



## **NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Republic of Korea, October/November 2008).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 35<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

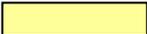
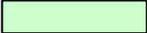
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2007); and
  - iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for the CBD for wetlands.

### **The structure of the COP10 National Report Format**

12. In line with Standing Committee Decisions SC35-21 and SC35-22, the COP10 National Report Format is in three sections.
13. **Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.
14. **Section 2** is a "free-text" section in which to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.
15. **Section 3** provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy, and with a "free-text" section under each Strategy in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of the Strategy and its indicators.

## Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP10 National Report Format

### IMPORTANT – READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

16. All three Sections of the COP10 National Report Format should be filled in, in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
17. The deadline for submission of the completed National Report Format is **31 March 2008**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received from Parties after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP10.
18. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
19. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the COP10 NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since it is the experience of the Secretariat that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.
20. In order to assist Contracting Parties in their provision of such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the "Additional implementation information" fields.
21. The Format is created as a "Form" in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to, and between, each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information. All other parts of the form are locked.
22. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form, and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
23. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the "Tab" key on the computer keyboard.
24. For a "free-text" field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow "free-text" box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box. This is because within the "Form" format there is limited facility to make editorial changes within the "free-text" box once text has been entered.
25. For each of the "Indicator questions" in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question asked in the indicator, but are in general of the form: "Yes", "No", "Partly", "In progress", etc.
26. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can provide this in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
27. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box, and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.

28. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given.
29. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP10NRF [Country] [date].
30. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by email, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, email: [dufour@ramsar.org](mailto: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**

<b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: NEW ZEALAND</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	Department of Conservation
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Mr Alastair Morrison
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Department of Conservation, PO Box 10420, Wellington, New Zealand
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+64 4 4710 726
<b>Email:</b>	amorrison@doc.govt.nz
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Ms Nicola Scott
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Department of Conservation, PO Box 10420, Wellington, New Zealand
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+64 4 4713 197/+64 4 471 3049 (fax)
<b>Email:</b>	nscott@doc.govt.nz
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	To be advised
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	
<b>Mailing address:</b>	
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Ms Jan Simmons
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Department of Conservation
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Private Bag 3072, Hamilton 3240
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+64 7 858 1010 / +64 7 858 1001 (fax)
<b>Email:</b>	jsimmons@doc.govt.nz
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Kevin Hackwell
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, PO Box 631, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+64 4 385 7374
<b>Email:</b>	k.hackwell@forestandbird.org.nz

## 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?

#### Inventory/mapping

The New Zealand Department of Conservation has made significant progress in establishing systems to map and assess freshwater systems nationally as part of the development of a Nature Heritage Management System (NHMS). Over time, NHMS will allow for the measurement and monitoring of status and trends across a number of ecosystem types including terrestrial freshwater ecosystems. NHMS is still in its establishment stage, but will provide management agencies with a transparent and robust information tool to assist with management decisions.

#### Arawai Kākāriki

In 2007, the New Zealand Government agreed to the allocation of \$2.2 million per annum for a wetland project targeting three wetland sites, two of which have Ramsar designation. The three sites include: Whangamarino, Ō Tū Wharekai (Ashburton Lakes/Upper Rangitata River) and Awarua Wetland/Waituna Lagoon. Initially this funding will be targeted at finding out, in more definitive detail, how the wetlands work, what the major threats are, and what the ecosystems contain in terms of species composition, so that baselines can be established and management effort targeted and monitored.

While some practical measures are being implemented straight away, the real key to the success of this programme will result from the scientific information that can drive appropriate management regimes, recognising that our knowledge of these complex systems is only partial at present. Another advantage of this programme is that successful techniques and information gained can be used to inform the management of a number of other wetland sites nationally.

Community involvement is vital to the ongoing conservation of the wetlands. Each site will establish a community advisory group and encourage local participation and initiatives within the framework of a long-term management strategy.

#### Awarua Wetland approval

In February 2008, New Zealand's Department of Conservation was notified by the Ramsar Secretariat of its decision to approve an application to extend the Waituna Ramsar site from around 3,500 ha to around 20,000ha and to rename it the Awarua Wetland. This Ramsar site is now the largest protected wetland complex in New Zealand. The extension includes not only Waituna but also the Awarua Plains, the New River Estuary, Toetoes Harbour and Spit and the Tiwai Peninsula, all renowned biodiversity sites.

This new Ramsar site covers a diverse range of natural habitats including: bog; swamp; forest; shrub land; saltmarsh; mudflats; estuaries; pools/tarns/lakes; rivers; lagoons; and sand dunes. It is home to many nationally threatened and uncommon plant and animal species; including unique sub-alpine plants and insects found at sea level, 81 different types of birds and a wide range of native fish that live in the sea, estuaries and rivers.

The Awarua Wetland has a cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional link to the Ngai

Tahu people and this was legally recognised in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. Iwi's (the tribe's) relationship with the area and dependence on it were, and still are, vital for the sustainable use of its precious resources. Iwi use and occupation of the area includes wahi tapu and wahi taonga (sacred sites and sacred treasures) all along its shores). It is also possible that particular sections of the wetlands were used for waiwhakaheketupapaku (water burial).

#### Manawatu

The Manawatu River Mouth and Estuary was designated as a Ramsar site on 25 July 2005. It covers some 200 hectares and has one of the most diverse range of birds to be seen at any one place in New Zealand - a total of 93 different species have been identified in the estuary. It is an area of salt marsh and mudflat and a prized feeding ground for many birds, including the migratory Eastern bar-tailed godwit, which flies all the way from Siberia to New Zealand to escape the harsh Northern winter.

The estuary is also permanent home to 13 bird species, six species of fish and four plant species all of which are threatened. It regularly supports about one percent of the world's population of wrybills.

The Manawatu Estuary Ramsar site is managed by Horizons Regional Council, Horowhenua District Council and the Department of Conservation.

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

##### Targeted research to inform broader site management

The mapping and monitoring systems being developed under NHMS, coupled with the research into management effectiveness that will result from the Arawai Kākāriki project will result in a significantly improved and transparent basis for decision making and prioritisation of wetland management.

##### Improved community involvement in all conservation but specifically wetland ecosystem management

Community awareness and involvement in the management of conservation generally, but wetland ecosystems more specifically, has increased at an exponential rate in New Zealand in recent years. This is exemplified by the proliferation of wetland restoration community groups. New Zealand has also experienced a significant increase in the number of volunteers assisting with the operational management of our rare and threatened sites, including wetland sites. The third biennial 'Wai Wetlands' Conference was held in Christchurch recently. It successfully brings together central and local government agencies, research organisations, NGO's and community groups to share knowledge and practical experiences of wetland restoration.

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

Wetland planning and management is under the jurisdiction of several agencies, although legislative control is primarily through the Resource Management Act 1991. Nevertheless, there continues to be a long-term decline in many wetlands, often due to development pressures in the surrounding landscapes. Land use changes and their associated impacts are the primary cause of concern.

A key central government policy initiative to address these and other issues is: 'Sustainable Development for New Zealand - Programme of Action 2003' (<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/node/15944>). Within this initiative, one of the four priority issues identified for action is 'water quality and allocation'. This is being developed through the 'Sustainable Water Programme of Action 2006' which is still in progress. <http://mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/prog-action/index.html>

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

National Wetlands Committee

New Zealand is currently considering the potential role, composition and feasibility of establishing a National Wetlands Committee.

Prioritisation of future sites

New Zealand is currently in the process of creating tools and collecting wetland location and ecosystem function data that will assist with prioritisation of wetland management within the context of national terrestrial conservation management. This work will allow officials to identify, assess and prioritise any new potential Ramsar sites.

The better understanding of wetland ecosystems, their management and coordination across other MEA's

The new scientific data that will result from the Arawai Kākāriki projects will be useful in helping to identify new areas where research and management could be targeted. This may inform work that currently falls within the mandate of other Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements i.e. United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Ongoing management of existing Ramsar sites

There is recognition from those involved in Ramsar nationally, that more consistent planning, monitoring and reporting at sites would better meet our international obligations. Better communication between sites would help to facilitate this.

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

None

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

There appears to be an opportunity for the Ramsar Convention, the United National Convention for Climate Change and the IPPC to work together with regard to the contributions that wetlands make to the sequestration of carbon in the environment and the effects on sequestration capacity and capability of wetlands from upstream activities.

- 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?

New Zealand is supportive of Ramsar decisions which seek to implement activities which are within its mandate and which also support other MEAs.

- 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)?

National implementation of the Ramsar Convention is largely dependent upon the environmental, legislative and governance context of the State Party concerned. There is no “one-size-fits -all” solution. However, the Ramsar Convention can provide guidance and “best practice” examples of integration.

New Zealand has a robust legislative framework, with implementation at both national and regional levels, to take into account the need for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment.

This legislative framework provides for thorough consideration of biodiversity-related issues in decision-making on the use of natural resources.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

Under the Resource Management Act, “sustainable management” means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety, while:

- a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and
- c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

Under the Resource Management Act, biological diversity is defined (in section 2, inserted by the Resource Management Amendment Act 2003 (RMAA)) as:

“..... the variability among living organisms, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems:

The Resource Management Act (Part 2) provides specifically for the management of aspects of indigenous biodiversity through the following sections:

- safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems (section 5(2)(b))
- protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna as a matter of national importance (section 6(c))
- having regard to the intrinsic values of ecosystems (section 7(d)). In this case, intrinsic values include genetic and biological diversity (section 2(1)).

Local authorities provide for these matters through district and regional plans, and regional policy statements developed under the Act.

Regional and district councils have distinct functions and explicit responsibilities in respect of maintaining indigenous biological diversity. Councils are required to consider the maintenance of biological diversity when preparing their plans. For example, a regional policy statement must state the local authority responsible in the whole or any part of the region for specifying the objectives, policies, and methods for the control of the use of land to maintain indigenous biological diversity (s62(1)(i)).

The Resource Management Act sets out duties and restrictions in the use of land, lakes and rivers and the coastal marine area respectively, and each refers to restrictions on the use of land where use includes the destruction of, damage to, and/or disturbance of, plants, or animals or their habitats (ss 9, 12, 13), and as they apply to the terrestrial elements of the coastal environment (ss 9,13) and to the coastal marine area (s 12).

New Zealand also included freshwater management as one of the themes of the New

Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2000). This document proposed a number of actions to be taken in freshwater management that would improve the management of freshwater ecosystems nationally.

<http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/>

In 2005, implementation of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy was reviewed and recommendations made on future progress in managing freshwater ecosystems.

In 2007, New Zealand released five National Priority Areas to guide the management of biodiversity on private land. Protecting our Places – Introducing the national Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Native Biodiversity on Private Land April 2007 (<http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/guidance/>) (National priority 2 : to protect indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands; ecosystem types that have become uncommon due to human activity”).

Wetland and sand dune ecosystems were identified as one of the key priority areas for national biodiversity protection. National implementation of the Ramsar Convention is largely dependent upon the environmental, legislative and governance context of the State Party concerned. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution. However, the Ramsar Convention can provide guidance and “best practice” examples of integration.

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

n/a

**SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION**

**Guidance for filling in this section**

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

**GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS**

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

**Indicator questions:**

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1}	C - In progress
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	E - Planned
1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed]	C - For some sites
1.1.4 If the answer is “Yes” in 1.1.3, does this information indicate that the need to address adverse change in the ecological character of wetlands is now greater, the same, or less than in the previous triennium, for: a) Ramsar sites b) wetlands generally	A - Greater A - Greater

**Additional implementation information:**

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

1.1.1 Inventory  
New Zealand has a number of initiatives underway that, when combined in the future, may

be able to form a national wetland inventory. 'A Directory of Wetlands in New Zealand' was produced in 1995, BUT, this did not cover all wetlands. In 2006 the Department of Conservation began investigations into the ability of a variety of existing databases e.g. LCDB, to map freshwater habitats in New Zealand (O'Donnell & Zanders 2006).

O'Donnell C.F.J.; Zanders D. 2006: Mapping the freshwater habitats of New Zealand: Integration and interpretation of GIS databases. Unpublished Department of Conservation report, Christchurch. 18 pP.

New Zealand's Department of Conservation (DOC) is developing a series of conservation planning tools under the banner of Natural Heritage Management System (NHMS) to map, classify and prioritise freshwater and terrestrial habitats nationally. One of the primary goals is to use existing databases to identify and then prioritise those sites where management efforts should be directed to enable more effective conservation. To do this, national databases of all freshwater ecosystems are required. This will enable more effective and transparent use of conservation funding to protect the full range of remaining freshwater habitats and ecosystems and guide to restoration efforts and strategic conservation planning into the future. Development of this programme has been a joint effort between numerous agencies, including the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), DOC, Landcare Research, Universities and others. This work is currently split into four separate freshwater work streams including rivers, lakes, inland palustrine and saline wetlands, and rare ecosystems: all of which are wetlands under the Ramsar definition. Ramsar Convention criteria were used to assess ecosystem importance for biodiversity. In the next few years all freshwater ecosystems will be combined into one spatial freshwater classification and then this will be integrated with other terrestrial spatial information to develop a national picture of priority sites for conservation management. On completion of this work, specific training is planned on how these layers and data can be used and how they will be managed and updated.

Inland palustrine and saline wetlands – Existing national delineations of wetlands (e.g. on NZMS260, WERI, LCDBII) were known to be largely inaccurate. However, recent developments in remote sensing and GIS has enabled an objective production of accurate wetland maps down to half a hectare in size in much shorter time periods. Initial efforts focused on developing a more comprehensive delineation of the current and historic extent of all inland wetlands down to a minimum size of 0.2-0.5 ha. Current extent was mapped using a framework based on standardised satellite imagery and centre point data and identified over 7000 wetlands. Historical extent was estimated from soils information refined using a digital elevation model. A wetland classification was produced in GIS based on Johnson & Gerbeaux (2004), using a fuzzy logic system to classify each wetland into hydro-classes as a surrogate for variation in biotic pattern. A combined set of seven human disturbance measures derived remotely in GIS information was used to estimate wetlands ecological integrity. Sites were then ranked in each of 29 biogeographic units using a selection algorithm. This combined measurements of conservation effectiveness and irreplaceability to quantify how well each site contributed to the goal of protecting all remaining wetland biodiversity in New Zealand.

Ausseil, A-G., Gerbeaux, P., Chadderton, W.L. In prep: Identifying freshwater ecosystems of national importance for biodiversity – Criteria, methods and candidate list of nationally important wetlands. Landcare Research Contract Report.

Johnson, P. and P. Gerbeaux 2004. Wetland types in New Zealand. Wellington, N.Z, Dept. of Conservation; Ministry for the Environment. 184 pp

Rutledge, D. Ausseil, A-G. 2007: Preparing a national environmental classification for freshwater wetlands: scoping report. Landcare Research contract report: 0607/118.

Lakes - DOC has recently completed digitally rendering all lakes greater than one hectare in size and their associated drainage areas. As part of this project, approximately 20 lake variables (e.g. depth, area, volume) and 113 catchment attribute variables (e.g. geology,

slope, hydrology) have been spatially rendered for each lake catchment. From this information a multivariate lake typology (Freshwaters Environments of New Zealand) was developed which has identified 7 primary, and 91 secondary lake types across the country. We are at this time identifying and spatially rendering seven lake catchment human pressure variables that will be used as a surrogate measure to predict lake ecological status and prioritise the conservation status of each of the lake types in our Waterbodies of National Importance (WONI) programme.

Snelder, T. 2006. Definition of a multivariate classification of New Zealand lakes. NIWA Client Report CHC2006-084.

Rivers - Using national current and historic environmental data a Freshwater Environments of New Zealand (FWENZ) classification has been developed (Snelder et al 2005). This classification has undergone a number of iterations and subsequently been improved following the incorporation of updated datasets and evolution of more powerful statistical procedures. Using the underlying classification, various human pressure databases can be overlaid to rank (and ultimately prioritise) the most distinctive and representative freshwater environments with least pressure throughout the country. The first attempt at this, published in Chadderton et al (2004), identified 4706 catchments. Subsequent work is being undertaken to refine the analysis.

Snelder, T.H, Biggs, B.J. and Woods, R.A. 2005. *River Research and Applications* 21:609-628

Chadderton, W.L., Brown, D. and Stephens, T. 2004. Identifying freshwater ecosystems of national importance for biodiversity: criteria, methods and candidate list of nationally important rivers. Department of Conservation Discussion Document. 112p.

Rare Ecosystems -DOC has been contracted to use existing databases or create new extent layers to describe the spatial extent of 74 identified ecosystem types which include most other freshwater ecosystems not already covered above e.g. nival, geothermal, plutonic and estuarine wetlands. For estuaries, DOC has made an agreement to utilize a spatial layer of estuaries developed by NIWA. All estuaries across NZ have been spatially rendered and a typology derived based on formation characteristics, hydrodynamics, geology and landcover. The layer identifies eight primary estuary types, and 280 secondary types across the country.

Hume, T.M., T. Snelder, M. Weatherhead, and R. Liefing. 2007. A controlling factor approach to estuary classification. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 50:905-929.

#### 1.1.2. Current Wetland Inventory accessibility

- A number of regional wetland databases exist and are available to stakeholders e.g. Regionally Significant Wetlands of Taranaki: An Inventory 2005. Six DOC Conservancies have undertaken wetland inventories through protected natural areas (PNA), freshwater or wetland specific programmes. Databases on a small range of monitored wetland sites are also held by some DOC Conservancies and Regional Councils. These regional databases have been used in the national extent, classification and ranking work DOC is currently involved in (described above).

- A national wetland database for palustrine wetlands has recently been developed as part of the FRST funded wetlands programme lead by Bev Clarkson at Landcare Research (this covers New Zealand including Chatham Island). This database has quantitative plot data from 106 wetlands from throughout New Zealand. This database is still being refined and added to, but will be available to all stakeholders when finalised.

- The development of WETlink, a web based community wetland restoration projects database has brought together 55 diverse wetland projects from within New Zealand - the first inventory of this sort (up and running in December 2007). The key aim of WETlink is to promote information exchange so that groups throughout NZ can share their experiences with one another (Key contact Monica Peters - NZ Landcare Trust).

- In 2007 Janet Hunt published a book entitled "Wetlands of New Zealand" that describes how wetlands are formed, gives information about wetland inhabitants, and gives information on a number of wetlands in New Zealand.

Biodiversity information Inventories:

- Via the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS) programme funding, NIWA has developed the Freshwater Biodata Information System (FBIS) which provides access to ever-increasing amounts of web-based biodata on New Zealand's freshwater fish, algae, macrophytes and invertebrates. NIWA has recently gained funding again for this programme to develop a database of national-scale distributions of indigenous freshwater invertebrates and a wetland macro-invertebrate community index (WMCi).

### 1.1.3. Status/Trends/Ecological Character.

#### A) Ramsar Sites

- Firth of Thames – Bird, invertebrate, substrate and vegetation monitoring is undertaken to monitor trends and status of this site. Invertebrate and substrate data collected is helping to determine ecological trends over time. Six years of monitoring reveal substrate quality has declined but invertebrate communities have been unaffected. Vegetation plots have also been established in some parts of the wetlands as part of a national monitoring programme. This monitoring has shown that mangroves have spread dramatically, changing the ecological character of the site. Shorebird census data have been collected. This bird data have shown a habitat change over time and varied status of bird species, with some increasing and some decreasing over time.
- Whangamarino - Vegetation change monitoring has been established. Also a complete programme of baseline inventory and ongoing monitoring covering all significant ecological indicators is currently being put in place as part of the Arawai Kākāriki programme.
- Kopuatai - Baseline vegetation mapping has been undertaken so that trend and status information will be able to be assessed in the future.
- Manawatu Estuary - Monitoring is currently being established at this newly established Ramsar site.
- Farewell Spit - Regular bird monitoring is undertaken. Godwit numbers have been stable, but red knot numbers have declined. Red knots have increased at Manakau Harbour. The cause cannot be directly attributed to loss of habitat condition at Farewell Spit as there has been insufficient investigation of habitat change at a range of NZ and overseas sites, other site usage and overall population trends.
- Awarua/ Waituna – As part of the Arawai Kākāriki programme a complete programme of baseline inventory and ongoing monitoring covering all significant ecological indicators is being established. Monitoring sites to assess the effects of dairying intensification are also being set up.

#### B) Wetlands generally

New Zealand has some information on the status and trends of wetlands (though it is not comprehensive). Overall, extent and condition of wetlands appear to be declining. However a few wetland sites are stable and several managed wetlands have improved. Several highly active restoration groups have been established in the last three years, reversing the decline via specific site management.

- Through DOC's mapping, classifying and ranking work on inland wetlands mentioned above it has been found that just over 10 % of the original wetland environment remains

across New Zealand (4.9% of the original area of the North Island and 16.6% in the South Island).

- DOC, NIWA and Landcare Research have recently developed some pressure measures (e.g. land use intensity, percentage catchment clearance) derived from several national databases to assess the ecological integrity of river (Chadderton et al. 2004), lake and wetland (Ausseil et al. 2003) ecosystems. Unlike traditional site specific biotic indices or water quality indicators, these measures are spatially explicit, comprehensive, and scaleable from stream reach to the nation. However, there is little empirical data from which to characterise relationships between measures of pressure and ecological integrity to support interpreting the measures.

Chadderton et al. 2004, Ausseil et al. 2003

- State of Environment reporting, including undertaking ongoing water quality and general hydrological monitoring, by Regional Councils and the Ministry for the Environment, e.g. Lake and groundwater quality status reports 2007 and <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/ser/enz07-dec07/chapter-12.pdf> (Biodiversity and wetlands sections), and patterns from specific site monitoring, e.g. DOC, Landcare Research, NIWA, provide status and trend information on wetlands. The Ministry for the Environment previously funded a project that produced standardized guidelines for monitoring the condition and extent of wetlands in New Zealand and these methods are currently being used at 106 wetlands (<http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/restoration/docs/handbook2004.pdf>). Increased use of these monitoring procedures in the future will enable further standardized trend and status information to be collated and reported.

- Decline in water quality has been found in recent times, particularly in lowland wetlands and riverine habitats. While there have been some improvements in water quality at sites, and council and community restoration driven site restoration programmes; human induced pressures are driving an across-the-board gradual decline. Adverse factors include: water table change, nutrient & sediment inputs, infilling, drainage and pastoral conversion, weeds, grazing, pest fish. Additionally, particular measures of water quality and threatened species abundance have shown negative trends.

- Some large monitored sites such as Lakes Wairarapa, Taupo, Rotorua and Waihora/Ellesmere have declined in ecological integrity.

- The Ornithological Society and NZ Freshwater Fish databases contain long-running data trends for many wetland sites. Many DOC Conservancies maintain threatened species and weeds databases and some site specific monitoring programmes that can provide wetland trends.

Three research programmes are currently underway that will provide information on trend, status and condition of wetlands in NZ:

- A significant cross-department research project with NIWA, DOC and Otago University is also currently collecting a lot of data from coastal and lowland wetlands which will provide status and trend information in the future on these environments. This research programme is aimed at quantifying relationships between measures of human pressure and the integrity of freshwater ecosystems. The primary goal of the research will be to develop the scope for indicators of ecological integrity in freshwaters, and to quantify how these measures are related to spatially comprehensive pressure indexes developed for the all river and lake catchments in New Zealand.

Key outputs to date:

Suren, A. M., Lambert, P. Image, K. Sorrell, B.K. In Press: Variation in wetland invertebrate communities in lowland acidic fens and swamps. *Freshwater Biology*.

Suren, A.M., Lambert, P. Temporal variation in invertebrate communities. (Submitted to

New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research).

(Second publication was produced to cover any suggestion that sampling was seasonally biased).

Sutherland, D.L.; Sorrell, B.K. Submitted: Substrate specificity in algal communities in four oligotrophic, lowland wetlands in South Island, New Zealand. Archiv fur Hydrobiologia.

- Landcare Research is leading a multi-year (2005-2013) FRST funded research programme with the aim of increasing the protection and restoration of wetlands by providing scientifically based guidelines and tools to policy makers, landowners and managers. The research focuses on those major wetland types that are under greatest threat in coastal and lowland New Zealand. Various scientific studies are being carried out to look at the impact of nutrients and water that filter into wetlands from surrounding land. Research is being extended to wetlands that have been drained, invaded by alien plants or otherwise modified so that techniques can be developed for their restoration. The project is a partnership between researchers from Landcare Research, NIWA and the University of Waikato, combining both terrestrial and aquatic expertise. It is linked to the University of Waikato's Lake Restoration Outcome Based Investment. Key collaborators include DOC, regional councils, National Wetland Trust, Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi, and Landcare Trust. The project investigates wetland functioning and restoration.

- Landcare Research is leading a research programme that is looking at global change and biodiversity. One of the five strands of this programmes is detecting change in wetland ecosystems. They are using paleoecological archives of past wetland states to develop an understanding on wetland trajectories and pre-human states. A key output of this research is the development of the remote sensing tools that will permit accurate repeat measures of current wetland change over time in the future.

#### 1.1.4. Need to address adverse change

##### A. Ramsar -

Habitat change and increase and decline of different bird species in the Firth of Thames should desirably be monitored. At the Farewell Spit Ramsar site a decline in red knot numbers is a concern, however, the cause cannot be directly attributed to loss of habitat condition. Intensifying lang use around the Awarua/Waituna Ramsar site has commenced in response to changes in the dairy farming industry.

B. Generally - Overall decline in number, extent and ecological quality of wetlands. Recent analysis as part of Wetlands of National Importance (WONI wetlands) and Ministry for the Environment 2007 reports on lacustrine wetlands and groundwater quality all indicate the loss of wetland habitat and decline in water quality, particularly in lowland wetlands and riverine habitats. While there have been some improvements in water quality at sites and council and community restoration driven site restoration programmes; human induced pressures are driving a gradual decline. Policy responses are being made to address this gradual change

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

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

**Additional implementation information:**

A): on Indicators 1.2.1 – 1.2.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.2.3: [.. additional information ...]"

### 1.2.1 National Wetland Policy

New Zealand Wetlands Management Policy was approved by the Minister of Conservation and Minister of Environment in August 1986. see CoP9. A national policy statement (NPS) for freshwater management is currently under development and is referred to as the Sustainable Water Programme of Action (SWPOA) (it is likely that there may be some relevant provisions in the Freshwater NPS - although it is too early to say what these might be)

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/prog-action/cabinet-paper-implementation-package.html>.

Gerbeaux, P. 2003. The 1986 Wetlands Management Policy (non-statutory) (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultiPageDocumentTOC.aspx?id=39650>),

Also non-statutory guidance for protecting biodiversity on private land lists protecting indigenous vegetation associated with wetlands as a national priority (<http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/guidance/index.html>). At this stage there is no other national guidance although regionally some councils have policies pertaining to wetlands.

### 1.2.2 WSSD Targets and Actions

The Sustainable Development for New Zealand – Programme of Action 2003 incorporates WSSD Targets and Actions. One of the four priority issues identified for action is 'water quality and allocation' (<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/node/15944>)

The Sustainable Water Programme of Action 2006 (<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/prog-action/index.html>)

### 1.2.3. Incorporation of wetland issues into national sustainable development strategies:

- Resource Management Act 1991 ([http://gpacts.knowledge-](http://gpacts.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/public/text/1991/an/069.html)

[basket.co.nz/gpacts/public/text/1991/an/069.html](http://gpacts.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/public/text/1991/an/069.html)) (Part II - 5(b), 6(a), 6(c), 7(d))

- Protecting our Places – Introducing the national Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Native Biodiversity on Private Land

April 2007 (<http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/guidance/>) (National priority 2 : to protect indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands; ecosystem types that have become uncommon due to human activity”)

### 1.2.4 Assessment of water quality available to, and required by, wetlands

New Zealand has a mix of projects that are starting to examine this but it is at a very early stage. As an example, NIWA have been leading some research looking into invertebrate communities in lowland wetlands (invertebrates are used as indicators of water quality). They have found that the most important factors controlling species composition in relatively undisturbed sites were substrate type and water chemistry (especially pH). This work will give a better understanding of the factors controlling invertebrate communities and thus may help predict the effects of human activities on wetland invertebrate communities in more modified environments. Suren, A. M., Lambert, P. Image, K. Sorrell, B.K. Submitted (Undertaking changes from reviewers): Variation in wetland invertebrate communities in lowland acidic fens and swamps.

Freshwater Biology. Another example is NIWA, DOC, and Otago University that are involved in a Government-funded multi year (2006-09) research programme aimed at quantifying relationships between measures of human pressure and the integrity of freshwater ecosystems. Measures of human pressure on freshwater ecosystems may serve as surrogates for measures of the state of biodiversity, which in turn give an indication of the water quality. Previous research and management have shown that lowland lakes and coastal lagoons are particularly prone to problems of eutrophication from nutrient runoff resulting from landuses in their catchment. Yet, to date, very little has been done in New Zealand to document the potential changes from eutrophication on the biodiversity and foodwebs of these lowland systems. To investigate this, lowland coastal lakes and lagoons throughout the New Zealand are being examined to investigate potential influences of eutrophication on the ecology of these systems and to look at the functional processes such as dissolved oxygen cycling, microbial activity, and the potential for cyanobacterial bloom formation. To date 40 lakes and lagoons have been surveyed. Thus the primary goal of the research will be to develop the scope for indicators of ecological integrity in freshwaters, and to quantify how these measures are related to spatially comprehensive pressure indexes developed

for all river and lake catchments in New Zealand. This research will give some indication as to the quality of water available and that required for lake wetland environments to be retained.

New Zealand's Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 devolves management of water resources to Regional and District Councils. Quality and quantity of water for wetlands is assessed at Regional and District level and incorporated into Regional and District plans.

Examples:

- Waikato (<http://www.ew.govt.nz/enviroinfo/water/wetlands/Threatstowetlands.htm>)

- Canterbury (<http://www.ecan.govt.nz/Our+Environment/Land/Wetlands/Managing-wetlands.htm>)

Southland

(<http://www.es.govt.nz/documents/environmental%20information/biodiversity/wetlands/southlands%20wetlands%20assessment%20guide.pdf>)

- Auckland Regional Council has been monitoring water quality in the Auckland Region since the mid 1980s. This includes streams, coastal sites and seven lakes. Technical reports available at [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz)

Under the Resource Management Act (Section 88 (6) (b)), if an activity is likely to have an effect on an individual wetland, assessment of the quantity and quality of water required is carried through the resource consent process and assessment of environmental effects.

#### 1.2.5 Strategic environmental assessment practices

Most regional policy statements contain overall guidance for activities in relation to wetlands. For example the proposed Auckland Regional Plan, Air, Land and Water, for instance, includes policies and rules relating to wetland management area, lake management areas and natural stream management areas as well as policies and rules relating to discharges, water allocation and beds of lakes and rivers. The Waikato Regional Coastal Plan makes special provisions for the Firth of Thames.

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

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

#### Indicator questions:

1.3.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar sites? {3.3.1} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in the Additional implementation information below, the year of assessment and from where or from whom this information can be obtained]	C - Partly
1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4}	C - Partly
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	C - Partly
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	A - Yes

#### Additional implementation information:

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

### 1.3.1 Ecosystem benefits/services

Assessments undertaken for Whangamarino and partly for the Firth of Thames site. Information gathered for Arawai Kākāriki programme at Awarua/Waituna wetland should provide a good basis for this analysis. All material is held by DOC.

### 1.3.2. Wise use wetland programmes

Water security (quantity and quality) and wetlands is becoming more of an issue as demand for water increases. This issue is presently managed under the Resource Management Act 1991 framework. Other central government policy initiatives include:

- Sustainable Development for New Zealand – Programme of Action 2003. One of the four priority issues identified for action is 'water quality and allocation' (<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/node/15944>)
- The Sustainable Water Programme of Action 2006 (<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/prog-action/index.html>)

Examples of multi-purpose and multi-agency management include Lake Wairarapa, Te Waihora and Waipori-Waihora. Multiple purposes include water storage (flood control and irrigation), recreation, fisheries and cultural enhancement.

1.3.3 Most of the actions under the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands are covered by other Ramsar requirements. Three of New Zealand's Ramsar sites are peatlands (Whangamarino, Kopuatai, Awarua-Waituna) and management of two of the Arawai Kākāriki sites will meet the Guides to Action. Wider national inventory will only be partially covered by our freshwater work.

### 1.3.4 National action on cultural values

The Treaty of Waitangi establishes the relationship between the tangata whenua (indigenous people of New Zealand) and the Crown (government). The Treaty of Waitangi is embedded in nearly all New Zealand's resource management legislation. Under the Resource Management Act 1991 managers must 'take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi' (Section 8).

Furthermore; as a matter of National Importance (Section 6) managers must recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.

New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy 2000 includes as one of the four goals the active protection of "iwi and hapu interests in indigenous biodiversity and build and strengthen partnerships between government agencies and iwi and hapu in conserving and sustainably using indigenous biodiversity".

In addition, the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment has funded the developed on the Cultural Health Index (CHI). This is a tool that Māori can use to assess and manage waterways in their area. The index allows iwi/ hapū to assess the cultural and biological health of a stream or catchment of their choosing and then communicate this information to water managers in a way that can be understood and integrated into resource management processes (see <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/water/cultural-health-index-jun03/> for links to the two publications).

As part of guidelines for monitoring wetlands that have been developed, Maori environmental performance indicators for wetland condition and trend have also been developed as part of the national monitoring guidelines for wetlands ([www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/social/maoriindicators.asp](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/social/maoriindicators.asp))

As part of the Foundation for Research and Technology (FRST) funded wetland project Landcare Research have been actively working with iwi to build a knowledge base to understand iwi and hapu cultural values for freshwater ecosystems.

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

1.4.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been used/applied in decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {3.4.2 – r3.4.xiv}	A - Yes
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	A - Yes
1.4.3 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5}	C - Partly
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	C - Partly

**Additional implementation information:**

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

1.4.1 The 'Freshwater Natural Heritage Strategy for Department of Conservation' that was approved for Business Planning purposes in November 2003 considers the Ramsar Convention's guidance. The strategy sets out several priority actions required to meet Ramsar Convention obligations and commitments covering legal, policy, working with communities and protecting nationally important freshwater ecosystems and sites.

1.4.2 Statutory planning processes allow for public participation in integrated catchment management plans. A variety of methods have been used in different circumstances including public meetings, focus groups, community involvement etc. A multi-agency collaborative management project for the Firth of Thames entitled Muddy Feet has involved extensive consultation with the community as well as community representatives as active partners.

1.4.3 When plans are prepared, many of the practices identified in the guidelines are advocated for.

1.4.4 In a five year Review of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2005 it was recommended that “an objective and actions relating to the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and related research questions and adaptation options be developed and added to the Biodiversity Strategy’ and that ‘the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity be accorded a higher priority in the New Zealand climate change policy, recognising also the opportunities for whole-of-government links to investment in monitoring regimes between climate change and biodiversity objectives”(page 43). (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/conservation/nzbs-report.pdf>)

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

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

**Additional implementation information:**

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

### 1.5.1 Wetland rehabilitation/restoration programmes

All 13 Department of Conservation (DOC) Conservancy Offices are involved in wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects either as DOC led projects or in support of regional or district councils, iwi, or community organisation led projects. For example Wellington Conservancy is involved in 13 projects involving weed control, planting, animal pest control, created wetlands, water level monitoring, retiring grazing, fish passage, legal protection, water quality advocacy, covenanting of catchment and land owner compliance. Various projects have been implemented by regional councils, usually in conjunction with other parties. Some regional councils such as the Auckland Regional Council are restoring wetlands on regional parks that they manage while others are implementing measures in relation to private land e.g. Horizons Regional Council's target is for the top 1000 wetlands to be under active management within 10 years and three years down the track, have 60 sites being actively managed. Environment Bay of Plenty have plans to build a constructed wetland for Lake Rotoehu.

Several new wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes and projects have also been implemented in the last few years by NGO's and research agencies. The New Zealand Ecological Restoration Network has a national database of restoration projects (including wetlands).

Landcare Trust has recently developed WETlink, a web based community wetland restoration projects database that has brought together 55 diverse projects from within New Zealand - the first inventory of this sort (up and running from December 07). The key aim of WETlink is to promote information exchange so that groups throughout New Zealand can share their experiences. At the wetland symposium 'Wai Wetlands' in Christchurch (February 2008) all attendees were asked to fill out a restoration project survey so any new restoration projects that have been started since the last symposium in 2006 will be added to this database. Landcare Research staff have provided ongoing training for a variety of wetland groups, (e.g. Taranaki Regional Council, Environment Bay of Plenty, Greater Wellington, Landcare Trust, iwi (Torere, Gisborne)), on wetland monitoring protocols which they are incorporating into their various restoration projects. For example a multi-organisation group (Landcare Research, Environment Waikato, Landcare Trust and community groups) has successfully established a threatened peatland ecosystem at 2 sites in Waikato and are currently planning for a third (urban) site in conjunction with Hamilton City Council. Waikato University have been involved in the management of Lake Okaro (Rotorua Lakes) (1 1/2 years) and Lake Okareka (3 years) wetlands primarily focussed on nutrient removal. Waikato University have also carried out monitoring on Lake Ngaroto in the summer of 06/07. Wetland restoration/management is generally undertaken based on the species requirements present at the sites. As part of the FRST funded 'Maintaining and restoring wetlands' research project lead by Landcare Research there are plans to produce a wetland restoration handbook (2005-2013).

### 1.5.2 Ramsar Convention guidance used?

Ramsar guidance resources have been used by some DOC Conservancies and Ramsar procedures have influenced New Zealand and Australian developed wetland management processes. Wetland restoration/management is generally undertaken based on the species/ecosystems requirements present at the sites. As part of the FRST funded "Maintaining and restoring wetlands" research project lead by Landcare Research, there are plans to produce a wetland restoration handbook (2005-2013).

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

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

### Additional implementation information:

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

1.6.1 National policies, strategies and management responses to threats from invasive species:

- The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has an oversight role for all biosecurity activity within New Zealand's borders. A number of government agencies also have a role in components of the post border security system. MAF takes a lead role in dealing with pests that are considered a national priority; the Department of Conservation manages pests on the conservation estate, and regional authorities are responsible for controlling pests within their regional boundaries. To help inform its oversight role, MAF has developed a website to collect and present biosecurity activity and performance data. New Zealand is developing a system to monitor, measure, review and evaluate the performance of the system and provide a nationwide tool for all pest management stakeholders. <http://www.biosecurityperformance.maf.govt.nz/>
  - New Zealand has developed a National Biosecurity Strategy, the focus of which is pre-border, border and post-border activities designed to keep out new pests. These are central to the Crown's biosecurity responsibility. Beyond this, the strategy addresses the Crown's role in maintaining and monitoring the framework for pest management under which agencies, industry and individuals take collective actions against pests. <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/bio-strategy/biostrategy.htm>
- The 'Freshwater Natural Heritage Strategy for Department of Conservation (DOC)', that was approved for Business Planning purposes in November 2003 considers the Ramsar Convention's decisions and guidance. The Department's functions are divided into five core areas, corresponding to priorities in the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and Statement of Intent. One of these is 'managing alien invasives'.
- DOC has a 'Strategic Plan to Manage Invasive Weeds', which includes wetland weeds. There are standard operating procedures for all aspects of weed work (Surveillance, Inventory, planning weed control, monitoring weed control, reporting and reviewing weed work). There is a weed database and a public awareness and education programme called Weedbusters. <http://weedbusters.co.nz/>. DOC is currently working toward completion of a 'Strategic Plan for Managing Invasive Fish'. In recent years increases in Biodiversity Strategy funding has resulted in more weed control and restoration of New Zealand's unique, rare, and best representative wetlands. Biodiversity Strategy funding is also used to manage and prevent invasive fish in freshwater ecosystems including wetlands e.g. rudd numbers are being managed by netting in Lake Serpentine with the aim of protecting macrophyte beds.
  - DOC has a invasive fish programme which involves public awareness, survey, containment and eradication. Range expansions of some species has increased in recent years and outlying populations have been eradicated where possible. The most significant range expansion was the discovery of koi carp and gambusia into the South Island which have been subject to a highly successful eradication programme since 2000. Koi carp and gambusia have been eradicated from approximately thirty locations. Additional introduced species not previously found in the area have also been eradicated. DOC is preparing a Strategic Plan for Managing Invasive Fish, to set goals and principles by which it will seek to protect native freshwater species and ecosystems, including wetlands.
  - MAF/ BNZ have six wetland/aquatic pest plant species targeted for national eradication/management and a range of other species including purple loosestrife and alligator weed are targeted for eradication by DOC/regional/local government. Several Regional Councils are also carrying out wetland/aquatic pest surveillance activities.
  - As an island nation reliant on agriculture, biosecurity is a high priority for New Zealand. Biosecurity is managed under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Regional Councils are required to prepare and implement regional pest management strategies under the Act. Most regional councils have Pest Management Strategies, providing in effect, national coverage. Examples include:
    - o Otago
- (<http://www.orc.govt.nz/Portal.asp?nextscreenid=201.102.101.101&categoryid=204&sessionx=962F7E98->

EA6E-4410-B67F-8E4D15D29A74)

o Bay of Plenty (<http://www.ebop.govt.nz/Pests.asp>)

o Wellington (<http://www.gw.govt.nz/story3049.cfm?PubID=575>)

Councils have also devised guidelines for the management and restoration of wetlands, e.g., Christchurch (<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Parks/TheEnvironment/WaterwaysWetlandsAndDrainageGuideContents.pdf>)

1.6.2 Policies, strategies and management responses are carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organisation processes:

DOC aligns its work programmes with obligations under: the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Heritage Convention; and the Convention on Migratory Species at both the national and the site levels.

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

forestry has an oversight role for

## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition; Handbook 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition).*

### Indicator questions:

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

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

C - Partly

### Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

2.1.1

In 2007, Janet Hunt published a book entitled 'Wetlands of New Zealand' that describes how wetlands are formed, gives information about wetland inhabitants, and gives information on a number of wetlands in New Zealand. It refers to Ramsar and lists several sites that are identified as 'Ramsars in waiting' including Whataroa Ecological Region Wetland Complex, Mangarakau Wetland, Paparoa Karst Wetland, Wairau River, Lake Wairarapa, Kaipara Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour and Te Henga Swamp. Other wetlands include Kaitoke wetland, Whangapoa, Harbour and Manukau Harbour.

DOC is currently developing a series of conservation planning tools under the banner of NHMS (Natural Heritage Management System) to map, classify and prioritise freshwater and terrestrial habitats nationally. One of the primary goals is to use existing databases to identify and then prioritise those sites where efforts should be directed enabling more effective conservation. This will enable more effective and transparent use of conservation funding to protect the full range of remaining freshwater habitats and ecosystems and guide restoration efforts and strategic conservation planning into the future. Development of this program has been a joint effort between numerous agencies including NIWA, DOC, Landcare Research, universities and others. This work is split into four separate freshwater work streams including rivers, lakes, inland palustrine and saline wetlands, and rare ecosystems, all of which are wetlands under the Ramsar definition. Ramsar Convention criteria were used to assess ecosystem importance for biodiversity.

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

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

### Indicator questions:

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

A - Yes

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

C - Partly

**Additional implementation information:**

A): on Indicators 2.2.1 – 2.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.2.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.2.1 Updates of the Information Sheets on Ramsar Sites and new maps for the six New Zealand Ramsar sites were provided to the Secretariat in 2005.

- Whangamarino will be updated again once data from Arawai Kakariki inventory has been analysed.
- Firth of Thames, Kopuatai and Manawatu do not yet require updating.
- Farewell Spit will be updated once the necessary baseline information has been obtained.
- Awarua/Waituna was updated in 2006.

2.2.2 Most DOC Ramsar site managers use the Ramsar website for guidance. The DOC website has a link to the Ramsar website.

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

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

**Additional implementation information:**

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

### 2.3.1 - Measures to maintain ecological character

Firth of Thames - Project Action Plan has been prepared. Weed removal and stock management undertaken.

Kopuatai - No comprehensive planning but weed control, fencing and species monitoring undertaken.

Whangamarino - Operational plan developed. Weed and pest control, habitat manipulation/threatened plant management, hydrological monitoring commenced.

Manawatu - Measures defined in the management plan. Only restoration plantings commenced.

Farewell Spit - Management plan exists and has been implemented through restoration plantings, deer possum and weed control.

Awarua/Waituna - Operational plan prepared and weed control is ongoing.

### 2.3.2 - Management Plans/Strategies.

Firth of Thames - Project Action Plan (2008). This contains a Resources Report, Risk Analysis, Gap Analysis and 47 Actions for Councils, DOC and the community to undertake.

Kopuatai - No planning in place.

Whangamarino - 2007-08 Operational plan has been developed. Management strategy will be completed in the next two years.

Manawatu - Manawatu River Estuary Ramsar Management Plan was finalized in 2007. The plan being valid for 2007-2012.

Farewell Spit - Farewell Spit is a Nature Reserve which gives a very high level of protection under the Reserves Act, 1977. A management plan expired in 2001 and will be replaced by the Conservation Management Strategy. An Operational Plan will be produced.

Awarua/Waituna - 2007-08 Operational plan has been developed. Conservation Management Strategy will be completed in the next two years.

### 2.3.3 - Cross-sectoral site committees

Arawai Kākāriki - A National Advisory Committee has been established that covers three significant wetlands sites, two of which have Ramsar status (Whangamarino and Waituna).

Firth of Thames - Stakeholder group (3 District Councils, 2 Regional Councils, 2 Conservancies, Miranda Naturalist Trust, landowners, iwi) established.

Kopuatai - The Department of Conservation is working with the Upper Piako Wetland Management Association, who have an interest in the site.

Whangamarino - Group to be established in 2008.

Manawatu - Stakeholder group established.

Farewell Spit - An informal group of stakeholders and iwi have been associated with Spit Management.

Awarua/Waituna - Through Arawai Kakariki project a community advisory group including council and iwi representatives has been established.

### 2.3.4 Assessments of management effectiveness

All New Zealand sites incorporate DOC operational programmes. These are subject to thirdly and annual performance reporting to assess their effectiveness. In addition, all pest and weed operational programmes are required to provide operational reports and five-yearly reviews. The two Arawai Kākāriki sites (Whangamarino and Awarua/Waituna) will be required to report on a six-monthly basis against targets set in their operational plans. Of the 20 shorebird network sites that form part of the East Asian - Australian Flyway, a recent Australian and New Zealand site managers' workshop ranked Farewell Spit third out of the 20 sites for 'management effectiveness' (in terms of context, planning, inputs, process, outputs and outcomes).

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

<p>2.4.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {r11.2.iv}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]</p>	<p>C - Some sites</p>
<p>2.4.2 Have all cases of change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {11.2.4}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which Ramsar sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made]</p>	<p>C - Some cases</p>
<p>2.4.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record? {r11.2.viii}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]</p>	<p>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 Advice of change in ecological character

Coordinated wetland monitoring is being undertaken at a number of New Zealand locations (at least 97 sites) including two Ramsar sites (Whangamarino and Kopuatai). Water quality is monitored by Regional Councils at all sites. Only two of the sites (Whangamarino and Awarua/Waituna) have established a comprehensive ecological monitoring programme. However gross ecological changes would be observed through the close management involvement by DOC at all sites.

Firth of Thames - Aerial surveys of *Spartina* were carried out in 2007, and to be carried out again in 2008. Avifaunal survey to be carried out in 2008.

Kopuatai - Aerial vegetation mapping to be established in 2008.

Whangamarino - Aerial vegetation mapping/black mudfish monitoring (carried out by University of Waikato). Comprehensive inventory and monitoring programme funded by Arawai Kākāriki has commenced.

Manawatu - The establishment of monitoring systems has been identified as a requirement of the 2007-2012 management plan but are still be decided.

Farewell Spit - Biennial monitoring of wader numbers by Ornithological Society of New Zealand (OSNZ). Trend counts of black swans are undertaken annually by the local Fish and Game Society. A comprehensive monitoring plan is needed that sets out relevant ecosystem/physical components to be monitored including the gathering of adequate baseline data.

Awarua/Waituna - Crown Research Institutes, including Landcare Research map and monitor vegetation response to fire and vegetation change. OSNZ count birdlife, Fish and Game Society monitor waterfowl and brown trout. Aerial vegetation mapping is to be undertaken in 2008. Comprehensive inventory and monitoring programme funded by Arawai Kākāriki has commenced.

#### 2.4.2 Changes reported to the Secretariat.

Firth of Thames, Kopuatai, Whangamarino, Manawatu, Farewell Spit – no major changes in ecological character noted 2005-2007.

Awarua/Waituna - A large fire passed through Awarua Plains in October 2005. Weed invasion, especially of Spanish heath, has had an adverse impact in this area. This has been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat. Longer phases of lagoon opening or closure may be creating changes that will be detected through new monitoring programmes.

#### 2.4.3 No New Zealand Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreaux record.

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

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

#### Indicator questions:

2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}	D - Not applicable
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 Transboundary systems

As an island nation, New Zealand does not have any shared land borders and therefore, no shared wetlands.

#### 2.5.2 Cooperative Management

New Zealand does, however, manage a number of wetlands that are feeding and breeding sites for migratory bird species. As such, these species are dependent on a global network of wetland sites for their passage, of which New Zealand is a part.

New Zealand is an active member of the Australasian Wetlands and Water Birds Taskforce. The Taskforce promotes a co-ordinated approach to the implementation of national obligations under the Ramsar Convention and international agreements on migratory waterbirds. It provides advice and undertakes actions that facilitate such co-ordination. A major activity is sharing the results of investigations from different jurisdictions so that learning is shared and jurisdictions do not "re-invent the wheel".

New Zealand is a signatory to the Bonn Convention and Partnerships on migratory waterbirds and shorebirds and manages several sites at the southern tip of the East Asian- Australasian flyway.

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

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

#### Indicator questions:

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

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

B - No

#### Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

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

## GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

### Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	A - Yes
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {13.1.iii}	D - Planned
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	E - Not applicable

### Additional implementation information:

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

3.1.1 New Zealand is a small country and as such, relevant staff hold multiple MEA Focal Point positions, therefore coordination and communication between MEA's Focal Points is not problematic.

3.1.2 New Zealand is currently considering the role, composition and feasibility of establishing a National Wetlands Committee. Representation on that committee will be taken into account as part of those considerations.

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

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

### Indicator questions:

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

### Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1 A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Miranda Naturalists Trust (MNT) (Firth of Thames Ramsar site) and Yalu Jian National Nature Reserve in China in 2004, providing New Zealand support for shorebird site surveys and training. A team from MNT has gone to China every year and a Chinese delegation has visited New Zealand on several occasions, the last in late 2007.

3.2.2 Information about the Firth of Thames and other Ramsar sites in New Zealand is the subject of a book published by the National Wetland Trust in 2005 titled 'Our wet and wild places'. The DOC website [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) also includes information about Ramsar sites as well as other wetlands in New Zealand. In addition, there is a section on wetlands, including information about the Ramsar Convention, management responsibilities, educational resources and publications. Most regional government websites include information about wetlands - their values, protection and restoration, for example, [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz), [www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz).

Fish and Game New Zealand also provide information on World Wetlands Day initiatives <http://www.fishandgame.org.nz/Site/Environment/WWD08Janupdate.aspx>

In 2007, Janet Hunt published a book entitled 'Wetlands of New Zealand' that details how wetlands are formed, gives information about wetland inhabitants, and gives information on a number of wetlands in New Zealand. It refers to Ramsar and lists several sites that are identified as 'Ramsar's in waiting'

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

Examples of networks that have been established include:

- Department of Conservation officials attended the "Australia and New Zealand Shorebird Site Managers Workshop, September 2007, Brisbane"
- Opportunities are taken by New Zealand's wetland specialists to attend international wetland conferences and meetings e.g. Wetland Traits Symposium
- New Zealand Wetland Trust – Established in 1999 to increase the appreciation of wetlands and their values by all New Zealanders. The first major task undertaken by the trust was to build a wetland interpretation centre to teach more about wetlands and experience their special qualities. Other Trust aims are to increase public knowledge and appreciation of wetland values, increase understanding of wetland functions and processes and ensure landowners and government agencies commit to wetland protection, enhancement and restoration. The trust has thirteen elected trustees representing, iwi, landowners, tourism and farming industries, local government authorities, Fish and Game Councils, the Department of Conservation, NGOs, Crown Research Institutes, and universities.
- Wetland symposia. There have been three wetland symposia to date. They are planned to be run bi-annually (2004 - Restoring Wetlands- a practical forum; 2006 - 'Restoring Wetlands - celebrating success', and 2007 – 'Wai Wetlands'). These symposia are organized by multiple agencies, landowners and community groups. They aim to provide a highly practical, participant-driven forum for knowledge exchange, training and networking for landowners, iwi, people committed to wetland biodiversity and restoration, policy makers and wetland scientists from all over New Zealand. The programme caters for all. It has plenary and technical sessions, as well as soapbox, practical sessions and fieldtrips, with practical training on site (e.g. Coordinated wetland monitoring training) and environmental education.
- The aim of the Department of Conservation's Arawai Kākāriki wetland restoration programme is to enhance the ecological restoration of three of New Zealand's foremost wetland/freshwater sites, with strong community involvement and the research and promotion of wetland restoration techniques. As part of this programme a wetland committee has been formed to cover the three sites, a wetland email group developed and networks established to work with other existing wetland management and research groups.

## GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

### Indicator questions:

4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5}	C - Partly
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	C - Partly
4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party promote public participation in decision-making (with respect to wetlands), especially with local stakeholder involvement in the selection of new Ramsar sites and in Ramsar site management? {6.1.4}	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. Information on participation

A review or survey of community or Maori participation in wetland management has not been undertaken by the Department of Conservation.

The Department's Treaty of Waitangi obligations ensure that, in all its projects, local iwi are consulted and brought into the decision-making process. Similarly the Department's 'Conservation with Communities' programme encourages public participation in wetland project management.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentPage.aspx?id=41516>

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/about-doc/role/policies-and-plans/strategic-action-plan.pdf>

Consultation with communities and iwi also occurs through Conservation Management Strategy preparation. Regional Council's also have Treaty obligations and run public consultation processes when undertaking wetland management. Almost all restoration programmes involve both community and the iwi as either active participants or consulted stakeholders.

#### 4.1.2 Traditional knowledge and management practices

Maturanga Kura Taio fund - The Maturanga Maori programme under the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy includes the Maturanga Kura Taio fund, that seeks to support and improve the retention of traditional Maori knowledge about indigenous biodiversity and its use in managing biodiversity. The fund enables Maori to incorporate traditional values and practices within tribal-based biodiversity projects as part of their role as guardians and custodians of traditional resources and as a means of promoting and reviving traditional Maori knowledge.

The Nga Whenua Maori fund - assists Maori in undertaking biodiversity enhancement projects on Maori-owned land. This allows traditional knowledge to be put into practice. The goal of the fund is to assist indigenous biodiversity recovery, and protect biodiversity gains, through establishing management covenants over land. Cultural importance is a key priority alongside biodiversity enhancement goals.

Biodiversity Advice and Condition funds - The Biodiversity Advice (which provides funding for advice on how to enhance biodiversity) and the Biodiversity Condition Fund (which provides funding for biodiversity recovery work), can be accessed by both Maori and non-Maori. These funds provide additional resources that are used to help Maori preserve, and put into practice traditional management knowledge.

#### Cultural Health Index:

As noted in the response to question 1.3.4, the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment has funded the development of a Cultural Health Index (CHI). This is a tool that Māori can use to assess and manage waterways in their area. The index allows iwi/ hapū to assess the cultural and biological health of a stream or catchment of their choosing and then communicate this information to water managers in a way that can be understood and integrated into resource management processes (see <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/water/cultural-health-index-jun03/> for links to the two publications).

As part of guidelines for monitoring wetlands that have been developed, Maori environmental performance indicators for wetland condition and trend have also been developed as part of the national monitoring guidelines for wetlands

([www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/social/maoriindicators.asp](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/social/maoriindicators.asp))

#### Ecosystem Service benefits in Terrestrial Ecosystems for Iwi (MAUX0502)

As part of the FRST wetland project Landcare Research have been actively working with Associate Professor Mere Roberts and the students at Te Wananga o te Awanuiarangi, and Garth Harmsworth continues to serve on the science faculty komiti. Garth Harmsworth (Te Arawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Raukawa) continues his work leading the Manaaki Whenua part of the Massey University led FRST programme 'Ecosystem services benefits in terrestrial ecosystems for iwi (MAUX0502)', principally working with Ngati Raukawa and other Māori researchers to build a

knowledge base to understand iwi and hapu cultural values for freshwater ecosystems..

4.1.3 DOC's "Conservation with Communities" programme encourages public participation in wetland project management. Consultation with both indigenous and local communities also occurs through Conservation Management Strategy preparation required under the Conservation Act 1987.

Regional Councils also have Treaty obligations and run public consultation processes when undertaking wetland management. Almost all restoration programmes involve both community and the iwi as either active participants or consulted stakeholders.

4.1.4 Cultural aspects are included in wetland education kits and a national wetland symposium held 14-16 February 2008 included a keynote address on 'providing for cultural opportunities when setting restoration priorities' .

4.1.5 Treaty of Waitangi obligations ensure that in all Government projects, local Maori are consulted and brought into the decision making process. This happens at different levels, from preparation of Conservation Management Strategies (for conservation land, including wetlands), management plans for wetland sites, proposals for new Ramsar sites (which are usually community driven) and at the local government level. Almost all wetland restoration programmes involve both community and Maori as either active participants or consulted stakeholders.

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

4.2.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands? {7.1.1}	A - Yes
4.2.2 Have private-sector "Friends of Wetlands" fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]	A - Yes

**Additional implementation information:**

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

#### 4.2.1. Private sector encouragement

In 2005 more than 70,000 hectares of New Zealand private land had been covenanted by landowners in order to protect their biodiversity values. One of the four goals in the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy is to 'enhance community and individual understanding about biodiversity and inform, motivate and support widespread and coordinated community action to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity'. The private sector is encouraged under the Resource Management Act (1991) in the wise management of wetlands and activities surrounding wetlands that may affect their integrity and functioning and are required to protect wetlands as far as possible when undertaking development proposals/subdivision. This includes trapping nutrient runoff, constructing wetlands for nutrient or stormwater management and sustainable harvesting. A number of organisations in the corporate sector sponsor or fund wetland projects e.g. Banrock Station, Mighty River Power, Genesis Energy. The Department's Biodiversity Advice and Condition funds provide grant funding to groups undertaking wetland restoration projects.

#### 4.2.2 . Friends of Wetlands

Numerous 'Friends of Wetlands' can be found all over New Zealand undertaking predator control, weed control, restoration planting and educational programmes on wetlands.

The private sector is encouraged to attend the biennial Wetland symposium and as an incentive are given heavily reduced registration fees. These symposia are organized by multiple agencies, landowners and community groups. They aim to provide a highly practical, participant-driven forum for knowledge exchange, training and networking for landowners, iwi, people committed to wetland biodiversity and restoration, policy makers and wetland scientists from all over New Zealand.

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

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

#### **Indicator questions:**

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

Many of New Zealand's regional councils provide funding for protection and restoration of wetlands; offer a free advisory and project management service; provide plants for riparian margins; and have produced helpful guides on managing wetlands e.g. Understanding the 'wet' in wetlands - a guide to the management of freshwater wetland hydrology.

New Zealand has established a number of contestable funds to encourage the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These include:

The Nature Heritage Fund - The purpose of the fund is to protect indigenous ecosystems that represent the full range of natural diversity originally present in the New Zealand landscape, by providing incentives for voluntary conservation.

Nga Whenua Rahui - To provide funding to protect indigenous ecosystems on Maori land that represent the full range of natural diversity originally present in the landscape by providing incentives for voluntary conservation.

The Biodiversity Advice Fund - The Biodiversity Advice Fund focuses on information and advice to land managers. It funds projects which inspire landholders or groups to better protect indigenous species on their land, such as workshops, field-days, and publications.

The Biodiversity Condition Fund - The Biodiversity Condition Fund aims to improve and maintain the condition of areas of indigenous vegetation, species and habitats. The fund seeks to broaden community effort in the management of indigenous biodiversity. Suitable projects may include fencing or pest control on private land.

The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII)– QEII enables landowners to protect special features on their land through its open space covenants. QEII offers expertise in legal protection; expertise in monitoring programmes; field representatives working with landowners; an independent relationship with landowners; and a reputation of trust, respect and partnership with landowners.

Sustainable Management Fund – The Sustainable Management Fund provides support for good ideas to improve environmental management. The priority for the Fund is developing and applying sustainable management methods and encouraging the transfer of information and technology from technical experts to the whole community.

Sustainable Farming Fund – The Sustainable Farming Fund is a contestable fund set up to support community-driven programmes aimed at improving the financial and environmental performance of the land-based sectors. Projects must seek to address a need that is identified by a community of interest.

Soil Conservation Cost Share Programmes – A minority of regional councils provide cost sharing for some conservation activities agreed upon as part of a property environmental plan.

Contestable Water Fund - Grants are provided by government to facilitate community involvement in investigations aimed at improving knowledge and providing information on water resources; development of strategies for water supply projects that improve the allocation and reallocation of water resources; and feasibility studies into water resources that lead to better use and allocation.

Landcare Groups - The Landcare Trust fosters sustainable land management and biodiversity initiatives by working with community groups around the country to address local resource management issues.

Regional Planning, Monitoring and Enforcement - Regional councils address a variety of environmental issues through regulations, including water allocation, water quality, air quality, vegetation clearance and others. Regulations are usually preceded by a considerable investment in research and public consultation. Councils have traditionally financed these activities through general property taxes called "rates", although a large proportion of these costs is now being recovered through user-charges on services provided by councils.

Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) - Most agri-environmental research (approximately 90 percent) sponsored by central government has been funded through the Public Good Science Fund (PGSF) which is administered by FRST. Under this system, FRST calls for research propositions from research providers and subsequently allocates funding based on set criteria.

#### 4.3.2 Removal of perverse incentive measures

New Zealand has no agricultural subsidies. Environmental consequence of the removal of agricultural subsidies in the 1980s is detailed in:

<http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/sustainable-resource-use/resource-management/environmental-effects-of-removing-subsidies/agref004.htm>

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

<p>4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii}</p> <p>[If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]</p>	<p>D - Planned</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>D - Planned</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>C - Partly</p>
<p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl &amp; Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>D - Planned</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 Planning CEPA

The possibility of establishing a New Zealand National Wetlands Committee or Taskforce is currently being considered.

#### 4.4.2 National CEPA Plan

Guidelines for developing a CEPA Action plan (including methodologies, templates, checklists) for site-based wetland projects is currently being developed and will be applied to three sites under an action-research approach. Once tested, refined and adopted, this template will be available for use at other sites.

#### 4.4.3 Information Sharing

Most Department of Conservation Conservancies have been involved with other agencies and local authorities. The Ministry for Environment Sustainable Plan of Action for Water is an across-agency national programme involving both central and local government. World Wetlands Day is promoted nationally each year by DOC and Fish and Game.

#### 4.4.4 National Campaigns

FRST Wetland research programme has high end-user input and involvement (DOC, councils, iwi, peat miners, NGOs). Programme shaped by end users to improve the overall ecological condition of wetlands through sound management and restoration.

Biennial Wetland symposia - These symposia are organized by multiple agencies, landowners and community groups. They aim to provide a highly practical, participant-driven forum for knowledge exchange, training and networking for landowners, iwi, people committed to wetland biodiversity and restoration, policy makers and wetland scientists from all over New Zealand. The programme caters for all, including plenary and technical sessions, as well as soapbox, practical sessions and fieldtrips with practical training on site (e.g. Coordinated wetland monitoring training) and environmental education.

#### 4.4.5 World Wetlands Day

Even though a CEPA Action Plan has not been developed, CEPA activities are happening across the country - from research under multi-agency programmes to World Wetland Day activities. On average, nine events have been organised each year for World Wetlands Day involving government (national, regional and local) and NGOs, with Fish and Game Society acting as the lead agency. Ramsar supporting material is distributed with some resource material produced locally such as stickers.

4.4.6 Education centres currently exist at Miranda (Firth of Thames Ramsar site) and Travis wetland. The National Wetland Trust's plans for a wetland centre close to the Whangamarino wetland (Ramsar site) are well advanced and an education centre is also planned for the Manawatu Estuary (Ramsar site).

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

<p>4.5.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only] Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {15.1.1}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p>	<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}</p> <p>[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 ...]”

In addition to New Zealand's contributions to the Global Environment Facility Fund contributions, ODA is allocated via 5-10 year forward strategies jointly developed by NZAID and partner governments/agencies according to the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (i.e is driven by recipient priorities).

Since COP9 NZAID has supported a wetland restoration and conservation project in Samoa (Apolima Fou marsh conservation project). The project, managed by a local NGO is a community-based collaboration with government environment and education ministries. It has involved 'eco-literacy' programmes and a government/village land swap.

NZAID is also a principal core donor to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. SPREP programme activities include wetland work.

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

**STRATEGY 4.6** *Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.*

**Indicator questions:**

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

<p>4.6.2 {16.1.2}</p> <p>a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity?</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>b) If yes, please state the amounts:</p>	

**Additional implementation information:**

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

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

<p>4.7.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention?</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring]</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
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**Additional implementation information:**

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

4.7.1 - Partly

National Reporting provides an opportunity to: take a stocktake of activities in wetlands management nationally; to assess the effectiveness of management actions; and to assess the implementation of national obligations under the Ramsar Convention.

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

<p>4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1}</p> <p>[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>	B - No
<p>4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2}</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]</p>	D - Planned

**Additional implementation information:**

A): on Indicators 4.8.1 – 4.8.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.8.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.8.2 New Zealand is currently considering the possibility and feasibility of establishing a National Wetlands Committee of Taskforce.

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

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

**Indicator question:**

<p>4.9.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention’s IOPs* in its implementation of the Convention?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	B - No
<p>4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention’s IOPs*?</p> <p>[If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	A - Yes

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

**Additional implementation information:**

A): on Indicators 4.9.1-4.9.2

Assistance to the Conventions IOP's:  
 NZ provides advice to IUCN and in particular the Species Survival Commission through membership of specialists groups (e.g. focused on wetland birds, waterfowl).

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

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

**Indicator questions:**

<p>4.10.1 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? [If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]</p>	<p>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 Regional wetland training

A New Zealand delegation goes to China each year to undertake training of national park rangers in shorebird site surveys and management. Chinese rangers have come to New Zealand on two occasions for practical, hands on work experience. Two DOC site managers have attended the Australian Ramsar Forum to share knowledge and learn from Australian experiences but generally, training happens at the local level with workshops on plant identification, weed management and the like.

An assessment of training needs is undertaken as part of individual staff performance assessment and career development to identify skill gaps and training needs.

#### 4.10.2 Local and national training needs

Department of Conservation undertakes an assessment of training needs as part of individual staff performance assessment and career development to identify skill gaps and training needs.

Training requirements for implementation of the Convention have not been specifically examined. However training needs for monitoring wetlands has been considered and resulted in the development of the Coordinated Wetland Monitoring Guidelines and associated training on how to use these guidelines

#### 4.10.3 Wetland site manager training

New Zealand supports and participates in wetland training and research at a regional scale by wetland experts attending international conferences and working with other wetland scientists from other countries. The experts bring their knowledge gained back to New Zealand. However most training in New Zealand is focussed for New Zealand and in New Zealand.

- NIWA run a number of courses linked to training in wetlands, including identifying wetland sedges and rushes, identifying aquatic macrophytes, targeted riparian management and water quality data collection to interpretation. These training opportunities are offered to anyone wishing to attend.
- Through the FRST wetland research programme, led by Landcare Research, a number of training opportunities have been provided. One example is councils, community groups, iwi and other organisations have been trained in the standardized techniques for monitoring biodiversity condition and extent of wetlands. Researchers involved in this programme are from multiple organisations, e.g. Landcare Research, NIWA, University of Waikato, from throughout the country. Research is carried out in collaboration with end users.
- Bev Clarkson provided worked with other international peat specialists to write a chapter in the Peatlands of the World book (as part of the proceedings of the 2006 IMCG symposium in Finland).
- The biennial Wetland symposiums provide training opportunities for all New Zealanders, on wetland management and monitoring. Examples of recent training provided include;
  1. Identification of common wetland sedges and rushes workshop
  2. Restoration and wetland creation workshop
  3. Wetland invertebrate identification workshop
  4. Training sessions on how to use the Ministry for the Environment wetland condition monitoring manual. This included guidelines for wetland classification, condition scoring and monitoring of condition, and hand-on instruction in permanent plot methods for assessment and monitoring of species composition and nutrient enrichment.

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