



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.

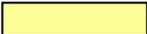
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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  filled in.
19. Fields with a pale green background -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: THE NETHERLANDS

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title: Mr. G.B. Raaphorst; director for Nature

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Email: g.b.raaphorst@minlnv.nl

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

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

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

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

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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?

Introduction:

Nature conservation in the Netherlands is primarily based on the national policy on the Dutch Ecological Network and the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (resulting in, inter alia, the ecological network Natura 2000) and the EU Water Framework Directive. All important wetlands including the Dutch Ramsar sites are part of the National Ecological Network. Also most of them are part of the Dutch Natura 2000 network which is almost completely part of the National Ecological Network. Therefore this report has been written against the background of the above-mentioned general (not wetland-specific) Dutch nature policy. Where appropriate and possible, special attention is given to Ramsar sites.

New steps taken to implement the Convention:

48 wetlands in the Netherlands have been designated as Ramsar sites, six of which being located in the Dutch Antilles. Since the last report (2005) no new sites have been added to the list. All Ramsar sites (excluding the Dutch Antilles) are Natura 2000 sites under the Birds and/or Habitats Directives.

Since 2005 the following progress has been made with the Natura 2000 process. The designation procedure has started in the Netherlands in December 2006. It is expected that all Natura 2000 sites (except marine sites, which don't include Ramsar sites) will be designated by 2009. Within 3 years after final designation, the competent authority has to complete a management plan for each site. In these plans it will be laid down how the conservation objectives will be reached and how the relationship with economic activities in and around the site will be addressed. Monitoring will be performed in order to follow the developments.

Since the Ramsar sites are part of the Natura 2000 network, they benefit from the conservation status and management provisions that result from this status.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality has amended the Nature Conservation Act. This act has been approved by Parliament in 2005. The Nature Conservation Act is a complete transposition of the relevant provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. The Dutch Nature Conservation Act demands an appropriate assessment of the implications of every new plan or project in a protected area. This assessment is also necessary when a proposed plan outside a Natura 2000 site might have an effect on this site. In addition there are obligations on monitoring of the ecological status of the protected areas. Because all Ramsar sites are also Natura 2000 sites their legal protection is adequate.

Integrated Water Resource Management is more and more included in water management practice in the Netherlands. This is reflected both in policy developments at the national level (government paper 'The Water Policy for the 21st Century') and the EU level (the EU Water Framework Directive - WFD). Currently the implementation and the transposition of the WFD is in full progress in the Netherlands.

To develop effective measures to achieve a Good Ecological Status in the sense of the WFD, it is important to understand the relationships between the hydromorphological state of water bodies and the ecological targets. The functional role of wetlands within larger water

bodies or river basins is particularly relevant for WFD implementation. This applies not only to the WFD objectives on protection, development and restoration of water bodies, but also to the relations with groundwater.

In the Netherlands the national and European nature and biodiversity policy developments are an ongoing process. The national Nature Conservation Act and the Flora and Fauna Act, together with the EU WFD and EU Birds and Habitats Directives provide a good legal basis for protection of nature areas, including all Ramsar sites.

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

In the Netherlands wetland policy is a prominent but integrated part of its general nature and biodiversity policy.

Below some examples are given of national developments and international projects. A list of international wetland projects, supported by the Netherlands, since the national reporting in 2005, can be found in the annex.

The Netherlands has established the 'Waddenfonds', a fund (established by law) of approximately 680 million Euro for nature development, management and sustainable economic development in the Wadden Sea area.

Another important recent development was the ban on mechanical cockle fisheries in the Wadden Sea, starting on January 1st 2005.

In the Netherlands many restoration and rehabilitation projects of wetlands are implemented, e.g. in the field of addressing lowered ground water tables (e.g. in peatlands), improvement of water quality of wetlands, reduction of the impact of dykes/dams for coastal protection on the wetlands and in the field of habitat restoration. Large scale wetland restoration usually consists of a series of actions that address the degradation of ecosystems. Problems of ecosystem degradation often occur at the scale of catchment areas. Visions and restoration schemes that attempt to integrate various restoration projects at a national, regional or transboundary scale have been developed, for example on the Rhine.

The Netherlands is actively involved in international cooperation. This is accomplished through bilateral cooperation with partner countries and through international organisations and fora that are active in water related activities.

These latter include:

- Global Water Partnership (GWP);
- World Water Council (WWC);
- Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research CGIAR
- Ramsar Convention IOPs
- Trilateral cooperation on the Wadden Sea with Germany and Denmark

Many conservation projects have been developed to support the conservation of wetlands under interministerial programmes such as Partners for Water and the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity of the Netherlands (2002-2006), including the BBI-Matra project support programme for Central and Eastern Europe and some Mediterranean countries.

Project support was given to inter alia Wetlands International (of which the Head Quarters is located in the Netherlands) and Birdlife International, both in CEE countries and in developing countries.

Bilateral cooperation is being implemented with a range of countries. In Europe MoU's with Russia, Ukraine, Poland and Hungary in conjunction with the BBI-MATRA programme have led to a series of wetland conservation projects in CEE countries, Turkey and Morocco. Currently several projects are still under implementation or have recently started.

Outside Europe several projects have been implemented by Wetlands International with financial support from the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The results of 15 years of environmental cooperation between Russia and the Netherlands have been laid down in the brochure '15 years of cooperation on environmental protection between Russia and the Netherlands' (to download via http://www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/kennisplein/3/6/362401/15_jaar_Rusland.pdf) and two

background reports:

- Russian-Dutch cooperation in the field of nature conservation over the period 1991-2006: an overview of the history, activities, programmes and projects (<http://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/catalog/lang/1860957>)
- Russian-Dutch cooperation on water management 1991-2006: overview of products on the occasion of the Russian-Dutch conference (<http://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/catalog/lang/1861164>).

By funding the lead partner Wageningen University & Research the Netherlands are supporting the GAWI partnership that contributes to Ramsar's work on the development of Guidelines for Agriculture-Wetland Interactions, decided upon at COP8. By COP10 good progress is expected (publication of the Framework) but the work will not be completed yet.

The Netherlands supports capacity building in a range of countries. This includes inter alia the Training of Trainers programme of Wageningen International (part of Wageningen University & Research). Dutch-based organisations (including Wetlands International) cooperate in WETCAP. The Netherlands (RIZA until 2008, now Deltares) also hosts the secretariat of the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar convention.

At the 10th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea, in 2005, it was agreed that the Trilateral Cooperation between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands should be evaluated. In 2007 this evaluation revealed that the Wadden Sea now enjoys a level of environmental protection and wise management that is unprecedented in Europe compared with other transboundary wetlands of international importance.

Based on work done in the past triennium, the German-Dutch Wadden Sea, was proposed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in February 2008.

The launch of the proceedings of the Edinburgh Waterbirds around the World conference on flyways in Scheveningen, March 2007, was a successful meeting, in the presence of the Dutch and British responsible ministers.

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

The Netherlands is a small and densely populated country, this results in many, often conflicting, claims on the available space.

In the Wadden Sea, for instance, the process of making shellfish fisheries sustainable turns out to be a long and difficult one. Mechanical cockle fishing has been banned since 2005. Mussel fisheries are currently under debate.

There are still developments that can influence nature and landscape of the Wadden Sea in which a balance between nature conservation and economic claims has to be found. As an example: plans concerning port development and tourism also merit close consideration in this context.

Another difficulty for wetland conservation and restoration is the possible negative effect of acidification and desiccation (unnatural water dynamics and ground water level). Whereas eutrophication has decreased strongly compared to the 1970s and 80s, it is still a problem for certain wetland habitats, as is acidification.

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

Suggestions:

There could be a closer link between the strategic plans and work plans of the International Organisation Partners (IOPs) and the Ramsar convention. In this way synergies could be optimised and duplications avoided. It is also important to further optimise synergies with other conventions and EU-policies.

Dutch national priorities:

Natura 2000 is a priority within the Netherlands and as Ramsar sites in the European part of the kingdom are also Natura 2000 sites, the Ramsar Convention is a priority as well.

The added value of the Ramsar convention in the Netherlands is described in the report of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency 'Ramsar Conventie in Nederland - Meerwaarde voor beleid en beheer' (with an English summary) http://www.mnp.nl/nl/publicaties/2006/Ramsar_conventie_in_Nederland_Meerwaarde_voor_beleid_en_beheer.html. This includes, inter alia, the role of Ramsar as an international platform, the embedding of the Dutch wetlands in an international context of catchment areas and flyways and the fact that Ramsar applies to all wetlands, not only designated sites.

Dutch international priorities:

The new Dutch Biodiversity Policy Programme was approved by the Dutch Cabinet on 14 March 2008. It includes the conservation of flyways and related wetlands under the theme 'ecological networks'. Coastal sites are (also) included under the theme on the marine environment. In addition the theme on 'sustainable trade chains' includes the objective of making trade flows sustainable for wood, soy, palm oil, peat and bio fuels, all of them having (partly) some relation to wetlands and water management. Furthermore the theme 'Payments for biodiversity' is closely related to Payments for Ecosystem Services and hence potentially also the PES for wetland services.

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

This is satisfying as far as the Netherlands is concerned. The secretariat always provided the necessary advice quickly and adequately.

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

There is already a good cooperation with Wetlands International and Birdlife International (including Vogelbescherming Nederland). There is a close cooperation with the Dutch Birdlife partner Vogelbescherming Nederland, e.g. as a member of the National Ramsar Committee. The Dutch government has provided financial support to several wetland projects, both in Europe and in developing countries.

Wetlands International was also contracted to draw up an overview of the conservation status of peatlands in the BBI-Matra countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including a picture of the Dutch ecological footprint on peatlands in CEE (Quick Scan of peatlands). WI also contributed to the seminar on 15 years of cooperation between Russia and the Netherlands.

In addition the Netherlands cooperate with some other IOPs, also on other issues than on wetlands.

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?

CBD

The cooperation between CBD and Ramsar is satisfying. The Netherlands is happy with existing synergies and the role of Ramsar according to the joint work programme. The same goes for the arrangements regarding streamlining of reporting to the two conventions and the increasing cooperation on CEPA activities

WHC:

In February 2008, Germany and the Netherlands have nominated the German-Dutch Wadden Sea as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The nominated World Natural Heritage Site covers existing protected areas, in Germany the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park and the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park; in the Netherlands it covers the area under the corresponding key planning decision (PKB).

UNESCO and its advisory body IUCN (the World Conservation Union) will review the application. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee is expected to reach a decision on the Wadden Sea's inscription in the World Heritage List by mid 2009.

CITES:

No direct relationship for Dutch species, but there are of course links with foreign wetland species such as sturgeon and crocodiles. Increased cooperation between CITES focal points and focal points of other MEA's, including Ramsar, may lead to further enhanced synergies in the case of inter alia wetland species.

UNFCCC:

No direct relationship between Ramsar and UNFCCC in the Netherlands, although, developments on coastal protection and river forelands to adapt to climate change (sea level rise and increased river flows) are related to UNFCCC policies.

UNCCD:

The Dutch international policy on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is in line with the Ramsar convention and its new 10 year's strategy (UNCCD National Action Programme - NAPs and Regional Environmental Centres - RECs). The Netherlands supports global and regional developments, such as national strategies for economical growth (e.g. the upcoming Green Wall for Sahara Initiative under the EU-African Strategic Partnership). Other supported projects are: integration of management on wetlands-drylands (e.g. Niger Delta Mali – biodiversity, irrigation and pastoral husbandry).

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)?

The Netherlands is striving to implement Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive jointly in order to enhance the quality of ecosystems, including wetlands.

The Water Boards in the Netherlands (Waterschappen) combine water quality and water quantity management. The links between wetlands and the new Dutch Policy programme on Biodiversity (Beleidsprogramma Biodiversiteit) were mentioned in section D.

The discussions on climate change stimulates the Netherlands to further increase the focus on issues such as sustainable energy production, biodiversity and ecological networks and connectivity, which is reflected both in Dutch national and international policies.

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

Nature conservation in the Netherlands is largely based on policies on the National Ecological Network, Natura 2000 and the WFD. In addition to this, the Ramsar Convention has an added value as described under section D. This includes, besides national aspects, the role of Ramsar to protect networks of wetlands at the flyway (and global) level, which is essential for the quality of European sites as well. This role of Ramsar, but mutatis mutandis also of CMS and AEWA, can hardly be over estimated.

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 ...]”

1.1.1:

The inventory of wetlands was started in 1996 and completed in 1998. 100 % of the country is covered in the inventory and 42 wetlands of international importance (according to Ramsar criteria) have been designated as Ramsar sites (in the last report the number of 43 areas was mentioned; this has changed because of a combination of areas, as can be found in the Ramsar Information Sheets).

The application of standard wetland inventory methodologies is in progress. In the last three years the intention was to standardise the information about all wetlands in the inventory. For the EU Birds and Habitats Directives all inventory data will be updated every 3 to 6 years. In the summer of 2007 the second Habitats Directive Report has been sent to the European Commission. All Ramsar sites are protected areas under these Directives. The development of a geographic GIS database is completed for all Ramsar sites. The above mentioned inventory does not cover the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. In this group of islands another six sites are Ramsar sites.

There is no complete inventory of wetlands for the Dutch Antilles yet.

1.1.2:

Information about the Ramsar sites are collected in the EU Natura 2000-database. De Gegevensautoriteit Natuur in oprichting (the National Authority for data concerning nature, information, <http://www.gegevensautoriteitnatuur.nl/>) will act as a broker in nature data within the Netherlands. This authority will have the following tasks:

- it has to make sure that companies and (local) governments have relevant data available in time, to be able to make the proper decisions,
- to strengthen the data infrastructure for quick use in practice, for this purpose a national database flora and fauna is developed
- to coordinate the cooperation between parties involved in the field of data collecting and using.

In addition, every citizen can find information on (protected) species on two websites:

The Dutch Species Catalogue provides a current and comprehensive overview of Dutch biodiversity. It is based on the data gathered by experts in various aspects of flora and fauna (<http://www.nederlandsesoorten.nl/nlsr/nlsr/english.html>).

The ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality has a website on which the status of protection of species (which rules, acts and laws are applicable on which species) can be found (<http://www.minlnv.nederlandsesoorten.nl/Inv.db/Inv.db/home.html>).

For protected areas another website is available:

<http://www.synbiosys.alterra.nl/natura2000/gebiedendatabase.aspx>

Here also the protection under Ramsar can be found. As an example the following links lead to the Ramsar Information Sheet for the Oostelijke Vechtplassen.

<http://www.synbiosys.alterra.nl/natura2000/gebiedendatabase.aspx?subj=gebwetlands&groep=7&id=3NL036>

<http://www.wetlands.org/reports/index.cfm?siteref=3NL036>

<http://www.wetlands.org/reports/ris/3NL036en.pdf>

The Kennisnetwerk Ontwikkeling en Beheer Natuurkwaliteit – OBN (Knowledge network Development and Management Nature Quality), previous known as 'Survival Plan for Woodland and Nature' was drawn up in 1989. The OBN is the execution of so called effect oriented measures, i.e. for shallow raised bogs, fens and poorly buffered surface waters. This plan, under which researchers, policy makers and site managers work together closely, is an important achievement.

The Natuurbalans (Nature Balance) (<http://www.rivm.nl/en/milieu/>) is an annual assessment of the natural environment and landscape in The Netherlands. It monitors policy developments in the field of landscape and natural environment and gives a view on emerging perspectives. It is produced by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP). The conclusions of the annual Nature Balance Reports are taken into account when drafting new nature and water related policy documents.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is also working with a system called Wettelijke Onderzoeks Taken Informatievoorziening Natuur in oprichting (Legal Research Tasks Information provision Nature under development (WOT-IN)) to carry out the obligations within the framework of national and international legislation and requirements.

1.1.3:

This requirement is fulfilled with the obligatory regular reports related to the Birds & Habitats Directives. The previous Habitats Directive report (2001 – 2006) was sent to the European Commission in September 2007. The next Birds Directive report (2005 – 2007) will be sent to the European Commission in September 2008. The information in these reports can be obtained through the Ramsar focal point (ministry of LNV).

1.1.4:

The previous Habitats Directive report describes the years 2001-2006 which includes both the triennium of the last Ramsar report and (most of) the triennium of this report. The Birds Directive report is drawn up every three years, but this report does not include information on the ecological characteristics of the wetlands.

Although the formal reports do not allow yet for conclusions, ecological data have been collected on a great number of sites. Therefore, although not always in a standardised manner, relevant information on these sites is available.

Many species of wintering and passing water birds as well as birds that breed in the Netherlands are counted through monitoring programmes. A period of three years time is too short to detect changes. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland (a Dutch organisation on bird research) collects and analyses these data in order to be able to determine changes in the longer term (In Dutch: <http://www.sovon.nl/default.asp?id=25> and <http://www.cbs.nl/nl-NL/menu/methoden/dataverzameling/netwerk-ecologische-monitoring.htm>).

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

No further remarks

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?	A - Yes
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:

In the Netherlands wetland policy is a prominent but integrated part of general nature and biodiversity policy. National Wetland Policy is the chapter 'Water Programme' in the second Nature Policy Document (Nature for People, People for nature, 2000). The Dutch National Ecological Network (EHS), which includes wetlands, is also an integral part of the Dutch Spatial Planning Strategy (the legal basis on Dutch spatial planning, approved by Parliament in 2007, under the new 'Wet op de Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Spatial Planning Act, <http://international.vrom.nl/pagina.html?id=7351>) in 2008.

The Third Policy document on the Wadden Sea - a key national spatial planning decision is operational since January 2007.

The PKB Ruimte voor de Rivier (Room for the Rivers, national spatial river planning process for a region) for the area covering the major rivers was established in 2006 (<http://www.ruimtevoorderivier.nl/files/Files/brochures/EMAB%20PBK%20Engels.pdf>).

Under the new Nature Protection Act (October 2005) sustainable use of protected areas (including wetlands of international importance) is required.

The water policy of the Netherlands' Government is described in the 'Fourth National Policy Document on Water Management'. This policy sets out a new strategy under the name of integrated water management and includes flood protection, agriculture, ecology, public water supplies, transport, recreation and the fishing industry. The Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (V&W) has prepared a new governmental plan for water management 'Watervisie, Nederland veroveren op de toekomst, Kabinetsvisie op het waterbeleid' (2007), also to be implemented through

the Spatial Planning Act.

The 'Water Vision' describes the direction policy developments should take in the coming years in order to make and keep the Netherlands climate-proof in the long term (e.g. through measures on the river Rhine and its branches).

For example, the Water Vision emphasises the need to cooperate in order to adapt water policy to expected changes in climate. In addition, the government intends to make a greater contribution to knowledge sharing with developing countries, as well as to enhanced involvement of the general public in water management questions, for instance, by giving 'water' a more prominent place in education.

http://www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/english/topics/water/water_and_the_future/water_vision/ and http://www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/english/Images/0418%2E1037%20Brochure%20Watervisie%20ENG1_tcm249-212287.pdf

In 2000 the European Water Framework Directive entered into force (<http://www.kaderrichtlijnwater.nl/english/organisation/>).

The transposition of this legislation to national level took place in 2003. In the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives for the protection of the aquatic ecology, specific protection of unique and valuable habitats, protection of drinking water resources, and protection of bathing water are integrated at a European level for each river basin. The Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water management is the main responsible body for the implementation, but the Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality is working closely together with it on the implementation. On areas which are protected by both the WFD and Natura 2000, the link between both policies is sought.

For the Netherlands Antilles a policy is set out in 'Nature Conservation Policy of the Netherlands Antilles - At the dawn of a new millennium. 2000-2006', which aims to protect and conserve the biological diversity of the islands and their surrounding seas. <http://www.mina.vomil.an/Beleid/NBP-NedAnt.html> - Summary)

1.2.2:

Dutch national policies do not explicitly mention the WSSD target related to wetlands, but implicitly there are many links between these targets and a range of Dutch policies:

Reverse the trend in natural resource degradation.

Greening trade flows is one of the priorities of the Dutch international biodiversity policy. So far there has been a focus on coffee, soy, and palm oil. The Netherlands has provided support to the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and developed criteria for exclusion of palm oil produced on peatlands. The same goes for fisheries including also initiatives for sustainable shrimps/prawns. The Netherlands is a big importer of peat for horticulture. In 2007 the 'Quick scan on peatlands', prepared by Wetlands International for LNV, gave insight in the Dutch ecological footprint and on the conservation status in general.

The focus in the new biodiversity policy programme (see section 2 D) is now on wood, soy, palm oil, peat and biofuels, while under the marine theme sustainable fisheries are promoted.

Sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Agricultural policy is part of EU policies, which are gradually greened over time; rural development (CAP 2nd pillar) provide for - inter alia - agri-environmental programmes.

Develop integrated land management and water use plans.

In general there is a good integration between the various planning systems; in addition integrated land consolidation programmes ('Landinrichting') take all interests into account.

Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans.

Water management has been subject to planning cycles both at the national and regional levels for many years.

Intensify water pollution prevention.

Water Quality management has made great progress over the years. Lakes that lost their quality in the 1960s regained their quality in the 1990s and beyond.

A range of actions for the marine environment (including coastal areas = wetlands), including the establishment of protected areas and promoting sustainable fisheries.

Protection of the marine environment and making fisheries more sustainable is subject to a comprehensive programme and one of the top priorities in the new Biodiversity Policy Plan 2008-2012, adopted in March 2007.

1.2.3:

The Netherlands does not have a special document on its sustainable development strategy, although the set of different but mutually coherent government policy documents together can be considered to be an equivalent. The Netherlands does not have a poverty reduction strategy (not applicable). On the other hand poverty alleviation is at the heart of Dutch international development policies, including its biodiversity component.

1.2.4:

The Waterboards (Waterschappen) are responsible for the monitoring of both water quality and quantity, based on agreements with the regional authorities/provinces (e.g. water level decisions and water quality agreements).

The functions of areas in spatial planning documents are reflected in decisions on water level management.

1.2.5:

To ensure the integration of water aspects into the spatial planning process, 'Water Assessment' has been introduced in 2001. Water Assessment is a process in which water managers are involved actively in the development of any spatial plan from the earliest stages on. When Environmental Impact Assessment or Strategic Environmental Assessment (as prescribed by the EU) has to take place as well, both assessments partly take place in parallel and provide each other with information.

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

No further remarks

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]	A - Yes
1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4}	A - Yes
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	A - Yes
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

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

1.3.1:

An interesting study has been done on the relation between the Water Framework Directive and regional economies: 'Water flows and cash flows' <http://www.tripleee.nl/English/index.html>.

In deciding the course Dutch government wants to take regarding the Water Framework Directive and The Birds and Habitats Directives (Natura 2000), costs play a significant role. In the Netherlands it is usual to calculate both costs and benefits and to try to balance the two. Commissioned by the Vereniging Natuurmonumenten, Knowledge Centre Triple E has mapped out the costs and also the expected revenues of the Water Framework Directive and Natura 2000.¹

In addition Wageningen University & Research has conducted studies on water valuation, which may also prove useful for wetland conservation.

In the research project on sustainable shellfish culture (PRODUS, <http://www.produ.wur.nl/>) information is being developed for the shellfish sector and for scientific bodies on the interaction between biodiversity and fisheries, in order to promote sustainable fishery methods.

1.3.2:

Special attention is given to poverty reduction in most of the projects in developing countries under the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity of the Netherlands, such as in the Partners for Water programme (Water for Food and Ecosystems) and in projects funded by the ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs has funded the Wetlands & Poverty reduction project and the Central Kalimantan peatland project of Ramsar’s IOP Wetlands International. In addition a number of smaller projects have been funded by the Netherlands. See also Wetlands International Annual Review 2006.

1.3.3:

Although the guidelines are not implemented explicitly, Dutch nature policies can be considered to be largely in line with this guidance.

Good examples in The Netherlands about peatland reconstruction can be found in the northern part of this country (e.g. Fochteloër Veen - <http://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/natmm-internet/natmm/natuurgebieden.jsp?n=35771> and Dwingelderveld - <http://www.nationaalpark-dwingelderveld.nl/>, both in Dutch).

In the 'Quick Scan on peatlands' an analysis of the conservation status of Central and Eastern European peatlands has been made for LNV, by Wetlands International, In 2007 a peatland conservation project by Wetlands International, supported from BBI-Matra, has started also.

1.3.4:

In relation to the so called Belvedere project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, it has been decided that 20 'Nationale Landschappen' are designated ('National Landscapes', <http://www.nationalelandschappen.nl/> in Dutch; <http://www.narcis.info/research/RecordID/OND1306516/Language/en> with links in English).

Cultural aspects were of importance in the designation of the Nationale Landschappen. The 'kernkwaliteiten' (core qualities) are also chosen on the basis of cultural history in for example the South-west of Zeeland. An other good example is the 'Groene Hart' with specific core qualities (<http://www.nationalelandschappen.nl/landschap.php?id=5>, in Dutch).

Five Ramsar sites are part of the Nationale Landschappen. Information about the Belvedere project in Dutch is available at <http://www.belvedere.nu/page.php?section=09&pID=3&mID=3&dID=32> (in Dutch).

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

1.4.1:

Although the guidance is not implemented explicitly, Dutch nature policies can be considered to be largely in line with this guidance.

Under the Dutch National Nature Policy plan (Nature for People, People for Nature, 2000) nature restoration, including wetland restoration, is one of the goals that will contribute to the Dutch National Ecological Network (by 2020: 730,000 ha).

As one of the several examples, in one of the main nature areas in the Dutch Delta (South-west Holland), in the Biesbosch more than 1000 ha of arable land is now being reformed to marshland. In one part of the project, the Noordwaard, 1,300,000 m³ clay is being removed to realise 600 ha of new nature together with new river beds. The location of these new streams are based on ancient maps. The goal of this project is to achieve a lower risk for flooding in one of the upstream cities (Gorinchem) together with creating new nature / marshland. Through this work the water level in the river Merwede will decrease by 17 cm. This solution (according to the techniques of 'Room for Rivers') is supposed to be cheaper than dike improvement.

Below some relevant websites with information about this project:

<http://www.nationaalpark.nl/docs/200608091253582292.pdf> (English)

http://www.biesbosch.nu/magazine/0307/artikel_noordwaardproject.htm (in Dutch)

<http://www.werkendam.nl/index.php?simaction=content&mediumid=1&pagid=598> (in Dutch)

<http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/NR/rdonlyres/C0F55D8C-688C-4EBD-A82C-DAE754AF6C44/12713/21991.pdf> (in Dutch)

Many other examples can be found in the river forelands, where measures to enhance water flows are often combined with nature (including wetland) development projects.

1.4.2:

In the Netherlands most CEPA-activities are nature-related in general, not wetland-specific, except in

site-related information centres.

The programme JNVG ('youth, nature, food and health') is designed to improve the youth awareness of the value of food and a green environment. Activities within the framework of this programme include:

- A policy on Natuur en Milieu Educatie (NME, 'Nature and Environmental Education'): The NME-policy is one of the most important pillars to enhance the awareness for nature and the environment among the youth.
- Maatschappelijke stages ('social internships'): the Dutch government aims to provide 10,000 'green' social internships for secondary education.
- Staatsbosbeheer (National Forest Service), Natuurmonumenten (biggest site-managing NGO) and the National Parks provide information and education on nature. See (in Dutch):
 - <http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/doen/zoeken/lijt.asp?AFA=1>, ·
 - http://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/natmm-internet/de_natuur_in/wildzoekers.htm, ·
 - http://www.nationaalpark.nl/detail_page.phtml?&publish=Y&author=&lang=en&text02=np_edu_voorl&username=gast@nationaalpark.nl&password=9999&groups=LNV&lang_help=&lang=en&nav=parken

1.4.3:

Although the guidance is not implemented explicitly, Dutch nature policies can be considered to be largely in line with this guidance.

Coastal zones in the Netherlands are extremely important for nature conservation as well as for many other functions. Therefore careful planning is very important.

1.4.4:

The Netherlands has not (yet) formulated domestic measures for implementing the Kyoto Protocol which affect wetland conservation.

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

No further remarks

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:

See above, inter alia, the example of the Biesbosch (1.4.1.). Also within Natura 2000 restoration/rehabilitation objectives have been formulated and are in execution, e.g. through LIFE (EU subsidy). Other examples about nature restoration projects (LIFE), in Dutch:

- <http://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/natmm-internet/natnh/websites.jsp>
- <http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/pagina.asp?id=%7B08BBDBD6-5088-43D1-ABCB-62694B22D14D%7D>

Many other restoration projects have been implemented, both habitat restoration and restoration of the hydrological conditions, as well as water purification projects (with spectacular results in e.g. the Veluwemeer - <http://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/ijg/water/projecten/natuurontwikkeling/index.jsp> - in Dutch).

Furthermore, recently 'Kennisnetwerk Ontwikkeling + Beheer Natuurkwaliteit – OBN (Knowledge network on Development and Management for Nature Quality)' has been established: [http://www.natuurbeheer.nu/Subsidies/Nederland/Effect_Gerichte_Maatregelen_\(EGM\)/](http://www.natuurbeheer.nu/Subsidies/Nederland/Effect_Gerichte_Maatregelen_(EGM)/) (in Dutch).

1.5.2:

Although the guidance is not implemented explicitly, Dutch nature policies can be considered to be largely in line with this guidance.

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

1.6.1:

In October 2007 the policy programme on invasive species was sent to Parliament. This policy document applies the three stage hierarchical approach. Prevention is preferred because alien invasive species control is costly and less effective when the species are able to establish populations and disperse. If entry has already taken place, actions should be undertaken to prevent the establishment and spread of alien species. The preferred response is then to eradicate the populations when small and feasible. If not, control measures should be implemented to minimize dispersal of the species in question. In the phase of eradication and control the Netherlands will consider the feasibility of the eradication or control program (efficiency and effectiveness), the negative side effects on the environment (including other species) and the species should pose serious threats to native biodiversity.

An independent Coordinating Body Invasive Alien Species will be established. This body will be operational from January 2009. The advisory body will advise the Department of Nature of the ministry, either requested or unrequested, on possible alien invasive species and their impacts. It will play a key role in the signalling of alien species, in analysing risks, in monitoring and in education. The advisory body will also propose appropriate measures.

The Netherlands prohibits in principle the releasing of animals into the wild through the Flora and Fauna Act, but for reintroduction of indigenous species exemptions can be made. This act also prohibits the possession and transportation of certain species.

1.6.2:

This is partly done and partly it is still under consideration, inter alia, regarding the stakeholders to be involved.

On invasive water plants there is an ongoing debate with stakeholders.

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

No further remarks

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]

B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

No, however Natura 2000 includes more wetland areas than those designated as Ramsar sites.

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

No further remarks

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?	B - No

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:
Not yet, but agreements on this issue have been made. They will be sent in as soon as possible.

2.2.2:
Instead the Netherlands makes use of 'het beschermd gebiedsregister' (the protected areas database) to fill in the information sheets.

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator questions:

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

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: The Netherlands is working on the implementation of the EU Birds Directive and the EU Habitats Directive, resulting in the Natura 2000 network. For these Directives the Netherlands is currently defining the ecological conservation status of the sites (including Ramsar sites). When this will be finished for all the sites the measures to reach the sustainable conservation status will be analysed. All Ramsar areas are part of Natura 2000.

2.3.2: For a series of Ramsar sites management plans or strategies of the site managing organisations are in place and fully applied. Besides, for all the Ramsar sites, which are all also Natura 2000 sites, Natura 2000 management plans are under preparation.

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan will be further developed into a management plan in accordance with the requirements of the relevant EU-directives.

2.3.3: There are no management committees. The Netherlands however do have advisory committees for the Natura 2000 management plans.

2.3.4: Through the Programma Beheer (Management Programme; the Dutch incentive scheme for nature areas) and the Waterschappen (Waterboards) the quality of nature areas (including Ramsar sites) is regularly evaluated.

Also the site managing organisations have an internal quality assessment system. These programmes were not set up especially for Ramsar, but they are supportive to the Ramsar objectives.

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

2.4.1:

See 2.3.4.

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

No further remarks

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]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

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

2.5.1:

Four Ramsar sites: Westerschelde (Scheldt estuary), Wadden Sea, North Sea Coastal Zone, Bargerveen, and furthermore the rivers: Rhine, Scheldt and Meuse.

2.5.2:

Scheldt Estuary

The Scheldt Estuary Development Project, a joint initiative of Flemish and Dutch governments, will make a solid, broadly supported Development Plan to guarantee sustainable development in the Scheldt estuary.

The Scheldt Estuary Development Plan 2010 focuses on the following ambitions:

- Safety against flooding,
- Accessibility of Flemish and Dutch Ports in the region
- Naturalness of the delta

<http://www.ontwikkelingsschets2010.nl/www/scripts/content.php?pageID=1000&cBlockID=47>

Developments

De Ontwikkelingsschets 2010 (Development outline 2010) has lead to one (of the four) Scheldt treaties. By now 26 projects have been formulated in (preparation of) execution. The majority of these can take place in Flanders or the Netherlands separately, although the estuary as a whole and related planning are transboundary.

Where it regards cross-border projects, last year the following has been done:

- Work was done on a project plan for the cross-border nature projects Zwin and Hedwige-Prosperpolder;

- The joint plan for the widening of the waterway was ready in the autumn of 2007;

- A start has been made in formulating a joint integrated monitoring programme to monitor the effects regarding the execution of the Ontwikkelingsschets 2010.

Wadden Sea

In 1982, the Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea was signed, which established the Trilateral Cooperation between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. The Cooperation aims to promote the coordination of the activities and measures of the three countries with regard to the protection of the Wadden Sea region as a whole including its fauna (marine, terrestrial and avian) and flora. Special special emphasis is put on resting and breeding areas for seals, and on areas important as resting, feeding, breeding, or moulting grounds for water birds. To support this cooperation, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat was established in 1987.

As a result of this long-term cooperation and the subsequent establishment of harmonised counting

and analysing programmes for migratory waterbirds, reports on trend analyses are becoming available. (<http://cwss.www.de>).

The Wadden Sea plan will be revised in the next three years.

At the 10th Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea, in 2005, it was agreed that the Cooperation should be evaluated. In 2007 this evaluation revealed that the Wadden Sea now enjoys a level of environmental protection and wise management that is unprecedented in Europe compared with other transboundary wetlands of international importance.

In February 2008, Germany and the Netherlands have nominated the German-Dutch Wadden Sea as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

North Sea Coastal Zone

The North Sea Coastal Zone north of the Wadden Sea forms part of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation Area. The trilateral management is described in the trilateral Wadden Sea Plan.

River Meuse

Please see: IRC Meuse, International Commission for the Protection of the Meuse <http://www.cipm-icbm.be/> (in French; in Dutch: <http://www.cipm-icbm.be/page.asp?id=35&langue=NL>)

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator questions:

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

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

B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

The Netherlands is not involved in one of these official initiatives in the framework of the Convention. The Antilles as a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is involved in the Cartagena Convention (Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region).

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

No further remarks

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	A - Yes
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}	B - No
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	E - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

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

3.1.1:

There is close and frequent contact with focal point of CITES, CBD, CMS (including AEWA), Bern, WHC and, indirectly, UNFCCC

3.1.2:

No, this not necessary, because most focal points work in the same department (department of Nature of LNV; one in the ministry of Foreign Affairs-CBD- and one in the ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning & the Environment- UNFCCC) and therefore have a regular contacts.

3.1.3:

Not applicable for the Netherlands. However, the Netherlands have supported several wetland projects in Africa, mostly implemented by Wetlands International. A new project in the Inner Niger Delta (follow-up of ‘the Niger a Lifeline’), developed by a consortium, is about to start.

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1:

A number of Ramsar sites are twinned, for instance through EUROSITE, such as:

'De Boschplaat' (part of 'Wadden Sea' site) to 'Spiekeroog Ostplate' (Germany);

'Dollard' (part of 'Wadden Sea' site) to 'Elisabeth-Außengroden' (Germany);

'Zwanenwater' to 'Titchwell Marsh' (UK) and 'Platier d'Oye' (France);

'Schiermonnikoog' (belongs partly to 'Wadden Sea' and partly to

'Waddeneilanden/Noordzeekustzone/Breebaart ') to 'Slowinski National Park' (Poland);

'De Weerribben' to 'Ranworth Staite' (UK) and 'Le Marais Audomarois' (France)

'Bargerveen' to 'Clara Bog' (Ireland)

'IJsselmeer' to 'Lake Peipsi' (Estonia/Russia)

Apart from twinning arrangements between sites, bilateral as well as trilateral cooperation on nature conservation (including wetland conservation) is being implemented with a range of countries. See also section 2B.

In Europe MoU's with Russia, Ukraine, Poland and Hungary in conjunction with the BBI-MATRA programmes have led to a great number of wetland conservation projects in CEE-countries, Turkey and Morocco.

Possibilities for bilateral cooperation with China in the field of exchange of knowledge and experience are being explored.

Outside Europe several projects have been implemented by Wetlands International with financial support from the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Vogelbescherming Nederland (the Dutch partner of Birdlife International) has set up partnerships with (BirdLife)partners in e.g. Ukraine, Morocco, Tunisia, Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau to work on organisation development and capacity building, as well as supporting conservation projects in wetlands important for migratory birds, using a flyway perspective.

3.2.2:

See: question 1.1.2.

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

No further remarks

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.1.1:

The management plans for the Natura 2000 areas are being drawn up in close cooperation with the local stakeholders.

4.1.2:

Farmers (and reed cutters) are actively involved in management of certain wetland areas. Nature management in semi-natural nature areas often includes traditional agricultural practices.

Nature reserve managers and Vogelbescherming Nederland (BirdLife Netherlands) work with reed cutters and promote more bird friendly and less intensive management in peat marshes (with some local success). A joint strategic vision for the reed sector was presented to the Minister of LNV.

Agri-environmental programme (management agreements with farmers): in grassland areas (usually not Ramsar sites, but often important for water birds) the agri-environmental programme is applied, as a part of the Dutch Rural Development Plan in the framework of EU-CAP. The payment criteria are based on the EU rural development regulation, in line with the WTO Agreement on Agriculture.

4.1.3:

The Natura 2000 management plans have to be developed in close cooperation with the stakeholders. This is not developed especially for Ramsar, but will support the Ramsar objectives. See for further information the answers on the questions: 2.3.3, 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.

4.1.4:

Within the Belvedere project special trainings are organised. For more information (in Dutch) see at <http://www.belvedere.nu/index.php?section=01&p=english>.

The last years The Netherlands also participated in the LanceWad Project, which finished in 2007 (<http://www.belvedere.nu/page.php?section=03&pID=1&mID=6> (in Dutch)). This trans boundary project generated a lot of information on the Wadden Sea and cultural heritage.

4.1.5:

In the management plans there will be a link with other policies in the area, including policies on cultural aspects of the landscape.

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

No further remarks

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]	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

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

4.2.1:

December 2007 a covenant on yachting-recreation in the Wadden Sea was signed by national and regional governments, private parties representing different recreational groups in the Wadden Sea and nature protection organisations. The objective of this covenant is to manage this recreational use of the Wadden Sea and to develop sustainable forms of yachting-recreation, respecting the natural carrying capacity of the area.

In 2002 the Wadden Sea Forum was established as a forum for all the Dutch, German and Danish stakeholders that live and work in the Wadden Sea Region. In 2005, this Forum elaborated a sustainability strategy for the benefit of the inhabitants and of the natural values of the region, which was presented to the nature and environment ministers of the three Wadden Sea Countries at their 10th Trilateral Governmental Conference.

The Dutch National Ecological Network (EHS) includes all Ramsar sites; the EHS is integrated in de ‘Nota Ruimte’ (National Spatial Planning Strategy). De Nota Ruimte is ‘translated’ in the ‘Wet op de Ruimtelijke Ordening’ (Spatial Planning Act). Based on this act a compensation system has been developed. In addition the Flora- en Faunawet (Flora and Fauna Act) and the Natuurbeschermingswet 1998 (Nature Conservation Act) enforce the wise use of designated nature areas and protected species.

Legal measures regarding wise use are applicable for everybody, including the private sector, and enforced through the Nature Conservation Act and the Flora & Fauna Act.

4.2.2:

As an example: in wetland areas such as the Weerribben, the Biesbosch, Nieuwkoopse Plassen and in many other areas a cooperation exists between e.g. restaurants and nature management organisations. This for example in combination with the renting of canoes, rowing boats and electric boats.

In addition, a good cooperation has emerged between several nature conservation organisations and the private sector, including big companies and the Nationale Postcode Loterij (National postal code lottery, <http://www.postcodeloterij.nl/GoedeDoelen.htm>, in Dutch).

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

No further remarks

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}	A - Yes

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:

Based on Programma Beheer (a nature management policy programme) several incentive schemes have been combined in two incentive systems, one for nature areas (nature organizations and private owners of nature areas) and the other one farmers (the agri-environmental programme). These incentive systems are related to the Dutch Rural Development Plan, which in turn is cofinanced by the EU, especially the agri-environmental section of it (Subsidieregeling Agrarisch Natuurbeheer, SAN).

An other policy process is the encouragement to enhance the social acceptance (maatschappelijk draagvlak). This is done by a small grants system for NGO's (Regeling Draagvlak Natuur) and national programs for communication, education, participation and Awareness (CEPA).

This includes activities concerning environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD), as well as supportive measures for environmental (nature) friendly activities, eco-consumerism, CSR, sustainable tourism and recreation etc. In the Netherlands a good level of information and tools is available, from visitor centres, information bulletins and websites.

Regarding mechanical cockle fisheries in the Wadden Sea, after extensive studies on the ecological effects, the Dutch government decided to ban these fisheries. The fishermen were financially compensated.

In the fresh water areas, such as the IJsselmeer, and in the North Sea Coastal Zone agreements have been made with local fishermen to reduce the impact of the fisheries.

The supportscheme 'Uitkoop van vergunningen en vistuig voor de IJsselmeervisserij' (Buying out of licenses and fishing gear for fishery on the IJsselmeer) aims to decrease the fishery on the IJsselmeer by buying out the licenses and/or the brands connected to the fishing gear. See also: http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/peche-2005/n251-05.pdf, in Dutch.

Reed cutting issues: de Algemene Vereniging voor de Rietcultuur in Nederland (Dutch Union for the Reed Management) published the 'Toekomstvisie voor de rietcultuur in de Nederlandse laagveenmoerasgebieden' (Long term vision on reed management in the Dutch fenlands in 2006, <http://www.buronatuurpluswater.nl/natuurlijkrietsnijden.pdf> in Dutch).

4.3.2:

In the past agricultural support under the EU Common Agricultural Policy promoted the intensification of agriculture, with an impact on biodiversity and on water quality. Since 1992 successive reforms of the CAP have changed this very much.

With regard to the impacts of palm oil development in South-east Asia on tropical rain forests and peatlands and the resulting high emissions of CO₂ from deforestation and peat oxidation, as reported by Wetlands International, the Netherlands has under its new incentive mechanism for sustainable energy production (Stimuleringsregeling Duurzame Energieproductie - SDE) excluded palm oil until appropriate certification systems are in place.

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator questions:

<p>4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii}</p> <p>[If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.2 Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the subnational, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? {r.9.iii.iii}</p> <p>[Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.3 Have actions been taken to communicate and share information cross-sectorally on wetland issues amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {r9.iii.v}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.4 Have national campaigns, programmes, and projects been carried out to raise community awareness of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {r9.vi.i}</p> <p>[If:</p> <p>a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or</p> <p>b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values,</p> <p>please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>	<p>C - Planned</p>
<p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

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

4.4.1:

Both the CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Points (NFP) are members of the Dutch National Ramsar Committee.

4.4.2:

See question 1.4.2: One of the current relevant activities is the running programme 'Jeugd, Natuur, Voedsel en Gezondheid' (Youth, Nature, Food and Health), this includes wetlands.

This programme was not developed especially for Ramsar, but it does support the Ramsar objectives.

The International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) is initiated and supported by the governments of the three states working together in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. The overall goal of the IWSS is to enhance the awareness on the Wadden Sea as a shared natural and cultural heritage and to support the understanding for a long-term protection and sustainable management of the Wadden Sea as a whole by translating the ideas behind the cooperation on the Wadden Sea into the education of the future generation.

4.4.3:

Within the Natura 2000 implementation process extensive communication and sharing of information amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies and other stakeholders on wetland issues takes place. For Ramsar issues the Dutch National Ramsar Committee was established for this purpose.

Regarding data sharing, see question: 1.1.2.

4.4.4:

Apart from many projects, programmes and websites a public awareness campaign 'Nederland leeft met water' (The Netherlands Lives with Water) was developed. See: <http://www.nederlandleeftmetwater.nl/>, in Dutch.

4.4.5:

Vogelbescherming Nederland (the Dutch partner of Birdlife International) has organised a seminar for the IBA-caretakers in 2008. All the Dutch Ramsar sites are also Natura 2000-sites, for which management plans have to be prepared within 3 years. The seminar focussed on how IBA-caretakers could participate in the process and preparation of these management plans.

Preparation of WWD-2009 is being considered by the Dutch National Ramsar Committee.

4.4.6:

Current Education centres at Ramsar sites:

Oosterschelde (2), Wieden, Weerribben, Verdrongen land van Saeftinghe, Wadden Sea together with Waddeneilanden / Noordzee kustzone / Breebaart (location Schiermonnikoog, Texel, Terschelling, Vlieland, Ameland), Biesbosch (3), Alde Feanen, Lauwersmeer, Groote Peel, Grevelingen, Oostvaardersplassen.

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.5.1: The Netherlands supported many projects. A list with projects will be sent separately. See for more information: www.proforis.nl

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

No further remarks

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}	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 ...]"

4.6.1:

Contributions have been paid yearly but sometimes later in the year due to -inter alia- the billing system and/or administrative circumstances.

4.6.2:

However, considerable project support has been given to IOP activities on wetlands (see the separate sent overview of supported wetland projects 2005 – 2007).

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

No further remarks

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>A - Yes</p>
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

4.7.1:

The whole former report has been checked and the answers have been updated.

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

No further remarks

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>A - Yes</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 ...]”

4.8.1:

Although it is known in the Netherlands which institutions are responsible for which laws and regulations, no complete review has been made.

4.8.2:

In the Netherlands the National Ramsar Committee includes delegates from different NGO's and observers from the government. Participation of other stakeholders (than conservation bodies) such as the 'Union of water boards', and private sector representatives is still under consideration.

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator question:

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

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.9.1-4.9.2

4.9.1:

There is a good cooperation with the (Dutch branches of) IOPs; Vogelbescherming (the Dutch partner of Birdlife International), IUCN (HQ, ROfE and National Committee), WWF and with Wetlands International HQ.

4.9.2:

The cooperation mentioned in the previous question is mutual.

Assistance to IOPs: The Netherlands has funded many nature conservation projects implemented by NGO's. Most wetland projects were implemented by Wetlands International but a number also by other IOPs such as Birdlife International. Wetlands International in turn has contributed to activities of the Dutch government also.

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

No further remarks

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

Indicator questions:

<p>4.10.1 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? [If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.10.2 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention, including in the use of the Wise Use Handbooks, been made? {20.1.2}</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

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

4.10.1:

National: see 4.10.3.

Internationally:

The 'well-known RIZA-courses' as such have come to an end but in a different form (Training of Trainers) training goes on, now run by Wageningen International (the former IAC), part of Wageningen University & Research (WUR). Funding is drawn from different sources, inter alia research funds of the Dutch ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality (LNV) and, Dutch embassy funds and external funds as well.

RIZA has continued to run the secretariat of the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention until the end of 2007. The ministry of LNV will try to arrange a follow-up; in 2008 Deltares is in charge of the secretariat.

The International Course on African Wetland Management (ICAWM), formerly run by RIZA and known as the East African Wetland Management Course is an international training initiative for Wetland Managers and has now become an independent initiative.. It is a Ramsar Convention endorsed programme and is designed based on the Ramsar Management Guidelines.

The ICAWM has been developed in conjunction with Wetland Advisory and Training Centre RIZA-Rijkswaterstaat (RIZA-WATC) of the Netherlands and the International Agricultural Centre (IAC; now Wageningen International) contributed to especially the multi-stakeholder programme of the course.

4.10.2:

The formal education is assessed regularly. The quality of the nature managers is the responsibility of the nature management organisations.

4.10.3:

Regarding the wetlands in the Netherlands themselves, the nature managers are well trained by education (Wageningen University, Larenstein University of Professional Education), which are financially supported by LNV (Green education). The nature management organisations have their own well equipped education opportunities. The same goes for other organisations in the field of water management.

Vogelbescherming Nederland also provides courses for IBA-caretakers bound to wetlands, about the Dutch Nature Conservation Act and Natura 2000.

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

No further remarks