



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

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,  
Romania, June 2012**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **15 September 2011**.

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

### Introduction & background

1. This National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee in Decision SC41-24 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2009, and its Decision SC40-29, this COP11 National Report Format closely follows that used for the COP10 National Report Format, which in turn was a significantly revised and simplified format in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In addition to thus permitting continuity of reporting and implementation progress analyses by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP10 NRF), this COP11 NRF is structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP10 as Resolution X.1, and the indicators speak to relevant Key Result Areas (KRAs) for each Strategy in the Strategic Plan.
4. The COP11 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee, certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in light of its work on assessing effectiveness indicators, and by the CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention. The format also includes indicator questions concerning the use of the "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands", as requested in Resolution X.3 (2008).
5. This COP11 NRF includes 82 indicator questions. 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.
6. The COP11 Format also now includes an additional, optional, section (section 4) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, if it wishes to, on indicators relevant to individual Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

### 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 website.
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 and experience to help Parties develop future action;
  - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
  - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable for their commitments under the Convention;

- v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and to plan its future priorities; and
  - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation 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 COP11 consideration.
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent 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 meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the 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., COP10 DOC. 6);
    - 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., COP10 DOC. 7); and
    - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP10 DOCs 8-13);
  - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP. Examples at CO9 and COP10 included:
    - Resolution IX.15 and X.13, *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), *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC. 25), *Overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2006-2008* (COP10 DOC. 16, and *Background and rationale to the Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character* (COP10 DOC. 27);
  - iii) providing the source data for 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 (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010); 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 on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the COP10 NRF indicators have been used extensively in 2009 in the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems that was being considered by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3).

### The structure of the COP11 National Report Format

12. The COP11 National Report Format is in four sections.

**Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

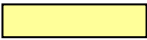
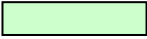
**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**Section 3** provides the 82 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional “free-text” section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity; and a further “free-text” section for adding further information on other aspects of implementation of that Strategy.

**Section 4** ([www Ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://www Ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc)) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). This has been included at the request of a number of Parties.

### Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP11 National Report Format

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

13. All of the first three Sections of the COP11 National Report Format should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **15 September 2011**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP11.
15. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
16. Fields with a pale green background  are optional free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since experience

shows 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.

17. In order to assist Contracting Parties in providing 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.
18. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the form and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties. If you need to work with an unlocked version of the Format, please contact Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org)), who will advise on how that can be done.
19. 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.
20. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
21. 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 Microsoft “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes in the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
22. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic data entry into our database for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ] °°°° in the “free text” fields.
23. 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, but are generally of the form: “Yes”, “No”, “Partly”, “In progress”, etc. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
24. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
25. 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.
26. 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. When filling in this form, it is also advised to refer back to the National Report submitted for COP10 for purposes of continuity and consistency.

27. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP11NRF [Country] [date].
28. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, e-mail: [dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org). The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in this electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
29. 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 COP11 National Report.**
30. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP11 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

## SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

<b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: A U S T R I A</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and Amt der 1) Burgenländischen, 2) Kärntner, 3) Niederösterreichischen, 4) Oberösterreichischen, 5) Salzburger, 6) Steiermärkischen, 7) Tiroler, 8) Vorarlberger und 9) Wiener Landesregierung
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Ministerialrätin Mag. Viktoria Hasler
<b>Mailing address:</b>	A-1010 Wien, Stubenbastei 5
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+43 1 51522 - 1401 / 7402
<b>Email:</b>	viktoria.hasler@lebensministerium.at
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Ministerialrat Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Gerhard SCHWACH
<b>Mailing address:</b>	A-1010 Wien, Stubenbastei 5
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+43 1 51522 - 1416 / 7402
<b>Email:</b>	gerhard.schwach@lebensministerium.at
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	A.o. Univ. Prof. Gert Michael Steiner,
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Institut für Ökologie und Naturschutz, Universität Wien,
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<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+43 1 4277 19102
<b>Email:</b>	Gert.Michael.Steiner@univie.ac.at
<b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Ministerialrat Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Gerhard SCHWACH
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Federal Ministry Agric., Forestry, Environment + Water Man.
<b>Mailing address:</b>	A-1010 Wien, Stubenbastei 5
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+43 1 51522 - 1416 / 7402
<b>Email:</b>	gerhard.schwach@lebensministerium.at
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Mag. Gernot Neuwirth
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Naturschutzbund Österreich
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Museumsplatz 2, A-5020 Salzburg
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	Tel: 0662/642909-20, Fax: 0662/6437344
<b>Email:</b>	gernot.neuwirth@naturschutzbund.at





## SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

**In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP10 reporting):**

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

several new Ramsar sites are in preparation, meetings of the National Ramsar Committee to enforce implementation became more strategic, organization of a mayor Ramsar Conference in 2009 in Eisenstadt ('The role of Ramsar in climate change, biodiversity conservation and drinking water supply'), inclusion of Ramsar principles into new EU projects

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

more awareness, excellent implementation in Ramsar sites pass thurn, keutschach-schiefling, and innovative co-operation between tourism, schools and nature conservation at potential Ramsar site Wilder Kaiser in Tyrol

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

land owners e.g. pasture users are reluctant, at government level there are some other political priorities (Natura 2000, WFD,..)

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

awareness raising of Ramsar Convention's image, more involvement of private institutions/ sponsors, CEPA action plan, country-wide campaign 'Auen-Strategie' on wise use of floodplain areas

E. Does the Contracting Party have any proposals concerning adjustments to the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan?

more focus on avoiding pressures especially (small) hydropower plants that can cause enormous damage to river stretches

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

case by case support to CPs in critical projects, CEPA support / Ramsar information offensives and campaigns

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

Wetlands international should - on request - visit CPs for information events about wetland loss, probably setting contacts between IWMI and national water management

H. 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?

through co-operation between national focal points, which mostly are in the same ministry. Apparently better linkage is not always desired by the acting people, national focal points sometimes do not wish to link their work with that of other conventions or people (because they want to sell their 'own' story?).

I. 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 industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?  
in education, e.g. at universities, input in local education units (Verwaltungsakademie, agriculture and forestry / Land- und forstwirtschaftliche Bildungseinrichtungen)

J. Does the Contracting Party have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?  
assistance and Ramsar Standing Committee requesting CPS to translate CEPA materials into national language.

## 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 a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions.
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 paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database designed for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ], °°°° in the free text box.
5. To assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP10, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP10 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

## GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

**STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment.** *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.*

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A - Yes
1.1.1 Additional information: national wetland inventory (889 sites with a total area of 2.744 km <sup>2</sup> ), 'Moorschutz-Katalog' / mire preservation catalogue (1500 mires), 'Auen-Inventar' (822 sites) and comprehensive biotope inventories of the 9 laender	

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information: national wetland inventory accessible at <a href="http://www.feuchtgebietsinventar.at">www.feuchtgebietsinventar.at</a> and <a href="http://www.naturschutz.at">www.naturschutz.at</a> Publications of wetland improvement activities are continuously made available to the public</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 &amp; 1.1.4}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>P - Status improved O - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 a) Additional information: . In several Ramsar sites management activities such as removal of non-typical plants, de-activation of drainage channels, re-activation of open water areas carried out by site managers and nature conservation organisations led to improvement of status</p>	
<p>1.1.3 b) Additional information: increasing loss of small wetlands or wetlands without legal protection status especially in agricultural areas. Pressures on floodplain forests through agriculture and hydropower. On the other side improvement of many riverine wetlands, particularly through EU co-funded projects (LIFE, INTERREG etc.)</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:  
comprehensive inventories are here, they still have to be rated, refined and linked to national priorities

**STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions.** *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i (If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	A - Yes
<p>1.3.1 Additional information: policy of national goals and measures 2006-2010 approved and partly implemented. Lack of national adaption of global Strategic plan 2005-2015</p>	

1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}	B - No
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1.3.2 Additional information:

1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:  a) Poverty eradication strategies b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans c) Coastal and marine resource management plans d) National forest programmes e) National strategies for sustainable development f) National policies or measures on agriculture g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans {1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i	Z - Not applicable A - Yes Z - Not applicable A - Yes A - Yes B - No A - Yes
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1.3.3 Additional information:

1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii	C - Partly
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1.3.4 Additional information: legal obligation for some strategies and plans by EU law; nevertheless wetland conservation and wise use included only partially

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	C - In some cases
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1.3.5 Additional information: only if it is required by law

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	B - No
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1.3.6 Additional information: no, not in the last 3 years

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services.** *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	D - Planned
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1.4.1 Additional information: 1 'Ramsar Fachtagung 2009' about the ecosystem benefits of wetlands and their role in climate change and drinking water supply

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i

Z - Not applicable

1.4.2 Additional information:

1.4.3 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {1.3.4} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

1.4.3 Additional information: promoting cultural heritage e.g. historic architecture of castles in Danube, Dyje and Morava river area goes hand in hand with sound wetland tourism, management of Ramsar sites Donau-March-Auen and Neusiedler See (and others) reflect cultural values

1.4.4 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.1.5} KRA 1.4.iii

C - Partly

1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): Neusiedler See-Fertö Hansag and Rheindelta : traditional farming, fishing and reed/litter harvesting, Donau-March-Auen: involvement of historical castles tourism in wetland management

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention.** *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes*

1.5.1 Have you taken steps to ensure that your national focal points for other environmental conventions are contributing to the application of Ramsar Convention implementation mechanisms? KRA 1.5.i

C - Partly

1.5.1 Additional information:

<p>1.5.2 Have you brought the “Changwon Declaration” (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. head of state</li> <li>b. parliament</li> <li>c. private sector</li> <li>d. civil society</li> </ul>	<p>B - No B - No B - No A - Yes</p>
<p>1.5.2 Additional information: changwon declaration was presented on several occasions, e.g. Ramsar Fachtagung / congress 2009 in Eisenstadt</p>	

<p>1.5.3 Has the “Changwon Declaration” been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>1.5.3 Additional information:</p>	

<p>1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>1.5.4 Additional information: Austria used the translation made by Germany</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands.** *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

<p>1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. agriculture-wetland interactions</li> <li>b. climate change</li> <li>c. valuation of ecosystem services</li> </ul> <p>KRA 1.6.i</p>	<p>B - No B - No B - No</p>
<p>1.6.1 Additional information:</p>	

<p>1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including on potential threats to the wetlands? KRA 1.6.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.6.2 Additional information:</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management.** *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i

B - No

1.7.1 Additional information: was not directly applied due to very comprehensive EU obligations, guidelines and legislation (WFD). Nevertheless the implementation of EU WFD most widely meets the targets of Ramsar Water guidance.

1.7.2 Does your country's water governance and management treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? KRA 1.7.ii

B - No

1.7.2 Additional information: in some laender there is a division between water competence (river corridor) and nature conservation competence (floodplains), but there many good examples of co-operation between water and wetland management within projects, especially when supported by EU funds

1.7.3 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.4.2}

C - Partly

1.7.3 Additional information: in particular EU co-funded projects require for substantial and detailed information to be made available to the public

1.7.4 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? {1.4.3}

B - No

1.7.4 Additional information:

1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii

C - Partly

1.7.5 Additional information: Ministry of Environment and Federal Environmental Agency promote conservation of mires in order to leave stored carbon in the ground because of the danger of climate change



1.7.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands and water in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? KRA 1.7.v

A - Yes

1.7.6 Additional information: the austrian program ÖPUL helps to protect wetlands in rural areas

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration.** *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems 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 and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information: particularly wetlands designated under the EU Fauna Flora Habitat Directive (NATURA 2000) need restoration.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information: Managementplans for NATURA 2000, EU co-funded projects for the restoration of rivers, mires and bogs and other wetland habitats; e.g. project 'mires of Salzkammergut', Oberösterreich, Interreg; project 'mouth new Rhine', and projejct 'restoration and visitor guidance Orsankenmoos', Vorarlberg ; 'restoration of Saumoos/Lungau', LIFE project 'Untersberg Vorland - litter meadows', Salzburg; LIFE projects 'Obere Drau' and 'Vorderberger Moos - Obermoos', Kärnten; Interreg project 'Wilder Kaiser', Tirol; in Austrian PArt of Trilateral Ramsar Site 'Donau-March-Thaya-Auen / Trilateral Ramsar Site Morava-Dyje-Danube Floodplains' following EU projects took place or are ongoing: ETC Ramsar SKAT, ETC MoRe, Life+ Renaturierung 'Untere Marchauen'

1.8.3 Has Ramsar guidance (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidance on wetland restoration been used in designing and implementing wetland restoration/ rehabilitation programmes or projects? {1.5.2}

A - Yes

1.8.3 Additional information: the aim of wetland related guidance has been integrated in wetland restoration projects for years

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species.** *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands,*

*especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands?  
KRA 1.9.i

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information:

1.9.2 Have national invasive species control and management policies or guidelines been established for wetlands?  
{1.6.1} KRa 1.9.iii

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information: eradication activities of Himalayan Balsam and public awareness campaigns by nature conservation authority and countryside ranger organisation

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector.** *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {4.2.1} KRA 1.10.i

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information: Austrian Federal Forests, Grossglockner Hochalpenstrasse, and others are encouraged to apply Ramsar Wise Use principle. Other private companies provide a number of benefits for wetlands through obligatory compensation measures.

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of:

a. Wetlands in general

b. Ramsar Sites

KRA 1.10.ii

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information: Austrian Federal Forests OBf and REWE ('ja natürlich' products) are very active to apply Ramsar Wise Use projects and strategies in Austria

1.10.3 Have awareness-raising materials been made available to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices? KRA 1.10.iii

D - Planned

1.10.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures.** *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information: financial subsidies available for management of wetland meadows, voluntary contract-based nature conservation is in place

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i

B - No

1.11.2 Additional information: Austrian Hydropower sets a lot of CEPA measures to promote hydropower, not always harmless for wetlands

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

## GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

**Note.** An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP11 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on any of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

**STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation.** *Apply the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance" (Handbook 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition).*

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?</i> {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A - Yes
2.1.1 Additional information:	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	C - Partly
2.1.2 Additional information: the missing RIs sheets will be submitted by December 2011.	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.3 Additional information:	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	3 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation): Wilder Kaiser (T), Obere Drau (K) and Güssinger Teiche (B) are in preparation	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information.** *Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.*

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii	B - No
2.2.1 Additional information: personal expert knowlegde of land area and its stakeholders is preferred	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning - new Ramsar Sites.** *While recognizing that Ramsar Site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar Sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.*

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? KRA 2.3.i

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character.** *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.3.2} KRA 2.4.i

19 sites

2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i

19 sites

2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i

1 sites

2.4.4 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being revised or updated? KRA 2.4.i

0 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii

A - Yes

2.4.5 Additional information:

2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv

15 sites

2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):

2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v

20 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number): ecological character description is para 20 of the R I S

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness.** *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance".*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of Ramsar Site management effectiveness been carried out? {2.3.4} KRA 2.5.i

C - Some sites

2.5.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available): Donau-March-Thaya-Auen and Nationalpark Kalkalpen, Rheindelta, Nassköhr, Pass Thurn,

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status.** *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.4.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established): National Ramsar Committee

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {2.4.2} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some cases", please indicate 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): those reported to the NRC have also been reported to the Ramsar Secretariate (by NGOs). Attempts to trigger a Ramsar advisory mission are subject to difficult discussion and sometimes cannot come through.

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.4.3} KRA 2.6.ii

A - Yes

2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken): At the moment 3 EU projects are going on in montreux-listed site 'Donau-March-Thaya-Auen' in order to relief the area from several pressures, e.g. 'ETC Ramsar SKAT, ETC MoRe, Life+ Renaturierung Untere Marchauen' .

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

**STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands.** *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? KRA 2.7.i

C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information: e.g. Obere Drau, Lechtal, Wilder Kaiser, Güssinger Teiche

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

<b>GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>
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<b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.</b> <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i>
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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)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.ii	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information: regular meetings with focus on international agreements take place	
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3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	C - Partly
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3.1.2 Additional information: they are informed and invited, but there is often lack of time	
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3.1.3 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO, etc)? KRA 3.1.iv	C - Partly
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3.1.3 Additional information: very few co-operation; e.g. UNECE water convention / Danube Convention / Ramsar Convention	
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3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii	Z - Not applicable
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3.1.4 Additional information:	
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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:	
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<b>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives.</b> <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i>
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3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i	B - No
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3.2.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Planned”, please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

3.2.2 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {4.10.1}

A - Yes

3.2.2 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s): support by Interreg-project (AT-HU) for better co-operation between Ramsar centers (education, communication and public awareness) of Fertoujlak, Illmitz and Apetlon in the cross-border area.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

**STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance.** *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.*

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i

Z - Not applicable

3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10):

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”): Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}

Z - Not applicable

3.3.3 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

**STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise.** *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.2.1}

C - Partly

3.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): Lebendiger Alpenrhein, Neusiedler See, along the Danube river and along Morava-Dyje river system between AT and SK : especially within 'ETC Ramsar SKAT' and the Trilateral Ramsar Platform Morava-Dyje-Danube

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.2.2}

C - Partly

3.4.2 Additional information: [www.ramsar.at](http://www.ramsar.at), [www.rheindelta.org](http://www.rheindelta.org), [www.Naturschutz.at](http://www.Naturschutz.at), Naturschutz homepages of laender

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? KRA 3.4.ii

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

**STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species.** *Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

3.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {2.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

A - Yes

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place): Salzach, Rhein, Bodensee, Thaya, Mur, Inn, Donau, March, Neusiedler See, Malsch, Lainsitz, Lech, Lafnitz-Raab

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? KRA  
3.5.iii

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information: Vorarlberg e.g. participates at a project for the protection of *Salmo trutta lacustris* (Seeforelle), support

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

<b>GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY</b>
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<p><b>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.</b> <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>a) At the national level</p> <p>b) Sub-national level</p> <p>c) Catchment/basin level</p> <p>d) Local/site level</p> |  |
|---|--|

	<p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>A - Yes</p>
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<p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)</p>	
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<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>	
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<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
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	<p>10 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)): Support has been given by AAs to the Ramsar Schrems OEG for establishing the 'Ramsarzentrum Waldviertel', for the Rheindeltahaus, for the Nationalpark Gesäuse Information Centres in Steiermark, in Nationalpark Hohe Tauern ('Wasserschule Hohe Tauern' BIOS) and for National Park Information Centres in Ramsar sites (Donau-March-Auen, Untere Lobau, Nationalpark Kalkalpen , Nationalpark Neusiedler See-Seewinkel)</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p>	
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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> |  |
|---|--|

	<p>C - Partly</p>
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	<p>A - Yes</p>
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<p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	
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4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved): when establishing management plans for the sites

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

C - Partly

4.1.4 Additional information: Carinthia carried out a feasibility study for establishment of an environment education center in Kaernten, some WWF and Nationalpark Neusiedler See activities

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv

10 opportunities

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training): training of visitor guides in several sites: Neusiedler See, 3 in Vorarlberg, Waldviertel, Wilder Kaiser, Pass Thurn; university of Klagenfurt offers a postgraduate course entitled MPA Management of Protected Areas

University for Life Science (Universität für Bodenkultur) Vienna and Universität Klagenfurt have launched a Masters of Science course for 'Management of Protected Areas', Tirol together with Vienna University offers specific training course for AA experts concerning wetland management, the 9 Austrian Laender provide training opportunities for Nature and Landscape Guides and Nature Park Guides by LFI ('Ländliches Fortbildungsinstitut'), training opportunities for 'Water Ambassadors', training also for 'National Park Rangers' through various opportunities e.g. LFI, Universities or Austrian Federal Forests themselves.

4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}

A - Yes

4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): annual meetings. members of National Ramsar Committee:

- national administrative authorities Nature Conservation, Forestry, Water Management, Agriculture, Navigation
- NGOs from Nature Conservation: WWF, Austrian League for Nature, BirdLife, local NGOs
- nomination of a CEPA National Focal Point

Meetings of National Ramsar Committee 1 - 2 x /year

- all 3 years 'National Report to COP'
- national minimum standards for designation, conservation and management of Ramsar sites
- list of potential additions to the Austrian Ramsar Site List

<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites managers? b. other MEA national focal points? c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A - Yes C - Partly A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place): when Ramsar sites are also designated NATURA 2000 sites</p>	

<p>4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information: Public walks, press releases</p>	

<p>4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this): VielfaltLeben, excursions, several new 'natura Trails' have been established, e.g. in Danube-Morava-Dyje Ramsar Site (Donau-March-Thaya-Auen) or in potential Ramsar Site 'Wilder Kaiser'</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

**STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity.** *Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.*

<p>4.2.1</p> <p>a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p>	
<p>budget reduction caused a delay of paying membership dues for 2011.</p>	

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.6.2} KRA 4.2.i	B - No
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4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities): budget reduction caused a delay of paying financial support
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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

**STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness.** *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii	B - No
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4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):
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4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i	Z - Not applicable
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4.3.2 Additional information: no changes
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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

**STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others.** *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs\*) and others.*

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
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4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided): Wetlands International, WWF and BirdLife
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4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
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4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided): WI survey 2011

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

**Section 4** ([www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc)) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).