



## **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.

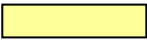

**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**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: BULGARIA</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	Ministry of Environment and Water
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Nona Karadjova, Minister of environment and water
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<b>Email:</b>	contact@moew.government.bg
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<b>Email:</b>	ahasan@moew.government.bg
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
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<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>	Aylin Hasan, chief expet
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Ministry of Environment and Water
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<b>Email:</b>	ahasan@moew.government.bg
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
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## 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?

Participation in the BlackSeaWet regional initiative for protection of Black sea and Azov sea coastal wetlands.

During the meeting of the Management Body of the initiative in the framework of the Ramsar BlackSeaWet Initiative, the Terms of Reference, Work Plan for the 2010 and Work Plan for 2011-2015 were approved. These guidelines were followed in order to start implementing the actions and make the Initiative a reality.

During 2010, National Working Group was established in the country for the implementation of BlackSeaWet. The NWG provide their input for the Coordination Unit.

The website of the Initiative was created by the Coordination Unit 'Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority' - [www.blackseawet.org](http://www.blackseawet.org). The official logo of the initiative also was adopted.

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



1. Designation of new Ramsar site 'Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex' as wetland of international importance, included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex is the biggest Ramsar site in Bulgaria with an area of 14 967 hectares. With the inclusion of this site, there are 11 Ramsar Sites in Bulgaria with a total area of 35 273 hectares.

2. Update of the National Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands in Bulgaria;

The update of the Bulgarian national action plan for conservation of wetlands is included as specific action in the implementation of LIFE08 NAT/BG/000277 'Ensuring Conservation of Priority Bird Species and Coastal Habitats at the Burgas Natura 2000 Wetland Sites' project. The lead organization is Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds and the project partners are Burgas Municipality, 'Chernomorsk solnitsi' JSC, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation and RSPB – UK.

In 1995, the first Action Plan for Conservation of the most important wetlands in Bulgaria was developed, and over the next ten years, major efforts were made to conserve all priority wetlands. Therefore, the National Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands will be updated to both review major achievements and address the major remaining issues and new challenges that have arisen.

The process of updating the national action plan for conservation of wetlands will begin with a technical review of progress implementing the previous national action plan (1995). All the valuable data and information about wetlands will then be gathered and analysed to determine the current situation. This will identify their importance, their status, the problems or threats facing them, and their socio-economic value. The current legal framework for conservation of wetlands also will be reviewed to assess robustness and identify any legal amendments required. On the basis, of this review, the partners will plan a series of integrated actions to ensure the conservation of wetlands in Bulgaria will be elaborated. Two types of actions are anticipated – horizontal actions that apply to all wetlands, and specific actions that are required at individual wetland sites.

The elaboration of the action plan will follow the recommendations of the Ramsar Convention on developing and implementing the National Wetlands Policies, including Recommendation 6.9, Resolution VII.6/1999 and Resolution VII.17/1999, alongside the legal requirements. In this respect the action plan will include:

- Actions to improve institutional and organizational agreements;
- Actions to address legislation and government policies;
- Actions to increase knowledge and awareness of wetlands and their values;
- Actions to review the status of, and identify priorities for, all wetlands in a national

context;

- Actions to address problems at specific wetland sites;

An open participatory and consultative approach will be followed for the updating of the National Action Plan. An Expert Group will be formed that will lead and coordinate the process and summarise all the results coming from the reviews and discussions. The technical review of the current situation will require experts from different disciplines – including biologists, economists and lawyers. A series of meetings and discussions will be organised for elaboration suitable actions that are measurable to address the priority threats.

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

1. Insufficient economical incentives to wetlands conservation and wise use;

2. Insufficient administrative capacity for implementation of the Convention;

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

1. To exclude Ramsar sites 'Srebarna' and 'Durankulak Lake' from Montreux record;

2. To update RIS for Ramsar sites 'Atanasovsko Lake', 'Belene Islands Complex', 'Durankulak Lake', 'Ibisha Island', 'Poda', 'Complex Ropotamo', 'Shabla Lake', 'Srebarna' and 'Vaya Lake';

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

No

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

No

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

No

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?

In accordance with the EU Directives – Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, implemented in to National Biodiversity Act, the most important natural and artificial wetlands and all Ramsar sites in Bulgaria were included in the National Ecological Network (as part of the European Ecological Network - Natura 2000) as Special Protection Areas (SPA) and were proposed as Site of Community Importance (pSCI).

The UNESCO network of Biosphere Reserves is another form of protection of natural sites. In Bulgaria there are designed 17 biosphere reserves, 2 of them are wetlands:

'Srebarna' and 'Kamchia Biosphere reserve'.

- 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)?

Pursuant to Decision No. 389/18 November 1974 of the Council of Ministers Bulgaria has signed The Convention without obligation to ratify it. It enters into force on 24 January 1976, amended with an Protocol which was signed in Paris on 3 December 1982 entering into force on 27 February 1986. The Ministry of Environment and Water is the National Authority in charge for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and for the elaboration of policies on protection and sustainable use of wetlands.

In List of Wetlands of International Importance, Bulgaria is represented with 11 wetlands, covered 35 273 hectares – 'Atanasovsko Lake', 'Belene Islands Complex', 'Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex', 'Durankulak Lake', 'Ibisha Islands', 'Lake Shabla', 'Poda', 'Pomorie Wetland Complex', 'Ropotamo Complex', 'Srebarna', 'Vaya Lake'. There are more Bulgarian wetlands which are on conformity with the criteria of the Ramsar Convention – 'Mandra lake', 'Artificial lake Ovcharitsa', 'Artificial lake Pyasachnik', 'Glava Panega wetlands complex'.

In accordance with the EU Directives – Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, implemented in to National Biodiversity Act, the most important natural and artificial wetlands in Bulgaria were included in the National Ecological Network (as part of the European Ecological Network - Natura 2000) as Special Protection Areas (SPA) and were proposed as Site of Community Importance (pSCI).

The Law for the Protected Areas is the main normative act for conservation of the wetlands in Bulgaria. Nowadays, 67 wetlands (excluding these in the National Parks Rila and Pirin and in the Natural Parks) are under its protection. These wetlands belong to the categories Reserve, Maintained Reserve, Natural Landmark and Protected Area.

In Bulgaria there are not National Parks, with area covered only by wetlands. The National Parks Rila and Pirin, which fulfill some of the strongest criteria of IUCN, include almost all of the water bodies (mainly lakes) in the both mountains. Some of these water bodies and their complexes have been declared as Natural Landmark, other are included in the area of reserves which are a part of the territory of the National Parks.

Some of the Bulgarian wetlands belong to the following Reserves: Gorna Topchiya, Kamchia, Kitka, Milka, Ropotamo, Torfeno Branishte and almost completely occupy their territories. More are the wetlands, which have been declared as Maintained Reserves: Balabana, Ibisha Island, Srebarna.

Some important wetlands are included also in the borders of Natural Parks. Such wetlands are the swamps and riparian forests of the island Persina in Danube River, the wetlands of the Natural Park 'Rusenski lom', the peat bogs and peat lands in the reserve 'Torfeno Branishte' in the Natural Park 'Vitosha'.

A small number of wetlands are included in the category Natural Landmark: Blato Alepou, Ezero Belyakovets (= Bilyakovets), Grekinski Gyol, the wetland complex of the karstic spring Glava Panega and the complex Smolyanski Ezera.

Most of the protected wetlands belong to the category Protected Area or occupy significant parts of protected areas. The most important among them are:

Aldomirovsko Blato, Chengene Skele, Choklyovo Blato, Ezero Ouzoungeren, the swamps near by the villages of Garvan and Maluk Preslavets, the western part of Lake Vaya, the place Dreneto, the complex of Lake Durankulak, Kalimok – Brushlen, Kamchiyski Pyasutsi, Kaykousha, Kazashko, Kleptuza, Kochemina, Persin - Iztok, Poda, the complex Pomorie Lake, Propadnaloto Blato, the complex Shabla Lake, Stamoplo, Staryat Dub, Topilitsa, Yatata, the fish breeding ponds Orsoya and the mounths of the rivulets Rivers Izvorska, Veleka and Silistar.

The different categories of protected areas, which contain wetlands (except the glacial lakes in Rila and Pirin), occupy the following areas:

Category:	Area (ha)
Reserves	2842.5
Maintained Reserves	3130.7
Natural Landmark	243.7
Protected Areas	15 511.9
Total:	21 728.8
Ramsar sites :	35 273

The area of the lakes in the National Parks Rila and Pirin is not included.

As it could be seen, the part of wetlands under strong conservation regime is relatively small and this is not adequate whit the severe anthropogenic impact on these vulnerable and fragile ecosystems. Protected wetlands occupy about 4% of the total area of the protected areas in the country (549 000 ha). In the Biodiversity Act several categories of wetlands are defined. Their conservation are with priority importance. They are included in Annex 1 and are protected under European ecological network – Natura 2000.

Besides in the Law for Protected Areas, in Bulgaria there is also another form for wetlands protection. In includes the so-called water-supplying areas and sanitary-protected zones. They are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and have been declared to quarantee the water quality and the quality of other resources (mainly curative mud, peat, etc.).These areas include mainly springs and water bodies in the high mountain parts of Vitosha, Rila, Pirin and Stara Planina.

In the lowlands such areas include some springs and their fontal water bodies (e.g. the springs and water bodies of the complex Devenski Izvori, of the karstic spring complex Glava Panega), Balchishka Touzla, parts of the complex Atanasovsko Lake and Pomorie Lake, and drinking water reservoirs or their parts (e.g. Iskur Dam, Dam Ticha).

The Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) is responsible for the implementation of the national environmental protection policy.

The ministry provides the leadership, coordination and control over the development and implementation of the State Policy in the field of environment, conservation and use of water, biodiversity and bowels of the earth.

The Minister of Environment and Water performs the following functions:

- together with the directors of the regional departments of the (Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water, Basin Directorates; National Park Directorates); the municipality mayors and the regional governors develops the environmental protection policy and strategy in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- direct the National Environmental Monitoring System through the Executive Environment Agency;
- control the state of the environment in Bulgaria;
- coordinate the controlling powers of other executive authorities in respect of the environment;
- issue orders, permits, instructions and endorse methodologies;
- jointly with the executive authorities concerned:
- establish emission limit values by type of pollutant and issue standards of maximum permissible concentrations of noxious substances by element of the environment and by area;
- endorse EIA methods;

- issue standards on efficient utilization of renewable and non-renewable natural resources;
- ensure the collection and provision of information on the state of the environment;
- perform other activities associated with environmental protection and management in conformity with the special laws;
- prepare an Annual Report on the State of the Environment.

- Regional departments of the MOEW

There are regional structures of the MOEW which ensure the application of the state policy in the field of environment at regional level.

The Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water -RIEW, the National Park Directorates –NPD and the Basin Directorates - BD shall ensure the conduct of the national environmental protection policy at the regional level.

There are 3 NPD, 4 BD and 16 Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water in Bulgaria, spread over the territory of Bulgaria

The Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water under the Ministry of Environment and water provide control over the activities that could affect the components of the environment, including the natural landscapes. Under each of the RIEW, there are specialized divisions, responsible for the protection of: the air; the soils; the waters; the biodiversity, including protected areas, Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar sites; the waste management, etc.

The Environmental Protection Act (EPA) is the framework act in Bulgaria which determines the State policy in the field of environment. It specifies the place and the role of the state authorities at central and local levels, in relation to:

- protection of environment;
- preservation of biological diversity;
- protection and utilization of the components of the environment;
- control and management of factors, which are harmful for the environment;
- monitoring of the status of the environment and of the causes of pollution;

preventing

and restraint of pollution;

- establishment and functioning of National system for monitoring of environment; collection and access to information about environment;
- economic organisation of activities related to environment protection;
- rights and obligations of the state, municipalities, legal and physicals entities in regard to the environment protection.

EPA determines the procedures for accomplishing of :

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for investment proposals for construction;
- Ecological Assessment (EA) for plans and programmers in the implementation of which considerable impact on the environment is possible. This is a kind of a Sectoral Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It is provided for plans and programmes in the field of forestry, agriculture, fishery, transport, energetics, tourism, territory development, management of waters, management of wastes, etc.

The EIA and the EA procedures aimed at integration of the national environmental protection policy into sectoral policies: transport, energy, construction, agriculture, industry , etc.

The other main goal of the EIA and EA is to ensure adequate participation of the public in



decision making in relation to protection and management of nature resources.

The Environmental Protection Act (EPA) provides wide field for development of special legislation, which to regulate the protection of environmental components and the control over factors, which have influence on them, i.e. Waters Protection Act, Clean Air Protection Act, Waste Management Act, Protected Areas Act, Biological Diversity Act, Medicinal Plants Act, Act on the Genetically Modified Organisms.

Protected Areas Act (PAA).

According to the Protected Area Act, the State is establishing and ensuring the functioning of a protected areas system as part of the regional and global network of such areas in accordance with the international treaties on environmental protection under which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party.

The protected areas are dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity in ecosystems and of the natural processes occurring therein, as well as of typical or remarkable non-living natural features and landscapes.

The Protected Areas Act (PAA) determines the relationships between the institutions, responsible for the protected areas and guarantees the more effective preservation of nature and protection of local interests. The Act introduces a modern protected areas classification in compliance with the international requirements. There are six categories of protected areas which differ according to their conservational value.

The categories for protection are as follows: National parks, reserves, maintained reserves, natural parks, protected areas and natural landmarks. According to the category and the conservation value of each protected area, there are particular regimes for use and utilization determined.

Besides the regimes stipulated by the Protected Areas Act for the different categories, the particular order for designation of protected area determines specific regimes for each of them. These regimes are in compliance with the traditional use of the particular territory and the potential threats and dangers which the protected area faces.

Protected areas Act determines different kind of ownership in protected areas. The National parks, reserve and maintained reserves are exclusively state property. In the other three categories - natural parks, protected areas and natural landmarks all kind of ownership is allowed.

Being exclusively state property, the management of these three categories is provided by the MOEW on national level.

There are also regional inspectorates of environment and water which provide the on-site management of the protected areas, within their territorial scale.

As for the national parks, there are separate administrations – National Park Directorates, which are within the structure of the MOEW.

The nature parks are managed by Nature Park directorates under the National forestry board.

Management plans

The PAA requires the elaboration of management plans for protected areas. Besides the Act there is also a special regulation which determines a comprehensive procedure related to the elaboration of management plans (MP) for protected areas. Management plans are obligatory for the categories of National parks, Nature parks, Reserves and Maintained reserves. For the other two categories – protected areas and natural landmarks management plans could be also developed if there is an interested institution, for example NGO or Municipality, but only after the written approval by the MOEW.

Management plans are developed on the basis of comprehensive socio-economic information, data about the infrastructure within and around the protected areas.

Management plans provide zoning of the territories and define specific regimes for use

and utilization of the separate zones according to their conservation value.

They are agreements between the interested parties, namely the protected area's managers and local population. They are tools for development of opportunities for sustainable development and use of natural resources.

Management plans are developed for a period of 10 years. For the National parks on every 4 years from the MP entry into force a special public hearing is held which aims to assess the management plan implementation.

MPs are being developed with priority for those sites which are internationally recognized such as Ramsar sites, Biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites, etc.

#### Monitoring

The Environmental Executive Agency of the MOEW is the institution responsible for the overall monitoring of the environmental components and for the establishment and maintenance of the National Biodiversity Monitoring System (<http://monitoring.biodiversity.bg/>).

In 2007 with an Order of the minister of environment and water a National Biodiversity Monitoring System in Bulgaria (NBMS) and a practical manual for collection and storage of data were approved. A special regulation was also adopted.

In the National Biodiversity Monitoring System are also determined the subjects of the monitoring and the monitoring schemes.

The Biodiversity Conservation Act (BCA) regulates the relations among the State, the municipalities, and the juristic and natural persons in respect of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Acc. to the BCA, the State shall develop a National Ecological Network which includes:

- Natura 2000 sites acc. to both EU Directives, which may incorporate protected areas;
- Protected areas outside those Natura 2000 sites;

CORINE Biotopes sites, Ramsar Convention sites and Important Bird Areas are incorporated into the National Ecological Network on a priority basis.

The MOEW is the institution in charge of the study, assessment and preparation of the documentation for designation of Natura 2000 sites.

Natura 2000 sites are being declared as well by a special order of the minister of environment.

Broad participation of the general public is foreseen when determining the particular regimes for use and utilization. Those regimes are elaborated according to the purpose for designation of the corresponding Natura 2000 site.

As far as Natura 2000 sites are concerned, the Biodiversity conservation Act envisages a particular assessment according to Article 6 of the Habitat Directive of the EU, to be provided on investment proposals, plans and programmes, which are planned to be held in potential Natura 2000 sites, in order to avoid any negative effects on the particular habitats and habitats of species, for which preservation the respective site was proposed as Natura 2000 site.

The terms for making this assessment will be regulated by an Regulation of the Council of Ministers.

The general public is involved in this assessment through participating in a public consultation.

Management plans are also envisaged for Natura 2000 sites.

Bulgaria has designated and included for protection under the Water Framework Directive the Natura 2000 Protected Areas (all wetlands and Ramsar sites belong here), which are both protected areas and the WFD, in the first existing river basins

management plans for the period 2010 -2015.

The river basin management plans include administrative measures such as bans on certain activities within designated protected areas - Natura 2000 sites incl. Ramsar sites.

The river basin management plans include maintenance and restoration activities, depending on the conservation status of habitats and species subject to conservation in the protected areas and Ramsar sites under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

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

No



## 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:	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	B - No
1.1.2 Additional information:	

<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>O - No change O - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 a) Additional information:</p>	
<p>1.1.3 b) Additional information:</p>	

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.*

<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>	<p>C - In preparation</p>
<p>1.3.1 Additional information: Update of the national action plan for conservation of wetlands in Bulgaria The update of the Bulgarian national action plan for conservation of wetlands is included as specific action in the implementation of LIFE08 NAT/BG/000277 'Ensuring Conservation of Priority Bird Species and Coastal Habitats at the Burgas Natura 2000 Wetland Sites' project. The lead organization is Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds and the project partners are Burgas Municipality, 'Chernomorsk solnitsi' JSC, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation and RSPB – UK.</p>	
<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}</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
<p>1.3.2 Additional information:</p>	

<p>1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Poverty eradication strategies</li> <li>b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans</li> <li>c) Coastal and marine resource management plans</li> <li>d) National forest programmes</li> <li>e) National strategies for sustainable development</li> <li>f) National policies or measures on agriculture</li> <li>g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans</li> </ul> <p>{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<p>A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: Please see Section 2, point I</p>	

<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: Please see Section 2, point I</p>	

<p>1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: Please see Section 2, point I</p>	

<p>1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>1.3.6 Additional information:</p>	

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.*

<p>1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>1.4.1 Additional information:</p>	

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	B - No
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	B - No
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	A - Yes
<p>1.4.4 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>'Belene Islands Coplex' (in process of approvement), 'Pomorie Lake' (in process of approvement);</p> <p>A management plan for Pomorie Lake Ramsar Site was developed within a project of Green Balkans NGO. The socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland complex has been included in the management plan. The plan has been submitted for approvat at the MOEW of Bulgaria.</p> <p>' Atanasovsko Lake', 'Durankulak Lake', 'Srebarna', 'Poda' and 'Shabla Lake' - has a management plan, but in 2011 and 2012 for these sites have to be developed new management plans.</p> <p>For Ramsar sites 'Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex', 'Ibisha Islands', 'Ropotamo Complex' and 'Vaya Lake' - a management plans are being developed.</p> <p>Management plans:</p> <p>The Protected Areas Act (PAA) requires the elaboration of management plans for protected areas. Besides the Act there is also a special regulation which determines a comprehensive procedure related to the elaboration of management plans (MP) for protected areas. Management plans are obligatory for the categories of National parks, Nature parks, Reserves and Maintained reserves. For the other two categories – protected areas and natural landmarks management plans could be also developed if there is an interested institution, for example NGO or Municipality, but only after the written approval by the MOEW.</p> <p>Management plans are developed on the basis of comprehensive socio-economic information, data about the infrastructure within and around the protected areas.</p> <p>Management plans provide zoning of the territories and define specific regimes for use and utilization of the separate zones according to their conservation value.</p> <p>They are agreements between the interested parties, namely the protected area’s managers and local population. They are tools for development of opportunities for sustainable development and use of natural resources.</p> <p>Management plans are developed for a period of 10 years. For the National parks on every 4 years from the MP entry into force a special public hearing is held which aims to assess the management plan implementation.</p> <p>MPs are being developed with priority for those sites which are internationally recognized such as Ramsar sites, Biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites, etc.</p>	

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*

<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.5.1 Additional information: With Ordinance No. ПД-110/24.02.2011 г. of the Minister of Environment and Water a working group between competent authorities has been established on the implementation of the Convention for the Biodiversity, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Environment and Water. All focal points of conventions related to biodiversity are members of the working group.</p>	
<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>A - Yes B - No A - Yes A - Yes</p>
<p>1.5.2 Additional information:</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>A - Yes</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>B - No</p>
<p>1.5.4 Additional information:</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.*

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

B - No  
D - Planned  
D - Planned

1.6.1 Additional information:

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:

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

D - Planned

1.7.1 Additional information:

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:

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}

B - No

1.7.3 Additional information:

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}

D - Planned

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

D - Planned

1.7.5 Additional information:

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

B - No

1.7.6 Additional information:

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:

'Srebarna', 'Atanasovsko Lake', 'Pomorie Lake'

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:

Under 'Operational Programme Environment 2007 - 2013' three projects are in implementation:

'Implementation of maintenance and restoration measures in reserve 'Srebarna' through the removal of part of the reed' ;

'Limiting the negative impact of invasive species and restoration of the natural habitats through planting of local species in 'Srebarna';

'Urgent measures to restore and preserve important European species and habitats in the complex of protected nature territories in Pomorie lake';

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:

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

B - No

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

B - No

1.9.2 Additional information:

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:

1. 'Chernomorski solnici JSC' is the private commercial organisation and participate as associated beneficiary in the LIFE+ project under implementation 'Ensuring Conservation of Priority Bird Species and Coastal Habitats at the Bourgas Natura 2000 Wetland Sites (LIFE FOR THE BOURGAS LAKE)', 2010-2013.

The total budget of the project is 1,775,006 Euro. 'Chernomorski solnici JSC' as associated beneficiary in the project contribute 278,696 Euro to the project. Chernomorski solnici JSC is one of the oldest companies in the country. It was founded in 1906. The first 6 000 tons of sea-salt were produced in 1908. During the last 100 years the company has been expanded and increasingly modernised and mechanised.

The Atanassovsko lake managed reserve falls on the Salinas territory. It is one of the most precious Bulgarian sites on the list of Ramsar convention.

Bourgas Salinas are fully aware of the international importance of the site and are dedicated to maintain its favourable conservation status.

The Salinas Factory maintains facilities for unique traditional salt production technology, as a result of which the salt concentration in waters is increased. The technology of production is completely orientated to the natural processes (solar evaporation) without discharge of noxious emissions in the surrounding environment.

In the course of years the new water environment created by the salt producers, representing wide range of different concentrated sea waters, has contributed for the creation of exceptional ornithological and biological richness.

One of the key activities of the project is the dikes and banks built for the purposes of production in Atanassovsko lake that also create conditions for nesting and breeding of globally threatened birds.

The Salinas is a natural partner in the endeavour to sustain the habitat of birds, declared priority for Europe as for over a century they have maintained the combination of natural reserve with a company for salt production is not unknown in Europe. They possess all the know how of how to maintain the salt-production facilities in a nature-friendly way and shall build that in the project.

2. 'Chernomorski solnici JSC' is the private commercial organisation and participate as associated beneficiary in the LIFE+ project proposal for 2011 'Urgent Measures to Restore and Secure Long-term Preservation of the Atanasovsko Lake Coastal Lagoon proposal'.

The proposed total budget of the project is 2,817,077 Euro. 'Chernomorski solnici JSC' as associated beneficiary in the project will contribute 718,867 Euro to the project.

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

B - No  
A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information: See point 1.10.1

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:

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

B - No

1.11.1 Additional information:

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:

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	D - Planned
2.1.1 Additional information: The new 'National action plan for conservation of wetlands in Bulgaria' will contain part with information for wetlands as potential Ramsar sites.	
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: Only RIS for Ramsar site 'Pomorie Wetland Complex' was updated.	
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	D - Planned
2.2.1 Additional information: The new 'National action plan for conservation of wetlands in Bulgaria' will contain part with information for wetlands as potential Ramsar sites.	

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

B - No

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

5 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

5 sites

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

2 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

1 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information: 1

For sites 'Belene Islands Coplex' and 'Pomorie Lake' the management plans are in preparation - in process of approval from the government.

'Atanasovsko Lake', 'Durankulak Lake', 'Srebarna', 'Poda' and 'Shabla Lake' - has a management plan, but in 2011 and 2012 for these sites have to be developed new management plans.

For Ramsar site 'Srebarna' in 2011 will start the procedure to revise and develop a new management plan.

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

0 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

0 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number):

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

B - No

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

B - No

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

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

Z - No negative change

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

B - No

2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken):

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

B - No

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:

With Ordinance No. PД-110/24.02.2011 г. of the Minister of Environment and Water a working group between competent authorities has been established on the implementation of the Convention for the Biodiversity, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Environment and Water. All focal points of conventions related to biodiversity are members of the working group.

Focal points for other conventions in the field of biodiversity always take part in working groups on wetlands issues.

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	A - Yes
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3.1.2 Additional information:

Focal points for other conventions in the field of biodiversity always take part in working groups on wetlands issues.

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:

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:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:

**STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives.** *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

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

A - Yes

3.2.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Planned", please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

1. Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black Sea and Azov Sea Coastal Wetlands - BlackSeaWet.

The geographical focus of BlackSeaWet regional initiative is represented by the Black Sea coastal countries. The need for the Initiative is well supported by Contracting Parties in the region. For today, 5 of them - Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine have supported the initiative. It is expected that in future Russian Federation also will join to BlackSeaWet regional initiative.

2. Ramsar Regional Initiative on Mediterranean wetlands - MedWet. The Initiative is supported from Governments of countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, The FYR of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Palestinian Authority.

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

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}

B - No

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

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:

Publication of well illustrated book 'Bulgarian Ramsar Sites' with information and map for Ramsar sites in Bulgaria.

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

B - No

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

B - No

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

B - No

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

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

B - No

3.5.3 Additional information:

Bulgaria is a contracting party in the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (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</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>D - Planned</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>For Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre an interpretation program is planned to be developed within a project funded by operative Program Environment 2007-2013. The program will focus on wetlands wise use, Ramsar convention principles, specific features of the wetland and flagship flora and fauna species.</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>	<p>6 centres</p>
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4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)):

1. 'Belene Islands Complex':

The period between 2002-2008 saw the implementation of the project 'Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction' on the territory of Persina Nature Park, funded by the Global Environmental Facility and bilateral donors and realized by the Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria. Within the project the wetland area on Persin Island was restored and an administrative building and a visitor centre of Persina Nature Park were constructed, located by the Danube. The restored wetland area is the first in the Bulgarian part of the Danube river basin.

2. 'Durankulak Lake':

An Information and Nature Conservation Centre was built by the Foundation 'Le Balkan-Bulgaria' at the western bank of the lake.

3. 'Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex':

'Dragoman marsh' Wetland Conservation Centre opened in 2009. Currently the building is reconstructed and has an interactive exhibition. The visitors centre will be the first one in Bulgaria which will be intended for wetlands protection.

4. Site 'Poda':

Within the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme in the protected site was created Poda Ecological Centre managed by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds /BSPB/.

5. 'Pomorie Lake':

Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre was established in 2010 by Green Balkans NGO within GEF/WB project. The centre is a member of WLI.

6. 'Complex Ropotamo':

In 2003, a visitor centre was opened in Ropotamo Reserve. The centre is quipped with a demonstration and information room for tourists and visitor groups. The visitors can receive information about the reserve and its inhabitants, see a film about the natural assets of the reserve and visit certain sites following a special route.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

A - Yes

A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):

For the Management plan of 'Pomorie Lake' a public discussion was organized in the town of Pomorie in 2010. The local people were questioned by the scientific experts during the elaboration of the management plan. The management and conservation activities which Green Balkans NGO implements at Pomorie Lake are concerted with the local stakeholders, especially those dealing with salt production.

For the new Ramsar site 'Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex' current management practices include the following carried out by Balkani Wildlife Society:

- Annual monitoring of species of the entire Ramsar site;
- Birdringing at the Dragoman marsh;
- Water reed removal at the Dragoman marsh;
- Plants reintroduction - After drainage of the Dragoman marsh, several plants disappeared from the Bulgarian flora. Two of them - *Aldrovanda vesiculosa* and *Caldesia parnassifolia* are in process of reintroduction. Due to improved conditions in the marsh, *Aldrovanda vesiculosa* is now developing successfully in its natural habitat. The white water lily (*Nymphaea alba*) is also successfully reintroduced after its extinction from the marsh.
- Aforestation with local tree species - *Quercus pubescens*, *Quercus robur* and *Salix* sp. are annually organized with participation of local people.
- Information plates at the Dragoman marsh designating fishing spots, litter bins for visitors and information tablets presenting key species in the marsh.
- Tourist infrastructure is also constructed.
- Education events are organized every year in the proposed Ramsar area;

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

0 opportunities

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

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

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):

Focal points for other conventions in the field of biodiversity and all stakeholders always take part in working groups on wetlands issues.

According to Law for the protected territories and Ordinance for drafting plans for the management of protected territories:

Art. 55. (1) Worked out for the protected territories shall be management plans under conditions and by an order determined by an ordinance approved by the Council of Ministers.

Art. 56. The management plans shall be complied with:

1. the requirements for the category of protected territory;
2. the regime of the protected territory determined by the order for its declaring;
3. the requirements of international agreements.

Art. 57. The management plans shall contain:

1. general characteristics of the protected territory and of its components;
2. the purposes of the management in the protected territory;
3. norms, regimes, conditions or recommendations for carrying out: the activities in the forests, land and water basins; the development of the infrastructure and the construction; the organisation of the management and others, providing the achievement of the set goals;
4. short-term and long-term programmes for activities related to the scientific and research work and monitoring of the components of the environment, the maintenance of endangered species, communities and habitats, the ecological education and others.

Art. 58. (1) The management plans for the protected territories shall be assigned by the Ministry of environment and waters.

(2) (amend. – SG 103/09) The management plans for the protected territories can also be assigned by the owners, municipalities, non-governmental organisations or associations and others, upon coordination with the Minister of environment and waters or an official authorized by him.

(3) The terms of reference for the management plans shall be approved by the Minister of environment and waters.

Art. 59. (1) In the process of working out the management plans for national and natural parks and maintained reserves the executors shall organise public discussions with the participation of representatives of the interested central and local authorities, of the owners or their associations, of scientific, academic and non-governmental organisations and other.

(2) The general statements, recommendations and notes from the public discussions shall be entered in a written statement to be attached to the draft management plan. The management plan shall take account of the statements, recommendations and notes.

Art. 60. (1) The management plans for the national and natural parks shall be presented for adoption at the Council of Ministers by the Minister of environment and waters upon conclusion of the Supreme expert ecological council at the Ministry of environment and waters. For positive decision of the Council of Ministers the Minister of environment and waters shall sign the management plans.

(2) For participation in the meetings of the council under para 1 shall be informed the representatives of the interested state bodies, regional governors, municipalities, scientific and non-governmental organisations.

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
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>Traditionally, every year the World Wetlands Day in Bulgaria was celebrated with campaigns over the country, organized by the regional structures of the Ministry of Environment and Water and directed to kindergartens, schools and universities, and including open lessons, exhibitions, presentations, activities of different environmental school clubs, competition, birdwatching tours.</p> <p>More information can find on <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/Activities/World%20Wetlands%20Day/">http://www.ramsar.org/Activities/World Wetlands Day/</a>;</p> <p>Green Balkans NGO celebrates annually the WWD and reports are submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Main sites where the activities take place are: Pomorie Wetland Complex Ramsar site, Maritsa River in city of Plovdiv, Ovcharitsa reservoir near town of Radnevo.</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}	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 2008 and 2009 Green Balkans NGO has organised Eco-Fest 'Magic of Pomorie Lake'. The event aims at promoting wise use of the wetland (a Ramsar site) and development of nature-friendly activities esp. tourism in a region where conventional mass tourism is prevailing. Due to problems with funding no follow-up events were held in 2010 and 2011, but since 2010 Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre was established there regular awareness activities are organised: WWD, Black Sea Action Day, GEO magazine Open Air Laboratory, press-conferences, etc. Main purpose of the centre is CEPA activities, as well as study and conservation actions. Two eco-trails were established at Pomorie Lake with 25 information boards on which the belonging of the lake to the Ramsar list of wetlands was marked. Also a special Ramsar information board was made and placed in front of the Visitor Center.

On September 20th, 2008, 60 years were completed since the declaring of 'Srebarna' lake for being a protected territory.

On this occasion, experts from RIEW – Ruse made a list of activities for celebrating the anniversary. Local authorities were attracted as partners – Silistra Municipality and the municipality of the village of Srebarna, the Centre for student's technical work – Silistra (CSTW) and non-governmental organizations (NGO) in the region.

The campaign was a regional one and it was held in the territory of Silistra district from February 15th till September 19th, 2008.

The objective was to include different age groups, children and students in the framework of the competition conducted and to take the chance for declaring the event during the period of the traditional International student's ecoforum 'Srebarna 2008' from May 29th – June 1st and during the European days for cultural heritage in the end of September.

The slogan of the campaign was 'Re-Find Srebarna'. The aim is to popularize some unknown to the large audience information about biodiversity, as well as about history, style of life, habits, customs, means of living of the local residence, and legends, related to Srebarna reserve.

To popularize some unknown to the large audience information about biodiversity, as well as about history, style of life, habits, customs, means of living of the local residence, and legends, related to Srebarna reserve, the Regional inspection for environment and water – Ruse announced a series of competitions:

- A competition for child's drawing 'Legends for Srebarna' (Application 4 and 6);
- A competition for computer drawing 'Legends for Srebarna';
- A competition for research activity 'The unknown past of Srebarna – preparing projects' (Application 5);
- A competition for preliminary design for web page of managed reserve 'Srebarna';
- Playing an interactive game 'Find the legend' (Application 4 and 6);
- Photo –cycle-eco safari 'Srebarna' (Application 7);

The competitions for child's and computer drawing, and the ones for mini-projects, were directed at "Srebarna's unknown past", and they were executed together with the partnership of the Centre for student's technical work – Silistra.

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

A - Yes

□

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

A - Yes

4.3.2 Additional information:

The Secretariat was informed for the change of Non-government national focal point for CEPA programme of the Convention.

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).