



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 10th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Republic of Korea, 28 October – 4 November 2008**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **31 March 2008**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org)

Introduction & background

1. This Ramsar COP10 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Republic of Korea, October/November 2008).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 35th meeting in February 2007, and its Decisions SC35-22, -23 and -24, this COP10 National Report Format has been significantly revised and simplified in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In particular this National Report Format provides a much smaller number (66) of implementation "indicator" questions, compared with the much larger suite of questions on all aspects of national implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 included in previous NRFs.
4. The COP10 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee (Decision SC35-24), certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) and CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention.
5. The 66 indicator questions are grouped under each of the implementation "Strategies" approved by the Parties at COP9 (Resolution IX.8) in the Convention's "A Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006 -2008 period" (www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_08_e.htm). The indicators have been selected so as to provide information on key aspects of the implementation of the Convention under each of its Strategies.
6. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply **additional information** concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.

The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention, and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's Web site.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
 - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) capture lessons/experience, so as to allow Parties to develop future action;
 - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention through Convention processes;
 - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable against their obligations under the Convention;
 - v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and plan for its future implementation and priorities; and
 - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. In addition, the data and information provided by Parties in their COP10 National Reports now have another important purpose, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation will provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP10 consideration.

10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each COP on the global and regional implementation, and progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at COP as a series of Information Papers including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 5);
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 6); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP9 DOCs 10-13);
 - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at COP. Examples at CO9 included:
 - Resolution IX.15, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
 - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC 15) and *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC 25);
 - iii) providing the source of time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention, included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (3rd edition, 2007); and
 - iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for the CBD for wetlands.

The structure of the COP10 National Report Format

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

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP10 National Report Format

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

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

28. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given.
29. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP10NRF [Country] [date].
30. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by email, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, email: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
31. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP10 National Report.**
32. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP10 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: POLAND	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of the Environment
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Minister of the Environment - at present: Prof. Mr. Maciej Nowicki
Mailing address:	ul. Wawelska 52/54, 00-922 Warsaw
Telephone/Fax:	+ 48 22 5792400(222), +48 22 5792224
Email:	maciej.nowicki@mos.gov.pl
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Eng. Krzysztof Lissowski MSc, Department of Forestry, Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, Deputy Director
Mailing address:	ul. Wawelska 52/54, 00-922 Warsaw
Telephone/Fax:	+ 48 22 5792405, + 48 22 57952290
Email:	krzysztof.lissowski@mos.gov.pl
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Eng. Dariusz Piechowski MSc Chief Specialist
Name of organisation:	Department of Forestry, Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, Ministry of the Environment
Mailing address:	ul. Wawelska 52/54, 00-922 Warsaw
Telephone/Fax:	+ 48 22 5792489, + 48 22 5792290
Email:	dariusz.piechowski@mos.gov.pl
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Eng. Dariusz Piechowski MSc Chief Specialist
Name of organisation:	Department of Forestry, Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, Ministry of the Environment
Mailing address:	ul. Wawelska 52/54, 00-922 Warsaw
Telephone/Fax:	+ 48 22 5792489, + 48 22 5792290
Email:	dariusz.piechowski@mos.gov.pl
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Not designated
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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

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

Matters concerning the update of Ramsar Information Sheets and GIS maps of Polish Ramsar Sites have been settled with the aim to put in order the Polish data contained in the database of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in Switzerland. Steps have been taken to prepare relevant documents according to the Montreux Protocol in order to remove two of the Polish Ramsar sites from the Montreux Register, i.e. the Lake of Seven Islands Reserve and the Slonsk Reserve (at present within the site of National Park 'Mouth of Warta River'. Inventory work is presently going on the identification of potential new Ramsar sites in the country scale, and the legislative work as regards the change in the Nature Conservation Law, including the incorporation of regulations resulting from the National Strategy of Wetland Conservation and the Action Plan for the years 2006-2013.

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

Development of the document of National Strategy of Wetland Conservation and Action Plan in the years 2006-2013 and its approval by the Minister of the Environment; undertaking of a series of field studies and works to accomplish the inventory of existing and to identify potential wetlands also within the context of developing the Natura 2000 network in Poland; developing programmes and strategies of water resources management which are closely related to and have an immediate effect on wetlands. Implementation of the National Agrienvironmental Programme for the years 2007-2013 whereby the most vital element is the protection of naturally valuable wetland sites.

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

Legislation and financial difficulties related to wetland management in Poland

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

Priorities include further inventory and monitoring of wetland sites, changes in the legislation system as concerns the elimination of unfavourable phenomena (counteracting eutrophication and pollution of water), stepwise embracing by protection of the new areas characterized by a high natural and landscape diversity.

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

No

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

No

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?

The Ramsar Convention is an important tool for the protection of nature and sustainable use of natural resources. In Poland, one of the main goals of the State ecological policy is to integrate the policy of biodiversity conservation with sectoral policies and promoting the joint responsibility for the environmental status of the country. The Document of the State Ecological Policy points out, among others, to the need of implementing the protection of the most threatened ecosystems and species (and their habitats) via establishing and extending the Natura 2000 network. This Document recommends to implement the Strategy of Wetland Conservation taking into account that wetlands are of special significance for preserving species and landscape diversity at the country scale. Moreover, their protection requires a multisectoral approach in the spatial land planning in both the regional and country scale. The ecological policy programmes for the years 2002-2010 envisage an array of legislation and organisational activities concerning the protection of river valleys, hydrogenic ecosystems, rare and endangered species and traditional agricultural landscape; they also envisage the restoration of degraded but still valuable ecosystems and natural habitats.

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)?

As above under item G. In addition, practical implementation of the Convention and its linking with water policy requires that the Framework Water Directive be fully enforced and that the National Agrienvironmental Programme be complemented with schemes of compensation to farmers for flooding damage caused by beavers, for water retention in drainage ditches and an extra payment for owners of the naturally valuable fish ponds.

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

No

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}	A - Yes
1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed]	A - Yes
1.1.4 If the answer is “Yes” in 1.1.3, does this information indicate that the need to address adverse change in the ecological character of wetlands is now greater, the same, or less than in the previous triennium, for: a) Ramsar sites b) wetlands generally	B - the same 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 ...]”

1.1.2 The results of inventory are in possession of various scientific institutions or Ministry of the Environment and are accessible to stakeholders on the basis of separate conclusions.

1.1.3 As concerns the listed Ramsar sites: the information on changes in the ecological character is in place. The information is stored at the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Science and Higher Education (gathered within the framework of research grants), at various research institutes (e.g. Institute of Environmental Protection in Warsaw, Institute of Nature Conservation of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow, Institute of Grasslands and Melioration in Warsaw) as well as at various ecological NGOs such as Centre for Wetland Conservation - CMOK, WWF, the Polish Association of Bird Conservation OTOP, the Northern Podlasie Association of Bird Conservation PTOP.

The information in its substantial part as concerns the status and changes in the ecological character of Ramsar wetlands can be accessed from the Ministry of Environment. It is also stored by various research institutions which conduct study on wetland sites and may be rendered accessible on application.

1.1.4 a The need to counteract negative changes in the ecological character of the listed Ramsar sites is similar as in the previous triennium.

1.1.4 b The pressure on wetland area in Poland is now greater due to the accelerated urbanisation and industrialisation of the country as well as due to some mechanisms inherent in the EU CA Policy which are aiming at consolidation of farmland and intensification of agriculture.

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}	C - Partly
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	B - No
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 The National Strategy of Wetland Conservation and the Action Plan for the years 2006-2013 has been developed and approved by the Minister of Environment in 2006. A consistent implementation of the tasks covered by the Action Plan will allow for the full implementation of recommendations and commitments resulting the Convention.

1.2.2 The National Strategy of Wetland Conservation as of 2006 is founded on the UNCED Agenda 21 and the final document of the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002, and refers to goals and actions highlighted in the above documents.

1.2.3 Some of the actions directed towards the protection of wetlands have been incorporated into the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation, Strategy of the National Development, Programme 'Infrastructure and the Environment', Programme of Countryside Development in the years 2007-2013 as well as in the documents referring to the implementation of Framework Water Directive.

1.2.4 No water balance of the type mentioned has been developed since wetland hydrological resources in this country vary greatly. Under conditions prevailing in Poland, a significant part of these resources constitute ground waters of various types.

1.2.5 Such an assesment has been conducted for the Programme of Countryside Development for the years 2007-2013.

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]	B - No
1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4}	C - Partly
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	B - No
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	C - Partly

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 ...]”

1.3.2 Within the framework of funds provided by the GEF and the Polish EcoFund (Ekofundusz) a series of local level projects have been conducted aiming at the protection of wetlands and focusing on activating the local society (including marginalised groups) and creating new job opportunities.

1.3.4 Actions to this end have been undertaken by the University of Warsaw where in 2007 an attempt has been made to develop a countrywide information network 'Man and Wetlands'.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

1.4.1 In Poland the policy has been passed to implement the Framework Water Directive with the participation of various groups of interest and a Programme was elaborated entitled 'Programme for the Participation of Society in the Implementation of the Framework Water Directive'.

1.4.2 The CEPA expertise and tools have been included to the Programme for the Participation of Society in the Implementation of the Framework Water Directive and are envisaged to be put into practice.

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}	A - Yes

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 In Poland wetland restoration programmes and projects have been conducted. Examples of major restoration programmes and projects include such activities as three of the ongoing LIFE projects which focus on the protection of aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) (1), protection of the Baltic type raised mires (2) and on the protection of acid *Molinia* type meadows (3). Large programmes are also directed towards restoration of hydrological conditions in the Middle Biebrza River Basin, in the National Park of Warta Mouth, in the 'Lake of Seven Islands' Reserve and others. Presently, another large programme is under preparation which aims to restore hydrological conditions in the Kampinoski National Park near Warsaw. The programme will be financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and by the Polish-Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

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

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 Programmes aiming at identification and elimination of threats from invasive species are in place under the Strategy of Wetland Conservation in Poland and Action Plan. Activities directed to eliminate threats from invasive species have been implemented under some of the projects which concentrate on the active protection of valuable natural areas.

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

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

Indicator questions:

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

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

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

The Strategy for Wetland Conservation and the Action Plan established priorities for further designation of Ramsar sites using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List - wetland inventory and evaluation. Further designations are planned - envisaged number of sites 5-6 - anticipated year of designation - 2009/2010.

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?

D - Planned

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 ...]”

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

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

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	A - Yes
2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised]	D - Planned
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]	B - No

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 These measures have been defined and are applied in the management practice on areas of the listed Ramsar sites.

2.3.2 Management on the area of listed Ramsar sites proceeds according to the set of protective tasks issued by Minister of the Environment on the yearly basis on the basis of Minister's decrees.

2.3.3 In some cases - e.g. 'Lake of Seven Islands' Reserve

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>D - Planned</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>A - Yes</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>A - Yes</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 ...]”

2.4.2 In the past (1994) two cases of change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites have occurred, that is on the former 'Słońsk' Reserve presently National Park 'Warta Mouth' and 'Lake of Seven Islands' Reserve. The cases have been fully reported to the Ramsar Secretariat. Recently, however, a significant improvement of the ecological situation on both sites has occurred and now endeavours are undertaken to remove these sites from the Montreux Register.

2.4.3 Results of water level monitoring on the area of the National Park 'Warta River Mouth' Ramsar site provide evidence that over the last several years the nature of the Park has no longer suffered from the early spring water deficit. Furthermore, secondary succession and meadow overgrowing do not constitute a threat for the ecological character since intensive actions have been undertaken to restore grazing and traditional meadow management so that now the majority of the site (above 6 000 ha out from ca 8 000 ha) is subject to active protection. The agreements with farmers are longterm (10 year long) and their further extension is planned therefore it can be assumed that the longterm trend is in place to maintain the ecological character of the site. Results of the hydrological study focusing on temporal water deficits, which formerly were the main reason for listing the National Park 'Warta River Mouth' ('Słońsk' Reserve in the past) on the Montreux Record, suggest that, over the last few years, the abovementioned deficits have not worsened the conditions within the site. Moreover, it turned out that local water deficits are to a great extent conditioned by the general hydro-meteorological situation while recent results of the water level monitoring indicate that no negative effects of the early spring water deficit can be seen in the nature of the Park.

The main reason for listing the 'Lake of Seven Islands' Reserve on the Montreux Record was concerns about the decrease in the lake water level. Nowadays the above reason is no longer valid. The original (existing before the World War II) hydrological system of the lake and its surroundings has been restored, work has been undertaken to recreate the original mosaic of habitats typical of the site. In general, the last decades have seen a lot of positive changes in the ecological character of the site. They are due mainly to the restoration of the lake and mires in its neighbourhood, to the extension of the Reserve and abandoning of agriculture on the adjacent areas. Further important factors include settling the activities of foresters, hunters and fishermen within the protected area which now are subject to guidance resulting from the management plan. Measures were taken to actively protect open ecosystems on the lake shores and the reserve management matters have been put in order. Another positive change is the removal of the near-border village of Zielony Ostrów what resulted in a decrease in human penetration of the protected area and enabled undertaking a wider scale work for active protection of open and aquatic ecosystems.

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

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

Indicator questions:

2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}	A - Yes
2.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (including regional site and waterbird flyway networks)? {12.1.2; 12.2.2} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]	B - No

Additional implementation information:

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

2.5.1 The sites which could be managed as transfrontier Ramsar sites have been defined. At present, the only shared Ramsar site is the 'Karkonosze Alpine Mires' in the Karkonski NP in Poland and 'Krkonosze NP' on the Czech side. Sites which could be potential transboundary/shared wetlands in Poland include: Vistula Lagoon, Valley of Lower and Middle Odra River and Poleski National Park which together with the Shatsky Lakeland on the Beylorussian side and the Ukrainian lakeland could constitute a tripartite transboundary Ramsar site.

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
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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}	B - No
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	E - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

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

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:

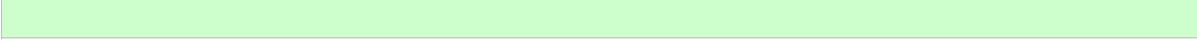
3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]	---
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

3.2.2 Information on Ramsar sites is accessible in the form of publications, including, among others: 'Conventions and nature-conservation related international agreements ratified by Poland' published by the Ministry of Environment in 2002, 'Wetland conservation in Poland' published by the Institute of Grassland and Meadow Management in addition to numerous publications of ecological NGOs and via the home page of the Ministry of Environment.

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



GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

Indicator questions:

4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5}	B - No
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	B - No
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}	B - No
4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii}	B - No
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>	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

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

4.1.5 Information on cultural values/aspects of wetlands is taken into consideration in the tourist management planning and in designing management plans for Ramsar sites. Moreover, traditional values of wetland management techniques used in the past have been utilised in the planning of protective and management measures to be applied in Ramsar wetlands (e.g. in the National Park 'Warta River Mouth', Biebrzański National Park, Narwiański National Park and in other sites). In the year 2006, the European competition for manual scything of swampy meadows took place in the Biebrzański National Park.

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
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<p>4.2.2 Have private-sector “Friends of Wetlands” fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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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 ...]”

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:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.3.1 The National Agrienvironmental Programme contains thematic packages which encourage wise use and conservation of wetlands. Other activities include meetings/events on the occasion of World Wetlands Day (February the 2nd every year) organized in e.g. NP 'Warta River Mouth', Biebrzański NP and Słowiński NP.

4.3.2 As under 4.3.1.

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>B - No</p>
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<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>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>C - Some sites</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 ...]”

4.4.2 Broad objectives for national CEPA are contained in the National Strategy of Wetland Conservation and the Action Plan which provides for undertaking special educational tasks

4.4.3 Such cross sectoral actions were undertaken when preparing the National Strategy of Wetland Conservation and the Action Plan for the years 2006-2013 - the document was sent to various sectors to obtain opinion feedback.

4.4.4 National campaigns, programmes and projects are conducted every year on February 2 on the occasion of World Wetlands Day. Besides, under almost all grants financed either by the GEF or by EcoFund there is a requirement to publish an information brochure or a book on wetland conservation and/or prepare educational activity.

4.4.5. World Wetlands Day activities have been carried out every year and they are mainly led by the ecological NGOs such as: Centre for Mire Conservation (CMOK), Salamandra Association, the Polish Club of Naturalists and other NGOs.

4.4.6 Education centres have been established at such Ramsar sites as Biebrzański NP, NP "Warta River Mouth", Narwiański NP, Słowiński NP, Wigierski NP and Poleski NP.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

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 ...]”

[Redacted area for additional implementation information A)

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

[Redacted area for additional implementation information B)

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

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

Additional implementation information:

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

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

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

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

Indicator questions:

4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]	D - In progress
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4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2} [If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]	B - No
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Additional implementation information:

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

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

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

Indicator question:

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

* 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

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}

B - No

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 ...]”

4.3.10 Trainings in various aspects of wetland conservation have been organized by the Polish Club of Naturalists and the Centre for Mire Conservation (CMOK).

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