and they are free of charge and downloadable by the website of the Ministry.

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

1. To date, 19 sub-projects according to the Wetland Project have been carried out and co-financed by framework programme agreements in as many regions, totaling approximately \$10 million. These sub-projects comprise a wide range of typologies and interventions which range from management of protected areas to the construction of artificial wetlands and from the achievement of specialised monitoring to the publication and dissemination of technical scientific material (see point A.4).
2. The designation of four new Ramsar Sites (see point A.1).

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

1. Collecting information about projects and interventions carried out in each Site.
2. Making that management interventions on catchement basins include aspects on conservation of biodiversity.

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

An agreement between the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the University of Molise has been established: to update both RIS and maps of Ramsar sites; to produce an updating CD (Ramsar Wetlands in Italy) on Italian wetlands (Italian and English languages), reporting general information on each of

the Sites; to identifying priority wetlands for designation under the Ramsar Convention; to scientifically support the Ministry in implementing the Convention.

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

No, it does not.

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

No, it does not.

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?

1. Obtaining more punctual informations on CITES species (e.g. asking about them in the RIS).

2. Nominating the best national Ramsar Sites for evaluation as World Heritage Sites, with the principal aim of fostering international co-operation in safeguarding these important areas.

3. Proposing suitable Ramsar Sites which are not yet part of the coherent ecological network known as the Natura 2000 network for classifying as special protection areas (SPAs).

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)?

e.g. In Italy, national application of Water Framework Directive considers Ramsar Sites are sensitive areas.

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

No, it does not.

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]	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 ...]”

1.1.3 Informations on Ramsar Sites are always available from their management authority. Informations on ecological character of others kinds of wetlands (mostly coastal) can be accessed by the administrative Regions and their Environmental Regional Agencies while information on the main rivers by River basin Authorities.

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 According to art. 10 of legislative decree n. 152 of 11.05.1999 that implements the two European Union Water Directives (i.e. n. 91/271/CEE and n. 91/676/CEE) wetlands waters are regulated as special waters. The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea has developed the guidelines for the national plan for wetlands.

1.2.3 Wetland issues have been integrated into national laws (i.e. law 394/91 on protected areas and legislative decree 152/99 on water protection).

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

Several wetlands are regulated as 'natural beauty' according the law n. 1497/1939 by Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities unequivocally declaring the natural environment part of Italy's cultural heritage. Every action on these areas need a permission by the Administrative Region which represent the juridic authority (agreement between Ministry and Region).

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}	F - Not applicable
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	A - Yes
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	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 This information can be accessed by the administrative Regions

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}	C - Partly
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	C - Partly
1.4.3 Has the Convention’s guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5}	C - Partly
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	A - Yes

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 ...]”

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>	<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>A - Yes</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 ...]”

1.5.1

- To follow-up wetlands restoration/rehabilitation programmes, the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea have set-up a co-ordinated project named 'the Wetland Project'. It concerns the selection and co-financing of specific interventions at the national scale designed to promote the management and reconstruction of wetlands for planning at the river basin scale. To date, 19 projects have been carried out and co-financed by framework programme agreements in as many regions, totaling approximately \$10 million. The projects comprise a wide range of typologies and interventions which range from management of protected areas to the construction of artificial wetlands and from the achievement of specialised monitoring to the publication and dissemination of technical scientific material.

- Major programmes have involved restoration and rehabilitation of the Sites named Stagno di Molentargius which was in the Montreaux Record.

- Because of the hydraulic problems shown by 'Ortazzo e Ortazzino', in January 2006, Emilia-Romagna Region started an intervention of deviation of the Bevano river mouth and proposed to create an emergency floodway on the beach (to be located in front of the meander) to accelerate the drainage in case of flood. It is supposed to create an alternative river mouth in the middle of the inlet, further south of the old mouth. By using the sand dug from these two places, the old river mouth has been filled in. Thus the most dynamic part of the inlet has become a stabilized beach where the Region is going to put some fences to accelerate dunes formation process (Delibera n. 1435 of 17.10.2006, Prot. n. PRN/06/86673).

- With the aim of restoring ecological balance as regards water quality in the Cassa Valle Santa, which is seriously damaged by anoxia, and ensuring proper water circulation, a number of actions took place thanks to an agreement protocol signed between Regional Park of Delta del Po, Argenta Town Council, Rena Land Reclamation Consortium (Consorzio della Bonifica Renana), and the Technical Services for the river Reno basin of the Regional Government of Emilia-Romagna. Canals were dredged for an overall length of 5.460 m, with consequences on water circulation in the basin on an area of about 150 ha. Full working conditions have been restored in the Garda Alto weir, which permits water input into the Cassa Santa from the canal of the same name, which in turn takes water from the Emiliano Romagnolo Canal.

- Activities of restoration and rehabilitation of wetland of Sicily have been carried out by the National Wild Fauna Institute since 2007.

- LaguNet is a scientific observational network studying the fluxes of nutrients and other contaminants from lagoon catchments to the near coastal environment. The objectives of LaguNet are to support and encourage cooperation of research groups studying lagoons, wetlands and saltmarsh systems situated along the Italian coast and to evaluate the application of the LOICZ (Land Ocean Interactions in Coastal Zones, a core project of IGBP) biogeochemical flux model and typology classification to such sites. The results represent bases of knowledge to project restoration/rehabilitation of the Sites.

1.5.2 To follow-up wetlands restoration/rehabilitation programmes, the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea have set-up a co-ordinated the project named 'the Wetland Project' in order to implement the Guidance Document in a correct way.

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

Guide-line for the restoration of artificial wetland have been published by the The Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services - APAT.

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}	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

- No legislation nor administrative measures were adopted specifically addressing the problem introduction of indigenous species in marine protected areas. However, during this period the decrees establishing new marine protected areas include specific provisions on the introduction of species.

- As far as the Adriatic sea is concerned, Italy is a member of the trilateral ballast water management sub commission for the Adriatic sea (Italy-Slovenia-Croatia) which deals with the problem of introduction of harmful organisms from ships in the area.

1.6.2 'Introduction of non-indigenous and genetically modified species' project, is a government-funded program stemming from the application of article 13 of Biodiversity Protocol.

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

- Agreement between Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the University of Rome 'La Sapienza' has been established to study the distribution and status of invasive flora in Italy.

- Three other research programmes have been carried out by Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Applicata del Mare - ICRAM (Central Institute for Applied Marine Research):

1. 'Allochthonous species' project, which deals with 'changes of the interspecific biodiversity of fishes of the Mediterranean Sea, as a biological indicator of the tropicalisation phenomenon'.

2. 'ALIEN' (Atlantic and Lessepsian Immigrant Environmental Noises) project, in which the environmental and genetical consequences of immigration of allochthonous species are estimated and the main reasons for their penetration are evaluated.

3. 'Introduction of non-indigenous and genetically modified species' government-funded program stemming from the application of article 13 of Biodiversity Protocol. The project deals mainly with: a) the formulation of a taxonomic and diagnostic atlas for the identified species of each taxonomic group, realized through GIS; b) the monitoring of ballast waters; c) the elaboration of guidelines for aquaculture practices (one of the main causes for the penetration of alien species) to avoid the expansion of this phenomenon.

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

Indicator questions:

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

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

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

Not less than 9 sites have projected to be designated by the end of 2008.

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

The individuation and designation of several Ramsar sites is a target of the yearly (conclusion by January 2009) agreement between the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the University of Molise.

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

Indicator questions:

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

B - No

2.2.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its database used in national implementation of the Convention concerning Ramsar site issues?

A - Yes

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 The update of Ramsar sites is a target of the yearly (conclusion by January 2009) agreement between the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the University of Molise.

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

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

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	C - Partly
2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised]	C - Some sites
2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information]	C - Some sites
2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out? [if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available]	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 ...]”

2.3.2

- Lago di Tovel is included within the perimeter of the Adamello Brenta Regional Natural Park where it is considered a special reserve according to the Plan; the Plan is being implemented according to the Provincial Law n. 11 of 23.05.2007 ('Governo del territorio forestale e montano, dei corsi d'acqua e delle aree protette').

- All of the Sites of Emilia-Romagna Region (10), Palude di Colfiorito, Laguna di Orbetello have plans/strategies (Master Plan) developed but not implemented.

2.3.3 e.g. All of the Sites of Emilia-Romagna Region (10), Pian di Spagna - Lago di Mezzola, Stagno di Cagliari, Stagno di Molentargius, Medio Corso del fiume Sele - Serre Persano, Lago di San Giuliano, Bacino dell'Angitola, Valle Averno, Torbiere d'Iseo, Saline di Margherita di Savoia, Palude di Colfiorito, Lago di Nazzano have cross-sectoral site management committees.

2.3.4

- Lago di Barrea occurs in the National Park named Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise which has its own Plan.

- Vincheto di Cellarda occurs in the National Park named Parco Nazionale delle Dolomiti Bellunesi which has its own Plan.

- Lago di Nazzano occurs in an a Special Protection Area and Natura 2000 Site (Riserva Naturale Tevere Farfa) which have their own Plan.

- Management plans of the Sites of Sardinia have just been approved by the Region (jurisdiction authority) with 'Pro 2000-200(Misura 1.5 'rete ecologica regionale)'.
-

- Management plan of Torre Guaceto is waiting for the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea's approval.

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

2.3.2

- ENEA BIOTEC carries out management plans for wetlands under the Ramsar Convention and 79/409/CEE Directive (Birds directive).
- Management plans have been produced for mountain wetlands on the basis of the case study Tovel lake by an agreement between the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and University of Ferrara.
- Management plans have been produced for the Tuscany Ramsar Sites Lago di Burano and Laguna di Orbetello according to Eurosat criteria for the INTERREG IIIB MedOc - MedWet/Regions - Action Programme for Wetlands in the Mediterranean Region.

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:

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} [If "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
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} [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]	C - Some cases
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} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]	A - Yes

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 update of Ramsar sites is a target of the yearly (conclusion by January 2009) agreement between the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the University of Molise.
- 2.4.2 The update of Ramsar Sites is in progress (see point 2.4.1). Up to now few less important changes have been observed, mostly regarding Sites recorded in the Montreux List.
- 2.4.3 Sites listed on the Montreux Record have been object of several actions in the last ten years with the aim of restoration of the Sites. Among them, in the last three year, major programmes have involved rehabilitation of the Sites named Stagno di Molentargius and Stagno di Cagliari.

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]	B - No

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 ...]"

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
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

MedWet is a forum where twenty-five Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, FYR of Macedonia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey) specialized wetland centers and international environmental organizations meet as equals to discuss, identify key issues and take positive action to protect wetlands, for man and for biodiversity. It is also a source of information and knowledge. MedWet helps Mediterranean countries to evaluate economic, social and biodiversity values of wetlands, provide technical tools and ensure good management of wetlands. In 2002 MedWet became formally recognized as a regional initiative under the global Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Agenzia regionale per la protezione ambientale della Toscana (ARPAT), based in Florence, Italy, is a wetland center which monitors the implementation of environmental regulations in the region of Tuscany, Italy. ARPAT carries out research that provides policy makers with environmental information among others on monitoring of surface inland and coastal waters.

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

In these last 5 years:

- Italy contributed to the revision of the Terms of Reference of MedWet.
- Italy hosted last three MedWet Steering Groups (Rome, 29-30 March 2007; Frascati, 25 June 2007; Frascati, 28 June 2007) and the MedWet Com 8 (Rome 26-28 June 2007).
- Tuscany environmental Agency (one of the Italian Regional environmental Agency) has been a partner in the project CODDE - MedWet information and knowledge network for the sustainable development of wetland ecosystems.

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	C - Partly
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}	C - Partly
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, the CBD Focal Point and the CMS Focal Point are within the same Directorate General of the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea. So far, formal and continuous communication is established between the desks of Ramsar and CBD.

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

- Tuscany environmental Agency (one of the Italian Regional environmental Agency) has been a partner in the project CODDE - MedWet information and knowledge network for the sustainable development of wetland ecosystems.
- Italy is involved in LaguNet, a scientific observational network studying the fluxes of nutrients and other contaminants from lagoon catchments to the near coastal environment.
- Eight Ramsar sites included in the Regional Park of Delta del Po are involved in the project 'A Network of European Wetlands'. Regional Park of Delta del Po has supported and founded the International Association of Delta Parks: 'Delta chiama Delta'.
- The project 'ADRIatic BLUe table for a sustainable management of the fishing activities and of the fishing resources in the Adriatic sea' of the INTERREG IIIA I-PAO programme, involve in Italy Emilia-Romagna, Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia Regions, and Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. It aims at promoting a cross-border sustainable process of socio-economic development for the fishery sector of the Northern Adriatic area, through the implementation of specific coordination and planning initiatives, in order to promote the qualification of entrepreneurial initiatives in the Northern Adriatic area within a general context of fishing sustainability raising. The project will set up a series of activities aimed at creating a favourable environment for the fishing SMEs through the: cross-border integration and harmonisation of the fishing policies; coordination and responsible management of the sector; increase of fish stocks available for the fishing SMEs; promotion of innovation and diversification of traditional activities; creation of opportunities to meet and exchange experiences among SMEs; specialisation of fishing operators.
- The project 'Management and sustainable development of protected transitional waters' (acronym: TWREFERENCENET) of the COMMUNITY INITIATIVE INTERREG III B (2000 – 2006) CADSES, involve in Italy the Lead Partner University of Lecce. It is designed to improve and reinforce conservation of natural heritage in protected transitional ecosystems and to enlarge their sustainable fruition. The strategic objective are: (1) to ameliorate conservation of natural heritage health in protected transitional waters of the CADSES area, by deepening knowledge, producing technological innovation, reinforcing regulation and overcoming fragmentation of expertise and competencies; (2) to reinforce territorial integration on environmental policy in the CADSES area; (3) to translate effort on conservation into sustainable development strategies, creation of new jobs opportunities and improvement of quality of life. The project is organized into the following areas: environmental, socio-economic, and networking-communication. Networking-communication area is based on the creation of an e-Centre, which: 1. will constitute a functional networking among protected transitional Ramsar and Nature 2000 areas, by bridging knowledge, expertises and competencies of project partners, administrations NGOs and enterprises; 2. will guarantee the information flow, organising and publishing information and knowledge produced by the project and performing result dissemination to different end-users, from Institutions to local people; 3. will organise training and formation; 4. will produce services through spin-off of 'niche' enterprises, encouraging management by young people and woman; 5. will ensure project follow-up, being itself a service, as a consultant agency on transitional protected area management and sustainable development.

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}	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}	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 ...]"

4.1.5 All the Sites (10) included in the Emilia-Romagna Region included cultural values of wetland in the management planning.

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}	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 ...]”

4.2.2 Some experience in this sense have been developed in Italy, among the most important the one in the Venice lagoon.

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

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

Indicator questions:

4.3.1 Have actions been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	A - Yes
4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	B - No

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 ...]”

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:

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} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]	B - No
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} [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]	B - No
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}	A - Yes

<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>	A - Yes
<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>	A - Yes
<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>	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

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

4.4.2 An agreement between the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the University of Molise has been established to produce a CD (Ramsar Wetland in Italy) on Italian wetland sites (Italian and English languages), reporting general information on each of the sites.

4.4.4 The Ministry works with several NGOs on education actions related to wetlands, formal information sharing activities between relevant governmental bodies is also in place although not formally part of a CEPA Programme.

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

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

Indicator questions:

<p>4.5.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only] Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {15.1.1}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p>	A - Yes
<p>4.5.2 [For Contracting Parties in receipt of development assistance only] Has funding support been mobilized from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {15.1.8}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the agencies from which support has been received since COP9]</p>	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

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

4.5.1 The Directorate General of the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea which has the competence of international agreements and international cooperation is treating for projects about conservation and management of wetlands, such as in Iraq.

4.5.2 The Directorate General of the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea which has jurisdiction over internal waters is treating for projects about conservation and management of wetlands.

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:

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

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:	

Additional implementation information:

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

4.6.2 Italy provided a voluntary contribution of €20.000 for supporting the participation of some delegates at COP9.

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]

C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

It has mostly used with the aim to improve and to fill the gaps of the previous years, well underlined by the document

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

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]

A - Yes

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 ...]”

4.8.2 The National Ramsar Committee is in place and consists of representatives of institutions and NGOs. This Committee is under review.

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:

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]	A - Yes
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]	A - Yes

* 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

4.9.1-4.9.2 LIPU (Italian partner of BirdLife International) and WWF Italia manage several Ramsar Sites.

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}	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 ...]"

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

Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea supports a few Master dealing with Protected Area management, such as Master of University of Molise "Governance delle Aree Naturali Protette"