



**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.

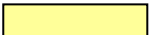
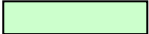
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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: SWEDEN

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Lars-Erik Liljelund, Director General
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Email:	Lars-Erik.Liljelund@naturvardsverket.se

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

Name and title:	Ann Wahlström (Ms), Senior Advisor
Mailing address:	S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone/Fax:	+46-8-698 14 51
Email:	ann.wahlstrom@naturvardsverket.se

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

Name and title of focal point:	Ann Wahlström (Ms), Senior Advisor
Name of organisation:	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Mailing address:	S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone/Fax:	+46-8-698 14 51
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DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Name and title of focal point:	Ann Wahlström (Ms), Senior Advisor
Name of organisation:	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
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Telephone/Fax:	+46-8-698 14 51
Email:	ann.wahlstrom@naturvardsverket.se

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

Name and title:	Lennart Gladh, Baltic project coordinator
Name of organisation:	WWF-Sweden
Mailing address:	Ulriksdals Castle, S-170 81 Solna, Sweden
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Email:	lennart.gladh@wwf.se; lennart.gladh@swipnet.se

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?

In Sweden, the environmental quality objectives apply to all sectors of society and set the framework for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, in particular the objectives 'Thriving wetlands' and 'Flourishing Lakes and Streams'. Every four years, an in-depth evaluation is made of the progress towards achieving the environmental quality objectives, and the results are presented to the Government and Parliament as a basis for Sweden's environmental policy in the years to come. The second evaluation was conducted in 2007 and new interim targets to strengthen wise use and conservation were proposed.

The authorities most closely concerned adopted a joint strategy for Thriving Wetlands in 2005, the Mire Protection Plan was revised in 2007, and strategies for protection and restoration of valuable watercourses were established in 2007. Progress is being made concerning Natura 2000 and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, the EU Water Framework Directive and the Ordinance on Water Quality Management and action programmes for threatened wetland species.

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

Through the environmental quality objectives, and their focus on conservation, sustainable use and restoration, the Convention is satisfyingly implemented. There is ongoing work to protect wetlands and improving environmental consideration in different sectors of the society. Additionally, Sweden has designated 51 Ramsar sites to date.

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

Achieving wise use – sustainable use of wetlands and their ecosystem services – is an ongoing challenge. Integrated River Basin and Coastal Zone management needs to be implemented more widely. Although many protected areas include shallow marine areas and freshwater habitats, there is a need to strengthen the regulations for many nature reserves in order to preserve the aquatic values.

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

In May 2008, Sweden is arranging the European regional Ramsar meeting in preparation for COP10, which will increase knowledge of the Convention nationally.

The Swedish EPA and the concerned county administrative boards are currently working to identify potential new Ramsar sites in northern Sweden, aiming to present the proposals to the Swedish government during 2008. Outstanding updates of Ramsar Information Sheets will also be completed.

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

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

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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?

H. How can Ramsar Convention implementation be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., sustainable development, energy, extractive industry, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

The knowledge of the Ramsar Convention should increase within the broader water management sector, and the Ramsar guidelines distributed more widely.

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

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SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

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

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

1.1.1. The Swedish wetland inventory was initiated in 1981 and completed in 2004, and covers the whole country except the mountain region. The inventory has been conducted by individual Administrative County Boards with support from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Approximately 34 000 wetlands, generally larger than 10 hectares (50 hectares in the northernmost part of the country), have been studied on aerial photographs and 10 % of the objects have been visited in the field. The objectives include mapping the distribution of wetlands throughout the county, as well as studying their environmental assets and the extent to which they have been affected by human activities.

Furthermore, inventories of alkaline fens (rich fens) are in progress due to an action programme for the habitat and associated threatened species which was established by the Swedish EPA. A baseline inventory of Natura 2000-sites and other protected areas will be concluded in 2008. For wetland habitats, this inventory is based on the national wetlands inventory and partly uses the same methodology. It will give updated information for some of the areas with high conservation values, as well as additional information about mountainous wetlands and some of the smaller habitat types, such as springs and rich fens.

1.1.2. All data from the national wetland inventory has been quality controlled and a web-based database was made available to the public in late winter 2005 (www-vmi.slu.se, in Swedish only). Information from the inventory has also been communicated to a wide range of stakeholders. To promote the use of inventory data, a national report is currently being compiled and the Swedish EPA is investigating how the database can better meet the needs of different stakeholders and local decision-makers.

1.1.3. As a member state of the EU, Sweden is obliged to monitor wetlands in accordance with e.g. the EU Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. The conservation status for species and habitats covered by the Habitats Directive was assessed during 2007, and reported in compliance with Article 17 of the directive (available at <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/se/eu/art17/envrelhxw>). The Swedish EPA is responsible for the national environmental monitoring, which includes several programme areas relating to wetland ecology:

A) programme area Wetlands includes monitoring of • performance and state of wetlands – satellite monitoring of ecological change in wetlands, focusing on changes in vegetation cover and structure; and • biodiversity of rich fens.

B) programme area Freshwater includes • trend and surveillance stations for groundwater quality, • trend stations for stream quality, • estuaries, • trend and surveillance stations for lakewater quality, • toxic pollutants – specimen banking, • toxic pollutants – analysis, • development and evaluation, and • large lakes.

C) Programme area Seas and coastal areas includes • soft-bottom macrofauna, • embryonic development of the benthic crustacean *Monoporeia affinis*, • phytobenthic communities, • the free water column, • coastal fish populations and fish health, • top predators, and • hazardous substances in marine biota.

D) Programme area Landscapes includes • extensive remote sensing, • National Inventory of Landscapes in Sweden (NILS), • Swedish Bird Survey (SFT), • bird count and ringing at Ottenby, • migratory bird count at Falsterbo, and • Swedish Waterfowl Count. The National Inventory of Landscapes in Sweden (NILS, <http://nils.slu.se/>) is a nationwide programme for monitoring changes in the Swedish landscape and how these changes affect the biological diversity. For wetlands and riparian zones, NILS provides information on e.g. draining, natural or regulated water regime, management by grazing and mowing, ground disturbance and exploitation, and occurrence of certain species.

1.1.4. In particular, there is a need to address issues concerning effects of climate change, previous hydrological disturbances and eutrophication, and resulting changes in vegetation and species composition. The relatively recent decline in many wetland birds, especially waders in southern Sweden, is a matter of concern.

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}	C - Partly
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}	E - Not applicable
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	C - Partly
1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

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

1.2.1. The Swedish Parliament has adopted 16 national environmental quality objectives (EQOs). The objectives describe the environmental state needed in order to achieve sustainable development by protecting human health, preserving biological diversity, minimizing the utilization of natural resources to ensure sustainable use and protecting the natural and cultural environment. The EQOs apply to all sectors of the Swedish society, the county administrative boards have established corresponding regional objectives, and the EQOs also correspond closely to the objectives of the legislation in the Environmental Code. Two EQOs in particular deal with wetlands: 'Thriving Wetlands' and 'Flourishing Lakes and Streams', and the EQO 'A Rich Diversity of Plant and Animal Life' deal with overriding biodiversity issues. These objectives must be seen as the fundamental National Wetland Policy, and are described further at www.miljomal.nu/english/english.php.

In addition, several policy documents have been established as a part of implementing the EQOs. For example, 'National Strategy for Thriving Wetlands' was established by the Swedish EPA in cooperation with the National Board of Forestry, the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the National Heritage Board, and presented to the Swedish government in October 2005. The strategy is available in English at www.naturvardsverket.se/Documents/publikationer/620-1254-1.pdf.

The Mire Protection Plan, which identifies around 600 mires that are given priority for legal protection, was revised in 2007.

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

The EU Water Framework Directive is being implemented in Sweden. The Ordinance on Water Quality Management (Förordningen om förvaltning av kvaliteten på vattenmiljön) is the Swedish legislation pursuant to the directive.

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

Indicator questions:

1.3.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar sites? {3.3.1} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in the Additional implementation information below, the year of assessment and from where or from whom this information can be obtained]	B - No
1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4}	F - Not applicable
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 ...]"

1.3.3. The Mire Protection Plan, which identifies around 600 mires that are given priority for legal protection, was revised in 2007.

1.3.4. Issues concerning the protection and management of cultural values in wetlands are included in the Swedish environmental quality objectives, e.g 'Thriving wetlands' and 'Flourishing Lakes and Streams'. The National Heritage Board works to ensure that different sectors of society assume their responsibility for the cultural heritage and the cultural environment. Cultural values are to a limited extent included in the national wetland inventory, depending on regional differences in methodology. Specific inventories of cultural assets have been performed locally. In the management plans for protected areas, the local community is often involved in traditional management measures which carry on the cultural 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}	B - No
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	C - Partly
1.4.3 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5}	B - No
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	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 ...]”

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

The EU Water Framework Directive and Ordinance on Water Quality Management (the Swedish legislation pursuant to the directive) includes integrated water resources management.

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

1.5.1 The environmental quality objectives 'Thriving Wetlands' and 'Flourishing Lakes and Streams' have interim targets dealing with re-establishment and restoration of wetland habitats. The targets read: 'At least 12,000 hectares of wetlands and ponds will be established or restored on agricultural land by 2010' and 'By 2010 at least 25% of valuable and potentially valuable rivers and streams [as identified by a national/regional inventory] will have been restored'. During the period 2000-2007, approximately 6,500 hectares of wetlands have been established or restored in the agricultural landscape. In connection to the EQOs, the Swedish EPA invest large sums in implementing action plans for threatened species, where restoration measures are normally crucial.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

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

The environmental quality objectives which concern wetlands state e.g. 'alien species and genetically modified organisms that may be a threat to biological diversity are not introduced'. The Environmental Code contains provisions concerning the release of alien species, in line with Sweden's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, although the legislation needs to be amended. The Swedish EPA is working on a national strategy and plan of action concerning alien species and also bears the overriding and coordinating duty in this field, but several authorities share the responsibility of regulation of invasive alien species. The policy for introduction and dispersion of alien organisms – intentional as well as unintentional– aims to prevent negative environmental impacts from alien species and genes. Any permissions to introduce an alien species shall be based on risk assessments that illuminate the potential impact on biological diversity, the natural environment and human health.

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

There are 51 designated Ramsar sites in Sweden, but e.g. peatlands and watercourses in the northern parts of the country are underrepresented. The Swedish EPA and the concerned county administrative boards are currently working to identify potential new sites in northern Sweden, aiming to present the proposals to the Swedish government during 2008.

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?

C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

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

2.2.1 The Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) of 19 Swedish sites in need of revision are currently being prepared by the Swedish EPA, assisted by the county administrative boards. The Conference of the Parties has requested, in Resolution VI.13 (1996), that all RISs be updated by the Parties at least every six years and with every significant change in the status of the site. The Annex of Resolution IX.15 (2005) gives that updated RISs are needed as a matter of priority from e.g. Sweden. The large number of Ramsar sites in Sweden, outnumbered by only three countries, makes the revision of the RISs an onerous task. In October 2006, the Swedish EPA first informed the Secretariat of the delay.

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]	A - Yes
2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information]	B - No
2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out? [if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available]	D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

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

2.3.1 The measures required to maintain the ecological character have been defined, but are not yet applied in all sites. Relevant management measures are considered in the process of developing management plans for those parts of the Ramsar sites that are also designated Natura 2000 sites and/or nature reserves.

2.3.2 All Swedish Ramsar sites are either completely or partly designated Natura 2000 sites, and most are also completely or partly protected as nature reserves. Management plans have been, or are in the process of being, established for all nature reserves and Natura 2000 sites. Each reserve designation decision also contains regulations for the area.

2.3.3 The County Administrative Boards are generally responsible for the management of protected areas, sometimes in cooperation with the Regional Forestry Boards. The tasks of the County Administrations cover a wide span that embraces many sectors of the community, and in this respect management strategies are cross-sectoral. For some Ramsar sites, management responsibility is delegated from the County Administrative Board to e.g. foundations established to convene different stakeholders. Community involvement has high priority in nature conservation in Sweden, and efforts are being made to increase the participation of different stakeholders in the management of protected areas.

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>A - Yes</p>
<p>2.4.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record? {r11.2.viii}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]</p>	<p>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 All Swedish Ramsar sites are either completely or partly protected as nature reserves and/or Natura 2000 sites. Management plans for nature reserves and Natura 2000 sites shall include monitoring measures, in respect of follow-up of identified conservation status targets.

2.4.2 The planning of a high-speed railway track which might affect Umeälv delta Ramsar site has been a matter of concern in recent years, as described in the 2005 national report., The Swedish Ministry of the Environment anticipate that the proposed mitigation and compensation measures will strenghten the natural values of the Ramsar site, and communicated with the ramsar Secretariat on the matter of changes to the areas ecological character in November 2004. Building of the railway track will probably be completed around the year 2010.

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:

<p>2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>

Additional implementation information:

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

2.5.1 Transboundary wetlands include the Ramsar site of Storkölen-Kvisleflået on the border with Norway and the river basin of Torne älv, which constitutes the border with Finland. Furthermore, the Swedish EPA along with the responsible county administrative board are currently investigating the possible designation of Mannavuoma, as to form a transboundary Ramsar site with the site Lätäseno-Hietajoki in Finland.

2.5.2 The Frontier Rivers Agreement between Finland and Sweden concerning the Torne älv river came into force in 1971 and is applied by the Finnish-Swedish Frontier Rivers Commission.

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 Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative, NorBalWet, which currently involves Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia.

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}	C - Partly
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}	B - No
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	E - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

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

3.1.1. There is no formalised forum for cooperation of Ramsar and other MEAS e.g. the Convention on Biological Diversity or the Convention on Migratory Species and its Agreements. However, the Natural Resources Department of the Swedish EPA is responsible for maintaining the focal points of these three conventions, thus there is a good informal exchange of information between officials.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1. As a member state of the EU, Sweden has many opportunities for knowledge sharing in matters relating to biodiversity matters, among many other things. There are also several active national networks involving national and regional authorities, as well as other stakeholders, concerning e.g. sustainable use, nature conservation and integrated water management.

The Swedish EPA has encouraged the establishment of the Nordic-Baltic Wetland Initiative in order to enhance exchange of information in the region, e.g. concerning training for wetland managers.

Sweden was a partner in the interreg Baltic sea region project BIRD, which aimed at developing good links between six countries with respect to nature management, spatial planning, accessibility, information and education in a wide perspective, in which wetlands are an important ingredient. For example, the project resulted in a 'wetland web' with the purpose of collecting and spreading information, www.o.lst.se/o/projektwebbar/bird.

3.2.2. The web-based infrastructure is well developed in Sweden, and wetland information is provided by national and regional authorities, as well as NGOs. A number of wetland publications are available in print and/or on the Internet. See for example the Swedish EPA site with an on-line bookstore and library service: www.naturvardsverket.se.

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}	A - Yes
4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party promote public participation in decision-making (with respect to wetlands), especially with local stakeholder involvement in the selection of new Ramsar sites and in Ramsar site management? {6.1.4}	A - Yes
4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii}	C - Partly
4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} [if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

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

4.1.2. Traditional management practices are given attention both in detail and in the landscape perspective, albeit primarily with regards to wet meadows. Several guiding documents where traditional knowledge is enthroned have been compiled.

4.1.3. The issue of community involvement has high priority in nature conservation in Sweden. It constitutes a cornerstone in the Swedish government's policy, as expressed in the written communication from the Government 'En samlad naturvårdspolitik, Skr. 2001/02:173'. Local stakeholder involvement is central in the designation of Ramsar sites and protected areas, and in the implementation of Natura 2000 (EU Habitats and Birds Directives). Several good examples have been realized in designated Ramsar sites and/or with funding from the EU LIFE-fund, where local communities cooperates with the County Administrative Board in e.g. developing management plans. Due to regulations concerning land tenure and the strong position of landowners in Sweden, their involvement is a prerequisite in wetland restoration. Further, the Swedish Environmental Code states that in connection with the consultation process which takes place prior to the drafting of an environmental impact statement, the operator must obtain and compile available data and consult the other local stakeholders, authorities and organisations concerned.

4.1.5. High-lighting cultural values and promoting traditional practices are important aspects of management of many Ramsar sites and other protected wetlands, but no national statistics are available.

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

Land owners and farmers are essential to the re-establishment, restoration and management of many types of wetlands, in particular concerning wet grasslands and shallow waters in agricultural regions that are entitled to Environmental Support under the EU Rural Development Programme.

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.2.1. The national environmental quality objectives and the Environmental Code, and their implications for sustainable development, apply to all sectors of the Swedish society. See also 1.2.1 and 4.8.2. See also 4.1-B.

4.2.2. The Swedish Wetland Fund – a collaboration of WWF-Sweden, the Swedish Ornithological Society and the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management – have involved the private sector among the donors. Together with state-owned Sveaskog, Sweden’s largest forest owner, the Fund is working on a project to re-establish 100 wetlands. The private sector is also locally involved in different wetland projects, e.g. Lake Tysslingen which is renowned for the spectacular migration of whooping swans (*Cygnus cygnus*).

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.3.1. Sustainability, wise use and conservation are central aspects of the national environmental quality objectives and the Environmental Code, and apply to all sectors of the Swedish society (cf. 1.2.1). The EU Water Framework Directive and the Ordinance on Water Quality Management (the Swedish legislation pursuant to the directive) is being implemented.

4.3.2. Agricultural subsidies that have negative effects on wetlands have previously been removed, e.g. subsidies to drain land for agriculture or forestry purposes. A land drainage ban was introduced in southern Sweden in 1994.

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

Claims to reduce impacts of climate change on infrastructure and human land-use, such as increased drainage, clearing of ditches and water regulation to mitigate floods etc., might become a threat to the wise use of wetlands in the future. In addition, measures to increase production in agriculture and forestry as a response to high prices on grain and biofuel threatens to reduce the environmental consideration.

The Ramsar site Helgeån is the core area of Kristianstad Vattenrike, one of Sweden's two Biosphere Reserves. This area is especially important to demonstrate implementation of wise use, in how the ecological values and cultural heritage can be preserved and developed, while at the same time making careful and sustainable use of them.

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

Indicator questions:

<p>4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii}</p> <p>[If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]</p>	B - No
<p>4.4.2 Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the subnational, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? {r.9.iii.iii}</p> <p>[Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4]</p>	B - No
<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>	A - Yes
<p>4.4.4 Have national campaigns, programmes, and projects been carried out to raise community awareness of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {r9.vi.i}</p> <p>[If:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values, <p>please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	A - Yes
<p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>	A - Yes

4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}

[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]

A - Yes

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 ...]”

4.4.3. The Swedish Parliament has adopted 16 national environmental quality objectives, which apply to all sectors (i.e. ministries and agencies) and provide a framework for environmental programmes and initiatives at national, regional and local level. The objectives 'Thriving wetlands' and 'Flourishing Lakes and Streams' is the shared responsibility of the Swedish EPA, the National Board of Forestry, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Swedish Board of Fisheries and the National Heritage Board.

4.4.4. Activities related to the environmental quality objectives mentioned above, focus largely on spreading information on ecosystem services and sustainable use of natural resources to the general public and the relevant sectors. Several NGO's have information activities linked to wetland issues.

4.4.5. Information on WWD is normally disseminated through the Swedish EPA's web-site and sometimes celebrated by organisations and noticed by the media. However, matters are complicated by the fact that WWD is celebrated on February 2, when Swedish wetlands normally are covered with snow and ice.

4.4.6. In Sweden, there approximately 28 manned visitor centres supervised by the Swedish EPA, so called 'naturum', and 17 unmanned information centres. The number is growing. The 'naturum' are often located at nature reserves or national parks, and aim at disseminating information about the area but also about nature conservation, ecology and human impact in general. There are also 73 Nature Schools around the country, some associated to 'naturum', that work in cooperation with the municipalities in educating school children and teachers. More than 10 of these 'naturum' and Nature Schools are located at wetland and/or Ramsar sites, e.g. at Lake Hornborga, Getterön and Asköviken. There is also plenty of information available on the Internet.

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

Wetland CEPA issues are included in management plans for nature reserves and Natura 2000 sites, and wetland CEPA is integrated in the work with the environmental quality objectives and the Water Framework Directive.

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.5.1. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) makes annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention, primarily to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and to support delegates from developing countries. In 2007, the total amount was SEK 2 million (approximately EURO 209,000). Out of this amount SEK 715,000 supported the Small Grants Fund, SEK 30,000 supported the STRP priority task 'Wetlands and Human Health' and SEK 1,255,000 supported delegates from DAC countries to attend Ramsar regional meetings preparatory to COP10.

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

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

Indicator questions:

<p>4.6.1 {16.1.1}</p> <p>a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>b) If “No” in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p> <p>Payments have been made in full, but not in a timely manner every year. However, the Swedish contribution for 2008 was paid in december 2007 and improved communication between the Swedish EPA and the Ministry of the Environment will ensure prompt payment also in years to come.</p>	

4.6.2 {16.1.2}	A - Yes
a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity?	
b) If yes, please state the amounts:	
In 2007, totally SEK 2 million (EURO 209,000). SEK 715,000 supported the Small Grants Fund, SEK 30,000 supported the STRP priority task 'Wetlands and Human Health' and SEK 1,255,000 supported delegates from DAC countries to attend Ramsar regional meetings preparatory to COP10 (cf. 4.5.1).	

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 ...]”

[Empty green box for additional implementation information]

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

[Empty green box for additional implementation information]

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

Indicator questions:

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

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

The national report is compiled from existing information concerning wetland conservation and wise use from many sources, and in this aspect used to monitor implementation of the Convention.

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

The reporting format has improved greatly since the last national report.

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

Indicator questions:

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

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

4.8.1. The environmental quality objectives (EQO) are assessed yearly and there is an in-depth evaluation every fourth year, which includes assessment of responsibilities. Several authorities share the responsibility for the wetland EQOs, and the participation of other stakeholders is also encouraged. A review was also partly made in the progress of producing the 'National Strategy for Thriving Wetlands'. Cf. 1.2.1 and 4.4.3.

4.8.2. At present, the Swedish Ramsar Committee is constituted by the Swedish EPA and a number of NGOs, and functions only for information sharing and an expanded committee could be considered. However, there are a number of fora in place where wetland matters are discussed and handled, e.g. the Environmental Objectives Council. The Council consists of representatives of central government agencies, county administrative boards, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the business sector, and aims to promote consultation and cooperation in implementing the environmental quality objectives adopted by Parliament.

Further, concerning the EU Water Framework Directive and the Ordinance on Water Quality Management there are five Water Authorities in charge of water work in their respective district, and each Water Authority has a Water Delegation as a governing board. The Water Delegations are comprised of representatives from different sectors of society. There are also water management associations and coastal water management associations coordinating local and regional stakeholders.

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

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

Indicator question:

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

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.9.1-4.9.2

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.10.1 Sweden was a partner in the interreg Baltic sea region project BIRD, which aimed at developing good links between six countries with respect to nature management, spatial planning, accessibility, information and education in a wide perspective, in which wetlands are an important ingredient. For example, the project resulted in a 'wetland web' with the purpose of collecting and spreading information, www.o.lst.se/o/projektwebbar/bird.

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