



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.

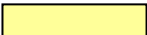
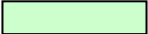
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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: RUSSIAN FEDERATION	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Yuri P. Trutnev, Minister
Mailing address:	4/6 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Ulitsa, Moscow 123995, Russia
Telephone/Fax:	+7 495 2520300 / +7 495 9430013
Email:	admin@mnr.gov.ru
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Zinaida K. Muzyleva, Consultant, Department of International Cooperation
Mailing address:	4/6 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Ulitsa, Moscow 123995, Russia
Telephone/Fax:	+7 495 2548601 / +7 495 2548283
Email:	mzlv@mnr.gov.ru
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Tatiana Yu. Minaeva
Name of organisation:	Federal Centre of Geo-ecological Systems
Mailing address:	8/1 Kedrova Ulitsa, Moscow 117292, Russia
Telephone/Fax:	+7 495 7270939 / +7 495 7270938
Email:	tminaeva@ecoinfo.ru; TMinaeva@wwf.ru
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Currently vacant
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Irina E. Kamennova, Project Coordinator
Name of organisation:	Wetlands International-Russia Programme
Mailing address:	P.O.Box 3, Moscow 109240, Russia
Telephone/Fax:	+7 495 7270939 / +7 495 7270938
Email:	IKamennova@wwf.ru

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?

Information on the current status of Russian Ramsar sites has been collected, Ramsar Information Sheets on all Ramsar sites have been compiled to submit to the Ramsar Secretariat. Vector maps of the 35 Ramsar sites were compiled to attach to RIS, with protected areas indicated. An analysis of legislation providing a basis for wetland management was performed and recommendations were developed.

The Russian Federation took an active part in the operation of the Ramsar Convention bodies and made a valuable contribution to the implementation of the Convention as a whole (work in the Standing Committee Management Group and the Coordination Committee on the Global Action Plan on Peatlands. Russia participated in the STRP meeting held in Austria in September 2007). The Russian Federation takes part in the development of regional initiatives under the Convention, such as the Black Sea, Nordic-Baltic and Amur Wetlands Initiatives.

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

In the reporting period, the aspects related to wetland inventory, monitoring of wetland ecosystems, wetland management, introduction of wise use methodologies, education and public awareness, experience sharing and international cooperation have been most successfully implemented.

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

In Russia, there is no National Wetland Committee or national wetland centre that could accumulate information on all wetlands, existing and potential threats to their ecological character, wetland conservation activities carried out by various local GOs and NGOs, and all other wetland-related information required for planning activities on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and their adequate representation in the Ramsar National Report.

Recent legislation changes have resulted in the lack of agreed procedures for Ramsar site designations and management of existing sites. The country is undergoing a process of changes in the land ownership rights, and in legislation on natural resource uses, under which natural complexes fall under different ownership categories. Ownership rights are being divided among the federal and regional authorities, municipalities and private owners. For this reason, the wetland management procedures are still under development.

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

The highest priority for future implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Russia is to elaborate a concept of the development of the Ramsar site network under new conditions, including procedures for site designation, management, monitoring of their ecological status, evaluation and reporting. Other priorities are: to establish a national information system on wetlands; to evaluate and revise the 1999 Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in Russia, and adopt this document as a national strategy; to ensure effective functioning of the existing 35 Ramsar sites; to revise the existing Ramsar Shadow List and consider the designation of the shadow-listed wetlands as Ramsar sites; and to develop potential for further implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

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

The Russian Federation has repeatedly raised the issue of designating the Russian language as an official working language of the Convention. The application of the Ramsar Guidelines to the Russian management and planning practices is hampered by the fact that the Convention handbooks and other materials have not been published in the Russian language, and so are not available to a broad range of stakeholders and the general public. The assistance of the Ramsar Secretariat in translating and publishing the Ramsar Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands and other documents of the Convention is therefore very important for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Russia.

A reference system on the Convention's resolutions and other documents is highly needed, as well as their regular review and amendment.

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

The Russian Federation is highly interested in the further development of the Wetlands International – Russia Programme providing considerable assistance to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Russia.

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 based on an ecosystem approach and provides effective mechanisms for implementing the decisions and recommendations of other biodiversity-related conventions at the level of particular ecosystem and site management. This requires the development of global and national coordinated plans for introducing principles shared by the relative conventions to wetland management practices. It is also required to convene coordinating meetings on the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions at global, regional and local levels.

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)?

Wetland management in Russia is regulated by legislation on nature resource uses and environmental conservation. The existing laws provide for sustainable use of wetland resources in economic development and regulate resource use schemes at wetland sites. At the same time, national conservation legislation does not identify wetlands as a particular conservation target, and provides their conservation alongside with natural ecosystems of other types.

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

It is required to improve the understanding of general public and specific target groups of the wetland wise use and conservation concept, to raise their awareness in wetland functions and ecological services provided by wetlands, and to introduce economic incentives into development planning and management practices in Russia. For this purpose, it is strongly needed to develop a normative basis and management structures providing the implementation of the Convention at local level, to establish a network of education centers and a Russian website on the Ramsar Convention linked to the Clearing House Mechanism under the Convention on Biodiversity.

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	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. Information on the extent, current status, and use of wetlands in Russia is regularly provided by sectoral statistics and monitoring systems.

The State Water Cadastre provides information on water resources, including water bodies, watercourses, underground waters etc. The Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1403 issued on 23.11.1996 defines standard procedures for reporting and collecting data for the Water Cadastre.

The State Water Cadastre consists of three chapters. The first one describes the resources of surface waters. Data for this chapter are provided by the Federal Service of Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring in accordance with Federal Law on Hydro-meteorological Service. Cadastre books (registers) contain topographical descriptions of water bodies and reserves of water contained. For those water bodies where hydrological posts have been established, hydrological regime is described. The Federal Service of Hydrometeorology is also responsible for monitoring water pollution against the established standards for maximum permissible concentrations of pollutants.

The second chapter accumulates statistical and other sectoral information on the use of water resources. This chapter is compiled by the Federal Agency of Water Resources on the basis of licences given to water users and federal and sectoral statistics. The amounts of water consumed and discharged by water users are subjected to licensing.

The third chapter of the State Water Cadastre contains information on the reserves and current status of underground waters – fresh, mineralized and geothermal. This chapter is compiled by the Federal Agency of Mineral Resources. Information is collected and stored by the Russian Geological Fund network and includes data on ground water reserves, their uses, and daily balance. A network of sampling sites including a few thousands of bore-holes has been established to monitor the status of waters.

The Land Cadastre of the Russian Federation also contains data on areas covered by surface waters, which are provided in concise form for the annual National Report on the Environment.

Peatlands, which play a key part in most landscape types in Russia, are registered not only in the Land and Water Cadastres, but also as peat deposits, forested lands and agricultural lands.

Information on the coverage and current status of peatlands as peat deposits is collected by the Russian Geological Fund network and is presented in the annual State Balance of Mineral Resources in the Russian Federation. Prospecting for peat deposits is carried out constantly and the information is updated each year, with only commercially valuable sites covering over 100 ha being registered. According to the Balance data of 1 January 2003, there are 20,956 peat reserves totalling 15,709,199.4 ha (within 'zero'-boundary of peat deposit) in the Russian Federation. 18,800 prospective peat deposits with an estimated area of 96,919,530 ha (within 'zero'-boundary of peat deposit) have been registered.

An inventory of forested lands conducted within the framework of the Forest Fund of the Russian Federation also provides data on areas covered by peatlands and waterlogged lands.

As a whole, sectoral statistics give us an insight into the distribution and current status of wetlands used in national economy. The application of this information for the Ramsar Convention purpose is hampered by the difference of approach: the resource approach on the one hand, and the ecosystem approach, on the other. New methods applied recently to collect data for state cadastres give more attention to property relations than to natural features.

Peatland inventories are also carried out by research institutions. As an example, the Institute of Biology, Karelian Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences, has developed a new detailed classification of boreal mire vegetation and provided descriptions of Eastern Fennoscandia mires.

Since the late 1970s, an inventory of important wetland sites has been carried out in

Russia in accordance with the Ramsar Convention methodologies. The results of recent wetland inventory activities have been presented by the Wetlands in Russia series of publications issued under the Wetlands International – Russia Programme. Since 1997, six volumes have been published, with Volumes 1–4 published in two – Russian and English – versions. The first three volumes have summarized available information on the wetlands of international importance (Vol. 1, 35 Ramsar sites), important peatlands (Vol. 2, 51 sites), and wetlands that were selected for the Ramsar Shadow List (Vol. 3, 166 sites). Volume 4 presents the first example of a detailed wetland inventory compiled for a major natural region of the Russian Federation. This volume contains descriptions of 37 wetlands totalling c. 3.7 million ha located in Northeastern Asia. Volume 5 provides information on wetlands located in southern Far-Eastern Russia, including 33 wetland sites, with a total area of 6.83 million ha. Volume 6, published in 2006, contains descriptions of 53 wetland sites, with a total area of c. 1.12 million ha, located in the North Caucasus Region. This volume has been published with the financial support of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and World Wide Fund for Nature. The books also include maps of the sites and colored illustrations.

An inventory of wetlands in the Moscow Region is presently carried out under the Wetlands International – Russia Programme. A total of 41 important wetland sites covering 87,000 ha have been identified in the Moscow Region (1.9% of the total Region area). Of these, 3 sites meet the Ramsar Criteria for internationally important wetlands, and the others are considered of regional importance.

The national wetland inventory is far from completed. The level of our knowledge on wetlands located in different regions of Russia is uneven. Detailed wetland inventories have been compiled on the regions described in Volumes 4–6 of the Wetlands in Russia series. Reasonably good information on wetlands has been collected in the Caspian region, the northern part of Western Siberia, the European tundras, and the southern part of Central Siberia. The priority areas for future inventory studies include the lowland tundra, taiga peatlands, forested steppes and steppes. The Asian part of Russia generally and the steppe lake systems in Western Siberia specifically have received little study. The application of remote sensing techniques is strongly needed to cover extensive sparsely populated wetland areas there.

It is required to launch a new phase of wetland inventory – to undertake the inventory as a long-term governmental activity, and to develop a system of a National Wetland Cadastre supported by relevant legislation and institutional network. A structured framework for planning a long-term national wetland inventory programme is provided by the Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation.

1.1.2. All available wetland inventory information is stored in the National Wetland Database developed under the Wetlands International–Russia Programme in 2002–2004. This is a data management system built on a computerized database using Microsoft Access, which is based on standard Ramsar datasheets. This database is linked to the ArcView map database providing two levels of analysis: at 1:1,000,000 and 1:250,000 scale.

A wetland inventory page has been developed and maintained at the Wetlands International–Russia Programme’s website (<http://www.wetlands.org/Russia/Ru>). All Russian-language volumes of the Wetlands in Russia series have been placed at this website. Part of the National Wetland Database (with information on the 35 Russian Ramsar sites) has been made available online at www.biodiversity.ru/wetlands (website of the Biodiversity Conservation Center).

Information on the extent, current status, and use of wetlands collected by sectoral statistics, monitoring systems, and other governmental institutions with funding from the state budget is available to all citizens of the Russian Federation in accordance with the 1995 Law on Information.

1.1.3. Information on the current status of Russian Ramsar sites was collected in 2007 under a special project. This information will be presented in the form of Ramsar Information Sheets and submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention in the near future, after its additional clarification by local conservation authorities and translation into English.

The primary analysis of information collected has allowed to identify a number of problems encountered by the Russian Ramsar network, both common and specific for individual sites. Large-scaled pollution from industrial sources, forest/peatland fires, poaching, high recreation pressure, overfishing, overgrazing, agricultural activities and timber cutting in the water-protecting zones are the most frequently mentioned threats to the Ramsar sites.

The national network of Ramsar sites includes, partly or wholly, 12 strict nature reserves (zapovedniki, IUCN Category I). Information on these areas is collected under the nationwide monitoring programme of 'Chronicle of Nature', with considerable funding from the Federal Budget.

No national assessments of the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands generally has been conducted.

Information to assess changes in wetland status is available in the system of State Environmental Monitoring (SEM). Certain components of wetlands are monitored within the following sub-systems of SEM:

- Monitoring of air pollution;
- Monitoring of inland surface waters;
- Monitoring of surface sea waters;
- Monitoring of underground waters;
- Monitoring of soils;
- Monitoring of sources of human impact (emissions and effluents);
- Monitoring of plants, including specialised monitoring programmes conducted on forested lands and non-forested lands, and programmes for species listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and Red Data Books of administrative regions;
- Monitoring of animals, including specialised monitoring programmes for species, for which hunting and fishing is allowed under licence; for species which are not targets of hunting/fishing utilisation; and for species listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and Red Data Books of administrative regions;
- Monitoring of wetland ecosystems within the borders of federal protected natural areas;
- Monitoring of transboundary waters under bilateral and multilateral agreements.

As an example, monitoring of water quality in the Amur and Argun Rivers is conducted under the intergovernmental memorandum signed between China and Russia.

So far, no attempts to combine all available monitoring data for assessing wetland status have been made at national level. Although, basic information to carry out such an assessment is provided by the annual National Report on the Environment. This Report contains information on the use of surface and ground waters, wastewater discharges, and pollution of surface waters by industry, by federal okrug (cluster administrative region) and by catchment area. According to the 2006 National Report (data have been provided by the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources), the total amount of water taken from natural surface water sources comprised 79.5 km³ in 2005, and 79.3 km³ in 2006. A total of 62.1 km³ of fresh water was used in the Russian Federation in 2006 (61.3 km³ in 2005), with 49.4 km³ (48.2 km³) taken from the surface water sources, 7.7 km³ (8.0 km³) – from the groundwater sources, and 5.0 km³ (5.1 km³) – sea waters.

1.1.4. a) The potential risk of adverse changes in the ecological character of several Ramsar sites (the Volga Delta, the Moroshechnaya River, Parapolsky Dol, Utkholok,

Upper Dvuobye) has increased due to the prospecting for and production of oil and gas in the adjacent areas. The risk of water pollution has increased in: the Kandalaksha Bay Ramsar Site due to intensive navigation; Khanka Lake – due to industrial developments; Chudskoye Lake – due to continuously increased concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds; and in the Upper Dvuobye wetlands accumulating plastic trash and many chemical pollutants coming with the waters of large Siberian rivers Ob and Irtysh.

Recreational pressure has increased in the Ramsar sites of Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland, Kama-Bakaldino Mires, Tobol-Ishim Forested Steppe, Chany Lakes, and in the Baltic coastal sites.

Recent trends are towards increased selective and clear forest felling in the water-protecting zones, often followed by house constructions, which pose considerable threats to the Ramsar sites of Kama-Bakaldino Mires and the Kubal Delta.

The risk of fires in peatlands and forests has largely increased in the Ramsar sites of Central European Russia, as well as in the Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland, Zeya-Bureya Plains and Udyl Lake Ramsar Sites.

The risk of overuse of biological resources has increased in the transboundary waters of Lake Khanka.

The change of wetland ecological character due to climatic changes (aridization) has been reported from the Ramsar sites of Torey Lakes, Tobol-Ishim Forested Steppe and Chany Lake located in the steppe biogeographical region. It should be noted, however, that the succession of dry and humid climatic phases is a natural feature manifesting itself very profoundly in the Eurasian continental steppes. Most inland wetlands there have formed under conditions of a continental climate, with considerable fluctuations in inundation and temperature during alternating hot-dry and cool-humid periods. The ecological features of wetlands and their role in supporting waterbirds change accordingly. Many wetlands in the steppes region dry out completely when the level of inundation is low and restore their ecological character in the humid years.

b) The risk of fires in peatland areas of European Russia, especially where peat extraction used to be carried out, has increased considerably in recent years. The recreation pressure on wetlands undergoes a noticeable rise in the densely populated regions of the country.

In Far-Eastern Russia, the long-term drought entailed forest fires in the Amur River catchment, in particular in the floodplain areas, which resulted in the contamination of surface waters and wetlands decline. Under these conditions, the risk of negative ecological changes will greatly increase if the proposed projects on riverflow redistribution in the Amur and Irtysh Basins, initiated by China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia, are approved. Negotiations on these issues are currently carried out. There are also plans of water diversion from the Argun River to Dalai Lake threatening both the Russian Ramsar site of Torey Lakes and the transboundary Chinese Ramsar site. In addition to diffuse pollution due to fires, the point pollution of the Amur River from industrial sources, tailing dumps and municipal waste waters entails the degradation of aquatic and floodplain ecosystems.

In Western Siberia, where peatlands cover up to 70% of the total area, the peatland ecosystems are inevitably impacted by rapidly developing extractive industries.

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?	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}	D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

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

1.2.1. In the last years, a number of policy documents have been developed, which have relevance to the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Russia. The Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation was approved by Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1225-p (of 31.08.2002). This document formulates principles, aims, directions and objectives of a long-term national environmental policy. The Environmental Doctrine is based on the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws and other normative legislative acts of the Russian Federation. The following federal laws are relevant to wetland conservation:

- Federal Law on Conservation of the Environment;
- Federal Law on Specially Protected Nature Areas (Ramsar sites include protected nature areas: strict nature reserves, national parks, sanctuaries, etc.);
- Federal Law on Conservation of Lake Baikal (this law covers Lake Baikal and adjacent areas, including the Selenga Delta Ramsar Site and other wetlands);
- Water Code which defines the basics of conservation and wise use of water resources (adopted in 2006);
- Decision of the Security Council of the Russian Federation of 30 January 2008 covering the issues of environmental legislation;
- Presidential Decree on measures to increase the energy and environmental effectiveness of Russian economy (No. 889 of 4 June 2008).

A section on wetlands has been included into the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation approved by the National Forum on Nature Conservation in June 2001. This Strategy is regarded a basis for developing provincial/local strategies and sectoral plans and programmes for biodiversity conservation.

A Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation was prepared jointly by the Federal Committee on Environmental Protection and the Wetlands International-Russia Programme in the late 1990s. The Draft Strategy was discussed at the National Wetlands Conference participated by 240 wetland experts from Russia and abroad, including representatives of Russian federal and regional conservation authorities, national conservation agencies of bordering countries, scientific institutions and NGOs. The document was finalised and

published by the end of 1999. This document forms the basis for wetland conservation activities in Russia.

The Strategy contains two major chapters: the first defines the objectives of wetland conservation at the federal level and the second provides the framework of regional programmes for wetland conservation, including both long-term and short-term plans of activities. The first chapter contains the following sections:

- Wetland Inventory and Cadastre;
- Wetland Monitoring;
- Wetland Legislation;
- Regulation of land use in wetland areas;
- Environmental education and professional training;
- Public participation in wetland management and conservation; NGOs;
- Scientific research on wetlands; and
- International co-operation.

The document has not received the official status of national strategy so far. Despite this, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation uses this document as an internal planning mechanism for the purposes of implementation of the Ramsar Convention. To implement Resolution VIII.17, an Action Plan for Peatland Wise Use and Conservation was developed and agreed by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation in 2003.

1.2.2. The principles of sustainable development have been incorporated into a number of policy documents, including the Presidential Decree 'On Concept for Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development' (01.04.1996 No. 440), the Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation (31.08.2002 No. 1225-p), Decision of the Security Council of the Russian Federation of 30.01.2008, and Presidential Decree on measures to increase the energy and environmental effectiveness of Russian economy (04.08.2008 No. 889). A Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation of the Russian Federation was developed in the late 1990s in compliance with the Concept for Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development.

1.2.3. The wetland conservation objectives are achieved in the context of the conservation of the Environment as a whole. Environmental conservation is presently regarded as a priority in national development planning.

Water resources management is undertaken on a catchment scale in accordance with the Water Code of the Russian Federation, and has been assigned to the Federal Agency of Water Resources subordinated to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. Special functions related to water management and conservation of water bodies are performed by some other ministries and agencies. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in cooperation with interested federal ministries and agencies, executive bodies of some administrative regions of the Russian Federation and individual experts, developed the 2003-2015 National Programme of 'Water in Russia – 21'. A Draft Strategy for Water Sector Development was elaborated by scientific institutions under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for the periods of 20, 30, and 50 years. These documents generally encompass the issues of wetland conservation and wise use.

1.2.4. Data required for undertaking an assessment of water quality and quantity can be obtained from the system of State Environmental Monitoring (See 1.1.3). Basic information on surface and underground waters is presented in the annual National Report on the Environment.

1.2.5. The Federal Law on Environmental Impact Assessment defines the legislative mechanism to undertake an EIA. However there is lack of methodological and normative instruments to carry out EIAs in wetlands. The existing methods for evaluating the status of a water body by taking water samples at several established points and measuring concentrations of various pollutants according to the MPC scale (accepted standards for maximum permissible concentrations) do not meet the requirements of ecosystem approach applied by the Ramsar Convention.

Besides this, as it was noted at the II National Environmental Conference of 'New Priorities of National Environmental Policy in Actual Economy' (14 November 2006), the last years had witnessed a difficult situation in the legislative provision for controlling environmental impacts, regulating natural resource uses and licensing system. The Federal Law on Corrections to the Urban Development Code of the Russian Federation and Some Other Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation (of 18 December 2006), though nominally retaining such an important instrument of environmental conservation as EIA, practically abolishes it in the sphere of urban

development.

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}	A - Yes
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	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 ...]”

1.3.1. General evaluation of ecological services provided by wetland ecosystems was conducted in the processes of management planning for some Ramsar sites, with mechanisms being proposed to integrate the evaluation results into management practices. At the moment, however, there is no noticeable examples of the implementation of these recommendations.

1.3.2. Under the UNEP/GEF/CAFF Project on An Integrated Ecosystem Management Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimise Habitat Fragmentation in Three Selected Model Areas in the Russian Arctic (ECORA), projects on integrated management of pilot areas in the Arctic are being developed, including plans for traditional natural resource uses in wetlands providing a contribution towards poverty alleviation and food security.

1.3.3. To implement Resolution VIII.17 at national level, An Action Plan for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in Russia has been developed under the Wetlands International-Russia's project on peatland conservation. This document was approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, and is used for developing conservation programmes and sectoral R&D plans. Some proposed actions have been included into sectoral and regional target programmes.

Two national workshops on the assessment of implementation progress of the Russian Peatland Action Plan, that specified action priorities and bottlenecks, identified problems and threats, were held at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in 2005 and 2008.

Peatland Conservation and Wise Use Guidelines were elaborated and signed off in a model region (Moscow province). The guidelines consist of 4 sections: assessment of social importance of peatlands; economic valuation of peatlands; recommendations on peatland restoration; and recommendations for school education.

The national methodology for extracted peatlands inventory as green house gases sources was developed within R&D projects of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. A number of large-scale international projects aimed at approbation of methods for peatland mapping, valuation of carbon resources, and assessment of greenhouse gas sources were implemented. For example, the INTAS PACINE project developed an inventory system of peatlands as sources of greenhouse gases by means of remote sensing methods.

The Russian Federation has been effecting international cooperation in terms of the implementation of Resolution VIII.17.

Russian experts participated in the development of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Green House Gas Inventories – Chapter 7 Wetlands.

Two wetland types are regarded as objects of the prospective inventory: a) managed peatlands (prepared for peat extraction, exploited, and abandoned without land rezoning); b) waterlogged lands. Given the complicity of making inventory of these ground categories both in terms of emission coefficients and (especially) areas, Russian experts took some efforts to limit wetland inventory of the above-listed categories. However, considering a potential possibility of including these in the mandatory inventory list and even in the Annex to the Kyoto Protocol, they have been carrying out preventive initiative work on the development of the inventory technique (FGUP Ecologia - Federal Center of Geoecological Sciences).

The Ramsar Convention has repeatedly put forward the issue of the importance of wetland inventory for mitigation of climate change and adaptation to its consequences before the Parties and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). A resolution on the given problem (Resolution VIII.3. Climate change and wetlands: impacts, adaptation, and mitigation. Annex 1) was adopted at the COP8 of the Ramsar Convention (Valencia, Spain, 2002). The Russian Federation played a leading role in the promotion of this wetland function. In particular, the representative of the Russian Federation in the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, acting under instructions of the Secretariat, prepared and presented recommendations as to regard wetlands as factors mitigating consequences of climate change and adaptation agents.

Moreover, Russian experts participated in the development of the Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity, and Climate Change. The document was prepared during 2005-2007 by the decision of the COP7 of the Convention on Biodiversity (Resolution 7/15 Biodiversity and Climate Change) and by request of the FCCC Secretariat, and, partially, under a GEF financial support. A great number of experts from many countries of the world, including Russia, took part in the preparation of the assessment, which allowed consideration of the importance of peatlands in various aspects

of climate change. The document that underlay the decision of SBSTTA of the Convention on Biodiversity (Recommendation XII.5. Annex 4) in July 2007 was officially presented by the CBD to participants of FCCC COP13 and adopted at the COP9 of the Convention on Biodiversity.

Global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate change (2007) - Review of the latest scientific information with key finding as background for decision making, endorsed by CBD SBSTTA , July 2007, Endorsed by CDD COP 9 in May, 2008, Presented to IPCC and UNFCCC COP14 in Bonn in June.

Russian experts, on commission from Wetlands International, carried out a Quick Scan on Peatlands in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Russian Federation takes an active part in work of CC GAP.

1.3.4. The 2002 Federal Law on Cultural Heritage (Historic and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation incorporates the international principles of the conservation of natural and cultural heritage. No special national action to assess the cultural values of wetlands has been taken.

The 2006–2008 Project on Promotion of wetland biodiversity conservation in the Moscow Region of the Russian Federation through the development of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Wise Use implemented by the Wetlands International-Russia Programme with funding from the Netherlands Government (BBI-Matra) includes the collection and publication of information on the traditional use of wetlands in the Moscow Region as elements of landscape architecture (old country estates) and broader cultural heritage. This activity is implemented in cooperation with the Russian Research Institute of Cultural and Natural Heritage.

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}	D - Planned
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	C - Partly
1.4.3 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5}	C - Partly
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	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. One of the objectives of the Wetlands International-Russia's Project on Promotion of wetland biodiversity conservation in the Moscow Region of the Russian Federation through the development of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Wise Use is to establish an

effective regional-level integrated system for land use planning that will address problems of wetland degradation and loss and thereby benefit water resources. An important output of this project will be Recommendations to improve inter-sectoral and inter-regional cooperation and to introduce the basin approach onto pilot wetland complexes, based on the Ramsar guidance.

The practice of water resource management includes schemes of integrated use and protection of water bodies (SIUPWB) that are developed at basin level, consider ecological and socio-economic situations, and form framework documents for basin management. The SIUPWB development is carried out according to a standard procedure. However, in strict sense, SIUPWB cannot be regarded as political documents, because they lean towards practical water management.

1.4.2. To the extent that Wetland CEPA objectives coincide with general objectives of the conservation of water resources, they have been broadly incorporated into sectoral planning documents.

Thus, as it is stated in the Guidelines for Development of Water Sector in Russia to 2010, the majority of required actions on wise use and conservation of water resources, restoration of natural water bodies and water courses, ensuring of proper functioning and balanced development of water sector are notably science intensive. In this context, the development of a sectoral network of scientific institutions and design-and-survey agencies, the broad participation of the Russian Academy of Sciences, scientific, public and international organizations in the planned activities, and the improvement of sectoral systems for education and training are the most acute needs.

1.4.3. In the reporting period, the application of international approaches to integrated coastal zone management was realized through the implementation of a number of projects by Russian and international conservation NGOs.

The Biodiversity Conservation Centre is a member of the CoastLearn Partnership – a trans-national and trans-sectoral network of individuals and institutions dealing with Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) learning and teaching. The Centre provides informational support and actively distributes all over Russia the CoastLearn training package on ICZM developed by the EUCC – The Coastal Union, that makes extensive use of the electronic media. This self-learning tool targets primarily coastal managers and planners working at local, sub-national, and national levels.

An innovation project on the development of ICZM on the basis of traditional wise use practices and municipal management structures was implemented in the Chupinskaya Bay area in Karelia, on the White Sea coast. This project was supported by WWF Russia, the Biodiversity Conservation Centre, the EUCC – The Coastal Union and the Lighthouse Foundation. Relevant activities were taken under the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki, 1992), including the development and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans, the participation in the Programme on Development of Baltic Sea Protected Areas Network, etc.

1.4.4. Projects on implementation of the Kyoto Protocol have not yet been introduced into economic mechanisms in Russia, and, thus, do not put mass impact on ecosystems to reduce emissions. However, while developing the national methodology for extracted peatland inventory as greenhouse gas sources, FGUP 'Ecologia' considered possible contradictions between aims of the Kyoto Protocol and those of ecosystem conservation and restoration. Currently, not any projects on planting forests or biofuel sources on waterlogged lands are implemented in Russia. Experimental work on planting sphagnum as a biofuel source on post-extracted peatlands has been carried out in the Tomsk Region.

The Institute for Global Climate and Ecology under the Federal Service of Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring and the Russian Academy of Science has implemented the Project on the Development of Technologies for Monitoring and Prognostication of Anthropogenic Impact on the Climatic System, the Assessment of Environmental and Economic Consequences of Climate Change under the Kyoto Protocol. A unified technology for monitoring and prognostication of climate changes in the regions of Russia has been developed and is maintained as an Internet portal providing information on climate changes to be used for social and economic development planning, and for the development of innovation projects in the climate-dependent economic sectors and regions. A regularly updated database on results of climatic modelling and a website on Climate Change in Russia have been established. An integrated assessment of the impacts of climate change in the most vulnerable regions (the Arctic, the zone of perpetual congelation), and

an assessment of potential regional liability to forest fires have been performed. The results are to be used for the preparation of documentation required to meet the national obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kioto Protocol.

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

The application of the Ramsar Guidelines to the Russian management and planning practices is hampered by the fact that the Convention handbooks and other materials have not been published in the Russian language, and so are not available to a broad range of stakeholders and the general public. The quality translation and publication of the Ramsar Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands and other documents of the Convention is therefore very important for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Russia.

Some methodic guidelines are extremely sophisticated and specialized, which means they need to be adopted before Ramsar site managers can use them. Therefore, it is also important to develop field guidelines for a broad spectrum of experts.

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

1.5.1. No inventory of disturbed wetlands for their further restoration has been carried out at national level. At the same time, programmes for wetland restoration have been implemented in several administrative regions of Russia. Inventories of disturbed peatlands have been compiled in the Nizhni Novgorod Oblast and Republic of Mariy-El with the aim of developing action plans for peatland restoration. An international project on peatland restoration was implemented in the Nizhni Novgorod Region, at the former peat extraction sites, by the Dront Ecological Center (Nizhni Novgorod, Russia) and the University of Dandy (UK). The goal of the project was to introduce up-to-date methods for restoring natural bog communities into the Russian conservation practices. The project resulted in the restoration of 250 ha natural mire complex. The monitoring of mire vegetation is conducted. A leaflet of “The Kama-Bakaldino Mires: Conservation and Restoration of Peatbogs in the Nizhni Novgorod Region” was published.

Experimental peatland restoration projects were also carried out in Tver province (Tver Technical University) in Vladimir province (Meschera National Park).

Another important step is publication of methodic guidelines on restoration of post-extracted peatlands.

Areas covered by wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation can be estimated using statistical information available. The Statistical Yearbook of Russia issued by the Federal State Statistics Service gives data on damaged and rehabilitated areas by industry, including the peat industry (i.e. on peatlands). This important question requires further study.

1.5.2. Ramsar Guidelines (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) have been used in publishing peatland restoration guidelines.

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}	D - Planned
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}	D - Planned

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. The problem of the invasion of alien species in the Russian Federation is under the observation of a large number of official departments (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment, State Committee for Fisheries of the Russian Federation), research and development organizations (A. N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution under the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Zoological Institute RAS, Komarov Botanical Institute RAS, Papanin Institute of Biology of Inland Waters RAS, Institute of Oceanology RAS, Murmansk Marine Biological Institute RAS, Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, Research Institute of the Azov Sea Fishery, The Main Botanical Garden RAS, Russian Institute for Plant Quarantine, Russian Institute of Phytopatology etc.), which are mainly dealing with specific aspects of the global problem, often involving only one group of organisms (fishes, mammals, insects, phytopathogenic microorganisms, nematodes, plants, etc.).

The need to consolidate the efforts of all relevant organizations and to develop a national strategy and action plan to prevent and control invasive alien species was the focus of the Meeting on Environmental Safety and Invasions of Alien Organisms held in Moscow in 2002. The Meeting agreed on the following:

1. To admit the problem of biological invasions of alien species as one of the most important aspects of the environmental safety of our country nowadays;
2. To establish an interdepartmental commission on biological invasions and develop a national program on invasions of alien species into the Russian lands and water bodies;
3. To perform an assessment of the current situation with invasions of alien species into Russia, to reveal their main transit routes, to make predictions and take measures to prevent and mitigate the consequences of invasions, and to eradicate alien harmful species;
4. To develop united legislative basis controlling alien species brought through the border without sanctions, their introduction and naturalization in Russia and bring to conformity all the legislative acts and provisions related to this problem;
5. To build databases for separate groups of alien organisms with the purpose to combine them into the united national database on alien species;
6. To make and publish an annotated list of the most dangerous invasive species in Russia;
7. To build up a network of experts on the invasion problem;
8. To develop PR-program aiming to familiarize the public and decision-makers with the problems of alien harmful organisms and a web-site on invasive alien species.

The first steps to implement this programme have been the development of web-site on invasive alien species (<http://www.sevin.ru/invasive>) and the publication of Russian Journal of Biological Invasions that can be downloaded from <http://www.sevin.ru/invasjour>.

International symposia "Alien species in the Holarctic" have regularly been held every second year within the programme of the Papanin Institute for Biology of Inland Water RAS (Borok, Yaroslavl

province).

1.6.2. The Programme "Alien species on territory of Russia" implemented by the Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution was developed in accordance with decisions of the Convention on Biodiversity.

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

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

Indicator questions:

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

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

C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

2.1.1. The development of a strategy and action plan for further designation of Ramsar sites was carried out in 1999-2000. The following activities were performed:

- Regionalisation of the country for the purpose of wetland inventory and conservation;
- Assessment of the current status of wetland ecosystems and identification of priorities for their conservation and wise use;
- Compilation of the Shadow List of internationally important wetlands to be designated under the Ramsar Convention;
- Publication of the Shadow list for open discussion.

The results of these activities, including detailed descriptions of 166 shadow-listed sites, were summarized in a publication: Krivenko, V.G., ed. 2000. Wetlands in Russia, Volume 3: Wetlands on the Ramsar Shadow List. Wetlands International Global Series No. 6, 409 pp. The revision of the Shadow List and development of the corresponding feasibility report are currently needed for its official examination.

The Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment initiated a research project on management of Ramsar sites, of which one section (Prospective planning of a Ramsar network) is based on the Strategic Framework.

Work on planning of regional networks of Ramsar sites in accordance with recommendations of the Ramsar Convention has been carried out within the programme "Green Belt of Amur/Heilong" in the Far East; the UNDP/GEF project 'Conservation of Biodiversity in the Lower Volga Wetlands', in the Lower Volga region; and the UNEP/GEF project "Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia" in West Siberia and Yakutia.

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}

B - No

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

Additional implementation information:

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

- 2.2.1. The RIS for the Russian Ramsar sites were updated in 2007. As soon as they are agreed by the relevant local authorities and translated into English, the updates will be submitted to the Secretariat.
- 2.2.2. See Section 1.1.2 on National Wetland Database.

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

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

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	C - Partly
2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised]	C - Some sites
2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information]	D - Planned
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. By and large the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites, forms of protective and sustainable use management regimes have been defined in individual regulations prepared for each site. The regulations were developed for the majority of sites in 1995-2000, approved by federal conservation authorities, and adopted by Administrations of relevant administrative regions of the Russian Federation.
During the preparation of updates of the Information Sheets on Russian Ramsar sites, the major factors adversely affecting the sites’ ecological character have been identified, and conservation measures that need to be taken have been proposed. The implementation of these measures is going on unevenly in different Ramsar sites, depending on the substance and acuteness of problems, the level of funding and other factors.
Optimization of Ramsar site management based on assessment results is planned in the

framework of UNDP/GEF projects "Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga Region" and "Demonstrating Sustainable Conservation of Biological Diversity in Four Protected Areas in the Kamchatka Oblast of the Russian Federation".

2.3.2. The 35 Russian Ramsar sites include, in whole or in part, 12 strict nature reserves (zapovedniki, IUCN Category I) and one national park (IUCN Category II). The planning of activities for these protected areas is performed according to the Guidelines for Further Development of the Network of State Nature Reserves and National Parks in the Russian Federation by 2015 adopted by Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation No. 342 of 22 April 2003. Resolution of the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service No. 491 of 3 December 2007 on Improvement of the Planning System for Activities Performed by State Nature Reserves and National Parks provides guidelines for the development, reconciliation and adoption of middle-term management plans for state nature reserves and national parks and the format of annual work plans. The guidelines have been developed in conformity with relevant documents developed under the Convention on Biodiversity, the World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention, and the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves.

This document contains comprehensive descriptions of the structure and contents of management plans for nature reserves and national parks, which are recommended to be developed for a 5-year period. The specification and partial correction of management plans is made each year, in the course of annual work plan compilation. The management plans must be agreed with all land users and adopted by the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service.

The development of management plans for Ramsar sites was mainly performed under international projects. Thus, draft management plans were developed for 7 Ramsar sites under two projects funded from the Ramsar Small Grants Fund in 1997-1998. Altogether there are 10 Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place.

The most successful example of the development and application of a management plan for a Ramsar site is provided by the 2004-2008 Management Plan for the Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland Ramsar Site. The planning process was started by a project funded by DANCEE (Danish Cooperation for Environment in Eastern Europe) and implemented by the Pskov Regional Department of the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The course of project implementation and major results were regularly reported by mass media. Information on GIS development, inventories of flora and fauna, public awareness materials were published. The management plan was widely discussed at many meetings and conferences held in Pskov, St. Petersburg and Moscow, with broad participation of stakeholders and local communities. The management plan is implemented in cooperation with the transboundary Estonian Ramsar site.

Management plans for the Ramsar sites of Selenga Delta and Lake Bolon and the mouths of the Selgon and Simmi Rivers have been compiled during the reporting period.

A management plan for the Astrakhansky Reserve (Zapovednik), which is a part of the Volga Delta Ramsar Site is under development.

A field guidebook on compiling wetland management plans based on the corresponding guidelines of the Ramsar Convention has been prepared in the framework of the UNEP/GEF project "Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia".

2.3.3. The procedures established for the development and adoption of Regulations for Ramsar sites (See 2.3.1) and for medium-term management plans for state nature reserves and national parks (See 2.3.2) include compulsory consultations with all land users. Practical management of Ramsar sites is conducted by way of permanent collaboration with all stakeholders and local communities.

2.3.4. The efficiency of Ramsar site management has been analyzed within R&D projects on Ramsar site management carried out under the authority of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.

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

Additional implementation information:

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

2.4.1. The Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service (Rosprirodnadzor) is a federal executive agency under the authority of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment that exercises control and supervisory functions in nature management. Rosprirodnadzor performs activities directly or via its territorial bodies in cooperation with other federal executive agencies, executive agencies of administrative regions of the Russian Federation, local self-governing authorities, public associations, and other organizations. Rosprirodnadzor maintains control over the legitimacy of use of forest, water, mineral, and land resources and wildlife (except fish), as well as of SPA (to the extent of federal competence). Rosprirodnadzor exercises regulation of Lake Baikal conservation, issues licenses for land use, maintains environmental impact assessments.

Thus, all violations of the regimes and ecological character of Ramsar sites located on federal lands are identified and rectified by Rosprirodnadzor.

Control over the observance of land use limitations on lands of administrative regions of the Russian Federation is performed by executive authorities of the administrative region.

2.4.2. No such need was identified.

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}	C - Planned
2.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (including regional site and waterbird flyway networks)? {12.1.2; 12.2.2} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

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

2.5.1. There are 6 Ramsar sites in Russia that border or are located close to Ramsar sites of neighbouring countries: Kurgalsky Peninsula, Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland, Torey Lakes, Khingan-Arkharinskaya Lowland, Zeya-Bureya Plains, and Lake Khanka.

Of the above listed wetlands, the Lake Khanka Ramsar Site alone has the official status of a transboundary Ramsar site and is included in the Russian-Chinese Intergovernmental Agreement on Lake Xingkai/Khanka.

Six wetlands located near the national border meet the Ramsar Criteria. Although these wetlands have not been designated Ramsar sites so far, they are partly or wholly protected at national level. These sites are:

- Fjarvann – located within the boundaries of the Pasvik State Nature Reserve (Zapovednik);
- Ainovy Islands – located within the boundaries of the Kandalakshsky State Nature Reserve (Zapovednik);
- Sebezh Lake Complex – partly protected as the Sebezhsky National Park;
- Nerussa-Desna Woodland – located within the boundaries of the Nerusso-Desnyanskoye Polesye Biosphere Reserve;
- Lake Khasan and Tumannaya Delta – includes several nature monuments; a local nature park is being designed; and
- Coastal Aquatic Area around Kunashir Island and the Lesser Kuril Islands – includes the Maly Kurily Federal Refuge (Zakaznik).

Wetlands are also protected in a number of other federal PNA located in the border regions, such as the Kostomushsky, Orenburgsky, Kurilsky and Dalnevostochny Morskoi State Nature Reserves (Zapovedniki) and the Kurshskaya Kosa and Paanayarvi National Parks.

The Russian Federation borders 14 countries and, for the total frontier length of 60,993 km, 7,141 km extend on rivers, 475 km on lakes and 38,887 km on seas. There are over 1,000 transboundary watercourses and water bodies. In total, 70 large and middle-sized river basins are transboundary, such as the Vuoxa River (with Finland), the Narva River and Pskovsko-Chudskoye Lake (with Estonia), the Neman (with Lithuania), the Dnepr (with Belarus and Ukraine), the Western Dvina (with Belarus and Latvia), the Samur (with Azerbaijan), the Volga, Ural, and Irtys (with Kazakhstan), the Yenisey and Selenga (with Mongolia), the Amur (with China and Mongolia), and the Tumannaya (with China and North Korea). There is a good probability that the number of transboundary wetland sites that meet the Ramsar Criteria will increase, as a result of future wetland inventory studies.

2.5.2. Realizing the critical importance of international cooperation on the wise use and conservation of transboundary waters, the Russian Federation actively participates in the implementation of the Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (signed by the Russian Government on 13 August 1993). Russia has signed the correspondent agreements with seven bordering countries and established the joint commissions with some of them. Guided by these agreements within the activity of the Intergovernmental Commissions, Russia increases cooperation with Mongolia, Ukraine, Finland, Kazakhstan and Estonia to provide the wise use and conservation of transboundary watercourses and water bodies. Relevant meetings of the national representatives are regularly held. Resulting from the above, the programmes are being developed to monitor conditions of the transboundary

watercourses and water bodies. The Russian Federation, Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania are engaged in preparation of agreements for conservation and wise use of transboundary watercourses and water bodies in the basins of the West Dvina/Daugava and Neman Rivers. Both the Federal Agency of Water Resources and the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment represent the Russian Federation at these meetings.

There is a progress towards developing the cooperation within the Amur River basin. Covering more than 1,8 million square kilometers, the Amur River basin is divided between Russia, China and Mongolia. In January 2008, Russia and China signed an Agreement on Transboundary Waters, which allows of monitoring transboundary water courses and water bodies, as well as preventing ecosystem disturbances through the coordination of environmentally dangerous economic activities. The Subcommittee on Environmental Protection of the Committee for Organization of Regular Meetings between the Heads of Government of Russia and China established a Working Group on transboundary specially protected nature areas and conservation of biological diversity that should elaborate an intergovernmental development strategy of the transboundary SPA network. Most of the network is represented by wetlands located in the Amur River basin. Reasonable contributions to the strategy development is the WWF Programme "Green Belt of Amur/Heilong" and the Ramsar Regional Initiative on the Amur, which is being developed.

In recent years, many stakeholders have been involved into discussion around the ecological status of the Caspian Sea. The Caspian Sea is shared by five countries, with two of them, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, bordering Russia on the land and sea. The Caspian lagoons, coastal shallow waters and islands present very important wetland complexes. To protect the Caspian Sea from pollution and to conserve its natural resources, the Framework Convention on Environmental Protection of the Caspian Sea (Teheran Convention) was signed on 4 November 2003 in Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The Teheran Convention provides a basis for the development of cooperation among the Caspian Sea countries to ensure the environmental safety of the Caspian Sea, including the conservation and wise use of transboundary coastal wetlands. The Convention came into effect in August 2006. A summit conference on the preparation of the First Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Teheran Convention was held in Moscow in December 2006. Russian experts took part in the meetings on drafting the Convention's protocols on biodiversity conservation (Teheran, Iran, April 2006), protection of the Caspian Sea from land-based pollution (Ashgabad, Turkmenistan, May 2006), transboundary environmental impact assessment (Moscow, Russia, June 2006).

In 2006, Russia acted as Chair for the Caspian Environmental Programme, which includes activities taken under the EU TESIS projects on fisheries management and promotion of sustainable development of Caspian coastal communities, and a UNDP/GEF Project on 'Implementation of the Convention and Action Plan for Protection of the Caspian Sea Natural Environment: Phase II'.

The basin of Lake Baikal is transboundary in character. Currently, the UNDP/GEF project "Joint Actions to Reduce PTS and Nutrients Pollution in Lake Baikal through integrated basin management" is focused to transboundary cooperation of Russia and Mongolia on providing a reduction of lake pollution.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

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

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

The Russian Federation has supported the development of the Black Sea regional initiative on the wise use of Black Sea coastal wetlands (BlackSeaWet). This initiative was elaborated under the Wetlands International's project implemented in seven countries: Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.

From the outset, the Russian Federation actively participates in the Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative launched by Norway and the Nordic Council.

Russia participated in the Workshop on Peatland Restoration that was held in the framework of the Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative in Sweden in 2006. Russia took part in the discussion and revision of documents of the NorBaltWet that were submitted to the Secretariat for the adoption at COP10.

The concept of the Amur Regional Initiative was discussed at bilateral negotiations between Russia and China and between Russia and Mongolia, as well as it was presented at the preliminary regional meeting of Asian countries.

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. All activities aimed at the implementation of international conventions related to environmental conservation and natural resource uses are coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. Co-ordination of activities carried out under various international conventions and agreements is taking place. The National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation contains a section on wetlands. A number of wetland conservation activities have been taken in Russia under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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

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

Indicator questions:

3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} <small>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]</small>	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. Close cooperation with Estonia on the transboundary water body of Peipus/Chudskoye Lake has been established. A project on the joint management of protected nature areas in this

transboundary area was implemented in 2006-2007 (Cross-border Protection Management Work in Nature Reserves Related to Lake Peipus – in Alam-Pedja and Emajoe-Suursoo in Estonia and Remdovsky in Russia implemented by the Estonian Fund for Nature, the Eagle Conservation Society (Estonia) and the Baltic Fund for Nature (Russia), and financed within the framework EU initiative of Interregional Cooperation Programme (INTERREG)).

A programme of cooperation between the Daursky State Nature Reserve (the Torey Lakes Ramsar Site) and the Mongolian Daursky Nature Reserve, including training and staff exchange, is underway.

The Khankaisky State Nature Reserve (Lake Khanka Ramsar Site) has been cooperating with the Xingkai Lake Nature Reserve, China, for many years. These two nature reserves constitute a single transboundary reserve protecting the Chinese and Russian shores of Lake Khanka.

The transboundary protected areas network of Green Belt of Amur/Heilong has been established. Cooperative efforts include wetland management and conservation activities.

Government of the Republic of Buryatia (Russia) and Burgenland (Austria) came to an agreement as to establish twin Ramsar sites: Selenga Delta Ramsar Site No. 682 (Russia) and Lafnitzthal Ramsar Site No. 1169 (Austria).

3.2.2. The web pages of the Wetlands International-Russia Programme (www.wetlands.org/Russia/Ru) and its Project on Peatland Conservation (www.peatlands.ru) provide access to a wide range of wetland-related information for Russian-speaking audience.

The six published volumes of the Wetlands in Russia series are widely distributed to all interested organizations and persons free of charge, and can be downloaded from the WI-Russia Programme's website. Information on the 35 Russian Ramsar sites is also available at <http://wetlands.oopt.info/> (website of the Biodiversity Conservation Center).

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

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

Indicator questions:

4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5}	C - Partly
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	C - Partly
4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party promote public participation in decision-making (with respect to wetlands), especially with local stakeholder involvement in the selection of new Ramsar sites and in Ramsar site management? {6.1.4}	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. Introduction of the so-called "people's monitoring" was made possible for three model areas in the Arctic in the framework of the ECORA project.

4.1.2. Traditional knowledge on wetland management was described for three model Arctic areas in the framework of the ECORA project.

4.1.3. The Shadow List of Russian Ramsar Sites is compiled based on the proposals submitted by various agencies and private individuals, with preference given to the initiatives supported by regional administrations and other local official structures.

4.1.4. A workshop on the importance of peatlands in archaeology was held in Khanty-Mansiisk in 2006.

Wetlands International – Russia Programme in cooperation with the Institute of Natural Heritage have been developing materials on the conservation of wetlands that are elements of landscape architectural complexes.

4.1.5. Sections on cultural values of wetlands have been included to all existing management plans for Ramsar sites.

As an example, the Management Plan for the Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland Ramsar Site includes a plan of activities on monitoring and protection of historical and cultural heritage, which include 6 churches and 6 chapels (the oldest of which, the Archangel Michael Church in the village of Kobylve Gorodishche, was built in 1462), as well as archaeological excavations, ancient settlements, burial sites, sacred stones, and stone crosses (altogether, there are 30 sites of archaeological importance, with the 15-17 century settlement of Kobyla being of prime

consideration). Besides this, there are historical places, such as Vorony Island in the south-eastern part of Chudskoye Lake, where the Battle on the Ice between the Republic of Novgorod and the Levonian branch of the Teutonic Knights took place in 1242, ancient trade routes, memorials of World War II, and others.

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}	D - Planned
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]	D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

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

4.2.2. Private companies participate in the implementation of the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga Region"; representatives of these are included in the Project Coordination Committee.

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}	D - Planned
4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	D - Planned

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 introduction of incentive measures into the nature resource management is called for by a number of federal and regional laws, in particular by the Water Code of the Russian Federation. Article 20 of the Water Code defines the major principles of imposing charges on water use: the encouragement of wise use of water resource and the differentiation of water charges depending on the river basin.

The actual introduction of incentive measures into wetland management practices is planned

under a number of proposed demonstration projects. Guidelines on economic valuation of ecosystem services of peatlands have been developed in the framework of Wetlands International – Russia Programme.

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} [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} [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>C - Partly</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} [If: a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<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} [If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

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

4.4.1. It is planned to re-establish the inter-sectoral Working Group on the Ramsar Convention, which will include NGO representatives. The Working Group will particularly handle the issues related to Wetland CEPA.

4.4.2. A National Action Plan for CEPA has not been specially developed. Sections on strategic directions and required actions to implement the Wetland CEPA objectives have been included into the 1999 Draft Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation. At the local level, the CEPA programme has been implemented within the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga Region".

4.4.3. Actions on further development of the United Informational and Analytical System on Nature Resources Management and Environmental Conservation have been taken by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (MNR). These include actions on the enhancement of information sharing among the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service, the Federal Subsoil Resources Management Agency, the Federal Water Resources Management Agency and the Federal Forestry Agency subordinated to the MNR of Russia. Particular attention has been given to the coordination of activities on collection, storing, processing and application of data accumulated at the local information funds under the MNR territorial departments at the oblast and okrug level, as well as at the federal governmental organization of Russian Information Fund on Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. A mechanism of introduction and application of R&D informational reports has been established. This refers to the databases on state nature reserves and national parks, on endangered species, on species listed in the Russian Red Data Book that occur in the state nature reserves and national parks, and the hardware-software complex supporting the Russian Carbon Register. Work on the development of the MNR network of stations receiving the remotely-sensed data from satellites has been performed.

A wide range of information on natural resource management and environmental protection was published on the official MNR's web-site (www.mnr.gov.ru), including the on-line bulletin on wise use and conservation of natural resources, and two newspapers.

The development of an effective system of inter-sectoral and inter-regional cooperation for land use planning that will address problems of wetland loss and degradation is an important objective of the Project on Promotion of Wetland Biodiversity Conservation in the Moscow Region through the Development of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Wise Use, currently implemented under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme with financial support from the Netherlands Government (BBI-MATRA).

4.4.4. A national programme of activities on education and public awareness, and public participation in wetland conservation and wise use is planned in the framework of the Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation. Great attention to this alley has been given within the UNDP/GEF Project "Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga Region".

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (MNR) provides support to the implementation of Project on Promotion of Wetland Biodiversity Conservation in the Moscow Region through the Development of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Wise Use, currently implemented under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme with financial support from the Netherlands Government (BBI-MATRA). The project includes a number of actions on raising awareness of general public and decision-makers about the ecological, cultural and economic values of wetlands, including the following activities:

- ~ Establishment of a mobile exhibition / visitor centre on wetlands in the Moscow Region;
- ~ Publication of a booklet on wetland benefits, with recommendations for teachers;
- ~ Development of a database of summer camps and schools providing environmental education in Moscow and the Moscow Region, and organization of specialized wetland courses/ecological camps;
- ~ Development of a portfolio of ecotourism opportunities in wetlands of the Moscow Region; publication of a guidebook on wetlands around Moscow;
- ~ Compilation and publication of guidebook on wetland legislation and standard approaches to wetland management and regulation that will help people to solve local environmental problems

concerning wetlands;

Collection and publication of information on wetlands in the Moscow Region, which are of special significance as cultural heritage, including wetlands as elements of country estate complexes and traditional landscape architecture.

In Northwestern Russia, the 2007-2008 Project of 'People, Nature and Harbours' is implemented by Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services, Southern Finland and the Baltic Fund for Nature of the St. Petersburg Naturalists Society in cooperation with the Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Leningrad Region and Lenoblpriroda Fund. The project is funded by the European Union within the framework of the South-East Finland-Russia Neighbourhood Programme. The main focus of the project is on valuable natural areas. Four Russian Ramsar sites have been chosen as pilot areas: Berezovye Islands, Kurgalsky Peninsula, Lebyazhie and Svir Delta. As for each of the pilot areas, the project aims at encouraging participation of local stakeholders and interest groups towards management of sites. Management plans with a focus on participatory planning will be established for River Svir Delta and Lake Pihlajavesi (Finland). Since an important activity to be developed in the pilot areas is ecological tourism, modest recreational facilities such as nature trails will be planned and constructed at certain sites, e.g. Kurgalsky Peninsula. Information materials targeted at local stakeholders will be published. The capacity of local network of conservation NGOs will be enhanced to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the region.

4.4.5. World Wetlands Day activities have been carried out in Russia since 1998. Press conferences given by governmental (MNR) officials and representatives of conservation NGOs were held on this day during several years. Information on the Ramsar Convention and WWD is published on the websites of MNR, Wetlands International-Russia Programme, WWF-Russia and others. Materials prepared for WWD by the Ramsar Secretariat is widely distributed.

In Russia, there is no consolidated acquisition of information on wetland conservation activities carried out by various local organizations. Many conservation NGOs, museums of nature, nature reserves, educational centres take over the task of distributing information on major international environmental events and celebrations, timing relevant activities to these days.

An example is provided by the K.A. Timiryazev State Biological Museum in Moscow. The Museum has been celebrating the World Wetlands Day since 2005. In 2006, the festival of 'Mysteries of Peatlands' was held, including quizzes, exhibitions of plant and animal species that occur in peatlands, and various types of peat, computer presentations and other activities (see a picture story on this event at <http://www.wetlands.org/Russia/Ru/galleries.aspx>). In 2007, the activities were focused on fish resources and fishery. On 2 February 2008, the Museum invited children and their parents to participate in the interactive educational programme of Wetland Kingdom. The participants could listen to wetland birds, learn how to identify water plants, take part in quizzes and contests.

The Amur Branch of WWF Russia announced the Year for Ramsar Wetlands in the Amur River basin in 2008. On February 1, press-conferences "Healthy Wetlands - Healthy People" were held in the five Amur provinces of Russia: in the cities of Khabarovsk, Amursk, Birobidzhan, Blagoveshensk, Vladivostok, Spassk-Dalnii, and Chita. A total of 35 mass media participated in the event including 16 newspapers, 13 TV-channels, 4 radio, and 2 information agencies. A press release on the event was posted on <http://www.wwf.ru/resources/news/article/3641> (in Russian). Alongside, a number of WWD actions took place in villages and cities of the Amur ecoregion: the photo exhibition of "Green Belt of Amur" in the villages of Tsasuchei (the Daursky Nature Reserve) and Kyra (the Sokhondinsky NR); the kids creativity exhibition in Arkhara village (the Khingansky NR); both photo exhibition and kids creativity exhibition in Komsomolsk (the Komsomolsky NR); the presentation on "Amazing Wetlands" in 11 villages of the Chita province. 50 copies of the poster of "Healthy Wetlands of Amur - Healthy People", 1000 copies of the wall calendar "Green Belt of Amur. Ramsar Wetlands", and 50 copies of the map "Ramsar Wetlands of the Amur River Basin" were published and distributed.

Celebration of the World Wetland Day has been organized in Astrakhan province, Volgograd province, and Republic of Kalmykia in the framework of the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga Region".

4.4.6. There are no wetland education centres in Russia that are part of the Wetlands Link International Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK. Environmental education activities are mainly carried out by the nature reserves located at the Ramsar sites (there are 12 strict

nature reserves (“zapovedniki”) and one national park within 35 Ramsar sites). The Federal Law on Protected Nature Areas (1995) regards environmental education as one of the priority objectives of state nature reserves. Below are a few examples of activities carried out by the staff of environmental education departments of nature reserves.

At the Kandalakshsky State Nature Reserve (the Kandalaksha Bay Ramsar Site), a museum of nature has been established, which is visited by 2,000-2,500 people annually. Students from various universities and high schools undergo practical training in the reserve. School children from St.Petersburg, Kandalaksha, Murmansk and the village of Luvenga take part in expeditions regularly organized by the reserve staff.

Actions on education and public awareness for the conservation of the Volga Delta wetlands are taken primarily by the Astrakhansky State Biosphere Reserve. These actions include annual participation in the international initiative of March for Parks, children drawing contests, quizzes on the reserve’s flora and fauna for school children, and summer camps for students of biological schools. Excursions are conducted along 13 tourist routes, with visiting a museum of nature at the Damchik site. Since 2002, the Astrakhansky Nature Reserve publishes a quarterly bulletin, which is circulated free of charge to local schools, conservation NGOs and protected areas in 20 regions of Russia.

The staff of Environmental Education Department of the Khankaisky State Nature Reserve (Lake Khanka Ramsar Site) has organized many lectures, talks, round tables and workshops on wetland conservation. Children art contests are held each year. Clean-up activities are carried out regularly on the shore of Lake Khanka. There are 14 ecological trails and routes in the reserve, including a water route along the sites overgrown with the water lily *Nelumbo komarovii*, and those where breeding colonies of herons and cormorants can be watched.

A large-scale programme for environmental education and public awareness has been developed for the Pskovskoye-Chudskoye Lowland Ramsar Site. Actions include publications in the mass media, lectures and lessons on wetland values, round tables, role-playing / simulation games, contests and quizzes, exhibitions, excursions and walking tours, educational trips and expeditions, work for volunteers, and public events (on the Earth Day, Water Day, Day of Birds etc.). A visitor centre with a permanent exhibition and a tower for birdwatching and an ecological trail have been established at the shore of Chudskoye Lake, in the Remdovsky Nature Reserve.

The Kerzhensky State Biosphere Nature Reserve is responsible for education actions at the Kama-Bakaldino Mires Ramsar Site. The reserve produces the *Russkaya Taiga* newspaper, video films, photo exhibitions, leaflets and calendars. Many activities are carried out in cooperation with the Rustai school, which has an advanced course in ecology on its curricular. Camps for training school children in environmental issues are organized at the reserve each summer. There are 6 ecological trails at the reserve, which total 36.5 km. The Dront ecocenter based in the city of Nizhni Novgorod published a booklet on Kama-Bakaldino Mires: Conservation and Restoration of Mires in the Nizhni Novgorod Region in 2003.

The Oksky State Biosphere Reserve (the Pra and Oka Floodplains Ramsar Site), one of the oldest nature reserves in Russia, gives considerable attention to education and awareness matters. Information on the reserve’s natural complexes and protected species is repeatedly published in journals, magazines, and newspapers, as well as in the form of leaflets, booklets and postcards; several TV films have been produced. Students from the Universities of Moscow and Ryazan, and from other institutes of higher education undergo practical training in the reserve. Excursions for school children, including a visit to the Crane Breeding Centre, are conducted regularly.

A project on the development of ecotourism and environmental education is carried out at the Selenga Delta Ramsar Site. Two camping sites have been established in the delta villages, and ecological paths with birdwatching facilities have been established at the Kabansky Nature Reserve (Zakaznik). In 2007, 8 walking tours with 82 visitors were held. There are also permanent exhibitions on the Selenga wetlands at the Baikalsky State Nature Reserve and the Kabansky Museum of Nature.

The Daursky State Nature Reserve carries out actions in education and public awareness for the Torey Lakes Ramsar Site. A visitor centre has been established in the Reserve. Particular attention is paid to educating local school children. Summer training camps including excursions, lectures, educational games and contests are organized every year at the Torey Lakes. From 1990 to 2007, over 1,000 popular science articles were published by the Reserve staff, 500 excursions were conducted for local people.

The Khingansky Nature Reserve (Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland Ramsar Site) regularly organizes excursions, lectures, training camps and children’s conferences. Camping facilities have

been established at Dolgoye Lake, in the Reserve's buffer zone (Antonovsky Forestry Farm). Two information centres have been established at the reserve's administration office and at Kleshenskoye Lake, on the route of Lake of White Birds. Excursions are conducted at the reserve's centre for breeding rare bird species and their introduction into the wild.

The Muravyovsky Park of Sustainable Nature Management carries out educational activities for the Zeya-Bureya Plains Ramsar Site. The Park has developed several educational programmes to raise awareness of wetland resources, endangered species and communities, and to provide training in wise use practices. The programmes are targeted at people living in the adjacent rural areas, local administrations, and conservation agencies. The Park actively cooperates with international NGOs and donor agencies and participates in many conservation activities taken in Far-Eastern Russia. In the summer, the Muravyovsky Park organizes excursions, lectures, ecological games, and art contests.

Considerable work on wetland education and awareness is performed at many other wetlands, which are currently not listed as Ramsar sites. Thus, active work with all groups of local population has been carried out at the Dubna Peatland Complex, in and around the Cranes' Homeland Nature Reserve in the Moscow Region. The activities are coordinated by the Taldom Administration of Protected Nature Areas. The major public gathering of 'Sowing the Crane Field' takes place in May every year; in 2007, it was participated by 250 people. Since 1994, the Crane Festival is held annually during a week in September. 678 people, children and adults, took part in the Festival in 2007. Within the Festival framework, 24 excursions to the Cranes Homeland Reserve were conducted for children from 16 schools, 2 kindergartens and the Dubna Center for Children Tourism. Three drawing contests and 2 essay contests were organized among local school children. Three actions on clearing the reserve of refuse were held, each was participated by 10 to 30 people. 60 nesting boxes for birds were hanged in the villages and forested areas around the reserve. An ecological trail was established near the Crane Museum in Taldom surroundings and a guide leaflet describing two excursions along the trail was published. Support to these activities was provided by many local stakeholders.

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

Additional implementation information:

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

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.6.1. By Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 166-p enacted on 11 February 2002, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation was assigned to coordinate all activities related to the Russian Federation's membership in international conservation organizations and to the implementation of environmental conventions, including the Ramsar Convention. This Resolution also instructs to provide for contributions to the Convention's budget at the planning stage of developing an annual state budget.

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? [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring]</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
---	-------------------

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

In 1999, the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the Wetlands International-Russia Programme, and with broad participation of GOs, NGOs and individual experts developed the Draft Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Conservation of the Russian Federation. This Draft Strategy currently serves as a baseline document for planning wetland conservation actions.

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} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2} [If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>

Additional implementation information:

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

4.8.1. The Russian State Library has developed and provided open access (at www.rsl.ru) to the on-line bibliographical catalog on Environmental Issues in the Aspect of Sustainable Development Concept: Website Review containing information on web sites of international, national and local conservation organisations, as well as electronic versions of relevant periodicals.
Information on sectoral, scientific and other institutions accumulating information on peatlands is provided in the following publication: Peatlands in Russia: towards an analysis of sectoral information. A.A.Sirin & T.Yu.Minaeva, Eds. 2001. Moscow, GEOS Publ. 190 pp. (In Russian).
A database on mire experts has been supported on the website "Peatlands in Russia" (www.peatlands.ru).

4.8.2. Until 2004, the duties of National Ramsar Committee were performed by the Inter-sectoral Working Group on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Group was established under the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection by Chairman Resolution No. 9 issued on 15 January 1997. The members of the Working Group belonged to 16 bodies, including federal ministries, state committees, scientific institutions, and non-governmental organizations. In 2004, due to the reorganization of federal executive bodies (ministries and agencies), the Group’s work was suspended. At the present time, the Working Group membership is being reconsidered.

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

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

Indicator question:

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

4.9.1. Wetlands International, through its Russian Programme office, has provided considerable assistance to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Russian Federation. More detailed information on the Programme activities is provided in the relevant sections of this report. In addition to this, the WI-Russia Programme coordinates activities taken under the International Waterbird Census (IWC) in Russia, Central Asia and the South Caucasus, with support from the Netherlands Government. These activities include field surveys conducted during January to count all wintering waterbirds and to collect information on their wetland habitats.

WWF Russia contributes significantly to the realization of Convention's objectives through several large-scale projects carried out in the Amur River basin, in the Russian Far East, in the Caucasus, and other regions of Russia.

The Russian Bird Conservation Union (BirdLife International Partner Designate since 1995) carries out a long-term inventory programme on internationally and nationally important bird areas in Russia, participates in international programmes for monitoring many bird species, organizes actions under the World Birdwatch initiative and coordinates other BirdLife activities in Russia.

Coordinated mainly by both Wetlands International and BirdLife International, many research projects on rare and endangered waterbird species are carried out in Russia. For instance, the Working Group on Geese and Swans of Northern Eurasia (an NGO combining ornithologists and representatives of the Hunters Association) implements the projects on Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*), Lesser White-fronted Goose, Red-breasted Goose and Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*). This contributes to the assessment of the species ranges and numbers, limiting factors and threats, and brings progress into the development of the species conservation action plans.

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)]	C - Partly
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}	C - Partly
4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}	C - Partly

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. A regional center on monitoring bird populations and the problem of avian influenza is being established in Novosibirsk.

In the framework of the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project, training on the development of wetland management plans was carried out on Lake Poyang (China) in 2007, for all countries participating in the project (Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Russia), where Russian experts acted as teachers.

4.10.2. No special assessment of training needs for the implementation of the Convention has been made. It is apparent though that training in the use of the Ramsar Guidelines is strongly needed for senior managers of all Russian Ramsar sites. The translation of the Wise Use Handbooks and other Convention's documents would be very helpful for the organization of such training.

The Wetlands International-Russia Programme staff regularly gives lectures on the Ramsar Convention at various meetings taken under the WI-RP's locally-based projects. The round table on the role of protected nature areas in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention was held during the National Conference on Effective Natural Resources Management in Russia in December 2005. However, the information that can be presented at such meetings is insufficient for the effective application of the Ramsar guidelines to the wetland management practices in Russia.

4.10.3. The system of higher education of the Russian Federation includes two Councils on environmental issues: Educational-Methodological Council (EMC) on Ecology and Sustainable Development under the EMC on Classic University Education and the EMC on Environmental Safety under the EMC on Polytechnic University Education. University students can major in the following specialities: nature management, bioecology, integrated management of water resources, environmental protection and rational use of natural resources etc. A total of 6,500 students were trained in environment-related specialities at the universities and institutes under the Federal Agency of Education during the year 2006/07.

No permanent courses on wetland management have been established. Short training courses were organized by the Wetlands International-Russia and the Russian Bird Conservation Union staff within the framework of the following conferences and meetings: the International Conference of Protection and Monitoring of Key Bird Areas in the Caucasus Ecoregion (30 January – 5 February 2007, Makhachkala, Republic of Dagestan, Russia); International Conference on Protection of Important Bird Areas by NGOs: Problems and Prospects for the Future (19-24 March, Orenburg, Russia); International Conference on Biodiversity Protection in Wetlands and Sustainable Use of Biological Resources in Steppe Areas (28-30 May 2007, Rostov-on-Don, Russia); Conference on Conservation of Amur River dedicated to the 10-year anniversary of the Bolonsky Nature Reserve (26 July – 4 August 2007, Amursk, Russia).

The Wetlands International-Russia Programme has developed and published materials for training in wetland management, has collected a series of lectures, posters and booklets on wetland benefits and peatland uses. These materials were extensively used at a number of wetland courses in adjacent countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine). The Programme staff provides consultations on wetland management planning on a permanent basis.

One Russian expert participated in the International Course on Ecohydrological Approaches

to Wise Use, Restoration, management and Conservation of Wetlands (Trebon, Czech Republic, 4-9 June 2007). One Russian expert (Lower Volga region) took part in special training on wetland management in Austria. A representative of the Russia's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment participated in training on wetland management on Vilm Island in Germany.

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