



## **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.

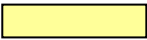

**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**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).

<b>SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION</b>
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<b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: HUNGARY</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	Deputy State Secretariat for Environment and Nature Protection, Ministry of Rural Development
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Dr. András Rácz
<b>Mailing address:</b>	1055 Budapest, Kossuth L. tér 11.
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+36-1-7952472/+36-1-7950560
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<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
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<b>Email:</b>	andras.schmidt@vm.gov.hu
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Dr. Szilvia Gőri
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Hortobágy National Park Directorate
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<b>Email:</b>	szilvi@www.hnp.hu
<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>	To be nominated soon
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	
<b>Mailing address:</b>	
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Mr. László Musicz
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Által-ér Szövetség
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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?

1 new Ramsar site has been declared (Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton), with an area of 9483 hectares. an already existing Ramsar site was declared a transboundary site with Austria (Fertő-Hanság/ Neusiedlersee-Waasen); major wetland restorations continue to take place, for example the large-scale, landscape level restoration projects in the Hortobágy National Park; establishment of new education and visitor centres that support raising awareness for wetland conservation issues (for example Drávaszentes). Update of one Ramsar Information Sheet by 2010. The Biodiversity Strategy of the EU for the period 2010-2020 was endorsed by the European Council during the Hungarian Presidency in the first half of 2011.

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

Successful use of European Union funding for, e.g., large-scale wetland restorations and the establishment of education and visitor centres; extensive education work with schools. The elaboration of a national river basin management plan by the end of 2010. The endorsement of the Danube Strategy of the EU during the Hungarian Presidency in the first half of 2011.

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

Removal of perverse incentives and legislation supporting cultivation of regularly flooded areas; lack of capacity of conservation staff to survey wetlands and finalise the national wetland inventory; limited resources for wetland monitoring; slow progress with the New Vásárhelyi Plan that aims to solve flood mitigation problems along the river Tisza and harmonise this interest with nature conservation as well as with environmentally friendly, sustainable land use.

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

Continuation of on-going activities, such as wetland restoration projects and nature education work.

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

No proposal.

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

Guidance on the recommended scale and detail for the National Wetland Inventory.

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

No recommendation.

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?

Close collaboration with CBD on integrating conservation issues into various policy areas, consultation of national focal points on reporting.

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)?

Through the approval of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that contains a chapter on wetland management policy and incorporates conservation issues into water policy, energy policy, etc.

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

No general comments.

## 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	C - In progress
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1.1.1 Additional information: The National Wetland Inventory database was established in 2004 and data cover approximately 70 % of the country. The process of data collection stalled in 2005, but database compilation under the Water Framework Directive will replace it.	
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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
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1.1.2 Additional information:	
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1.1.3 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium? {1.1.3 & 1.1.4}

- a) Ramsar Sites  
b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

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

O - No change  
O - No change

1.1.3 a) Additional information: The Nature Conservation Information System operated by the Ministry of Rural Development summarises information on the ecological character of protected wetlands, including Ramsar sites and collects data from the National Biodiversity Monitoring System, including data on wetland species and habitats; a national database is also operated by the Tiszántúli Regional Inspectorate for Environment Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management based in Debrecen, but this database only covers certain ecological parameters. The National Wildfowl Database is operated by the University of Western Hungary and is published annually in the Magyar Vízivad Közlemények (Hungarian Waterfowl Bulletin).

1.1.3 b) Additional information:

As far as the above-mentioned databases allow us to estimate on a national scale, the overall general character of Hungary's wetlands including its Ramsar sites did not change significantly.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

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

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i

(If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

A - Yes

1.3.1 Additional information: The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan proposed by the Ministry of Environment and Water has not yet been endorsed by the Government. The Water Framework Directive can be considered the wetland policy of the European Union. The river basin management plan for Hungary has been elaborated by the end of 2010. Therefore, this plan includes the management policy for Hungary's wetlands. The Water Framework Directive has been incorporated into Hungary's legislation by three government decrees: 219/2004 on the protection of groundwaters, 220/2004 on the protection of surface water quality and 221/2004 on the rules of water catchment management.

1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}	A - Yes
1.3.2 Additional information: The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has a chapter on wetland management policy containing the aspects of wise use and incorporating WSSD targets and actions.	
<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>B - No</p> <p>A - Yes</p> <p>Z - Not applicable</p> <p>C - Partly</p> <p>A - Yes</p> <p>C - Partly</p> <p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: The National Sustainable Development Strategy was approved in 2007, in line with the renewed sustainable development strategy of the European Union approved on 16 June 2006. The National Climate Strategy was endorsed by the Government in February 2008. Both strategies incorporated wetland issues.</p> <p>The river basin management plan for Hungary has been elaborated by the end of 2010. Therefore, this plan includes the management policy for Hungary's wetlands. The Water Framework Directive has been incorporated into Hungary's legislation by three government decrees: 219/2004 on the protection of groundwaters, 220/2004 on the protection of surface water quality and 221/2004 on the rules of water catchment management.</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	A - Yes
1.3.4 Additional information: Yes, the strategic environmental assessment directive of the Parliament and the Council of the European Union (2001/42/EC) is implemented by Government Decree 2/2005 (I.12.)	

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?

A - Yes

1.3.5 Additional information: The EIA Directive of the EU applies in Hungary and has been transposed into national legislation by Government Decree 314/2005 (XII.25.). Projects that may have an impact on Natura 2000 sites (the Natura 2000 network covers 21% of Hungary and practically all the important wetlands) also require an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive, transposed into Hungarian legislation by Government Decree 275/2004 (X.6.).

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?

B - No

1.3.6 Additional information: No amendment specifically for Ramsar commitments has been planned as the above legislations already cover Ramsar aspects adequately.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation:

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii

C - Partly

1.4.1 Additional information: The Kis-Balaton Project Stage 2 has been designed on the basis of a complex analysis of the site, involving its ecosystem services (such as flood mitigation).

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

C - Partly

1.4.2 Additional information: The implementation of the Vásárhelyi Plan, aiming at flood control, flood plain wetland restorations and poverty eradication along the river Tisza (the second river in Hungary) through support to sustainable, extensive land use in flood plains, has been continued.

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

A - Yes

1.4.3 Additional information: Two of Hungary's Ramsar sites are also listed on the World Cultural Heritage: Lake Fertő and the Hortobágy.

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

1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): The cultural values of wetlands are taken into consideration in planning for nationally protected areas (a number of Hungary's Ramsar sites overlap with nationally protected areas).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

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

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

C - Partly

1.5.1 Additional information: Good cooperation exists between the national focal points for Ramsar, Bonn, Bern, CITES and CBD conventions.

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

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

B - No

B - No

B - No

B - No

1.5.2 Additional information:

1.5.3 Has the "Changwon Declaration" been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?

B - No

1.5.3 Additional information:

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

B - No

1.5.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

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

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

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

KRA 1.6.i

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

The national water management concept, currently under discussion, recommends to withdraw regularly inundated areas from agricultural production in order to maintain them as wetlands for water retention and climate change mitigation purposes.

The effects of climate change on wetland-related songbirds was studied by the Eötvös Lóránd University. A presentation was held on WWD2010 in Tihany. Valuation of ecosystem services is researched at the Szent István University, Gödöllő. A presentation was held at the Nature Directors' meeting in Balatonfüred, June 2011.

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: The river basin management plan was based on sound scientific ground, supported by national park directorates.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information: In the process of preparing the national river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive.

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: In the process of preparing the national river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive.

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}

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information: In the process of preparing the national river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive.

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}

Z - Not applicable

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

B - No

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

A - Yes

1.7.6 Additional information: The agri-environmental measure of the New Hungary Rural Development Programme introduced schemes (reed management; management of natural wetland habitats, marshes, bogs and sedges; establishment and management of wetland habitats) with the aim of serving environmental and nature conservation purposes in wetland habitats with high biodiversity by creating and maintaining favourable living conditions for endangered animal species connected to water.

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: By the six-year development plans of the national park directorates. Major wetland restoration plans include Osli-Hany Királytó, riparian wetlands along the Répce and Rábca rivers.

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: Major wetland restoration projects involved the following sites: Kis-Balaton, Nagyberek, Pély Ludas, Gemenc, Béda-Karapancsa. In the 2008-2011 period, 44 projects were financed (or at least a decision was taken for financing) from the Energy and Environment Operational Programme (EU Cohesion Fund) that included a wetland restoration project. 22 of these projects purely aimed at wetland restorations, covering approximately 40 thousand hectares, of which 23 thousand hectares are in Ramsar sites. A 5 hectare wetland restoration project is also to be implemented in 2011 from EU funding.

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

C - Partly

1.9.1 Additional information: Only an incomprehensive list of presently invasive species is available on the website: [www.termesztvedelem.hu](http://www.termesztvedelem.hu) Potentially invasive species are not listed.

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

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information: An incomplete list of invasive species affecting wetlands has been compiled in the National Biodiversity Monitoring System. A Transition Facility (EU-funded) project identified sample plots in wetland habitat types of Community importance. However, monitoring has not begun yet.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation: Volume II on invasive alien plant species and their management was published in 2006 (Botta-Dukát, Z. & Mihály, B. (2006): *Biológiai inváziók Magyarországon. Özönnövények II. KvVM Természetvédelmi Hivatalának tanulmánykötetei* 10. 412 p.), summarising eradication practices and case studies from national park directorates for species additional to those treated in volume I, including wetland species, such as *Azolla mexicana*, *A. filiculoides*, *Cabomba caroliniana*, *Elodea canadensis* and *E. nuttallii*. The compilation of the first annotated species list of invasive fauna began in 2007, with participation from the national park directorates and co-ordinated by the Ministry. The list also aims to identify possible species-specific measures.

**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

B - No

1.10.1 Additional information:

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: In some Ramsar sites, such as the Upper Kiskunság alkaline plains, the private manager/farmer carries out exemplary management in the spirit of wise use.

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

B - No

1.10.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information: The Ministry has made available EU grants to the national park directorates and the water management directorates for projects of wetland restorations, and investments that make wise use management (for example, creation of fish bypasses) possible. However, regular management measures (for example, wise use of fish pond systems, the regular removal of invasive plants) cannot be financed from this source. Also, this grant is not available to other stakeholders than the mentioned state bodies. Grants are also available from the Regional Operative Programmes of the EU for interpretation of and ecotourism development in wetlands. In the Natura 2000 programme (Hungary's Ramsar sites are almost fully within the Natura 2000 network), farmers get regular payments for their grasslands from 2008 onwards (38 euros/hectare). This entails restrictions, for example farmers may not drain their fields from spring floods. A subsidy system for fishponds is under elaboration.

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

D - Planned

1.11.2 Additional information: The national water management concept is currently elaborated and will facilitate the removal of perverse incentives. The Ramsar National Committee indicated several times to the Ministry that the legal obligation of water management companies to drain flooded fields is in conflict with nature conservation interests. Dredging of canals is also required even in canals that receive hardly any water (and thus dredging unnecessarily increases draining). The removal of the perverse incentive is planned.

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	C - Partly
2.1.1 Additional information: After several 'designation waves' (the last ones in 2006 and 2008, with only one site added in the 2009-2011 triennium), the designation of further sites is no longer considered a high priority task in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Hungary. Further designations may take place, but are not planned in such number that a strategy or priorities should be identified (over 2.6 % of the country's territory is already designated to the list of Ramsar sites). The Ramsar National Committee discussed the question in detail at its meeting on 19 February 2008, and agreed that further designations may be possible for sites holding habitat types that are under-represented on the global list of Ramsar sites, as well as sites where major wetland restorations will have taken place.	
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	A - Yes
2.1.2 Additional information: The only site whose RIS needed to be updated during the triennium was the Felső-Tisza (Upper Tisza), whose updated RIS was submitted in December 2010.	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.3 Additional information:	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation):	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

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

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

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

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

C - Some sites

2.3.1 Additional information: Only one site has been added to the List of wetlands of international importance during the triennium in Hungary. The 'Fishponds and marshlands south of Lake Balaton' site is partially covered by a protected area management plan (the part which is also a nationally protected area). Some other parts of the site are covered by a Natura 2000 site, for which a Natura management plan exists. Therefore, the majority of the site is covered with a management plan.

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

13 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

13 sites

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

0 sites

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

0 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information: Because of the very strict legislation concerning the approval procedure for management plans of protected areas, presently no Ramsar site has a legally approved management plan. However, the technical draft of the management plan is available and is used by the responsible national park directorates in daily conservation management for 16 sites and is underway for 4 sites. A management plan partly covers one site. No management plan exists or is planned to be drafted in the near future for 8 sites. As all Hungarian Ramsar sites are part of the Natura 2000 network, it is important to mention that the Natura 2000 sites established under the Habitats Directive were designated as Special Areas of Conservation in May 2010. At the same time, the conservation objectives and priorities were identified for these sites and included (in Hungarian) in the Standard Data Form of the sites. This is relevant in 24 of Hungary's 29 sites, of which 2 are only partially covered by SACs.

2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii	A - Yes
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2.4.5 Additional information:

2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv	0 sites
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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	28 sites
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2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number): The publication 'A magyarországi vadvizek világa' contains a several-page description of the ecological character of nearly all Ramsar sites (except for the latest designated Ramsar site), including a chapter each on geological history, relief and soil, climate, hydrology, landscape history, geological, botanical and zoological values.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

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

2.5.1 Have any assessments of Ramsar Site management effectiveness been carried out? {2.3.4} KRA 2.5.i	A - Yes
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2.5.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available): Management effectiveness is regularly reviewed for all sites under some designation by the national park directorates. The last such review was the 2009-2014 development plan of the national park directorates which provided an overview of the present state of natural areas and assets and identified the strategic objectives and main goals for the named period. The development plans are available at the Ministry of Rural Development in Hungarian.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established): The national park directorates are responsible for the conservation management of Ramsar sites, and they are obliged to submit annual reports to the Administrative Authority on their activities, whereby they must also report on any major ecological changes. Disasters (such as the cyanide pollution in the river Tisza in 2000 or the draining of a part of the newly designated Fishponds and marshlands south of Lake Balaton) are reported immediately. The NP Directorates are consulted by the conservation authorities (the regional environmental protection, nature conservation and water management inspectorates) on major projects that may affect protected areas, Ramsar sites, etc., before decision-making.

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): No negative change is known that would have a long-term or permanent effect on the ecological character of the sites.

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

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken): No Hungarian Ramsar site is listed on or proposed to the Montreux Record.

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

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information: All such sites are part of the Natura 2000 network (for example the Virágoskúti Fishponds, which is a potential candidate for Ramsar site designation), and as such, are protected by Community law and Hungarian legislation transposing the Community law. Therefore, their ecological character is maintained, for example, by the appropriate assessment procedure.

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: The Ramsar Administrative Authority closely co-operates with the focal points of CBD, Bern, Bonn and Washington Conventions (they are also officers of the same Ministry, although in another department within the Ministry).	
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3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	B - No
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3.1.2 Additional information: National focal points of other MEAs are not invited to National Ramsar Committee meetings but are informed of developments.	
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3.1.3 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO, etc)? KRA 3.1.iv	B - No
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3.1.3 Additional information:	
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3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii	Z - Not applicable
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3.1.4 Additional information:	
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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:	
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<b>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives.</b> <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i>
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3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i	A - Yes
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3.2.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Planned”, please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative): Hungary has been involved in the development of and is active in the implementation of the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI). The implementation of the CWI has been transferred to the Carpathian Convention. Collaborating countries: Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia.

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

B - No

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

**STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance.** *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

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

A - Yes

3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10): An 8.6 million USD Hungarian-Lao tied aid framework agreement was signed in Vientiane in 2009, which came into force in 2010. The project included, among others, support to modernization of aquacultures and fisheries.

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

B - No

3.3.2 Additional information:

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

Z - Not applicable

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): twinning arrangements are in place on the Austrian and Hungarian side of Lake Fertő/Lake Neusiedl (involving the national park administrations), the Hungarian and Slovak side of the Baradla - Domica cave system (involving the national park administrations) and along the Upper Tisza/Tisa river (involving researchers), between Kopacki Rit Nature Park in Croatia and the Béda-Karapanca Ramsar site of the Duna-Dráva National Park in Hungary, the conservation managers of the Biharugra Fishponds in Hungary and the Cséffai Fishponds in Roumania.

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:

The Ramsar site status is publicly available in respective issues of the Environmental Bulletin (editions issued in 2004, 2006 and 2008). The latest Ramsar site (Dél-Balatoni halastavak és berkek), however, was designated by a decree of the Minister of Rural Development and it is planned to re-designate all Hungarian Ramsar sites by decree of the Minister of Rural Development by the end of 2011 (decrees are provisions of law and are therefore more embedded in legislation than a list in the Environmental Bulletin).

Regularly updated information on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Hungary is published on the internet at: [www.termeszetvedelem.hu](http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu) (<http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu/ramsari-egyezmeny>)

In October 2007, a major publication was published after twelve years of preparation, on Hungary's Ramsar sites: Tardy J. (ed.) (2007): A magyarországi vadvizek világa. Alexandra Kiadó, 416 p.

Each national park directorate maintains a website on which Ramsar sites also feature. For example [www.dinpi.hu](http://www.dinpi.hu) features the Rétszilás Fishponds Ramsar site, the Velence Bird Reserve and Dinnyés Marsh Ramsar site and the Ócsa Ramsar site.

The University of Debrecen launched a new training course in Hungary in September 2009, providing Master of Science degree in hydrobiology.

The Magyar Vízivad Közlemények (Hungarian Wildfowl Bulletin) publishes wildfowl monitoring data from numerous Hungarian wetlands, including many Ramsar sites.

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

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information: Border-region water management committees have been set up with all neighbouring countries and they identified all transboundary wetland systems (see list of agreements under 3.5.2.). Hungary has presently four transboundary Ramsar sites (Upper Tisza, Aggtelek and river Ipoly), along the Hungarian/Slovak boundary (the Upper Tisza site extends along the Ukrainian and Romanian borderline, too) and Lake Fertő-Hanság/Neusiedlersee/Waasen on the Austrian-Hungarian border region.

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

A - Yes

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place): Effective co-operative management is in place for several of our shared wetland systems, for example the transboundary Ramsar sites.

**BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH HUNGARY'S NEIGHBOURS  
ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS**

years in brackets: signature, entry into force

Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Austria on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1956, 1959)

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Co-operation in the Field of Water (1994, 1996)

Agreement of Co-operation in the field of protection and sustainable use of transboundary waters between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Romania (2003, 2004)

– preceding: Agreement of 1987

Serbia: Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia in the field of water management(1955, 1956)

Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1976)

The new agreement with Slovakia has already been elaborated and is awaiting authorization for signature on Slovakian side

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of Water Management (1994, 2001)

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Ukraine in the field of transboundary water management (1997, 1999)

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

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information: Hungary is a contracting party of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and is part of the following agreements/MoUs that deal (at least partly) with wetland-dependent species: EUROBATS, AEWA, Aquatic Warbler MoU, Slender-billed Curlew MoU, Birds of Prey MoU.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

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

	<p>A - Yes A - Yes B - No B - No</p>
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<p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)</p>	
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<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs): The National CEPA Action Plan was developed and published in 2002: Bóhm, A. &amp; Szabó M. (2002): Országos stratégia a a vizes élőhelyek védelmének kommunikációjáért. In: Vizes élőhelyek: a természeti és a társadalmi környezet kapcsolata. (National strategy for the communication of wetland conservation, In: Wetlands: the interrelation of the natural and the social environment. In Hungarian, 17 pages.).</p>	
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<p>The national river basin management plan approved in 2010 also has a chapter on public participation.</p>	
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<p>The national park directorates have identified their CEPA priorities and plans for the 2009-2014 period in their six-year development programmes (subnational level).</p>	
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<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
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	<p>15 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)): Presently 15 centres exist at wetlands, only a few were established during the given period.</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p> <p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved): The elaboration of the national river basin management plan was built on a broad public participation procedure in 2010.</p> <p>Local stakeholders were involved in the designation of the latest Ramsar site designated in 2011 (Fishponds and marshlands south of Lake Balaton). Local stakeholders are also involved in the management of Ramsar sites, for example in the environmental permitting procedures environmental NGOs are involved on request.</p>	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv &amp; 4.1.viii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv</p>	<p>2 opportunities</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training): The University of Debrecen launched a Master of Science degree course on hidrobiology in September 2009. Hidrobiolgy training (BSc) is also run at the Nyíregyháza College.</p>	
<p>4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): The membership (13) consists of representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development (from the nature conservation, the water management and the hunting departments), from academic institutions (University of Debrecen, Department of Hidrobiolgy, University of West Hungary, Game Management Faculty, the Limnological Institute of Tihany), 3 national park directorates, the National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water, an NGO (representing an association of local governments at a Ramsar site), and a farmer (manager of fishponds at a Ramsar site). The COmmittee normally meets twice a year and is an advisory body of the Minister of Rural Development.</p>	

<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites managers? b. other MEA national focal points? c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please describe what types of mechanism are in place): Management is discussed with site managers by the national park directorates. Implementation guidelines are shared by MEA focal points within the Ministry of Rural Development as they work in close collaboration. New legislation undergoes an interministerial consultation procedure before passed.</p>	
<p>4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information: WWD is celebrated each year throughout the country by various organisations (national park directorates, NGOs such as Nimfea and WWF). The Ministry of Environment and Water organised national celebrations in 2009 and 2010, and its successor, the Ministry of Rural Development organised the national celebration in 2011.</p>	
<p>4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this): During the EU presidency of Hungary, the Nature Directors' Meeting (the informal meeting of the first nature conservation officials of all EU Member States and the European Commission) celebrated 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ramsar Convention in June 2011 in Balatonfüred, Hungary, as a presentation was held on the subject by the representative of the Ramsar Secretariat.</p> <p>The Wild Geese Festival is held annually at Lake Tata (Ramsar site), with increasing attendance. The number of visitors is in the range of 7000-14 000 on the peak day of the festival. The festival features presentations on wetland values, an ecomarket, a bird race as well as the spectacular lighting of thousands of geese to the lake at dusk.</p>	
<p>Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:</p>	

**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	B - No
b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	
The payment of the annual contribution is planned from the Ministry of Rural Development budget for 2011.	

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	A - Yes
4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities): 2000 euros to the implementation of the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative coordinated by Slovakia.	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

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

4.3.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii □	B - No
4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):	

4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i	A - Yes
4.3.2 Additional information:	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

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

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii	B - No
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4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):
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4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii	B - No
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4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):
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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:
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**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).