



## **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.

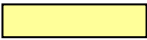
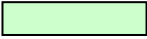
**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**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: BELGIUM</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	<p>Flemish Region: Agency for Nature &amp; Forests, Ministry of Environment, Nature &amp; Energy, Flemish Government          Walloon Region: Division for Nature and Forests, Ministry of the Walloon Region          Brussels Region: Division for Nature, Water and Forests, Brussels Instituut for environmental management          Federal authorities: FOD Public Health, Food Safety and Environment , DG Environment</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT NOTICE:</b>  <b>ANSWERS ARE GIVEN SEPARATELY FOR FEDERAL OR REGIONAL AUTHORITIES</b>  <b>WHERE REQUIRED:</b>          1) RW = WALLOON REGION          2) RF = FLEMISH REGION          3) BCR = BRUSSELS REGION          3) FED = FEDERAL AUTHORITIES</p>
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	<p>Flemish region: Ir. Filiep Cardoen, Head of Policy Division          Walloon Region : Ir. Philippe Blerot, Inspecteur general Division for Nature and Forests          Brussels Region: Dr. Machteld Gryseels, Head of Division for Nature Water and Forest          Federal: R. Moreau, General Director for Environnement</p>
<b>Mailing address:</b>	<p>Flemish Region: Koning Albert II Laan 20, 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM          Walloon Region: Avenue Prince de Liège 7, 5100 Jambes, BELGIUM          Brussels Region: Gulledelle 100, 1200 Brussels, Belgium          Federal: Place Victor Horta 40/10 , 1060 Brussels, Belgium</p>
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	<p>Flemish Region: Tel: +32 2 553 76 83, Fax: +32 2 553 76 85          Walloon Region: Tel: +32 81 335804, Fax: +32 81 335822          Brussels Region: Tel: +32 2 7757561          Federal: Tel: +32 2 5249675, Fax: +32 2 5249643</p>
<b>Email:</b>	<p>filiep.cardoen@lne.vlaanderen.be          p.blerot@mrw.wallonie.be          mgr@ibgebim.be          roland.moureau@health.fgov.be</p>
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	<p>Flemish region: Dr. Els Martens          Walloon Region : Catherine Debroyne          Brussels Region: Machteld Gryseels          Federal: Geert Raeymaekers</p>
<b>Mailing address:</b>	same as above
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	same as above
<b>Email:</b>	<p>els.martens@lne.vlaanderen.be          Catherine.DEBRUYNE@spw.wallonie.be          mgr@ibgebim.be          geert.raeymaekers@milieu.belgie.be</p>
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal</b>	Flemish region: Dr. Els Martens

<b>point:</b>	
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Flemish Region: Agency for Nature & Forests, Ministry of Environment, Nature & Energy, Flemish Governement
<b>Mailing address:</b>	same as above
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+32 2 553 7686
<b>Email:</b>	same as above
<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>	
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	
<b>Mailing address:</b>	
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<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>	FL: Wim Van den Bossche;
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	FL: Natuurpunt/BirdLife Belgium
<b>Mailing address:</b>	FL: Coxiestraat 11, 2800 Mechelen , BELGIUM
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	FL: Tel: +32(0)15-29 72 20 Fax: +32 (0)15-42 49 21
<b>Email:</b>	FL: wim.vandenbossche@natuurpunt.be



## 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?

The implementation of the Convention is a continued process and is done through continued efforts for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Birds and Habitats Directives.

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

Continued efforts for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Birds and Habitats Directives (the official adoption of the designation arrest of all Natura 2000 in the Walloon and Flemish Region is foreseen for end 2012).

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

According to the Water framework Directive, River Basin Management Plans should be available for all River Basin Districts across Europe since 22.12.2009. In the Walloon region, these have not been finalised yet due to the complex consultation process. In the Flemish region the river basin management plan for the Schelde river basin and the Maas river basin were adopted on 8 October 2010.

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

RW: Finalize River Basin Management Plans in all River Basin Districts in Wallonia and implement them by 2012

Official adoption of the designation arrest of all Natura 2000, including the Ramsar sites - foreseen for end of 2012: in the Walloon region and Flemish region

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

focus on integrated approach for implementation of Ramsar objectives as well as overall biodiversity objectives, taking into account sustainable use of water resources; emphasise importance of ecosystem services related to water characteristics of respective sites

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

none

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

further info and communication on work plans and mandates of IOPs could be stimulating for networking between Parties and IOPs

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?

stronger cooperation between focal points of the MEAs - as priority action of overall biodiversity planning, integrated and collaborative implementation programmes between the MEAs established by the cooperating secretariats and communicated throughout


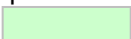
- I. How can Ramsar Convention implementation be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?
- enhance to integrate overall objectives of Ramsar implementation into overall biodiversity objectives

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

none

## 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

B - No

1.1.1 Additional information:

FL: For Flanders, detailed ecological mapping exists at scale 1/25000 with indication of habitat types including wetlands; additional inventories exist on ad hoc basis or as contribution to specific plans (restoration, management of nature reserves etc.) Maps are accessible on <http://geo-vlaanderen.agiv.be/geo-vlaanderen>. There is also a habitat monitoring as part of the Water Framework Directive and in the near future a Natura 2000 habitat monitoring will be started up

RW: Walloon Natura 2000 sites are categorized by habitats, which include wetlands.

Wetlands of biological interest are one of the strict nature conservation protected area in the Walloon Region. Their listing is kept up to date.

The Walloon Region has registered all 'protected areas' according to the Water framework Directive. This register includes : natura 2000 sites, areas designated for the abstraction of water intended for human consumption; areas designated for the protection of economically significant aquatic species; recreational waters; nutrient-sensitive areas;

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:</p> <p>RW: Information on habitats is available on the wallon internet site on biodiversity. <a href="http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6">http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6</a></p> <p>Information on the Natura 2000 sites have been collected and are available through the Natura 2000 website. Article 17 report of the Habitats Directive assessed the implementation of this Directive. As many Natura 2000 sites are wetlands, they have been assest through this report. (<a href="http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6">http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6</a>).</p> <p>The atlas of all Walloon water courses will soon be available.</p> <p>Every year, the Environmental Outlook for Wallonia (EOW) provides an update on Wallonia's environmental situation, based on a collection of environmental, social, health and other indicators which may be able to shed some light on the pressure put on the different elements of the environment (air, water, soils, fauna, flora, natural habitats, etc.) and their impact. By looking at the responses that have already been implemented, it also is a valuable part of an evaluation of environmental policies. A more detailed report is produced every five years (the 'Rapport analytique sur l'état de l'environnement wallon', last edition: 2006-2007), which provides a more comprehensive and details analysis of environmental issues. <a href="http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/">http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/</a> Through this EOW, the ecological and morphological characters of watercourses are monitored on a regular basis and the results are availble through the dashboard of the wallon environment. Other components the wetlands state are also monitored such as : main water flows, pollution released, organic pollution, eutrophication, sediments, micro-pollutants, nitrate and pesticides in groundwater, collective and individual treatment of wastewater...</p> <p>Assesment of the biological quality of watercourses has been persued by the diversity of macroinvertebrates. Databases of fish populations have been developed.</p> <p>Four data collecting stations have been selected to be included in an european network of stations on waterway's biological quality.</p> <p>FL: yearly updates of biodiversity indicators, including data on wetland habitats and species: <a href="http://www.natuurindicatoren.be">www.natuurindicatoren.be</a></p> <p>Every two years the Environment Report gives an update on the ecological and qualitative state of water courses</p>	

1.1.3 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium? {1.1.3 & 1.1.4}

- a) Ramsar Sites  
b) wetlands generally

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).

\* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

O - No change  
O - No change

1.1.3 a) Additional information:

1.1.3 b) Additional information:

RW:

In 2008, over 70 % of the 54 sites of the Walloon watercourses quality monitoring network revealed good to very good biological water quality (for the diatoms and macro-invertebrates indicators). Water quality in the Escaut basin is moderate to bad in cultivated, urbanised and industrial areas where the presence of canals and low flow rates are exacerbating factors. Nonetheless, the number of sites where biological quality of water is found to be moderate to very good has gone up over the past 15 years, largely because of the rise of the treatment rate of waste water, the drop of pollutant discharges and the ecological restoration of watercourses. (environmental outlook 2010;

<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/index.php?page=environmental-outlook-2010>

FL: The Agency for Environment Management carries out a yearly overall water quality monitoring. Most of the recording sites reveal in overall improvement of quality in biological status reaching levels of good quality. In agricultural, urbanised and industrial zones quality is for some characteristics still moderate to bad, but shows improvement over the last years.

<http://www.vmm.be/water/integraal-waterbeleid>

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

**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.*

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)

B - No

1.3.1 Additional information: not a specific 'wetland' policy but policy on water management:

RW: the Walloon Water Code (code de l'eau) aims to orient water management by hydrological bassins in a coherent way. 15 sub-bassin have been identified and are considered as the management units to define quality objectives, waterways schemes (contrat de Rivière), fisheries management, water treatment. Other action plans have also been developed on floodings and on sustainable management of nitrogen in agriculture.

FL: Through the decree for Integral Water Policy- managed by the Agency for Environment that includes the Water Division - many programmes have been set up to develop water management plans, improve water quality and quantity and the biological status.

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}

A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

RW and FL:

The objectives of the Water Code (RW) or the Integral Water Policy Decree (FL) are in line with the WSSD targets:

- to avoid degradation and preserve and improve aquatic ecosystems state.
- to promote sustainable utilization of water
- to strengthen aquatic environment protection
- to reduce groundwater and surface water pollution
- to mitigate floods and droughts effects
- to protect human health.

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

B - No

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information:

Wetlands protection and conservation measures are included in the Water Code/Integral Water Policy Decree, in the Forest Code, in agricultural cross compliance, in agri environmental measures,

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	A - Yes
1.3.4 Additional information: Environmental assessment of plans and programs is foreseen by the environmental code or decree in the regional and the federal law.	
1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	A - Yes
1.3.5 Additional information: EIA foreseen by the Environmental code or decree (environment and urban permits required).	
1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	A - Yes
1.3.6 Additional information: rather partly: FL: protection of wetlands is included in the nature Decree	

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	C - Partly
1.4.1 Additional information: rather related to Natura 2000: FL: Some case studies has been conducted: 3BE002 - Schorren van de Beneden Schelde 3BE003 - Zwin A study of the benefits from Natura 2000 network, including wetlands is being carried out.  RW: A reserach project will be conducted to evaluate the 'regulating' service of peatlands related to floods and hydrological processes. For most Ramsar sites: leisure value recognized but not quantified.	
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	C - Partly



## 1.4.2 Additional information:

FL: Sigma plan in de Schelde basin had as goals: flood protection, accessibility for boats, and nature development.

RW: Besides wetland protection for water security, the Walloon Region will conduct a study on minimum water flow for water security.

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

C - Partly

## 1.4.3 Additional information:

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):

FL: for the Zwin area in coastal wetlands, and the Schelde river system

RW: not at national level, but communication material is available on the cultural values of some wetlands (for ex Ramsar site Haute Sûre).

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

A - Yes

## 1.5.1 Additional information:

1.5.2 Have you brought the "Changwon Declaration" (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
- b. parliament
- c. private sector
- d. civil society

B - No  
B - No  
B - No  
B - No

1.5.2 Additional information:

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)?

A - Yes

1.5.3 Additional information:  
CBD COP 10 decision on inland waters.

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?

B - No

1.5.4 Additional information:

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.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

KRA 1.6.i

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

## 1.6.1 Additional information:

## RW:

A general study will be conducted to identify all the ecosystems services in the walloon Region, and will assess the value of at least one of them.

A reserach project will be conducted to evaluate the 'regulating' service of peatlands related to floods and hydrological processes.

A study done in the context of the water framework Directive assessed the non market value linked to recreative activities but also the economic value both resulting from the achievement of the good ecological status of surface water in Wallonia.

Study: 'Effect of beaver dams on the hydrology of small mountain streams:

Example from the Chevral in the Ourthe Orientale basin, Ardennes, Belgium' .

For most Ramsar sites: leisure value recognized but not quantified.

Agriculture: A model 'qualvados' has been developed to evaluate the interdependence between agricultural practices and surface and ground water management in the Walloon Region.

## FL

Studies have been carried out on the ecosystem values of the Schelde river natural systems and natural developments to restore the ecological status of the flooding areas along the river to enable flooding control. Other studies are being carried out on the ecosystem values of other river systems and of Natura 2000 network.

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

A - Yes

## 1.6.2 Additional information:

FL: A nature restoration project and management plan for the Blankaart and IJzerbroeken are based on large scale inventories of vegetation and birds.

Studies about the causes of bad water quality have been conducted. As part of the long term vision on the river Scheldt estuary there is a plan to expand the Zwin Ramsar site. The management plan of the Ramsar site in the Scheldt estuary is also part of the above mentioned long term vision and this is based on sound scientific research.

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

A - Yes

## 1.7.1 Additional information:

RW:

The main principle of the Walloon water code states that 'Water is a common heritage of the Walloon Region. The water cycle is managed in a global and integrated manner, with the constant concern to ensure both the quality and sustainability of the resource, in the context of sustainable development.' One of the goals of the water code aims to prevent further deterioration and preserve and improve the state of aquatic ecosystems and, with respect to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on them;  
<http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/Codeenvironnement/codeeaucoordonne.htm>

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

A - Yes

## 1.7.2 Additional information:

RW/FL: surface water bodies defined by the water code (RW) or in the integral water policy (FL), in accordance to the WFD, means a discrete and significant surface water such as lake, reservoir, river or canal, part of a stream, river or canal, a water transition or a stretch of coastal water;

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:

RW:

River contracts are participatory tools that include many CEPA activities; These River Contracts are part of the water code. River Contracts bring together all the actors of the valley with the aim to reach a consensus on an action programme for the restoration of the water course, the river banks and surroundings and the water resources. It applies the participatory approach principle. Synergies are created to meet all concerns. Invited are representatives of the political, administrative, socio-economic, educational, scientific and associative worlds; Many local integrated management examples show that implementation of EU Directives are related to water protection.

More generally, owners of river sides are involved in management projects having an impact on their properties.

Public consultations are regularly being carried out (one on river basin management plans for the moment).

A Walloon Commission on Water aims to inform, discuss and give opinion on main legislative tools concerning water.

FL: through the implementation of the Integral Water Policy Decree participatory processes have been set up on different levels. Communication and awareness has been improved by the development of online-information systems.

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}

C - Partly

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:

Regional adaptation strategies are being prepared and will have special focus on water management and biodiversity.

For the Schelde river system strategies have been established related to the flooding control.

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

C - Partly

1.7.6 Additional information:

RW: Agriculture: A model 'qualvados' has been developed to evaluate the interdependence between agricultural practices and surface and ground water management in the Walloon Region.

FL: through the study on the blue and green values supported by agricultural practices

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:

RW:

2 main objectives of the water framework directives are the non degradation and the restoration of water bodies.

A Life project WALPHY aims the hydromorphological restoration of the Boc valley. [http://www.walphy.be/index.php?page=cont\\_projet\\_life](http://www.walphy.be/index.php?page=cont_projet_life)

FL: priority sites coincide with Natura 2000 areas for which restoration programmes are being developed

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:

FL: In 2004 10 ha salt marsh was created at Schor Oudendoel (compensation Deurganckdok). At the Galgenschoor the polder of Lillo was transformed to salt marsh (compensation Europe container terminal) In 2001 30 ha of the polder in the Ketenissenpolder was transformed to salt marsh as compensation for the container terminal North (Groot-Buitenschoor)

RW: see 1.8.1

Restoration measures will be part of the management plans for all Natura 2000 sites.

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}

B - No

## 1.8.3 Additional information:

FL: the designation of the restoration projects of the salt marshes is based on literature study and research in the Sieperdaschor.

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

C - Partly

## 1.9.1 Additional information:

A comprehensive overview of species can be found at <http://ias.biodiversity.be/>. This online database presents the outcome of a rapid ecological risk assessment protocol resulting in the listing of IAS in black/alert/watch lists. It also provides background information on impact of the species at ecosystem level. Though coordination of this database is supported by ½ EFT, there is no remuneration of experts performing risk assessments. The lists are incomplete (e.g. freshwater ecosystems) and the system (including RA's) needs regular updating and a dedicated long term funding mechanism. A central data portal for IAS is lacking, as is an information system with best practice on management/control of IAS.

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

D - Planned

1.9.2 Additional information:

FL: Management of problematic invasive alien species is a competence of the regions in Belgium. There are several control programs running on various invasive alien species, mostly at sub-regional level, but these initiatives are, with exception of muskrat eradication, poorly coordinated regionally. The legislative framework in Flanders is provided by the Species Act (2009) (a government decision based on the Nature Decree 1997), which generally prohibits the release in the wild and provides a framework for invasive species management through management plans. Other relevant legislation for NNS management are the Hunting Decree (1992), the Rat Control Law (1971), the Game Damage Act (2009) and the Royal Decree (19 November 1987) concerning measures against organisms harmful to plants and plant products (measures for brown rat, muskrat and grey squirrel). At current, no specific regional management plans are in place. A management plan for invasive water plants and an action plan for ruddy duck are in preparation, as is a general invasive species policy.

RW: The Walloon region is currently considering the survey and the management of IAS at a regional scale. An interdepartment group within the administration has been created to manage and coordonnate the efforts. The Walloon Region has an up to date list of IAS. Regional action plans should be developped for the more problematic ones or for the ones at an early stage of invasion.

An action plan for the giant hogweed has already been developped.

We actively control muskrat populations

Several studies were specificaly carried out on the invasive alien plants along water ways and it developpe a best practice guidance to control/readicate them.

A Life Project is also currently being carried out to develop guidance for the horticulture sector.

An adaptation of the current legislation is also foreseen.

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:

RW: The Walloon Consultative Commission on Water aims to gather all stakeholders to notify on legislative projects related to water.

FL: through the participatory processes that also include the main stakeholders for developing implementation programmes of the Integral Water Policy and through various communication and awareness actions

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

B - No

1.10.2 Additional information:

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

A - Yes

1.10.3 Additional information:  
related to site specific projects

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:

RW/FL:

Incentives in favor of wetlands are available through:

The regional rural development plans and the agri environmental measures that give subsidies for pond creation, winter cover of fields, etc..

Cross compliance measures that, among others, forbids herbicides use and drainage in Natura 2000 sites to benefit from other agricultural subsidies.

Subsidies given to participatory 'tools' such as the Municipality plans for nature conservation (they conduct many projects on wetlands), River Contracts, Nature Parks.

Subsidies given to create and manage new nature reserves (some of which are wetlands).

Many Natura 2000 subsidies, exemption of property tax, inheritance and donation tax.



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

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:  
through cross compliance (see above)

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	B - No
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	B - No
2.1.2 Additional information:	
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	0 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation):	

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:	

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	C - Some sites
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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	9 sites
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2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i	9 sites
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2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i	0 sites
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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
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2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:  
as designation and management planning of Ramsar and Natura 2000 is overlapping the specific info on wetlands management aspects is being compiled - management plan for all Ramsar sites have been prepared and are being implemented at some level

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
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2.4.5 Additional information:

2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv	8 sites
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2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):  
 FL/RW: all Ramsar sites are located within Natura 2000 and for all Natura 2000 sites a participatory process has been established that includes all relevant administrations and stakeholders.

RW: for all sites except the 'grotte des émotions' as it is not accessible

2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v	9 sites
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2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number):  
 for all sites, as basis for development of management plans

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	A - Yes
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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):

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
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2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established):  
 included in procedures for EIA

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

B - No

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):

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):

FL: actions for restoration of ecological characteristics have been undertaken

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:

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: through the Belgian Interregional Committees on International Issues
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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: till now there is no 'national ramsar committee' established - on regional basis wetland committees are active
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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	A - Yes
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3.1.3 Additional information: see 3.1.1.
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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}

B - No

3.2.2 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

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

A - Yes

3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10): in the framework of general environment or water supply projects

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

A - Yes

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}

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):

FL: between Flanders and the Netherlands on the Schelde river and on Kalmthout-De Zoom

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}

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

RW: a leaflet on the Haute-Sûre Ramsar site has been published and distributed.

FL: site specific websites, various publications

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:

Yes, according to the Water framework Directive, we work on hydrological district basis.

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):

According to the Water framework directive, we work on the hydrological district basis, state limits don't exist. The International Commissions for the Maas, the Scheldt, and the Rhine have been established aiming at the coordination of the implementation of the water Framework Directive, and to give advices to Parties for a better prevention and a better protection against floodings and pollutions.

Cooperative management against floodings occurs for the various water bassins.

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:  
in the framework of AEWA

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<br/>b) Sub-national level<br/>c) Catchment/basin level<br/>d) Local/site level</p> | <p>B - No<br/>A - Yes<br/>A - Yes<br/>A - Yes</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|

<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>communication and awareness on wetlands is integrated in site specific communication issues or overall environmental communication programmes</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>7 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)):</p>	
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<p>3 in Wallonia and 4 in Flanders</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<br/>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> | <p>A - Yes<br/>A - Yes</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|

<p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):</p>	
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<p>participation in decision-making to wetland management through the Natura 2000 committees and processes.</p>	
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<p>new Ramsar sites are not being planned at this moment</p>	
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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	B - No
4.1.4 Additional information:	
4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv	2 opportunities
4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training): not organised specifically only for wetlands - as Ramsar sites and other wetlands are located in Natura 2000 management training usually the different ecosystems in the whole site and is given on a regular basis. The number given here is restrictive, only refers to specific courses organised by university of Antwerp on 'water systems' and include training on ecological aspects as well as on management advices.	
4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}	B - No
4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):	
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 a. Ramsar Sites managers? b. other MEA national focal points? c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi	B - No A - Yes A - Yes
4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place): in the framework of interregional and site specific participatory processes	
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}	A - Yes
4.1.8 Additional information: RW: each year in the Haute-Sûre Ramsar Site.	

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}

A - Yes

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):  
in the framework of river basis management plans, Natura 2000 planning processes

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.*

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

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

4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):

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

□

4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

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

4.3.2 Additional information:

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

B - No

4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

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).