



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: NEPAL	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Shyam S. Bajimaya, Director General
Mailing address:	PO Box 860, Babarmahal, Kathmandu
Telephone/Fax:	+977-1-4220912/+977-1-4227926,
Email:	s_bajimaya@yahoo.com
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Jhamak B. Karki, Under Secretary (Technical)
Mailing address:	PO Box 860, Babarmahal, Kathmandu
Telephone/Fax:	+977-1-4220912/+977-1-4227926
Email:	jbkarki@dnpsc.gov.np, jbkarki@gmail.com
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Dr. Narendra Man Babu Pradhan, Planning Officer
Name of organisation:	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
Mailing address:	PO Box 860, Babarmahal, Kathmandu
Telephone/Fax:	+977-1-4220912/+977-1-4227926
Email:	npradhan@dnpsc.gov.np, narendrapradhan@hotmail.com
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Laxmi P. Manandhar, Conservation Education Officer
Name of organisation:	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
Mailing address:	PO Box 860, Babarmahal, Kathmandu
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Email:	lmanandhar@dnpsc.gov.np
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Bhawani Kharel, Team Leader, Ecosystem Management Unit
Name of organisation:	IUCN Nepal
Mailing address:	Kopundole, Lalitpur, Nepal
Telephone/Fax:	+977-1-5528761/ +977-1-555761
Email:	bkharel@iucn.org.np

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?

Survey/inventory including cultural and religious significance and declaration of new high altitude wetlands.

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

Declaration of new four high altitude wetlands in Protected Areas and one mid-hill wetland outside protected areas as Ramsar sites.

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

Technical and financial constraints; Trained technical human resources

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

Collaborative management of KoshiTappu and Ghodaghodi and Associated wetlands through Implementation of GEF/UNDP funded project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal".

WWF Nepal funded wetland projects in the Himalayan " Wetlands sky high", integration of wetland issues with Koshi River Basin management, wetland biodiversity conservation and wise use in Ghodaghodi, climate change adaptation and resilience building in himalayas.

Gokyo and KoshiTappu of Nepal are selected as demonstration sites of the EU Asia Pro-eco program funded project to support Himalayan Initiative which is implemented by Wetland international and ICIMOD in the region.

Government contribution and exploration of additional funds to survey the mid and high altitude wetlands.

Darwin Initiative funded BCN and WWT joint project at Koshi Tappu is addressing sustainable livelihood issues with a focus on fisheries management in buffer zone. This project will support the best fisheries practices in and around Koshi and share lessons learnt from other parts of the world. Fish dependent communities have been given some training on various IGAs that utilise wetland resources. Highly depleted fish resource in Koshi river has resulted a decline of fish-eating birds. The project aims to reduce pressure on the reserve. A wetland education centre will be established for education and awareness to the local communities.

"Conservation and Sustainable Use of Beeshazari and Associated Lakes" through Society for Wetland and Biodiversity Conservation Nepal (WBC Nepal) funded by Netherlands Committee for IUCN (NCIUCN) will be implemented.

As per National Wetland Policy 2003, activities and programs are geared to help implement the fundamental objectives of Ramsar Convention in Nepal.

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

Many capacity building opportunities are available in various regions directly related to implementation of Ramsar Convention, secretariat should coordinate and seek fund required for us to participate. Fund raising to support national administrative authority to implement their prioritized wetland conservation and wise use is also equally important.

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

IOPs such as WWF and IUCN are active in Nepal and WI should be extended in Nepal.

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?

Realizing the difficulties of linking MEAs implementation by different Ministries/Departments, a common forum such as National Wetland Committee has been proposed including representatives of all relevant MEAs focal points and others to share information, harmonize and link them appropriately.

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)?

Formation of National Wetland Committee comprising representatives from these implementing organizations of MEAs, water policies/strategies, National Wetland Conservation Development Committee (Formed by the decision of the Government of Nepal Dated March 7,2007(2063/11/23 BS), Under the Aegies of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation), Watershed Management and Aquatic Ecosystem Coordination Committee formed as per the National Water Plan and other strategies to better link and facilitate ease in implementation is in progress.

The GEF/UNDP wetland project has incorporated all the three major objectives of CBD and this will support the implementation of Ramsar convention with the coordination of all the relevant institutions.

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

The target of Ramsar Convention to declare Ramsar Sites looks optimistic from perspectives of availabilities of resources and opportunities. To be realistic, the target has to be fixed based on what can really be achieved by using available resources and opportunities.

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box.
2. If you wish to add any additional information on either one or more of the specific indicators for each strategy, and/or for other aspects of the national implementation of this strategy, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions for each Strategy.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. So as to assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP9, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP9 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

Indicator questions:

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

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 A detailed database based on Ramsar Criteria is prepared by DNPWC and WWF Nepal (<http://www.wetlandinventory.org.np>) which provides information on recently declared Ramsar Sites of Nepal (2007) and few other general high altitude wetlands above 3000m. DNPWC and ICIMOD established a "Biodiversity Portal of Nepal's Protected Areas" (http://biodiversityofnepal.icimod.org/svg_pa/final.htm) that includes Ramsar sites declared prior to 2007 as well. Similarly, DNPWC contributed information of Gokyo and KoshiTappu Ramsar Sites to the regional wetland information system that is being developed by ICIMOD.

Information on four high altitude wetlands (Titi and Damodar Kunda-Mustang, Tilicho-Manang, Gorkha) is available with National Trust for Nature Conservation (website:www.ntnc.org). Mid-winter water bird count report exists with Bird Conservation Nepal (www.bcn.org), which is being published/utilized by Wetland International

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

The change of ecological characters is partially detected in few Ramsar sites and few other general wetlands which requires further documentaion in greater detail

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}	C - Partly
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 National Wetland Policy 2003

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

1.2.5 EIA and IEE is applied universally in all the areas including wetlands. SEA is recently in use in some sectors.

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]	E - Planned
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}	C - Partly
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	B - No
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 ...]"

GEF/UNDP funded project " Conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in Nepal" being implemented from 2008 has planned to carry out economic valuation of KoshiTappu and Ghodaghodi and Associated Wetlands.

1.3.1 : Under the project " Conservation and sustainable use of Beeshazar and Associated lakes" the WBC Nepal under the financial support of NCIUCN has conducted habitat assessment of the Beeshazar and Associated lakes. It has been planned to conduct an assessment on ecosystem services and to prepare a database of Beeshazar and Associated lakes.

1.3.2: WBC Nepal under the support of NCIUCN has been working since 2004 to alleviate poverty of wetland dependent communities of Beeshazar lake through various income generating activities

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

1.3.3 Nepal do not recognize peatland in its official wetland types.

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}	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 ...]”

1.4.3 Nepal do not have coastland thus it does not applies

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

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 Rehabilitation of wetlands have been done in few wetlands not as a separate program or project but as a part of regular programs

1.5.2 Being a regular program, wise use handbook is not used extensively but referred sometime

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:

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}	C - Partly
1.6.2 Have such policies, strategies and management responses been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organisations/processes? {r5.1.ii}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

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

1.6.1 Management responses of the threat of invasive species has been started in few Ramsar sites and general wetlands

1.6.2 Some International organizations such as WWF Nepal, IUCN and National NGOs such as BCN, NTNC, WBC, LI-BIRD and Wetland Friends of Nepal are cooperating in the actions. Wetland Friends of Nepal (WFN) with support from Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program is planning to experiment compost preparation from invasive Water Hyacinth in lakes of Pokhara Valley.

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

Nepal has envisioned declaration of 40 high altitude wetlands in long term and 10 during the CoP9 period, of which 4 high altitude (Rara, Phoksundo, Gokyo and Associated Wetlands, Gosainkunda and Associated Wetlands) and one mid altitude wetlands (Mai Pokhari) have been declared so far. Inventory of 8 more high altitude wetlands have been completed (Thulo Pokhari and Associated Wetlands-Makalu Barun NP, Warmi and Associated wetlands-Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Khaptad-Tribeni Wetlands-Khaptad NP, Timbung Pokhari-Panchthar and Taplejung District, Jata-Panchpokhari-Ramechhap District, Parbati Kunda-Rasuwa District, Damodar Kunda and Associated Wetlands and Titi Tal-Annapurna CA) .Draft RIS of Khaptad-Tribeni has been prepared and forwarded for government approval and will be aimed for declaration during the CoP 10. At least five more sites will be attempted to declare as Ramsar sites.

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

National Wetland Committee formation will guide us for the Ramsar related matter. The GEF/UNDP project will continue the formation of this committee whose process has been initiated along with the process of the preparation and finalization of this national report.

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 ...]”

2.2.2 Though a formal database of RIS is not prepared but the existing database on wetlands being prepared in coordination with DNPWC by WWF and ICIMOD is used in national implementation of Ramsar 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:

<p>2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>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]</p>	<p>C - Some sites</p>
<p>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]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>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]</p>	<p>C - Some sites</p>

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 We are in the process of defining ecological characters while updating RIS of Koshi Tappu and other 3 Ramsar sites of Tarai with the help of existing projects and programs.

2.3.2 A general management plan of Chitwan NP (Beeshazari Ramsar site is included in the Buffer Zone of CNP) and Sagarmatha NP (Gokyo and Associated Wetlands lie within this park), Buffer Zone management plan of Shey Phoksundo (Phoksundo Ramsar site lies with this park) and Langtang NPs (Gosaikunda and associated Wetlands Ramsar site lies within this park) has been prepared.

Ramsar site Management plans of Koshi Tappu, Ghodaghodi tal, Gokyo and Associated Wetlands, Jagadishpur reservoir and Gosainkunda and Associated Wetlands are in different stage of preparation for approval. Site management plan of Gokyo and Associated wetlands have been drafted by DNPWC with the financial support of ICIMOD and technical supports of WWF Nepal.

2.3.3 Gokyo Lake Management Group (GLMG) has been formed in Gokyo. Buffer zone Management Committee and its user committees and Groups and functional groups are acting for wetland management in Koshi Tappu and Beeshazari tal. An NGO network has been formed in Ghodaghodi and Associated wetlands, and Irrigation user group, fishing and tourism committee has been formed in Jagadishpur reservoir. Gosainkunda Conservation and Development Committee and Buffer Zone User Committee are supporting park to manage in Gosainkunda and Associated Wetlands, Buffer zone institutions (Management Committee, User Committees and User Groups) are supporting in Rara and Phoksundo Ramsar Sites. The formal cross-sectoral committees will be formed and linked with user committee or the existing user committee/User groups will be strengthened to coordinate the wetland conservation and wise use in newly designated Ramsar sites.

2.3.4 Management effectiveness evaluation was carried out by DNPWC with the support of WWF Nepal.

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

Additional implementation information:

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

2.4.1 Sites managed by DNPWC through its PAs has mechanism to inform of changes or likely changes in ecological characters whereas similar mechanism for the rest of the sites managed by other departments are being established.

2.4.2 KoshiTappu's RIS is being updated and will be sent to Secretariat before CoP 10 Meeting.

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 ...]”

Transboundary/shared wetlands are identified but not discussed with countries concerned for their possible declaration formally.

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

Coordination related to flood control and production of electricity and use for irrigation is usually discussed and coordinated in some scale.

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]	C - Planned
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

Nepal is actively contributing in the development of Himalayan Initiative that covers countries sharing greater himalayan region like Nepal, India, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Tajikistan. Nepal has provided input to the application of Himalayan Initiative submitted to Ramsar Secretariat for necessary processing to COP10.

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

ICIMOD has been supporting Contracting Parties to develop proposal and submit to Standing Committee so that it could be forwarded to CoP10 in Korea

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? {13.1.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 ...]”

Collaboration between the focal points of different MEAs are being developed through the proposed National Wetland Management Committee.

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:

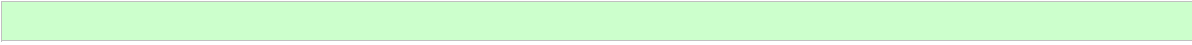
3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} <small>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]</small>	B - No
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}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.2 DNPWC, IUCN, WWF Nepal, ICIMOD, BCN, LI-BIRD, Wetland Friends of Nepal are involved in database, website and publication regarding Ramsar sites and other wetlands. Local level PAs and Buffer Zone Management Committees and conservation partners are producing awareness materials and conducting awareness activities.

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}	C - Partly
4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} [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 and 2: WBC Nepal under the support of NCIUCN/Ecosystem Grant Program (EGP) has planned to document traditional knowledge and management practices of Beeshazari and Associated lake. Local stakeholders meeting conducted in Ghodaghodi and other wetlands whenever management related activities are carried out.

4.1.3 In most cases, local people are consulted for the declaration of wetlands as Ramsar sites through informal discussion and formal meetings. Similarly for site management plan, consultation with local people and institutions are made.

4.1.4 and 5 Seven Ramsar sites (Koshi Tappu, Beeshazarital, Ghodaghodital, Rara, Phoksundo, Gokyo and associated wetlands, and Gosaikunda and Associated wetlands) and six other wetlands (Parbatikunda, Jata-panchpokhari, Timbungpokhari, Salpapokhari, Dudhkunda) have been studied for cultural significance and the information materials has been published and distributed.

DNPWC and WWF Nepal have jointly hosted an informative website (<http://www.wetlandinventory.org.np>) which includes information sheets on major surveyed wetlands of Nepal.

Recently Institute of Forestry Pokhara and Wetland Friends of Nepal have published 1. A pocket guide to flora and fauna of Ghodaghodi Lake Area and 2. An educational kit to wetland, forest and bird conservation - both in Nepali language.

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 ICIMOD and Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) conducted a willingness survey to encourage private companies in wetlands wise use. A half day awareness raising workshop was conducted among key private companies.

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 WBC Nepal has initiated Integrated Community Fishery using fallow land of Bufferzone Community Forests (Mushar lake and Chepang lake) and also implemented natural resource based income generating activities in Beeshazar area in order to improve economy of the wetland dependent communities and to encourage them in wetland conservation.

LI-BIRD has adopted cooperative based fishery management in Rupa Lake Area of Pokhara Valley of Nepal. Local people are engaged in fish farming and associated wetland health improvement activities for dual purpose - livelihood enhancement and wetland biodiversity conservation. Income from fishery has provided nice incentive to local community which in turn motivates them for wise use and sustainable management of wetland resources. Moreover the habitat conservation blocks of waterbirds, water chestnut, white lotus and wild rice have demonstrated the biodiversity conservation efforts of local community within local institutional framework.

WWF Nepal has conducted orientation to environmental journalists on wise use of wetlands and working with school eco-clubs for wetland awareness programs. Terai Area Landscape Program is working with local communities at Ghodaghodi by enhancing alternative income generation sources as an incentive to conserve wetland resources to make wise use of it.

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>C - Partly</p>
<p>4.4.2 Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the subnational, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? {r.9.iii.iii}</p> <p>[Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.4.3 Have actions been taken to communicate and share information cross-sectorally on wetland issues amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {r9.iii.v}</p>	<p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, <p>please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<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}	A - Yes
4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i} [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]	C - Some sites

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 ...]”

4.4.5 Wetland day is celebrated every year. Some year jointly by forming consortium (2005, 2006 and 2007) or independently rest of the years. Activities at central level and site level through protected areas and NGOs, civil societies varied in places.

Additionally, WBC Nepal is going to establish Community GIS Center for community awareness , conservation education, habitat monitoring and evaluation and database preparation at local level.

4.4.6 KoshiTappu has visitor com education center, general visitor centers in headquarter or sectors are there in Chitwan, Sagarmatha but efforts to create such centers on site is initiated with conservation partners

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:

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]	D - Not applicable
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]	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 ...]”

ICIMOD and Wetland International has implemented a 2 years project funded by EU Asia Pro-eco program in which Nepal is one of the beneficiary country.

BCN is working in two Ramsar Sites, Koshi Tappu in the east Nepal and Jagdishpur in the central lowland Nepal. The former is funded by Darwin Initiative with WWT as the lead agency in the UK. BCN is the main agency in the country and works to improve the fisheries practice at the buffer zone of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. The latter is funded by the Ramsar Secretariat and project is near completion. Project activities include biodiversity inventory, PRAs, promotion of IGAs through setting up a micro-credit fund for the wetland dependent communities. A continuation funding from Danone group has been committed for 2008. In the second year, tourism promotion will be also looked at.

WWF funded wetland projects in the Himalayan "Wetlands sky high" (WWF Netherlands, WWF International, WWF UK), integration of wetland issues with Koshi River Basin management (WWF UK, WWF US), wetland biodiversity conservation and wise use in Ghodaghodi (WWF US), climate change adaptation and resilience building in high Himalayas (WWF Netherlands, WWF International).

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}	B - No
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:	
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation have forwarded request to Ministry of Finance with copy to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and which has been similarly forwarded from Ministry of Finance to Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 rd March 2008 (2064/11/10 BS) for the payment of Ramsar contribution. The new Government of Nepal has asked Administrative Authority to provide the copy of the instrument submitted to Ramsar Convention and we are facing problem to get the same either from the Cabinet or from the Secretariat for the payment for coming years.	
4.6.2 {16.1.2}	B - No
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 ...]”

[Redacted]

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

[Redacted]

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:

<p>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]</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

Declaration of New Ramsar sites, development of wetland project/s,....

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

[Redacted]

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

Indicator questions:

<p>4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>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]</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>

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 process to upgrade the adhoc committee, informal committee to the National Wetland Committee has been initiated and will be completed in coming triennium through the ongoing UNDP/GEF project.

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? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs*? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	<p>B - No</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 BCN is working closely with BirdLife International on safeguarding the Ramsar Sites through the network of Site Support Groups (SSGs). SSGs can be an individual, an informal group, a registered civil society or a cooperative. Because all Ramsar Sites are IBA or some of the Ramsar Sites are within IBA, BCN has a long term interest to continuously monitor these sites and information is shared with BirdLife at various levels. In addition to BirdLife, BCN also sends midwinter waterbird monitoring data to Wetlands International and has been doing so for last 17 years.

IUCN Nepal has got grant which is being implemented in Ghodaghodi and Koshi Tappu currently. Similarly, WWF Nepal is working in recently declared (2007) Gokyo, Gosainkunda and the earlier declared (2003) Ghodaghodi and Jagadishpur reservoir.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.10.2 Training need assessment in general has been conducted for DNPWC and some protected areas including wetland.

4.10.3 Some wetland site managers have received training but a comprehensive training package is needed including its implementation.

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

Expected through the proposed regional initiative for the implementation of the capacity building of the site and central committees.