



## **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: INDIA</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	<b>Dr. Tishya Chatterjee, Secretary</b>
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	
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<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
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<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. Sidharth Kaul, Advisor
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Ministry of Environment & Forests,
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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>	Dr. Sidharth Kaul, Advisor
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<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?

National Wetland Conservation Programme has been extended to 115 wetlands all over the Country involving 24 States and Union Territories. 22 new Wetlands have been added to the list after visiting these areas and approving field report in the National Committee for identification of new sites.

As per National Environmental Policy (NEP) recommendations, it was proposed to have regulations for overexploitation of Wetlands so that they are not used beyond their carrying capacity. An expert group was constituted to deliberate on various aspects related to Wetland regulations. This group met 12 times and debated on various intricate issues and came out with a draft notification on Wetland regulatory Rules. The draft was put up on ministry's website for getting comments of all concerned with Wetland Conservation. After getting comments from various experts/institutions/individuals/State Govt. etc these comments were incorporated in the text and after approval of the Minister of Environment & Forests, were sent to Ministry of Law & Justice for their approval. Once approved from Ministry of Law & Justice these Rules were notified on 4th Dec., 2010 under Environmental Protection Act (1986). Under these Rules some activities are allowed in the Wetlands, other are allowed only after permission of Central Wetland Authority and some detrimental activity are not allowed at all.

Though there are National Policies for Wetland Conservation in some of the Countries at Global level but Wetland Regulatory Rules have been first attempted by our country. This was the topic selected for Invited presentation in Asian Regional Meeting held in Indonesia in November, 2011 for which our country sent a text of complete presentation which was to be shared with other Asian Countries. However due to some unavoidable reasons India could not participate in this meeting at the last moment. This regulatory framework on Wetlands from our country has also been put up on Ramsar Website for wider circulation. For Biodiversity Conservation feedback was given pertaining to Consolidation of fresh water Wetland diversity, which is a neglected area and has not been attended in depth till date. Other linkages with migratory species of birds, climate change and other conventions has also been taken care of to help establishing proper linkages of these Conventions vis-vis Ramsar Convention.

For getting better management Action Plans, Ministry has instituted a scheme for providing financial assistance to those States for making a comprehensive long term action plans which lack in infrastructure, expertise and knowledge base. This has helped in getting more realistic Management Action Plans which can be meaningful and result oriented for long term measures. Besides that Ministry has also initiated scheme on evaluation of Ramsar sites to see impacts of various conservation activities undertaken at the grass root level. Initially five Ramsar sites were identified for this evaluation from different geographical regions. An independent agency was selected for evaluation. The basic purpose of evaluation was to see in terms of cost benefit analysis, how much useful these conservation activities are for the communities residing in Wetland areas in terms of benefits accrued to them. This exercise has given very significant results which will help us in framing our future strategies for the Wetland Conservation ethos.



[MoEF has identified several wetlands with the objective of conservation of biodiversity water resources management and poverty alleviation. Status of our conservation efforts taken up in different states is as follows:

Management action plans have been prepared for 70 out of 115 identified wetlands which are at various stages of implementation. These action plans focus on management of water regimes, poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. Management action plans of 40 mangrove areas representing large chunks of mangrove vegetation in the country have been identified for intensive conservation and management. The main objective of these management plans is to restore the mangrove vegetation for coastal protection, flood defense, food security and poverty alleviation. 4 coral reef areas have been identified for coastal protection and biodiversity conservation. Most of the wetlands in India are directly associated with river systems. Ganga floodplain wetland system constitutes the largest wetland regime in the country. For improving the water quality of this river system, Ganga Action Plan was initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985 under which a comprehensive programme has been developed for pollution abatement of the river and water quality monitoring. The methodology for water quality monitoring has been developed for four major components namely surface water quality, sediment characteristics, drain/ outfall effluent quality and sewage treatment plant performance to control pollution. These components cover measurement of water quality of the river, long term changes in the river ecosystem and efficacy of the reduction of pollution load into the river from point sources through the implementation of the pollution abatement schemes.

Several other river stretches in the country viz. Yamuna, Western Yamuna Canal, Gomati, Hindon, Damodar, Upper reaches of Ganga, Additional towns in Bihar under GAP Phase II and for rivers Satluj (Punjab), Khan, Kshipra, Wain Ganga, Narmada, Chambal, Tapi, Betwa (Madhya Pradesh), under NRCP have been taken up for water quality monitoring. Recently, the proposals for undertaking water quality monitoring for rivers Godavari (Andhra Pradesh), Damodar (Bihar), Subernrekha (Bihar), Chambal (Rajasthan), Tunga, Bhadra, Tungabhadra, Cauvery (Karnataka) have been undertaken for water quality monitoring and assessment of pollution load. Overall 42 parameters have been identified for monitoring purposes out of which nine have been selected as core parameters in addition to some site specific parameters. The water quality monitoring of these stretches are at various stages of progress. The agencies involved for monitoring include Central Pollution Control Boards, State Pollution Control Boards, university departments and research institutions.

Overall 42 priority lakes have been identified under National Lakes Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and restoration of water bodies in view of their significance in terms of water supply, cultural heritage and scientific research. The focus is on improvement of water quality for water supply and food security.

Under National Wetland Programme several activities have been also undertaken to optimize water regimes for food security and ecosystem conservation. Initiatives have also been undertaken in case of Harike Lake in Punjab, Wullar Lake in Kashmir and other wetlands for water conservation and management.

Conservation and management of wetlands is a high priority area of the MoEF, Government of India. Based on the recommendations of the National Committee, 115 wetlands, 40 mangroves ecosystems and 4 coral reefs have been identified for intensive conservation and management purposes. Guidelines have been formulated for preparation of management action plans. The various activities under these action plans include protection, catchment area treatment, pollution control weed control, wildlife conservation, sustainable fisheries development, environmental education and people participation. These management plans are supported by the Government of India under centrally sponsored schemes on "Wetlands" and "Mangroves". The management action

plan has been formulated in case of all 40 identified mangrove areas 70 wetlands, 42 lakes and 4 coral reefs. It is planned to undertake conservation and restoration of all 115 identified wetlands and continue financial support for all the identified areas during 11<sup>th</sup> five year plan.

An effective monitoring mechanism has been developed as part of the management action plan to assess the impacts of restoration measures undertaken for the priority wetlands. Restoration of Chilika lake through effective water management, community participation and providing sustainable economic benefits to the community dependent upon these resources for their sustenance was carried out by the Government of Orissa, through the support of MoEF, Wetlands International, NGOs and local communities. Restoration of Chilika lake was an example of application of successful model for rehabilitation of biodiversity and livelihood support to a large community dependent upon the lake. Ramsar award was conferred to Chilika Development Authority for this exemplary wetland restoration model.

Community participation and development is one of the key components of all the management action plans formulated for the priority wetlands. A lot of emphasis has been laid on involvement of communities in restoration measures with the objective of sustainable resource development on livelihood improvements of the communities dependent on wetlands for their sustenance. The framework and guidelines developed through Ramsar Convention are extremely useful in conservation and management of wetlands of international importance. These guidelines have been applied wherever relevant and further refined as per the local conditions. India has designated 25 wetlands under the list of wetlands of international importance. Six more wetlands are under process for their designation as Ramsar sites. India fulfilled the commitment to designate 25 Ramsar sites as stated in CoP-7 Costa Rica in 1999.

Information on 93 well known wetlands of the country has been given in the Asian Wetland Directory which represents important wetland sites of national and international importance. Subsequently WWF-India in collaboration with Asian Wetland Bureau (now Wetlands international) has revised the section dealing with India's wetlands in the Asian Wetland Directory. Information on 40 new sites has been added, while that on most other sites has been updated.

SACON has identified 199 wetlands as potential Ramsar sites. The inventory carried out on these wetlands has provided a baseline information on the criteria adopted by Ramsar Convention for designation of wetlands under Convention. This is being reviewed in consultation with the concerned State Governments in India, research institutions as well as in relation to sites proposed by other institutions for designation..

The information collected on inland water bodies as well as coastal wetlands is being reviewed to examine the wetland representatives of rare or unique Biodiversity. The information on other wetland is also being collected to assess the feasibility of wetlands as potential Ramsar sites.

Five wetland has been designated as Ramsar site which is supporting globally threatened species viz. Cervus Ildi Ildi in Loktak, Irrawadi Dolphin in Chilika, Siberian Crane in Keladeo National park, Royal Bengal Tiger in Sundearban and Black necked crane in Tso Murari.

The highest counts total for 14 globally threatened species were as follows:

Critically endangered Siberian Crane (3 in 1997 and 2 in 1999, the number of this small CAF population that used to visit Keoladeo National Park has dwindled with no birds

being recorded here in the last few years raising fears that this population may have been extirpated);

Twelve Lower Risk species were also recorded: the highest count of Conservation Dependent Dalmatian Pelican was 91 in 1999. Eleven Near Threatened species, Oriental Darter, Painted Stork, Black-neck stork, Black-headed ibis, Lesser Flamingo, Ferruginous Duck, Beach Thick-knee, Asian Dowitcher, Black-bellied Tern, Grey-headed Fishing Eagle and Pallid Harrier were also recorded. Small numbers of Goliath Heron were recorded, a species for which the South Asian population is estimated at 20 individuals.

25 Ramsar sites designated by India form a part of Central Asian Flyways for migratory species. An effective network of protected areas consisting of national parks, sanctuaries and biosphere reserves has been set up in the country. Many wetlands are included in this network. Efforts are being made to include the remaining identified wetlands under the network and the respective State Governments have been requested for taking the necessary steps. The State Governments have a well structured system to protect these areas. However, assistance is also being provided to the State Governments under the Centrally sponsored scheme for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries. Under the Mangrove Conservation Programmes, State Forest/Wildlife Departments are being provided financial assistance for various protection measures.

Wetlands International conducts periodic waterfowl census of wetlands in India. Bombay Natural History Society has been identified by Wetlands International as a nodal agency to coordinate with NGOs and other concerned agencies and experts. The information received from various agencies by Wetlands International is compiled and widely disseminated through various reports.

Apart from this Central Wetland Regulatory Authority conducted its two meetings. A unique workshop was organized on World Wetlands Day, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Minister of Environment & Forests at Bharatpur, Rajasthan from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011. In this workshop number of participants came from different States to deliberate on various issues which needed clarifications in regard to wetland notification. The State Govts. were asked to immediately send list of Wetlands for notification which at present are not covered under the present Wetland Rules.

For the convenience all states Space Application Centre (SAC) was asked to map Wetlands in the scale of 1:50,000 scale to give better understanding of Wetlands which are upto 5 hectare area. Stateswise atlases in this scale were released in June, 2011 by the Minister of Environment & Forests. This information will help State Govts. to come up with more detailed information on Wetlands to be notified for conservation.

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

Many capacity building programmes have been organized in the country for giving training to various strata of society to train managers executing the management Action Plans in the field. These were conducted in different geographical locations like Northern India, Southern India Western India, Central India, Eastern India. One more training programme is proposed before CoP-11 for middle level managers in the North Eastern States which are hot spots of biodiversity.

A project on National Wetland information System and updation of Wetland inventory was undertaken to inventorise Wetlands in the scale of 150,000 by on screen interpretation on digital IRS LISS III data of post and of premonsoon seasons. The basic purpose of the exercise was to create the digital data base for all Wetland of the country and to prepare Statewise Wetland Atlases which were released in June ,2011. These have been put on website for benefit of various user agencies and will help in notifying more Wetlands for regulatory purposes in the country. The present inventorisation process is the latest as earlier also many attempts were made to inventorise wetlands in collaboration with different agencies to get clear picture about the geographical distribution of all wetlands in the country

- Wetland Regulatory Rules have been notified in December,2010 and a Workshop was organized to have open discussions on various issues of regulatory framework where the State Govts lack clarity, to execute these rules at the ground level.

- More emphasis was laid on community participation in the management Action Plans so as to raise their socio-economic status and involve them in conservation processes in a more organized manner.

Monitoring mechanism was evolved for regulatory purposes examining management action plans for feasibility point of view and reviewing various conservation activities at the State level. Appropriate Ministries dealing with wetland conservation have been involved at National level like Water Resource Ministry, Agriculture Ministry, Ministry of Social Justice, Ministry of Tourism etc. to give a broad base in executing conservation activities in Wetlands in different states. Apart from these members from Central Pollution Control Board and subject specialists in the thematic areas of wetland conservation are placed in these Committee for better results.

Priority areas of Research have been finalized to gather Base Line Data on different parameter for long term basis. This will help in modelling of Wetlands in a more authentic manner to get desired results.

25 Ramsar sites have been designated, 6 more are the in process of designation. Apart of these all State Govts have been asked to send revised Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) to designate more Ramsar sites from India and we hope to designate atleast 25 more Ramsar sites during the next triennium.

India was appreciated for its role in the Supervisory Counsel for six years. Appreciation certification was sent by the Wetland International Head Quarter, Netherlands in applauding India's role in the council.

India also endorsed Himalayan Regional initiative for conservation of Himalayan wetlands in association with other neighbouring countries..

Our multidisciplinary project on various aspects of wetland conservation through UNEP has already been approved and will be initiated in 2012 at the global level.

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

One of the greatest difficulties is changing the mind set of managers. Sectoral approach of dealing with things is another handicap. It is taking time to go in for vegetative treatment for catchmen then for hardcore engineering interventions some of the States are facing problems of Infrastructure, Expertise and Man power.

Govt. has taken up new programmes to help people in making better Management Plans, train them for various wetland conservation processes for better execution. Steps have also been taken to strengthen baseline information on various research parameters and involve communities in a more user friendly manner for executing conservation aspects in a better designed manner. Process is on for devising better monitoring and review mechanisms at National, State and District levels. Evaluations have been initiated through independent agencies to see the utility of financial assistance provided to State Govt's to quantify impacts of the conservation undertaken in terms of visibility. Financial constraint is another handicap. Very little International assistance is providing by the Ramsar Sectt. for the implementation of various conservation measures because of its meagre financial resource.

Lack of strigent rules for upkeep of designated Ramsar sites by the Ramsar Convention does not help as designation of Ramsar sites should also have proper mechanism for assessing impacts of ecologinal interventions at the International level. It was suggested by India in a theme paper for Asian Regional Meeting held in Jakarta (Indonesia) to have a team of two to three experts from the neighbouring countries to assess management interventions in newly identified Ramsar sites so that they are not put under montreaux record. This will not only help in evolving better management practices but also in taking mid term corrective measures to use appropriate technologies for wetland conservation.

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

Implementation of regulations in wetlands through recently published Wetland Management Rules to save these Wetlands and not to use them beyond their carrying capacity. In this way no. of activities will be regulated like water drawn for drinking purposes, water used for irrigation, sustainable fisheries and engaging people in different income generation programmes which will not only help in minimizing pressure on wetlands but also in raising their socio-economic status.

- More training programme at various levels to train wetland manager for conservation activities in the field. Capacity building programmes will also be organized to sensetise people about values and functions of wetlands.
- Inventorisation of wetlands in the scale of 1:25000 to get information on those aspects which have not been achieved through our present exercise.
- Evaluation of conservation activities in atleast 20 wetlands to see the impact at the grass root level and translate them into cost benefit analysis.

- Will explore possibilities of using wetland weeds for some revenue generation schemes like composting, making ornamental things, for biogas and if possible for making paper by collaborating with different agro-fertilizer and small scale industries.
- Will try to include wetland conservation as a subject at primary, middle, secondary, graduate and post graduate level so that people are conscious about why wetlands need to be conserved, what is their role as chargers of aquifers, what benefits in terms of various ecosystem services provided from produce of wetland and about their role in carbon Sequenciation and mitigation of green house gases.

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

Yes, will try to notify atleast 500 wetlands for regulatory purposes and put restrictions on activities which are detrimental to health of wetlands. Evaluation of more Wetland for effective management. Gather enough Research Data Base for better understanding of wetland conservation ethos through various integrated and multidiciplinary projects on invitation basis and inculcate in all people rationale for Wetland conservation.

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

Yes, will be seeking more funds for making Comprehensive Management Plans from Small Grant Fund from Ramser Secretariat and also seek funds for organizing next CoP meeting in our country.

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

Yes, Wetland International South Asia and World Wide Fund India (WWF) do collaborate with our Ministry for various programmes which include designation of more Ramser sites ,conducting various capacity building programes and also organizing various events like World Wetland Day and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Ramsar Convention etc.

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?

Already attempts are on to synergise various activities but some more hard work needs to be done in this direction so that activities are not duplicated and proper linkages are established to synchronise all activities related to wetland conservation with other conventions.

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)?


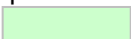
As already stated we have involved all related Ministries like Water Resources, Agriculture, Social Justice, Tourism Pollution Control Board and subject specialists in our Committees at National level to give more teeth to our wetland Conservation Programme in terms of cohesive wisdom for dealing with various management issues in a professional manner.

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

Ramsar convention should develop some mechanism to review of all activities of the triennium to see in terms of percentage their implementation in the field, how many initiatives have proved to be failures and what are the success stories which can be shared with other partners. Even for designation of Ramsar sites we have a suggestion that some regional mechanism needs to be developed consisting of few experts of both national and International level from the region, who can inspect the newly designated Ramsar sites and see the activities in operation so that appropriate ameliorative measures could be taken well in time to save them from being put under Montreux record.

## SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

### Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box. 
2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions. 
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database designed for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ], °°°° in the free text box.
5. To assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP10, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP10 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

## GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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



1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

A - Yes

1.1.1 Additional information:

Survey and inventorisation is an on going process to obtain more information about different parameters which matter in wetland conservation. However it has to be authenticated with ground truthing data for getting concerte results It must take into consideration parameters of drainage pattern, vegetation cover, land use changes, conversion of wetlands for other purposes encroachments and other developmental anthropogenic and biotic activities at Primary Seconday and teritray levels.

Following surveys of wetlands have been carried over so far:

Asian Wetland Directory, 1989; identified 93 wetlands of International Importance

Wetland Directory, 1990 by Ministry of Environment & Forests; identified 2167 natural Fresh Water Wetlands covering 1.5 million hector area and 65253 man made fresh water wetlands covering 2.6 million hectare area

Ministry in collaboration with WWF India in 1993 identified 54 additional wetlands of International importance with more details.

Space Application Centre of India using remots sensing techniques identified 27403 inland and Coastal wetlands covering 7.6 million ha.

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural history (SACON) surveyed 72 Districts for inventorisation of Wetlands though it was more bird centric.

Centre of excellence Tamil Nadu has updated all inventorisations done so far in a form of a book for wider use.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

A - Yes

1.1.2 Additional information:

In order to have more clear picture about wetlands of lesser area a project on National Wetland Information System and updation of Wetland Inventory were undertaken to inventorise wetlands in the scale of 1:50000 by on screen interpretation on digital IRS LISS III data of post and premonsoon seasons. The basic purpose of exercise was to create the digital data base for all wetlands of the country and to prepare statewise Wetland Atlases which were released in June, 2011. These have been put on website for benefit of various user agencies which will help in notifying wetlands for regulatory purposes from different States.

Various inventories include assessment of ecological, economic and socio-cultural significance of wetlands using remote sensing and ground truthing data as Wetlands provide livelihood to no. of people dependent on its produce through fisheries and other products. It has a great role in providing food security to the country. Mangrove areas in some of the States have provided strong defence against the frequent cyclones occurring in the region and prevented damages due to various cyclones.

For the benefit of user agencies most of the inventorisation reports have been put on our website so that all those who need such information can be benefitted. This will help various Conservation agencies to come out with better plans for their long term management of wetlands in question. Specific inventorisation in details have been done in Chilka Lake in Orissa, Manipur River Basin and Mahanadi river. There is a separate programme in Ministry known as National Natural Resources Management System, (NNRMS) under which many projects have been funded for detailed inventorisation of various River Basins to identify issues in managing Bioresources.

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

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1.1.3 a) Additional information:

Some of the wetlands have improved in its ecological character through management interventions like Chilka Lake in Orissa by opening up of mouth to allow flushing of saline water which not only helped in increasing fisheries potential, decreasing weeds but also enhanced tourism in the area, directly helping communities to raise their socio-economic status.

1.1.3 b) Additional information:

In other wetlands in absence of meaningful Management Action Plans for long term result there has not been much change in their status and as such Ministry of Environment & Forests has initiated a scheme to help them in engaging consultants for making useful management action plans for long term results. This is being done particularly in those States which lack infrastructure, expertise, resources and Manpower. This will certainly help in getting better management plans for wetland management in the country. Some of the wetlands, because of the human pressures are subjected to deterioration and we are in constant dialogue with the concerned State Govt officials to improve their status. Recently Ministry has brought out Wetland. Management Rules so that they are not used beyond their carrying capacity..

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

For rigorous monitoring, review and implementation of wetland conservation we have emphasised for inventorisation to be done in the scale of 1;25000 to get more information. We are also asking State Govts. to notify more wetlands for regulation under the new Rules published in December, 2011. Apart from that we are having constant dialogue with the State Govt. Administrative Authorities to take wetland conservation programme in a more serious manner. We also help them in consolidating Research Data Base through multidisciplinary Projects so that Management Action Plans are executed in a more result oriented manner taking into consideration ground situations.

**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:

National Environmental Policy approved by Cabinet recognized number of Ecological services provided by wetlands. Wetlands being responsible for recharging of aquifers assume a very important role for water availability, which is getting scarce day by day. In order to save these wetlands from further degradation, Ministry of Environment and Forests brought out wetland conservation Management Rules in December, 2010 which have put restriction on activities like Reclamation, Setting up of new industries, Hazardous substances, solid waste dumping, Discharge of wastes and effluents, Any construction of permanent nature and any other activity likely to have adverse impacts on wetlands, specified by Central Wetland Authority.

Some of the activities can only be allowed with approval like Withdrawal of water, Harvesting of living and non-living resources, Unauthorised grazing, Aqua culture, Agriculture and Horticulture activities within the wetland etc. It has been emphasized that no wetland shall be converted to non-wetland use unless the central govt. is satisfied under the recommendation of the authority that it is expedient in the public interest with reasons justifying the decision.

India is a party to the Convention on Bio-diversity (CBD), 1992 emphasising on three objectives viz Conservation of Biodiversity, Sustainable use of its components and the fair and Equitable sharing of benefits, arising out of use of genetic resources. India is hosting CoP-11 in 2012. This event will provide an opportunity to our Govt. to show our initiatives and strengthen the field of Biodiversity and project our Institutional Legal and Policy Frame Work for Conserving our Biological Resources..

Wide ranging Policies for action to protect biodiversity in different forms is as follows:

- Legal and Policy Regime (Forest Conservation Act, Wild Life Protection Act, Biodiversity Act, National Forest Policy, National Environment Policy, National Biodiversity Action Plan,
  - Wetland Conservation & Management Rules, 2010
  - Survey and inventorisation of floral and faunal resources
- In situ Conservation through establishment of National Parks, Wild Life Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves, Community Reserves, Conservation of Ecologically Fragile areas such as Mangroves, Wetlands, Corals,
- Ex-situ Conservation through setting up of Botanical Gardens, zoos, Gene Banks etc.

Protected area Network has increased from 1.33 lakh sq. Kms. to 1.56 lakh sq. Kms. adding about 23092 sq. Kms. At present there are 100 National Parks, 515 Wild Life Sanctuaries, 43 Conservation Reserves, 27 tiger Reserves. 18 Biodiversity areas have been designated as Biosphere Reserves and 7 of them have been listed in UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

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:

Because of stringent Policy of the Govt. there have been lot of livelihood improvements among the people dependent on these natural systems. Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) are the premier institutes and are responsible for Survey and Inventorisation of Plant and Animal Species. The National Gene Bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources with nearly 4 lakh collection is among the most dynamic systems in the World. Joint Forest Management (JFM) is for sustainable use of forests by involving local communities. At present there are more than 1 lakh JFM Committees involving 220 lakh people living in forests. National Afforestation Programme helps in rehabilitation of degraded forest in fringe areas involving people. The World's largest social security under the Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) has created nearly 5 million green jobs involving people in activities like Afforestation, Water harvesting, Soil Conservation, Land Development etc.

## 1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
- b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
- c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
- d) National forest programmes
- e) National strategies for sustainable development
- f) National policies or measures on agriculture
- g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans

{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

### 1.3.3 Additional information:

Wetland issues are included in various Policies, Programmes and Plans like National Wetland Conservation Programmes, Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan, Ramsar Sites, Biodiversity Convention, Environmental Education, Aforestation, Plantation, Mangrove and Coral Conservation, National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP), Community reserves, Biosphere Reserves and through all protected area network.

Govt is in constant liaison with Ministries of Agriculture, Science & Technology, Fisheries Animal Husbandry, Health, Tourism, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Social Justice, Education etc for getting adequate inputs. pertaining to Wetland Conservation.

Apart from that there are stand alone projects like Project Elephant, Project Tiger, Central Zoo Authority, Botanical Gardens etc. which are directly or indirectly related to conservation of aquatic ecosystems.

Research Activities are also undertaken on different Thematic areas of Wetlands by reputed institutes like Wild Life Institute of India (WII), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON), Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and other's. Apart from that UNDP sponsored Turtle project dealing with Olive Ridley Turtle Population, Wild Life Protected Area Management in one of the Sanctuaries in West Bengal, Project on Sunderbans are in operation. Recently approved wetland Conservation Project through UNEP on themes of Economic evaluation of Wetlands, Sustainable fisheries, Livelihood, Water Management, Catchment Treatment, Weed control etc. has recently been approved and will be in operation shortly.

International Conventions also deal with wetland conservation in one way or the other like CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), Convention on Migratory Species of birds, Climate change, Desertification etc.

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
<p>1.3.4 Additional information:</p> <p>Considering the importance of fresh water flows into the wetlands at the reiver Basin level assessments have been carried out in inconsultation with the stakeholders and the local communities for harmonizing water use for ecological up keep of the system and generation of Electercity for human needs. Environmental flow assessment has been carried out in Chilka / Loktak Lakes with the objective of maintaining ecological character while harnessing multiple benefits provided by wetlands through their natural functioning. Ministry in collaboration with Wetlands International and Loktak and Chilka Development Authorities have been involved in working out trade of between Eco-system Conservation and development of agriculture and Hydropower generation. Many reports are available on these aspects with Wetland International South Asia.</p> <p>Water quality monitoring is being carried out by Central Pollution Control Board in more than 35 rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Similarly Urban Lakes identified under National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) are being monitored for water quality</p> <p>Stakeholder endorsed Water Management Plan has been prepared for some of the wetlands clearly indicating allocation of water for human and ecological purposes</p> <p>Environmental impact assessment of the developmental Projects in relation to fish migration is being carried out particularly in projects related to Dams. Environmental impact assessment is mandatory for all the developmental projects . Broad based EIA Methodology including impacts of devlopment activities within River Basin, Impacts of hydraulic structures on river flows and biodiversty is the key area to ensure conservation and sustainable use of its resources.</p>	
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
<p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p> <p>Under recently published Wetland Conservation and Management Rules,2010 State Govt,s has to ensure that the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment is carried out in accordance with the procedures specified in the Notification of Govt. of India. No Hydro Power Project can be cleared without the clearance of impact assessment studies. Recently some of the thermal Power Plants located at wetland sites were not allowed because of their impact on surrounding wetlands. In one of the districts falling in a State of India, no Power plant has been allowed till survey of wetland areas are done.Recently a project has been assigned to survey all Wetland in one of districts in a state before allowing any power plant in the area on the directions of court.</p>	

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

Under the new Notification of Wetland Rules, all 25 Ramsar Sites have been covered and also all High Altitude Wetlands (HAW). However State Govts. have been asked to notify other wetlands also under these rules on the basis of information available on wetlands of different States through the exercise carried out by Space Application Centre where they have surveyed Wetlands in the scale of 1:50000. This all information is placed on Ministry's Website for benefit of user agencies.

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
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1.4.1 Additional information:

Economic valuation of Harik Wetland in Punjab and Chilka Wetland in Orissa were undertaken which is the significant contribution to the Ramsar STRP work related to application of economic valuation tools to highlight the contributions of Biodiversity and values and functions of wetlands in general for policy planners and decision makers. It gave significant contribution for assessing fresh water release from Ithai Barrage in Manipur for water allocation for Loktak Lake and power generation. Similarly these studies provided significant contribution to the development of Policy for fresh water release from the upcoming Naraj Barrage within Mahanadi Basin in Orissa.

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	A - Yes
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**1.4.2 Additional information:**

Under National Management Action Plans Community participation is one of the major components under which Participatory Rural Appraisal Exercises (PRA) are conducted to involve people in decision making processes. Traditional knowledge and Scientific Technologies are blended together to achieve long term conservation goals through involving communities in the Management Process and also to take into consideration gender sensitization for involving women in the Management Process.

Joint Forest Management (JFM) is aimed at regenerating and sustainably using forests through involvement of local communities. At present there are more than one lakh JFM Committees involving 220 lakh people living in and around forests. National Aforestation Programme (NAP) is another programme which is aimed at rehabilitation of degraded forests and fringe areas through people's participation. The World's largest social Scheme under the Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) has created nearly 5 million green jobs in activities such as Aforestation, Water Harvesting, Soil Conservation Land Development etc.

Preparation of data base on codified traditional knowledge on Indian Systems of Medicine (Ayurveda, Sidha & Unani) in the form of a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) has been pioneering initiative of India to prevent misappropriation of Indias Traditional Knowledge at International patent Offices. This has also created job opportunities.

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:**

In general guidance principle as per the resolution VIII. 19 and IX .21 of cultural value of wetlands adopted by CoP 8 are very broad in nature and are incorporated directly or indirectly in the management Plans formulated by the concerned states. Number of Wetlands are identified under the National Wetland Conservation Programme or as Ramsar Sites considering their sociocultural sensitivity.

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):

Management Action Plans of wetlands have major component on socioeconomic aspects and people who are living on wetland resources are given alternate income generation options like Duckry, Piggery, Vegetable growing, Mashroom growing, Carpet Weaving, Dairy farming, Horticulture, and other associated professions so that the pressure on the wetland ecosystems is reduced.

Our ecological intervention by opening up mouth in Chilka Lake not only increased the salinity level but also increased fish yield and decreased weed infestation It also helped people to cash on ecotourism potential. These measures have helped fisherman and local communities in raising their socioeconomic status.

Private land owners surrounding wetlands are involved in management processes by giving them incentives for plantation of fruit trees like Banana, Pineapple and other useful Variety of fruits. Locals will till the land, grow these plants and its produce on maturity is sold and profit shared by the communities thus helping them in getting better money and we in return get catchment treatment through these plantations.

Models developed for Loktak and Chilka have been extensively used at the regional level to demonstrate successful stakeholder led conservation management This is done through elaborate social processes to identify the problems and to implement restoration measures. It also helps in generating awareness, pertaining to sustainable development of wetlands which is one of the key points in Ramsar manual under Communication, Education & Public Awareness (CEPA) initiative under the Ramsar Convention.

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

B - No

## 1.5.1 Additional information:

Though attempts have been made to synergise various activities through different conventions but it has not been institutionalized and the linkage is very poor. There is no forum to convey such issues while preparing country report for the respective conventions. Some effective mechanism need to be developed at the National Level so that we are clear about our stand on different conventions and have a common understating of the linkages to avoid duplication of efforts. This has to be done at the highest level and STRP can play its crucial role in designing this mechanism through their guidelines which can be helpful to various countries. Ramsar convention implementation is being linked with the Water policy through participation of various Ministries in the various National Committees including National Wetland Regulatory Authority to get feed back for understanding Ramsar Convention and executing it as per framework of guidelines of the Convention.

Though evaluation techniques have been initiated in Ramsar Sites but more such efforts need to be taken up to quantify impacts of conservation activities at the grass root level. This will not only give credence to the Work done but will also give visibility to conservation interventions taken up for restoration of wetlands.

## 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:

No specific action was undertaken to disseminate the Changwon Declaration nor it was brought to Parliament or Private Sector. However while examining our management action plan these issues are highlighted and indirectly valuation of Biodiversity and environmental services and social well being are taken care of while releasing the financial assistance. Regarding payment for environmental services this issue will be taken up by the Central Wetland Regulatory Authority when all issues pertaining to restricted activities and allowed activities are debated with different States so that more and more Wetlands are notified under the Wetland Management rules of Dec, 2010.

## 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:

The version of the Changwon Declaration has not been translated into any local language. However, as indicated earlier, these are visible in our Management Action Plans which are being implemented in wetlands identified from different States under the National Wetland Conservation Programme.

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:

Changwon Declaration has not been translated and disseminated in any local language till date.

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:

All Management Action Plans are science based and are supported by integrated projects on Research and Development so as to formulate a solid Research Data Base for execution of Management action Plans in a more result oriented manner. Recently GEF Projects containing components of National Wetland Policy Support, Building Human Resources and providing tools for Integrated Wetland Management Restoration and Communication has been approved by UNEP for funding. The basic goal for integrated wetland ecoservices system is for water and food security and climate change adaption in India through strengthening science and technology base. It will help in improved National Knowledge base to support science to policy interface on wetlands, ecosystem services and National and local scale Economics.

Better partnership will be established and will also help in modelling predictive world vulnerability to climate change, stakeholder capacity building and site level management of wetlands. Capacity Building will help inducing training at different levels through which local science centres will be supported. It will also help in assessment of Environmental flows, Optimizing water allocation for human and ecological purposes, Public Private partnership development, Wetland Inventory assessment and Monitoring systems, Improved site management plans, establishing learning networks and raising awareness among different strata of society. Much emphasis is being laid on High Altitude Wetlands as they are known as fresh water towers of world and are subjected to immediate effects of global warming and climate change.

Recently a training programme was conducted in collaboration with WWF India to train managers dealing with high altitude wetlands in Ladakh in J&K which has an identified Ramsar Site at such a high altitude. Training on various components of Wetland Conservation which include wise use, Catchment Area Treatment, Hydrological Aspects, Research, Preparation of Management Action plans community participation etc was given to the medium level managers dealing with execution of action plans in the field.

Space Application Centre(SAC) was given a research project to survey wetlands in the scale of 1:50000 to get information on wetlands upto 5 hectare area. On the basis of this information Wetland Atlases were prepared, released and put on website of our Ministry for benefit of user agencies.

A thematic Research Committee was constituted on a rational and Scientific basis to approve application oriented Research Projects in different thematic areas of wetland conservation to help in executing Management Action Plans more effectively. The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological survey of India (ZSI) which are premier National Institutes are entrusted with the primary responsibility of Survey and Inventorisation of Plant and animal species of India. Similarly, National gene Bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources with nearly 4 lakh base collection is among the most dynamic and prominent systems in the world.

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:

For all Management Action Plans in operation in different States, Steering Committees have been constituted. Similarly scientists in the Research Thematic Group examine integrated projects which have bearing on wetland conservation. All Projects which help in developing base line data on different dominant components of conservation are recommended by the Committee to supplement execution of management action Plans in a more realistic manner at the grass root level for benefit of all. Besides in the next financial year, need based proposals will be invited on different themes of Wetland Conservation where either the information is not available or it is scanty or it needs further expansion.

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:

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) principle has been followed for holistic management of wetlands. Basin Level approach has been taken up for some of the Wetland like Loktak in Manipur, Chilka in Orissa, Wular in Kashmir and it will be replicated in other wetlands in the country. Management Action Plans now take into consideration allocation of water for human & ecological purposes. Hydropower agencies are consulted to ensure to maintain Barrage operations so that Endangered Biodiversity is not affected. These initiatives are proposed for the next triennium in Vembanad Wetland and Periyar River Basin in Kerala, Harike and Ropar Wetland in Punjab with River Satluj and Beas Basin. Strong linkages have been developed with Govt. agencies for water resource management which includes Fisheries, agriculture and sustainable livelihood of communities.

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:

State level Steering Committees have been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary in all concerned states to discuss, review and monitor wetland management Action Plans. These Committees have members from concerned Departments. They also have representation from Universities/ Research Institutes/ NGOs/ Stakeholders etc. Representative of Ministry is also a member of the Committee. The representative of the Nodal Deptt. at State level acts as a Member Secretary. The idea of such type of models have an advantage that all conflicting issues between various Sectors are sorted out under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary who is the State Administrative Head. This model has been adopted by number of neighbouring countries.

India played a lead role in formulation of Ramsar guidelines on integration of wetlands into river basin management. The synergy between CBD and Ramsar Convention in India has helped to integrate various developmental Sectors into planning process at River Basin level for management of wetlands. The models developed in this direction for Loktak & Chilka have been extensively used at the regional level to demonstrate successful Stakeholder led wetland conservation management.

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:

All our Management Action Plans are focused on CEPA activities. This is a helpful tool not only to generate awareness about values and functions of wetlands but also in mainstreaming of wetlands into developmental planning involving, decision makers, Policy Planners and other partners in Wetland Conservation. Recently a very useful Ramsar CEPA focal point workshop was held in Bangkok for the focal points of Ramsar Convention from Asian Countries. The main focus was to strengthen capacity of national focal points for both Govt. & NGOs as per Resolution X.8 to get more concrete results for implementing CEPA programme of wetland conservation at different levels for wise use of wetlands.

Importances of linkages was emphasised and field visits were arranged to see the problems of wetlands at ground level. Some of the local initiatives in mangrove areas for their restoration through traditional knowledge was very interesting. There was a proposal to have a separate CEPA Action Plan but it was argued that CEPA activity in fact is an ingredient of all the Management Action Plans and as such there is no need to have a different Action Plan. The suggestion was put forward by India and it was agreed to have some kind of CEPA frame work strategy that would legitimize the work of CEPA at the local level and use best practices for future vision of conservation than to cover only site specific local Action Plans. This meet stressed need for better and efficient networking to strengthen management techniques.

Under Wetland Conservation Programme, 115 wetlands have been identified for conservation and management in the country Similarly under Mangrove and Coral Programme 40 Mangrove and 4 Coral areas have been identified for Conservation. Under National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) 42 Urban Wetlands have been identified for treatment. This is further supplemented by Research & Developmental Activities. India has a long coastal line of 5700 Km covering East Coast, West Coast, Islands Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. Changes in salinity regimes, Pollution and affective communications with Marine and fresh sources are caustive factors for degradation. Through Forest Survey of India (FSI) Ministry is periodically monitoring State of Forests including mangroves every two years. Workshops were organized on Tsunami which was responsible for massive loss of life, destruction of settlement and infrastructure, loss of fishing boats, degradation of agriculture lands & Forests etc.

Taking into consideration the clossal loss in such type of Natural disasters it is imperative to involve communities for restoration of wetlands and giving people dependent on these Wetlands better livelihood options which can be achieved only through CEPA activities.

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}

A - Yes



## 1.7.4 Additional information:

All our future management Action Plans are using the principle of integrated coastal management in the wetlands which are situated in the Marine Areas. River Based Integrated approach is being used for over all management of coastal wetlands from the last triennium. Special training programme was organized in Laksh adweep on the Theme of Integrated Water Management which was highly appreciated by all the participants. This integrated approach is used both for managing wetlands as well as taking up Application Oriented Research Projects.

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:

Though many climate change Action Prgrammes have been initiated there is no established policy or guideline specifically for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation or adaptation to climate change. In our future strategy we are trying to persuate Govt. to include the role of wetlands and mitigation or adpatation to climate change.

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

A - Yes

## 1.7.6 Additional information:

Under newly published Wetland Management Rules 2010, Projects will be initiated to sustain and enhance the role of wetland and water in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems.

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:

Restoration of wetlands is a part of conservation and management and initiated in those areas which are highly degraded. Creation of artificial wetlands to absorb nutrients is the technique which is followed in some of the important wetland like Dal & Wular Lake in Kashmir, Pulicat Lake in Andhra and Tamil Nadu and Vembaned Lake in Kerala.

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:

In Dal Lake in Kashmir artificial wetlands are being created in the form of reed belts of various emergent species of Aquatic Macrophytes in the Buffer Zones separating the catchment from the lake. As is well known emergent macrophytes have a tremendous capacity to absorb nutrients. It is done with the combination of various aquatic macrophytic species and these plants are harvested after absorbing nutrients helping in preventing eutrophication process in the water body.

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:

In collaboration with Chilka Development Authority and Wetland International South Asia (WISA) guidelines have been developed for Wetland restoration and most of these principles are based on Ramsar's Guidance Procedure Manual.

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:

Control of water hyacinth and other alien plant species are posing threat to various wetlands in the country and high priority is given to control these weeds. Weed control is one of the major component in most of the Management Actions Phumdi which is a collection of some 70 species of aquatic plants is posing threat to Loktak Lake in Manipur which is in North Eastern Sector and a Hot Spot of Biodiversity. Efforts are being made to utilise these weeds for ornamental purposes, for Biogas, for making paper or for composting. Several research Institutes are making joint efforts to utilise these weeds for revenue generation which can help in sustainability of the project when its term is over .

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:

Though attempts have been made to control and use invasive species but no Management Policy or guidelines has been established till date in this direction.

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

C - Partly

## 1.10.1 Additional information:

Private Sector is encouraged in following areas.

Promote conservation of Mangroves for Coastal defence through innovative techniques.

Involvement in Research and Developmental Techniques for regeneration of Mangroves and other Coastal Wetlands.

Conservation and Management in Flood Plain areas.

It is also proposed to involve Private Sector in the Coastal Management Planning and development for which they will be given incentives. Chamber of the Commerce has been invited by the Govt. to help, regulation of trade activities, relating to natural resources, which include wetlands as well.

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

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## 1.10.2 Additional information:

Committee at National level for Wetland Conservation includes members from Academia Research Institutes and also some private Institutions who are involved in Planning and Management of Wetlands, As such they are directly or indirectly involved in decision making process related to wetlands. However there is no formal mechanism involving private sector in taking up activities for wise use of wetlands in general or for some Ramsar Sites. Some specific organisations such as Traffic India is involved in domestic and International Trade in wetland derived plants and animal products. They are also involved in legal issues relating to trade in the wetland products, such as Tigers, Turtles, Birds etc.

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:

Lot of literature has been published on wetlands which includes booklet on Ramsar Sites, World Wetland Day Broucher giving achievements of Ministry in the field of wetland conservation. CEPA process is being successfully demonstrated in various capacity building training programmes for various target groups and a lot of literature is distributed to the audience to make them understand values and functions of wetlands. On World Wetland Day Ramsar theme of the year is produced in local languages in a form of poster and stickers and distributed to different Sections of the society.

Recently Wetland Regulation Rules have been notified and circulated to various State Govts. for further use. Workshop was also organized and a Power Point Presentation was made to make State Govt. representatives understand details of the Notification so that they are clear about activities to be undertaken in wetlands with permission and those which are not allowed and are detrimental to the health of Wetlands. This notification is very significant for not allowing those activities in wetlands which are done beyond the carrying capacities of these water bodies. If this law is implemented strictly, this will pave a long way for Wetland Conservation in the country and help in stopping deterioration and shrinkage of wetlands.

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
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Project on application oriented thematic areas are taken up for wise use of wetlands all over the country. These projects provide apart from management intervention livelihood security to the local communities. Such type of projects which have been taken up in different parts of the country during the last triennium are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects on Environmental Flows and use of Phumdi's for various purposes like Compost, ornamental applications, Biogas, Paper etc. This project was sponsored by Planning Commission for ecological services in the Loktak Project in Manipur.</li> <li>- A Comprehensive Management Action Plan on Chilka Wetland in Orissa through Small Grant Fund for long term measures from Ramsar was completed and submitted to Ramsar Secretariat. This project was taken up in collaboration with WISA, CDA and Ministry. The Project has taken into consideration issues like Water Management, Catchment Treatment, Community Participation which are helpful for both communities as well as for the Govt. agencies.</li> <li>- Project on environmental flow assessment in regard to construction of Naraj Barrage in the upstream of Chilka Lake involving concerned stakeholders and local communities was carried out in collaboration with CDA and WISA to examine hydrological assessment for allocation of water, shift from current water use practices to sustainable water resource development policy on the basis of ecological and human use. It will be helpful in ensuring optimum water released from the barrage to the Chilka Lake and Silt laden water to the flood plain area in Mahanadi Delta.</li> <li>- Recently a project was sanctioned to SACON to survey wetlands of one of the Districts of the State where Thermal Power Projects are being planned in the Wetland Area. On Court Orders no Project will be given permission unless the recommendations of the survey report are available to ascertain that these projects have no negative impacts on wetlands in the area.</li> <li>- Taking into consideration wise use principle of Ramsar Convention many projects were not allowed by wetland division involving multi-national Companies whose activities impacted wetlands of the country.</li> </ul>	
1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

Recent publication of wetlands management Rules published in December, 2010 provide an opportunity not to allow wetlands being used beyond their carrying capacity through activities like extracting water for irrigation, for drinking and for other uses and also for minimising unsustainable fisheries. These Rules are first of its kind at a global level to minimise wetland degradation if implemented in spirit and action.

Every year World Wetland Day is observed at National Level to generate awareness among public for wise use of wetlands. This is being conveyed to them through workshops, Panel discussions, debates, essay competitions, slogan competitions, quiz contests, folk lure and information in form of distribution of literature, making of documentaries on different environmental themes etc..

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

<b>GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE</b>
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**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).

<b>STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation.</b> <i>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).</i>
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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
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2.1.1 Additional information:

Ministry of Environment & Forests is involved in designating Ramsar sites of International importance from the country based on the Criteria laid down by STRP. We already have 25 Ramsar sites designated and 6 are under process of designation. Apart from that we have written to all State Govts. to send latest Ramsar Information Sheets (IRS) to designate more Ramsar sites from the country. We got good response and we are sure to designate 25 more Ramsar sites in the country during the next triennium.

For designation for Ramsar sites we have to get clearance from Survey of India, Ministry of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, which is a cumbersome process and takes time. The criteria for selection involves parameters like Biodiversity Supporting vulnerable/endangered/threatened Ecological Community, supporting water birds, criteria based on fish and significance based on religious /Cultural/Educational /recreational and Eco-tourism values.

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
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## 2.1.2 Additional information:

As projected earlier State Govts. have been informed to send the latest information Sheets and as and when we are in receipt of these sheets, they will be processed and after finalization sent to Ramsar Secretariat for further necessary action.

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

One sites

## 2.1.3 Additional information:

There were some queries raised by Ramsar Sectt. on some of the sites which after rectification will be sent to them . for further necessary action.

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

25 sites

## 2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation):

Concerned State Govts. have been asked to send latest Ramsar Information Sheets for Wetlands to be designated at Ramsar sites and these will be processed and sent to Ramsar Sectt. for their designation as Ramsar sites in the next triennium.

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

A - Yes

## 2.2.1 Additional information:

On the basis of Ramsar criteria new wetland sites are identified under National wetland Conservation Programme and also for their designation as Ramsar sites. These criteria are being followed for more than a decade for identifying new wetlands under our National Conservation Programme.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

Management Action Plans have been prepared for most of the Ramsar sites. A three-tier system at National, State and District level is in operation for reviewing and monitoring conservation activities undertaken. At National level wetland Regulatory Authority is a prime body. There is also a Research thematic Committee to supplement Management Action Plan where Application Oriented Research projects are undertaken for helping in execution of management action plans. An expert group on wetlands has also been constituted to examine various Management Action Plans for financial assistance from their practicality and feasibility point of view so that Govt. money is utilized in a more result oriented manner.

At State level States Steering Committees have been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary in all states from where Wetlands have been identified under our National Wetland conservation programme. These Committees have also representatives from concerned divisions dealing with wetlands. Members from Stakeholders/NGOs/Communities/Research Groups are also in the Committee. Ministry of Environment & Forests is also represented. The idea of this committee is to sort out all issues of conflicts under the patronage of Chief Secretary who happens to be the State head. This model has worked out very well, and is being replicated in other neighbouring countries.

At district level also Committee have been constituted involving Stakeholders in the decision making procedures Participatory Rural Appraisal exercises(PRA) are being conducted at village level to get feed back from village communities at a grass root level in decision making so that their views are reflected at the higher platform while making Management Action Plans for long term measures.

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

24 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

24 sites

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

1 sites

2.4.4 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being revised or updated? KRA 2.4.i	0 sites
<p>2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:</p> <p>For most of the wetlands identified under our National Wetland Conservation Programme state govt's are asked to submit the Management Action Plan. Out of 25 Ramsar sites identified from India, 24 have made their Management Action Plans and only one Management Action Plan is under preparation.</p> <p>For helping state Govts. who lack infrastructure, man power, and expertise special financial assistance is being provided to engage consultants for making long term comprehensive Management Action Plans for getting desired results. The amount of assistance is being provided on the basis of area of wetland in question and its ecological importance.</p>	
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
<p>2.4.5 Additional information:</p> <p>Sites are identified on the basis of information of ecological character of a particular wetland. Wetland Division has put up this information on website for information of user agencies. On the basis of this format placed on website, state govts. are asked to provide information on location, geographical coordinates, and other ecological parameters and a map based on remote sensing as well as ground truthing data. They are also asked to send information on threats to these wetlands and possible Management interventions needed. On the basis of this feed back experts are sent to see the proposed sites and give the field reports for its inclusion under the National wetland conservation programme. Once identified and approved the State Govts. are asked to make a management action plan for its long term conservation for which 100% assistance is provided by the Ministry.</p>	
2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv	24 sites

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

Almost all the sites whether under National wetland Conservation Programme or Ramsar Sites have State Steering Committees in operation. However it has been seen that these are either not meeting regularly or they are not functional. The possible reason can be that wetlands as specific do not get much attention in the State Sectors. Ministry of Environment & Forests is having constant dialogue with State Govt's to take up this programme more seriously and convene State Steering Committee Meetings at least twice a year to concentrate on issues related to wetland conservation in a more rigorous manner.

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

50 sites

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

All the wetland sites where Management Action Plans are in operation ecological description is a part of it. However this information needs to be updated from time to time. Earlier we used to get management Action Plan in a very ad-hoc manner but since Ministry started providing financial assistance for engaging consultants to make the Management Action Plans, better management Plans, are being received for execution in the field.

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

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):

Evaluation of conservation activities of 5 Ramsar sites Viz Pong Dam (HP), Harike (Punjab), Deeper Beel (Assam), Chilka (Orissa) and Tso Morari (J&K) were undertaken by an independent agency after calling for technical and financial bids at the National level. This exercise was carried out by Wild Life Institute of India to see the impact of conservation activities at the grass root level. These sites have been identified on the basis of financial assistance provided to these areas for more than a decade to see whether impact of these ecological interventions have penetrated at the grass root level and to assess rectification measures for better use of such assistance on the basis of evaluation report.

Report brought out some significant observations in Deeper Beel (Assam) It was proposed to tackle issues of effluent mitigation and interaction of domestic sewage immediately along with developing some hard engineering measures for hydrological and ecological integrity and to elevate socioeconomic condition of communities. They were also asked to develop adequate Research Data Base to supplement management action plans in effective manner.

In Chilka (Orissa) invasion of Phragmites karka to be attended immediately. Report also praised raising of socioeconomic status of fisher communities because of the ecological intervention and control of weeds because of salinity. Evaluation Report praised efforts of State Govt. in developing adequate institutional mechanism and linkages alongwith effective monitoring mechanism.

Tso Morari (J&K) report suggested immediate attention towards Tourism & Domestic Wastes, Consideration of incentives like vehicles for undertaking conservation activities in these areas because of extremities of climate. Report also suggested not to use hard engineering measures and for involving communities in decision making processes and also to strengthen Research Data base.

Harike (Punjab) Lack of inter-sectoral coordination was considered to be a major set back. Govt. was advised to control water hyacinth by stopping affluent/sewage and to immediately set up STP to stop entry of effluents in the water body. Effective monitoring mechanism was suggested to tackle these issues meaningfully.

Pong Dam (HP) Report found that execution of Management Action Plan was not effective and needs to be improvised to get best results. Gaps were found in involving communities in decision making processes. Research Data Base was found to be inadequate. Report also found that funds were not used timely and monitoring was ineffective. They were also proposed to constitute an authority to avoid conflicts between forests and environment Deptt. at the State level.

Accordingly State Govt's have been asked to rectify their plans for future as per suggestions given by the evaluation team.

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

C - Some sites

2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established): There is no specific mechanism evolved to get information of negative human induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites. However such site specific abnormalities are reported through NGOs, through management executors and through other sources. Taking into consideration these aspects particularly Ramsar Sites, India has always taken a stand to develop mechanism atleast in the neighbouring region to monitor Ramsar Sites. It will be more profitable to develop stringent monitoring mechanism to see ecological interventions being carried out in these sites than to expand the no. of Ramsar sites which can come under Montreux record immediately after being declared as a Ramsar site. We propose that STRP comes up with some firm proposal for monitoring Ramsar Sites.

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

B - No

2.6.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some cases", please indicate for which Ramsar Sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

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

A - Yes

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

Chilka has already been taken out of Montreaux Record because of ecological interventions taken up in the wetland. For other two sites viz Loktak in Manipur and Keoladev National Park, State Govts, have been asked to provide adequate information pertaining to steps taken for conserving these areas so that these sites are taken out of Montreaux 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

C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information:

In most of the important sites, ecological character are maintained because of various ecological interventions in place. However it has not been possible for all the sites under National wetland Conservation Programme as Management Action Plans were not found to be adequate to deal with various conservation issues. By providing incentives for engaging consultants for making a long term management action plans, in those states which lack infrastructure, manpower and expertise much better plans are being sent for execution. We hope that with these interventions such ecological character of Wetlands will be maintained in the next triennium.

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	C - Partly
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3.1.1 Additional information:

Though the Ministry of Environment & Forests is the nodal agency for most of the conventions like CBD, CCD, CMS, World Heritage and UN Framework and Climate change there is no effective mechanism to coordinate & supplement activities related to these conventions at a firm footing.

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:

Before attending any contracting party meeting all the concerned Ministry officials are invited to participate in a joint forum to discuss our country stand as it is affecting various sectors. Inputs received from all are incorporated in the country stand which is presented to the Convention in the Contracting Party meetings. We need to develop some strong mechanism for dealing with these issues in order to avoid duplication of efforts which should not lose sight of all concerned..

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:

Though there is no specific collaborative mechanism in operation however for multilateral and bilateral projects involving GEE, UNEP, World Bank, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNESCO, ITTO etc. projects are discussed in a Joint Forum from all conventions which are separately taken up by different conventions for implementation after approval.



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
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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):

Taking into consideration importance and threats to high altitude wetlands in the Himalyan region, all neighbouring countries came forward and developed proposal on Himalyan initiative for conservation and wise use of high altitude wetlands in the Himalayan, Hindu-kush, Pamir-allay region. This involves integrated approach for studying various parameters jointly in the region which include inventorisation, Water management, Capacity building, Community participation etc. The idea of the joint venture is to develop management tools which can be used for long term conservation of these fragile ecosystems. On the basis of the experiences gained from these countries good practices evolved could be used for better management after assessing defficiencies and gaps in management of wetlands and water resources. This can be taken care of through various capacity building programmes in the region by sharing knowledge about management interventions in these areas..

Though India has many Himalyan Wetlands in the Himalyan Region but two wetland sites which are above 12000 feet from the mean sea level viz Tso Morari in J&K and Chandertal in HP are the typical high altitude wetland sites which have also been designated as Ramsar sites from India. Three more Ramsar sites are under process of designation. Himalayan Regional initiatives has been endorsed by almost all the countries for collectively going in for conservation intervention in this fragile area.

3.2.2 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {4.10.1}	A - Yes
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3.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

India provided its inputs for the East Asian Regional centre which is operating from South Korea and has designed and initiated no. of capacity building programmes in the region.

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}

A - Yes

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

India received some minor assistance from Small Grant Funds (SGF) to make a Comprehensive Management Action Plan for Chilka lake in Orissa which has been completed and Report sent to Ramsar Sectt.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

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

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

C - Partly

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

A proposal is being processed to set up an Aquatic Research centre in the field of Wetland and Coastal management in Orissa to train people in different areas of wetland Management. For this State Govt. has provided land free of cost. Other modalities are being worked out in consultation with concerned agencies and the proposal is already agreed in principle for establishment.

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:

Six Monographs have been published in collaboration with WWF India and distributed to user agencies for their information. 19 facts sheets have also been published in collaboration with WWF india on 19 Ramsar sites to make this information available to public. As such information on all the 25 Ramsar sites declared from India is published giving their status and intervention measures for their upkeep.

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

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

On the World Wetland Day whatever information is compiled on wetlands is transmitted to Ramsar Sectt. as well for dissemination.

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:

Though three transboundary wetlands have been identified from India viz Rann of Kutch in Gujrat bordering Pakistan, Pangong Tsar in J&K bordering China and Sunderbans in West Bengal bordering Bangladesh but still negotiations are on with the concerned agencies to identify these sites as Ramsar Site. Till date only Sunderbans bordering Bangladesh has been cleared to be a Ramsar Site.

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

C - Partly

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

Discussions are on for making Joint Management Action Plans for some transboundary wetlands like Pulicat bordering two States of Andhra & Tamil Nadu, Ranjit Sagar bordering three States of J&K, HP & Punjab so that well established long term management action plans are prepared and executed individually by the concerned State Govts. for effective results. Some other wetlands in the Ken & Chambal River bordering UP, Rajasthan & Madhya Pradesh are also being taken up for management However no firm plan till date has been made except for some headway made for Pulicat wetland which will be finalized shortly.

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:

India is a part to Asian Flyway programme pertaining to Avifauna with the neighbouring countries.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

**GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY**

**STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.** *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.*

4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i

- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

(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)

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

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):

Separately no Action Plan specifically for CEPA has been established as all activities under CEPA are part & Parcel of all Management Action Plans in general which involve adopting innovative techniques for conservation and livelihood improvement of important wetlands in excuting best use practices in different countries and capacity building of wetland managers of specific target groups to sustainably use wetlands and their resources. Ministry of Environmentt & Forests through National Committee has reviewed capacity building needs of institutions involved in wetland management. In collaboration with WISA, WWF, CDA, LDA & other state agencies, Ministry organised various capacity building programmes in different regions of the country initially to sensitise different Sections of society for understanding values and functions of wetlands. Thereafter these capacity building programmes were translated into some theme areas like Copmmunity participation, water management, Catchment Treatment, Education Awareness, Legal implications etc.After that different training programmes were organized at regional basis in North South East West and Central India to make middle level managers aware of executing Management Action Plan in the field to achieve desired results. Another such programme is proposed in March for the North Eastern Sector which is a hot spot of biodiversity.

Education Centres have been developed in no. of wetlends to provide basic information on wetlands using various interpretation mechanism. CEPA has been promoted in collaboration with stakeholders and Communities living both within Island and some shore land villages to train them for sustainable development of wetlands. This is being done in collboration with CDA, WISA, WWF, LDA and other agencies to share experiences of all at a common platform. For some of the Ramsar sites interpretation centres have been developed to create basic awareness about wetland problems and strategies needed for their conservation. These Centres also provide training to various Sections of Society in the field of wetland management and research and development.

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

10 centres

4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)):

Interpretation Centres have been established in number of Wetlands of International importance. The basic objective is to provide information on different wetland aspects using various interpretations mechanisms. Some Ramsar sites have developed interpretation Centres to facilitate providing basic awareness in terms of ecological character's of a wetland, threats to wetlands and approach needed for their management. These Centres also give detailed information on Biodiversity of wetlands and issues related to livelihood of Communities depending on them. It also imparts training to different strata of society to make them understand the importance of structure and function of wetlands. It also gives practical demonstration about how to go in for instant analysis for various physico-chemical characteristics of water and soil through various field kits.

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):

As mentioned earlier every State Govt. has a State Steering Committee to debate review and monitor wetland issues. This is chaired by Chief Secretary and has representation from different Departments concerned with Wetland Conservation in one way or the other. It has also members from Community, Stakeholders, Research Organisations, NGO and also from Ministry to guide them about wetland conservation. The Nodal Department identified in the State for dealing with wetland conservation acts as a Member Secretary. This model was adopted so that conflicting issues are resolved between various Departments pertaining to Wetlands under the Chief Secretary's chairmanship who also happens to be the Chief Administrative Authority in the State Govt. This model has worked very well and has been adopted in many neighbouring countries for getting desired results.

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

A - Yes

## 4.1.4 Additional information:

Initially workshops were organized in different parts of the country to make people conscious about values and functions of wetlands. Later these were transformed into training of managers in different thematic areas like policy planning, legal implications, Catchment Treatment, Community participation, water Management, weed control, Education Awareness, Eco-tourism, Cultural/Religious/Ethnic values of wetlands. Thereafter training was given on regional basis on invited themes so that managers executing the Management Action Plans in the field are well equipped with management tools. These training programmes were held for Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western parts of the country. Another programme is envisaged for North East Sector in March before the CoP Meeting to train managers in the North Eastern side for executing their management plans in a more desirable manner.

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

opportunities

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

More than 20 training programmes were organized in different parts of the country at local, State, National, regional and International levels to train people about techniques used for wetland management. People are taught about methodology at conceptual level to understand wetland conservation ethos. Training is imparted on various components of wetland conservation which include wise use, catchment treatment, Hydrological aspects, Research Methodology, Preparation of Management Action Plans, GIS, Economic value of wetlands etc. to make them professional managers.



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

A - Yes

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

At the top level there is a Central Wetland Regulatory Authority under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests. It has representatives at very senior level from Ministry of Tourism, Water Resources, Agriculture, Social Justice, Central Pollution Board and four subject specialists in the field of Ornithology, Limnology, Ecology and Hydrology. Need based experts can be co-opted in the authority as and when required.

The functions of the Authority are to appraise proposals for identification of new wetlands, enforcing provision contained under Wetland Management Rules, grant clearances for regulated activities of the wetlands, issue directions necessary for conservation, preservation and wise use of wetlands to the concerned State Govts., review periodically the list of wetlands and the details of the prohibited and regulated activities under the rules.

Expert Group on Wetlands (EGoW) has been constituted to examine Management Action Plans from feasibility and applicability point of view so that assistance is given for appropriate components which are relevant to wetland conservation ethos.

Every State Govt. has a State Steering Committee to debate review and monitor wetland issues. This is chaired by the Chief Secretary and has representation from different Departments concerned with Wetland Conservation. It has also members from Community, Stakeholders, Research Organisations, NGO's and Ministry to guide them about wetland conservation. The Nodal Department identified in the State for dealing with wetland conservation acts as a Member Secretary. This model was adopted so that conflicting issues are resolved between various Departments pertaining to Wetlands under the Chief Secretary's Chairmanship who also happens to be the Chief Administrative Authority in the State. This model has worked very well and adopted in many neighbouring countries for getting desired results.

At district level also Committees have been constituted in some States for involving local people in the decision making processes. For this Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises are conducted to involve local people in the decision making process including women. Efforts are made to inculcate traditional system of conservation from old local people so that it is blended with latest technical Knowhow for getting desired results.

<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ramsar Sites managers?</li> <li>b. other MEA national focal points?</li> <li>c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?</li> </ul> <p>{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):</p> <p>Ramsar Site Managers are invited to attend various capacity building programs so that knowledge imparted is disseminated to other wetland staff who are executing Management Action Plans in the field. These managers from different States are also asked to share their experiences from their States in executing Management Action Plans with other States..</p> <p>Before any Contracting Party meeting (CoP) all relevant Ministries are asked to give their inputs for the country stand. In this meeting representative from External Affairs as well as Home are participating apart from the other relevant Ministries concerned with wetland related issues.</p> <p>In the National Wetland Regulatory Authority senior representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, Tourism, Social Justice, Water Resources and Pollution Control Board are members. It has also four subject specialists from the field of wetland conservation.</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>

## 4.1.8 Additional information:

World Wetland Day is observed all over the country to generate awareness about values and functions of wetlands and to know their importance for ecological and livelihood security of the people living around these wetlands. On this day people are sensitised about wetland values through Seminars, Panel discussions, Debates, Slogans and Painting Competitions, Quizz contests etc. Pertinent literature is released emphasising on wetlands and their use for humanity. Documentaries on various conservation aspects are also shown to public for general awareness.

At National level World Wetland Day is celebrated in one of the identified wetlands under our national Wetland Conservation Programme. This is chaired by Minister of Environment & Forests and attended by decision makers, planners, Educationists Research Organisations, Teachers, Students, Children and Community Organizations. On this day the Minister distributes prizes to all winning candidates in various events held at the State level.

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):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

115 Wetlands, 40 Mangroves, 4 Coral areas, 42 Urban lakes, 16 Biosphere Reserves, 100 National Parks, 515 Wild Life Sanctuaries, 43 Conservation Reserves and 4 Community Reserves have been established under the protected area network for conservation and management in the country. Under these programmes State Govts. are encouraged to take up conservation activities in the relevant areas.

Botanical Survey of India (BIS) and Zoological Survey of India (ZIS) are main institutions with primary responsibility of survey and inventroisation of plant and animal species in India. There is also a National Gene Bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources with nearly 4 lakh base collection. Joint Forest Management (JFM) is aimed at regenerating and sustainably using forests through involvement of local community. The world's largest social security scheme under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) has created nearly 5 million green jobs in conservation area like afforestation, water harvesting, soil conservation, land development and other related areas. Traditional Knowledge of Indian system of medicine like Ayurveda, Sidha & Unani in the form of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) has been made to prevent misappropriation of India's Traditional Knowledge.

Capacity building programs are organized in different parts of the country on various wetland themes to impart training to different strata of society. This has helped execution of management Action Plans in a more scientific manner. Several legislations have been enacted for wetland conservation but the notification on wetland regulatory rules is the first of its kind to prevent wetlands from being used beyond their carrying capacity.

Notification declaring the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers, back waters which are influenced by tidal action in the landward side upto 5 mts. from the high tide line and the land between the low tide line and the high tide line as the Coastal regulation Zone Notification 1991 under the provision of Environment Protection Act, 1986. This proposes graded restriction on setting up and expansion of industries, operations and processes including pressures of human activities.

Ministry has published monographs and fact sheets on all the Ramsar sites from of India. Besides every year literature is produced on different wetland themes which is released on World Wetland Day. Ministry is also invoved in constant updating of inventrisation process from time to time. Recently space application centre was sanctioned a project to inventorise wetlands in the scale of 1:50,000 by on screen interpretation of Digital IRS LISS III data of post and Premonsoon seasons to get some information on wetlands of up to five hectares. On the basis of this survey, Statewise Atlases were prepared and released in June, 2011 by Minister of Environment & Forests. All this information has been put up on Ministry's website. This will help State Govts. to send information on new wetlands to be identified under new Management Rules.

River basin approach is being followed for conservation and wise use of wetlands. Since it is a new approach discussions are being held with State Govts. to go for wetland management in a holistic manner Concept of economic valuation of wetlands is also being taken up in different wetland sites which can become an effective tool for integrating wetland management with overall development, planning and resource management. State Govts. are also being provided financial assistance for engaging consultant which has helped in making better management Action Plans.

**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):

Good practises have been taken up from various countries and are put to practice at national level. We are also reviewing our old reports and wherever we find gaps we try to bridge them. Number of new activities like Wetland Regulation, inventorisation in the scale of 1:50,000, evaluation of conservation activities by and independent agency, Research and development in application oriented priority areas of Wetland Conservation to supplement Management Action Plans etc. are outcomes after referring earlier National Reports to improve our management techniques.

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

B - No

4.3.2 Additional information:

Because of the recent changes in the Administrative set up official communication is being sent to Ramsar Secretariat after approval by the competent authorities for the next triennium.

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

A - Yes

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

Ministry of Environment & Forests is a member of wetland International and we are paying 10,000 euros as the contribution fee to the Wetlands International each year. Wetland International South Asia (WISA) located in Delhi is involved in number of collaborative programmes with Ministry in the field of Wetland conservation.

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).