



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.

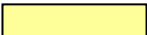
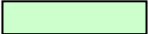
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis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

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Simon Hopkinson, Head of International Protected Areas Team
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Telephone/Fax:	+ 44 (0)117 372 8567/Fax 0117 372 8508
Email:	Simon.Hopkinson@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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

Name and title:	Andy Tully
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Email:	Andy.Tully@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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

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Name of organisation:	
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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:	Simon Hopkinson, Head of International Protected Areas Team
Name of organisation:	
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Email:	Simon.Hopkinson@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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

Name and title:	Malcolm Whitehead
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SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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

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

The UK has completed a review of Ramsar sites in mainland UK which identified Ramsar interests at sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive (SACs and SPAs) as well as threatened wetland habitats and species not listed in the Annexes of the Directive, which can contribute to our commitments under the Ramsar Convention. In Scotland in particular, the review identified a substantial resource of Ramsar interest features already protected within the Natura 2000 series.

Following a review of existing and potential Ramsar sites in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies in 2004 (carried out by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum on behalf of Defra) <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3511>, some site designations have taken place and it is hoped that this will continue. Notably, since COP9, an additional four sites have been designated in the UK Crown Dependencies. This includes one site in the Isle of Man, two sites in Guernsey/Alderney and one site in Sark. An additional three sites were designated in Jersey just prior to COP 9.

Natural England (NE), the Environment Agency (EA) for England and Wales, the RSPB and now also the Wildlife Trusts, are producing a joint Wetland Vision for England. This vision will provide a visual interpretation of the scale and potential location of new and restored water and wetland habitats, bringing our wetland heritage back to life. A wide consultation on the project was launched in February 2006, and the intention is to produce a vision document and the basis of a mapping tool showing wetland creation opportunities by mid 2008.

A national wetland inventory project for Scotland is also planned to provide more accurate baseline information for the protection, enhancement and restoration of wetlands.

Under the England Biodiversity Strategy 'Water and Wetland Strategy Implementation Group', work is under way to promote catchment-sensitive farming, improve regulation of water abstraction as a result of the Water Act 2003 and a major environmental improvement programme for water and wetland sites. This was secured under the fourth periodic review of Water Prices. These will help secure ecological objectives required by the Water Framework Directive as well as Natura 2000 and SSSI, and so contribute to Ramsar objectives.

Priorities for 2001-2010 include continued improvements of water quality in rivers, canals and lakes, major improvements in the conditions of wetland SSSIs as a result of water company expenditure to tackle abstraction problems, implementation of water level management plans and common framework for wetland restoration in the wider countryside. This is being achieved through a programme of work undertaken jointly by the EA and NE to review all EA consents affecting Natura 2000 sites under the Habitats Directive and a programme (the remedies programme) to bring SSSIs into favourable or recovering condition in order to meet the governments PSA target for SSSIs.

Defra are developing a new Water Strategy which will set out a coherent policy framework to underpin our commitments for water availability and quality. It will outline Government's evolving priorities, and focus water policy through a climate change lens. The aim is to improve standards of service and quality, while balancing environmental impacts, water quality, supply and demand, and social and economic effects.

The new strategy will provide an opportunity to ensure that those commitments are realised in a way that will also aid the achievement of Defra's high level goals: mitigating and adapting to climate change, and protecting and enhancing our natural asset base.

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

The Ramsar principles are wrapped up in many UK biodiversity policies and it is difficult to unravel these in order to identify the specific aspects that have been successful in implementation of the Convention. In many areas of regulation affecting Natura 2000 sites, government policy is to treat Ramsar sites as if they were designated under the Habitats Directive, so getting the same level of protection. However, in the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, where the UK's ratification also extends, Ramsar provides the only international mechanism for protecting sites of global importance and is thus of key conservation significance.

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

The ease of implementation is dependant on how effectively this can be harmonised with other conventions and EU Directives. Where this is not possible, balancing the priority of the convention with those of other conventions can cause occasional difficulties.

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

The UK continues to support the principles of the Ramsar Convention in our environmental policies. For example, in England under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), we have a target to create eight new landscape-scale wetlands in the UK by 2020 which will include reedbeds, fens, coastal floodplain and grazing marsh, and lowland raised bog - <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/habitats.aspx>

Subject to funding, in the UK Overseas Territories (UKOT) the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) are hoping to support the development of networks of marine and terrestrial protected areas in St. Helena and the Falklands. They have also assisted in facilitating a workshop for ecosystem mapping at the request of the Turks and Caicos Government Department for environment and coastal resources. The ideas and suggestions of the workshop have been compiled and submitted in an application for funding with the aim of getting TCIs environmental data on the national GIS so that it is available to feed into decision making. This also applies to data and maps of the Ramsar site. The UK will also continue to support further site designations in its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

The review of Ramsar sites in mainland UK identified Ramsar interests at sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive (SACs and SPAs) as well as threatened wetland habitats and species supported on such sites not listed in the Annexes of the Directive. However, the UK is currently not considering the designation of additional Ramsar sites identified in the review as there would be no conservation gain, given that the Natura network (SACs & SPAs) provides a very high level of protection for habitats and species listed on the annexes.

The review of Ramsar sites within the relevant Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies identified possible sites which are the subject of consideration by the appropriate governments. In these territories the Ramsar Convention is the

only framework which provides the opportunity to secure recognition for sites of global importance.

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

Processes should aim to reduce burden and be as simplified as possible.

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

As above.

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?

While there have been discussions about harmonising and streamlining reporting, implementation of these ideas still has some way to go. The UK strongly believes that national reports should focus on outcomes, not activities and processes. While the current report format is an improvement on the behemoth in the previous framework, the UK is disappointed that the opportunity to focus on outcomes and indicators analogous to the CBD Decision VII/30 framework, has been missed.

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)?

To ensure that the Ramsar 'wise use' principles and objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan are reflected in our various wetland policies and identified in other cross cutting policy areas.

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

The CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan should be core to the Ramsar Secretariat's work.

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}	B - No
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	C - Partly
1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed]	C - For some sites
1.1.4 If the answer is “Yes” in 1.1.3, does this information indicate that the need to address adverse change in the ecological character of wetlands is now greater, the same, or less than in the previous triennium, for: a) Ramsar sites b) wetlands generally	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 ...]”

The mainland UK implements the Ramsar Convention through the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive. Wetlands will be evaluated under these Directives to establish the extent to which the conservation status of wetlands is being preserved or enhanced.

1.1.1

Natural England and the Environment Agency are working on developing a national inventory for England to build on existing inventories for many wetland habitats (grazing marsh, fens, bogs) which need updating.

A national wetland inventory project for Scotland is also planned to provide more accurate baseline information for the protection, enhancement and restoration of wetlands.

The Isle of Man (a Crown Dependency of the UK) now has a computerised wetland inventory, including coastal waters.

1.1.2

Although the UK does not have a comprehensive inventory of its wetlands, a comprehensive inventory of designated Ramsar sites is available on the JNCC - website <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1389>

1.1.3

Natural England (NE) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) hold good inventory data for designated sites, including quality assessments. However, an analysis of improvement since the last triennium has not been carried out.

1.1.4

In the UKOTs, we are aware of a number of developments which may have an adverse impact on wetlands. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are currently working with the OTs to update Environmental Impact Assessment legislation through a number of Overseas Territories Environmental Programmes (OTEP) in order to minimise the impact of developments on wetlands. OTEP is a joint programme of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development to support the implementation of the Environment Charters and environmental management more generally in the UK Overseas Territories.

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

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

Indicator questions:

1.2.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {2.1.1}

[If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in Additional implementation information]

A - Yes

1.2.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {2.1.2}	A - Yes
1.2.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development (including National Poverty Reduction Plans called for by the WSSD and water resources management and water efficiency plans)? {2.1.2}	A - Yes
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	D - In progress
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

Governments in the UK have policy statements relating to the special status of Ramsar sites which extends the same protection to listed Ramsar sites as that afforded to Natura 2000 sites.

1.2.2

England national wetland strategy is linked to global 2010 biodiversity targets.

1.2.4

Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), work on developing biological water quality objectives and agreeing water quality targets for designated sites was further underpinned with regulations to implement the WFD and publish maps summarising the first phase of river basin characterisation. These maps detail the pressures contributing to the risk of water bodies failing to achieve good ecological status by December 2015.

In England and Wales, the Environment Agency has been tasked with reviewing all water abstraction and discharge consents which could affect or influence Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. To date it has prioritised those sites which could be most adversely impacted by abstraction and action taken or planned on a number of discharges. The Agency has a target to complete the review and revoke or modify all consents causing damage by 2010. In Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) are also prioritising those sites which could be most adversely impacted by abstraction

In Scotland, to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, a comprehensive abstraction control regime was introduced for the first time, for which The Scottish Environment Protection Agency is the regulatory authority. This covers abstractions from both surface and groundwaters. Under this, all abstractions, along with impoundments, engineering works and discharges, are now covered by a comprehensive water use licensing regime. Existing discharges, transferred to the new licensing regime, are currently the subject of a review of impacts on the water environment.

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}	B - No
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	C - Partly
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	B - No

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

In mainland UK, there are no ecosystem services valuation studies focused particularly on Ramsar sites but under our ecosystems approach project we have an ongoing project on the value of England’s ecosystem services which will look at values of ecosystem services from wetlands. This project will provide an economic valuation of England’s terrestrial ecosystem services encompassing the goods, services, and non-use values it provides, demonstrating examples of the multi-functional values of ecosystems. A key part of this study will be to investigate and propose methodologies for combining and aggregating (both spatially and temporally) values based on different valuation techniques, and to discuss the relationship between ‘total value’ estimates and marginal values. A small number of case studies will be used to investigate these issues in real world situations.

A gap analysis will highlight any ecosystem services that could not be valued and will identify the most significant uncertainties involved in the study. The study will make recommendations for further work that can help us better understand the value of ecosystems and the goods and services they provide us with.

Scottish Government have asked for a pilot ecosystem services project at catchment scale (detailed by Scottish Biodiversity Committee).

In the UKOTs, Bermuda is conducting an economic valuation study of coral reefs in partnership with JNCC to influence policy relating to marine and coastal management, particularly the operation of cruise ships, and plan for completion by March 2009. The Bermuda Coral Reef Platform is a Ramsar site.

1.3.3

A number of different groups are involved in implementing components of the Ramsar Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands. Defra, Natural England and the Environment Agency are all already involved in efforts to minimise the further degradation of peat and to restore degraded habitats. This is through a range of policy measures and practical restoration projects funded with different partners on different areas of peat.

About 230,000 hectares of peat bog are under management in agri-environment schemes. Environmental Stewardship is an agri-environment scheme which provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land. Defra is undertaking a review of Environmental Stewardship which, amongst other things, will be looking at how the scheme options might better contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. We will also explore whether the proposed Upland Entry Level Scheme can contribute to protecting these habitats. (The Government is minded to replace the current Hill Farming Allowance with an Uplands Entry Level Stewardship scheme by 2010. This will be a move away from the compensatory nature of HFA and towards rewarding upland farmers for the delivery of

environmental and landscape benefits in the uplands.)

Restoring peat bogs is critical to the delivery of the Public Service Agreement target relating to SSSI quality (to get 95% of SSSIs, by area, in favourable or recovering condition by 2010), which the Defra family is working towards. A considerable proportion of peat bogs are designated as SSSIs and currently around two thirds of this area meets the target; improving the condition of the remainder is a priority. Funding through the Higher Level of Environmental Stewardship will contribute to this.

In Scotland there are Peatland (raised and blanket bog) Management Schemes in the Western Isles, Caithness & Sutherland, Wester Ross, Skye, Rannoch, Grampian and the South of Scotland (the latter two raised bog) with a total eligible area of 240,000 ha. In Caithness & Sutherland and Lewis (Western Isles) the uptake is 95,000ha and 54,000ha respectively.

The UK is keen to continue to make progress to halt peat degradation in collaboration with partners and key stakeholders. Protecting soil carbon stores will be a key strand of the forthcoming Defra Soil Strategy and the proposed EU Soil Framework Directive. UK policy is to promote management which i) minimises further losses of carbon from peat soils and ii) allows peat bogs to act as a carbon sink. The potential for significantly off-setting carbon emissions may be somewhat limited because of the time it takes for peat to form.

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

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

Indicator questions:

1.4.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been used/applied in decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {3.4.2 – r3.4.xiv}	C - Partly
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	B - No
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}	B - No

Additional implementation information:

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

1.4.1

Natural England and the Environment Agency for England and Wales, commissioned the development of a Biodiversity Framework to integrate wetland targets with a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). The report, including details of the pilot in the Ribble Basin, was completed in 2005 and had a GIS output. Similar Frameworks are being developed in Wales and Northern Ireland (jointly with the Republic of Ireland).

In Scotland there is no integrated biodiversity framework in place for RBMP yet but SEPA are drafting guidance to provide to Area Advisory Groups (AAGs) on how to incorporate habitat connectivity and other biodiversity objectives into measures.

The quality of available information, especially in GIS format, is not sufficient to populate a Biodiversity Framework for every River Basin in England in time for the drafting of River Basin Management Plans in 2008. Instead, the concept is being developed through the 50-year Wetland Vision project, launched at World Wetlands Day 2006 and being run by Natural England, the Environment Agency, RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts and English Heritage. The Vision aims to provide information on which sort of freshwater wetland habitats should be restored or created and in which locations. A national map for England is due to be completed in 2008. Support for regional implementation is being considered in the next phase.

Groundwater-dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTES) under the Water Framework Directive are being identified in England and Wales in a joint project between the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales. Criteria have been developed as for the groundwater dependency of different wetlands; a draft list provided by the conservation agencies is being quality assured in a series of regional workshops in the first part of 2006. Further work will be needed to assess the extent of the impacts on these GWDTES of abstraction or groundwater pollution. A considerable amount of work has already been undertaken by the Environment Agency and Water Companies in the Review of Consents under the Habitats Directive 1992, and these groundwater-dependent Natura sites will be included in the programmes of measures in each River Basin District from 2009.

The identification of GWDTES under the WFD has also been done in Scotland by SEPA, with input from SNH. Further work to assess the extent of the potential impacts of abstraction to highly vulnerable sites is planned.

1.4.3

In England Defra is in the process of developing a new strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management (Making space for water), which recognises the value of wetlands in mitigating the impacts of flooding and coastal erosion. The strategy aims to reduce risk in ways that also deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefit. Guidance has been developed on shoreline management plans (SMPs) and catchment flood management plan (CFMPs) which seek to place flood and coastal erosion risk management practices & policies within the context of a sound understanding of natural processes at play in catchments and coastal process cells.

Soft engineering methods of reducing risk to people and property, such as habitat restoration through managed realignment, are positively promoted. Where necessary flood management funding is prioritised to meet legal requirements to protect internationally designated habitats. A research programme is underway to develop further UK understanding of the relationship between land use and flood risk. The Environment Agency for England and Wales and SEPA publishes flood risk maps and the EA has committed to producing an erosion risk map by 2008. Recent planning guidance (PPG25 DCLG) has further reinforced spatial planning guidance with respect to development in area of flood risk.

The planned national wetland inventory for Scotland will include future work to identify priority areas for wetland restoration in riparian and coastal areas as wetlands play an important role for restoring natural floodplain processes as part of sustainable flood management.

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

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

Indicator questions:

<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>B - No</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

There are a number of wetland restoration projects occurring in the UK. In the east of England (East Anglia) for example, four major fenland projects are taking place. They are: Wicken Fen; Great Fen; Lakenheath Fen; and Needingworth. Needingworth is restoring a working sand and gravel quarry. Over a 20 year period it will become a nature reserve with reedbeds. The other three projects are transforming arable land into wetland sites. Wicken Fen, the largest of the projects, aims to acquire 3,700 hectares of farmland over a 100 year period. The Great Fen Project will restore over 3,000 hectares of farmland situated between Huntingdon and Peterborough to fenland wildlife habitat.<http://www.greatfen.org.uk/>

There are a number of other wetland restoration projects ongoing. Information about them can be found at www.wetlandvision.org.uk. Not all projects aim to restore particular sites. For example, one in Hertfordshire (South-east England) disseminates good practice in wetland restoration.

At Wallasea Island, Defra created a 115 hectare wetland on the North shore costing £7.5m to replace similar bird habitats, lost to port development during the 1990s. The Island is situated on the East coast of Essex and adjoins the Crouch and Roach estuaries which both have Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) status.

The wetland comprises saline lagoons, mudflats and saltmarsh which provides a feeding and roosting habitat for birds. It will also improve flood defences and mitigate the effects that climate change will have on the coast. The site has created open spaces and 4km of footpaths. Wildlife is already using the site – including Brent geese, Oystercatchers, Grey plovers, Dunlins, Shelducks, Curlews, Avocets and Little Terns and Otters. The wetland also provides a nursery habitat for fish such as bass, herring and mullet.

The project started in 2004 and the site was flooded to create the wetland in July 2006. It will be subject to monitoring until 2011, with the intention of designating as a fully functioning natural wetland Ramsar/SPA. Monitoring will investigate its impacts on the local countryside and estuaries, and the rate at which wildlife colonises the new habitat.

The Wetland Vision initiative is also developing a common framework for wetland restoration in the wider countryside throughout England. It is anticipated that this will be finalised by 2010 and in turn is expected to contribute to decisions as to where to create eight new wetlands throughout the UK by 2020. Similar regional projects in Scotland include the Scottish Borders Wetland Vision and NE Scotland Wetland Inventory. A similar wetland vision project is also proposed for the

Cairngorms National Park Authority area. Other projects include Nigg Bay (Cromarty Firth) – and the Black Devon (Clackmannanshire) project. The planned national wetland inventory for Scotland will include further work to identify priority areas for wetland restoration with the aim to improve habitat connectivity.

A review of prices that can be levied by water utilities companies in the UK has also led to £500 million of investment for the period 2005-2010, which will benefit more than 170 important water and wetland sites damaged by sewage pollution and over-utilisation of water. This is being supplemented by a programme to engage farmers in practices which will help tackle diffuse pollution at 40 important water catchment sites and thereby help important wetland sites achieve favourable or recovering condition by 2010.

In 2005, English Nature, published 'Getting Wetter for Wildlife', which provides guidance on wetland habitat restoration.

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 ...]”

1.6.1
 A draft GB (England, Scotland and Wales) Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy has been developed by a multi-stakeholder working group for a GB Programme Board, which acts as a strategic policy co-ordination body. A public consultation was carried out in 2007 on the draft GB Strategy and it was strongly supported by stakeholders. It is planned to launch the final version of the Strategy and an implementation plan in the spring of 2008.

A different but co-ordinated approach is being undertaken in Northern Ireland in partnership with Ireland. The GB Strategy takes account of the Bern Convention European Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Guiding Principle number 2 of the CBD Guiding Principles concerning IAS.

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

Strategic policy co-ordination on Invasive Alien Species in GB is led by the GB Programme Board which has its own small Secretariat. Full information can be found at the website: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/>. Stakeholder engagement is provided for through an annual GB Forum, the use of working groups and creation of a stakeholder sounding board. A GB Non-native Species Risk Analysis Panel has been established and risk assessments of IAS are now being commissioned.

The last of 3 projects to develop a generic risk assessment methodology, building on the EPPO Plant Risk Assessment methodology, has just been launched. Proposals are being developed for increasing the range of species whose introduction into the wild is regulated through criminal law and proposals are being developed for prohibiting the sale of certain invasive non-native species. A range of control and research activities are being undertaken. For example, Japanese knotweed is extensively established as an invasive species and research is well advanced into potential biocontrol agents. On the other hand, water primrose has not yet become widely established in this country but is known to be a problem invasive aquatic plant species in other European countries; a rapid response was undertaken in 2006/2007 to eradicate known small populations from GB.

JNCC has been involved in non-native species work in the UK Overseas Territories since it was identified as a priority in a workshop session at the UKOT Conference in Bermuda in March 2003. This resulted in the publication of a review of non-native species in the UK Overseas territories in 2006 and the compilation of a UKOTCD non-natives database

It was recognised that this was very much a first step, and the review provided a foundation resource that needed to be built upon. In June 2007, JNCC hosted a workshop to bring together various organisations working on invasives in the OTs to share information and ideas, and to build upon the work done for the review - <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4080>

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

Indicator questions:

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

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

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

The UK at present is not considering designating further sites in mainland UK, although it hopes further designations will continue in its OTs & CDs (see section 2A)

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?

B - No

Additional implementation information:

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

2.2.1

The RIS format has got longer over time, and now appears overly complex. The UK considers that it would be sensible to review the information content of RIS with a view to simplification to include just the information that is used by Parties and the Secretariat on a regular basis.

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]	C - Some sites
2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out? [if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available]	C - Some sites

Additional implementation information:

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

2.3.1

In England and Wales, under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Ramsar sites that are groundwater dependant will be subject to monitoring / programme of measures to restore or maintain their ecological status.

2.3.2

The UK has a range of different types of management plan in place on many Ramsar sites (for site specific information see section 25 of the updated Ramsar Information Sheets at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1389>. The UK has not analysed the type and scope of management planning for all UK sites due to other priorities.

The Ballaugh Curragh Ramsar site on Isle of Man New (a Crown Dependency of the UK) has management plans for much of the site and a management framework is being developed to link these.

2.3.3

A cross-sectoral management committee has been established for the Ballaugh Curragh Ramsar site on Isle of Man.

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>C - Partly</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

In mainland UK, this is achieved by way of the European Birds and Habitats Directives, where an appropriate assessment needs to be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which either alone or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, and is not directly connected with the management of the site for nature conservation. Appropriate assessment is required by law for all European Sites. A European Site is any classified Special Protection Area (SPA) classified under the EC Birds Directive, and any Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated under the EC Habitats Directive, from the point where the Commission and the Government agree the site as a Site of Community Importance. Appropriate assessment is also required, as a matter of Government policy, for potential SPAs, candidate SACs and listed Ramsar Sites for the purpose of considering development proposals affecting them.

In mainland UK Ramsar sites are also underpinned through prior notification of these areas as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (or Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in Northern Ireland). Accordingly, these receive statutory protection under the associated legislation. In 2000, the UK adopted national targets relating to SSSI condition to promote their management in order to meet the 2010 targets on biodiversity. This has been a key driver to improving the condition of protected sites.

2.4.2

No additional cases have been identified since COP 9.

2.4.3

The UK has worked to resolve the problems identified at the Dee Estuary. Negotiations are ongoing with stakeholders and NGOs to resolve this matter. However, even though some progress has been made the UK government considers that this site should remain on the Montreux Record at this time.

The Ouse Washes steering group was set up in 2004 to oversee action and improve the conservation condition of the Ouse Washes SPA/SAC/Ramsar site. Working with stakeholders, a budget and a range of plans have been agreed to ensure the site reaches favourable condition by 2020. The solutions being implementing include improving the quality of water entering the site, improving the drainage from the site and creating some replacement habitat; all in the context of the flood management use of the site and predicted effects of climate change on the site. Work is currently underway but there is still much to be done. The UK therefore consider it would be premature to remove the Ouse Washes from the Montreux register at present.

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

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

Indicator questions:

2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}	A - Yes
2.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (including regional site and waterbird flyway networks)? {12.1.2; 12.2.2} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

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

2.5.2

Regular liaison meetings take place between authorities in Northern Ireland and Eire.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

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

B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

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

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	A - Yes
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}	A - Yes
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

Focal points work closely to ensure cross cutting issues are identified.

3.1.2

This is dependant on agendas and cross cutting issues (see 4.8.2).

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

Twinning arrangements exist between the Wash and Waddensee, and between Strangford Loch and sites in Canada and Iceland.

3.2.2

See <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-161>

and also (for Isle of Man) http://www.gov.im/daff/Countryside/wildlife/ballaugh_curragh.xml

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

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

Indicator questions:

4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5}	B - No
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	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>	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

In the UKOTCDs, this has been a feature in several sites. For example, the work of Turks & Caicos National Trust and UKOTCF on the management plan for the Ramsar site in TCI
http://www.ukotcf.org/pubs/tci_ramsar.htm

4.1.3

In mainland UK, public consultations are carried out at an early part in the site designation process.

4.1.4

There has been no activity planned in mainland UK. However, there has been activity in several UKOTs. One example is Turks & Caicos National Trust's primary school course 'Our Land, Our Sea, Our People' (under current updating and revision with the help of UKOTCF) which includes several modules wholly or partly on wetlands. Several Caribbean UKOTs have been involved in other wetland education and training programmes, as well as some territories elsewhere.

4.1.5

There has been some activity in the UKOTCDs. However, in mainland UK no specific activity is planned, although we would seek to recognise the importance of those values when managing our existing site network.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.2.1

Private sector involvement is integral to the achievements of targets under UK BAP and the development of River Basin Management Plans. To tackle diffuse pollution, a major programme of farmer engagement is now underway in forty priority catchments through the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative.

4.2.2

In November 2006, a number of environmental NGOs formed a coalition to launch a 'Blueprint for water'. <http://www.blueprintforwater.org.uk/>. This Blueprint sets out the steps needed to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and restore to health the ecology of our waters by 2015.

Partners for Water and Sanitation (PAWS, <http://www.partnersforwater.org>) are a not-for-profit partnership whose members come from government, private sector and civil society. PAWS uses the wide range of skills from these partners to provide advice and support to projects on the request of our partner countries. They are currently delivering a number of water resources and catchment management planning projects which promote the importance of wetlands protection and are based on participatory approaches. Their aim is to help improve access to safe water and sanitation for people in four African countries, using expertise from the UK water industry.

PAWS works on projects that aim to build capacity through knowledge transfer in the water and sanitation sector to help to provide a sustainable solution. Partners include UK water companies, development NGOs, law firms, trade unions and government departments and agencies. The partnership was established in response to the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation by 2015.

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}	C - Partly

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

In England, an abstraction charging scheme has been in place for many years. Incentive charging is being discussed as part of Defra’s new Water Strategy.

Future changes are envisaged due to the Environmental Liability and Water Framework Directives and the UK may need to introduce some charging to regulate physical modifications to prevent deterioration of good ecological status-subject to Defra consultation on hydromorphology.

A voluntary initiative for pesticides has been offered by industry in lieu of a pesticides tax, and has made some inroads into addressing water pollution by pesticides. Biodiversity objectives are now being drawn into this in the UK pesticides action plan.

Agri-environment support exists for some resource protection schemes, as well as specific habitat creation schemes for wetlands. The Catchments Sensitive Farming project has a capital grant scheme aiming at diffuse pollution control especially in catchments where Sites of Special Scientific Interest are affected.

4.3.2

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the UK has taken a broad approach to identifying and removing perverse incentives where these discourage nature conservation. It is therefore difficult to tease out positive impacts specifically for wetlands. However, CAP reform has removed headage payments for cattle and sheep and hence reduced the incentive for over-grazing which will therefore have a positive impact on Ramsar sites where these include grazing marshes. Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) agreements and other stewardship schemes will also have addressed this. Some cross-compliance rules (e.g. on waterlogged soils) should also encourage wise use of wetland areas.

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

[Empty text box for additional implementation information]

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

Indicator questions:

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

A 'virtual' CEPA group consisting of Government and Wildfowl and Wetland Trust representatives was established in early 2006 to take forward the UK CEPA action plan (see below).

4.4.2

A CEPA action plan has been adopted by the UK Natura 2000/Ramsar forum and is being taken forward by the CEPA virtual group.

4.4.3

This is achieved by way of the UK Natura 2000/Ramsar Forum and Steering Committee.

4.4.5

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) conference takes place annually on World Wetlands Day in London

http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/7/wwd2007_rpts_uk_ciwem1.htm.

WWT also carry out annual WWD activities

http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/7/wwd2007_rpts_uk_lwc1summary.pdf

http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/6/wwd2006_rpts_uk01.htm

World Wetlands Day was celebrated by a conference on the Isle of Man (see Ramsar website)

4.4.6

Wetland Link International, a global network of wetland centres, was established by the UK NGO The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) in 1991 and resurrected in 2003 with considerable support from HSBC Bank (which continues to date - 2007).

A UK regional WLI network was established in 2004. The Report of the inaugural meeting is available at <http://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/wli-uk-meeting-notes2.pdf>. There are currently 74 members, comprising both wetland centres and individuals/groups engaged in CEPA for wetlands. These include the nine UK WWT centres, one of which, at Llanelli, is the National Wetland Centre for Wales. It is hoped to expand the network in 2008.

During the 2004-2007 triennium, active WLI networks were started in Asia (with a website, major symposium, twinning of Hong Kong Wetland Park and the London Wetland Centre, and joint schools programme), Canada, and resurrected in Australia.

WLI is also working alongside the partners of the HSBC Climate Partnership (especially WWF and Earthwatch) in a series of UK-based and global volunteering programmes for HSBC employees, wetland centre developments, and CEPA programmes linking wetlands and climate change in major river systems like the Thames and Yangtze.

In 2006, the Turks and Caicos National Trust, with help from the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, opened its Middle Caicos Conservation Centre and related nature trails interpreting the North, Middle & East Caicos Ramsar Site.

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

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.5.1

The Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) can be used by the Overseas Territories to support the establishment and protection of wetland areas. Funding was made available to Montserrat for protection of Pipers Pond. OTEP has provided funding to a number of habitat restoration projects in the past and will continue to do so.

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>	

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 FY 2005/06: £40,000 was given to support COP 9 £25,000 was given to sponsored delegates at COP 9 £15,000 was given to the Small Grants Fund In FY 2006/07: £10,014 was given to support the STRP £35,000 was given to the Small Grants Fund	

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 ...]”

[Redacted area]

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

[Redacted area]

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]	B - No
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

While the report format has provided us with a useful tool for reflecting on our ongoing work and achievements, we have found previous report formats of little value in monitoring our implementation due to the lack of focus in the report on outcomes and indicators.

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

[Redacted area]

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

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

4.8.1

In 2004, following a review of rural delivery, Defra published its Rural Strategy. As part of the strategy, a new body has been created called Natural England, formed by the merger of the Countryside Agency's landscape, access and recreation functions with the activities of English Nature and the larger part of the Rural Development Service (RDS), dealing with the natural environment.

Natural England was formally established on 01 October 2006 following the successful passage of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 through Parliament and is an independent statutory Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB). The NERC Act sets out Natural England's purpose - to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. The Act states that this purpose includes:

Promoting nature conservation and protecting biodiversity; conserving and enhancing the landscape; securing the provision and improvement of facilities for the study, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment; promoting access to the countryside, open spaces and encouraging open air recreation, and; contributing in other ways to social and economic well being through management of the natural environment.

4.8.2

This is facilitated by way of the Natura 2000/Ramsar Forum and Steering Committee. This group consists of representatives from cross-cutting government organisations including the Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Crown Dependencies. The Forum includes NGO representatives. The group meet every six months to discuss and plan Natura and Ramsar implementation.

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

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

Indicator question:

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

4.9.2
In 2006 Defra, JNCC and Scottish Natural Heritage provided support for Wetland International Global Flyways Conference: Publication of proceedings. In the same year, JNCC provided support for Wetlands International Waterbird Census/Waterbird Population Estimates Forth Edition. <http://www.wetlands.org/publication.aspx?ID=c76e4f7a-41c5-4aca-9a73-ffc5e69f5d89>

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>C - Partly</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
WLI with support from Defra has produced an online manual 'Developing a wetland centre' <http://www.wwt.org.uk/downloads/400/publications.html>.

This online manual outlines some of the philosophy, thinking and questions to be considered when developing and running a wetland centre. The emphasis is on CEPA (Communications, Education and Public Awareness) - the 'people' aspects of creating and running a wetland centre. The online manual is available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese.
4.10.2 & 3
Training needs and opportunities are assessed and implemented on an organisation by organisation basis rather than centrally.

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

