



## **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.

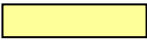
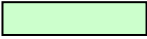
**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**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** 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: JAPAN</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Reiji Kamezawa, Director
<b>Mailing address:</b>	1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, Japan
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	Tel:+81-3-5521-8284 / Fax:+81-3-3581-7090
<b>Email:</b>	wildlife@env.go.jp
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Bureau Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>Mailing address:</b>	2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, Japan
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	Tel:+81-3-5501-8245 / Fax:+84-3-5501-8244
<b>Email:</b>	yusuke.honda@mofa.go.jp
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Masato Nagatsu, Senior Research Biologist
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Japan Wildlife Research Center
<b>Mailing address:</b>	SN Iriya Building, 3-10-10 Shitaya, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-8676, Japan
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	Tel:+81-3-5824-0955 / Fax:+81-3-5824-0956
<b>Email:</b>	mnagatsu@jwrc.or.jp
<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>	Makiko Yanagiya, Section Chief
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
<b>Mailing address:</b>	1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, Japan
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	Tel:+81-3-5521-8284 / Fax:+81-3-3581-7090
<b>Email:</b>	MAKIKO_YANAGIYA@env.go.jp
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Miki Sasaki, Secretary General
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Non-Profit Organization Wetlands International Japan
<b>Mailing address:</b>	6F, NCC Ningyocho Building, 3-7-3 Ningyo-cho, Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0013, Japan
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	Tel:+81-3-5614-2150 / Fax:+81-3-6806-4187
<b>Email:</b>	miki_sasaki@wi-japan.org

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

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

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

- The statuses of wise use and monitoring projects were surveyed at Ramsar sites in Japan.
- In order to strengthen cooperation among Ramsar sites in Japan and deepen understanding of each site, study groups were organized.
- To designate the new Ramsar sites, potential sites in Japan had been reviewed and 172 sites with possible Ramsar designation were selected.
- At several potential Ramsar sites, Surveillances on Saunders's gull and shorebirds were developed
- At the CBD COP10 hosted by Japan in 2010, VTRs, panels and side event booths were prepared to raise awareness regarding Ramsar Convention
- As one of the projects under the "United Nations Decade on Biodiversity", Ministry of the Environment of Japan practices the stamp-rally campaign and some of the stations of this stamp-rally are setted at the dissemination facilities located in or around Ramsar sites. In addition, natuer walks are also carried out as cooperation programmes.
- A booth with a theme "Benefit from Wetlands" had been set up at 'Eco-life Fair' held annually in Tokyo to promote public awareness.
- The Pre Round-Table Meetings on Rice Paddy Resolution (X.31) have been held regularly by the concerned of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and NGOs since May 2009. So far, 154 meetings are organized.
- To promote implementation of ResolutionX.31, Japan organized international workshops on Rice Paddies twice. One workshop held in Takashima city in Japan offered good practices of rice agricultural activities in harmony with wetlands ecosystems and these practices were deveoped into report.
- Symposium for celebration of the 40th annniversary of the Ramsar Convention was convened.

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

With the consensus obtained at the pre-Round-Table Meetings on Rice Paddy Resolution (X.31), at the CBD-COPO10 in 2010, Decision X.34 regarding agricultural biodiversity welcomes Resolution on Rice Paddies of Ramsar Convention for the Contracting Parties to call for implementation of Resolution on Rice Paddies.

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

At some sites, some difficuties have prevented from advancing the wise use and there existed conflicts among living creatures at wetlands and the life of people.

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

- Promoting wetland restoration as well as conservation.
- Building capability of site managers.
- Promoting implementtaion of Resolution on Rice Paddies (X.31).

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



Adding the items regarding the promotion of conservation and wise use for the regionally important sites which do not yet satisfy international criteria

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

Assisting in conducting the survey related to the wetlands devastated by the Great East Japan earthquake (March 11, 2011) and recovery of the concerned livelihood

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

Nothing special

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?

The policy on promoting implementation of the Ramsar Convention is described in the National Biological Strategy of Japan based on the CBD, which is regarded as the national wetland policy.

To be specific, the target of designating 6 additional Ramsar sites by the 11th Convention of the Contracting Parties is described in the National Biodiversity Strategy 2010.

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

In the process of formulating the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, measures focusing on the conservation of coastal areas are proposed.

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

Designation to Ramsar site is often considered as the promoting revitalization of the region concerned. At the same time, it is necessary to enhance the measures in accordance with the condition or situation of each sites well in consideration of sustainable development of each region regarding the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

## 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
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<p>1.1.1 Additional information: We have '500 Important Wetlands in Japan' as the inventory of National Important wetlands. In addition, reports of the surveys on wetlands, lakes and tidal flats/seaweed beds/coral reefs conducted within the framework of Japan's National Survey on the Natural Environment are available.</p>	
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1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
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<p>1.1.2 Additional information: Widely open to public on HP.</p>	
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<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 &amp; 1.1.4}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>O - No change N - Status deteriorated</p>
<p>1.1.3 a) Additional information:</p>	
<p>1.1.3 b) Additional information:</p> <p>In the past 3 years, as for the wetland in general, national survey has not been conducted. But, as for some wetlands (inland body of water, seaweed beds, tidal flats), quantitative and qualitative survey have been carried out under the monitoring project, 'Monitoring Site 1000'.</p> <p>Furthermore, because of the Great East Japan earthquake (March 11, 2011), wetlands conditions in the Tohoku region have been greatly changed as evidenced are land subsidence and loss of tidal flats in coastal areas and inflow of sea water and rubbles in rice paddies. On the other hand, there seems cases of an increase in benthic organisms as well as cases of tidal flats devastated being in process of returning to former shape, indicating the necessity of long-term monitoring of the earthquake influence.</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

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

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i (If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.1 Additional information: The 2010 National Biodiversity Strategy was approved in a Cabinet meeting in March 2010, and this has been placed as National Wetland Policy.</p>	
<p>1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

## 1.3.2 Additional information:

In the 2010 National Biodiversity Strategy, basic principles, targets and concrete actions regarding the restoration of wetlands are mentioned. Said Strategy incorporates partly WSSD targets and actions.

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

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

{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

Z - Not applicable

Z - Not applicable

A - Yes

A - Yes

Z - Not applicable

A - Yes

A - Yes

## 1.3.3 Additional information:

C) Action Plan for Coral Reef Ecosystems Conservation and Action Plan for Marine Life Ecosystems Conservation are developed

D) The Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry states that conservation and management of a waterside forest such as a riparian forest will be promoted. In addition, the National Forest Plan states that a forest which requires fulfillment of a particular function, such as a riparian forest which stretches over land and water and is a natural habitat of specific wildlife, shall be preserved as a forest where fulfillment of a biological diversity function will be secured and promoted. The Basic Plan for Administration and Management of National Forests states that a national forest, such as a primitive natural forest or wildlife habitat, will be designated a "protected forest". Accordingly, some forests surrounding headstreams of rivers, lakes and marshes, etc. are designated "protected forests"..

G) As for National Biodiversity Strategy 2010, the long-term as long as 100 years future grand design regarding wetlands is to be indicated. In addition, in its action plan, objectives are complied and concrete measures are described.

## 1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii

C - Partly

## 1.3.4 Additional information:

Following the amendment to Environmental Impact Assessments in April 2011, practices of SEA at the planning stage of a project such as considering its location or scale, have been implemented. Taking into consideration of its enforcement in April 2013, based on guidelines for the introduction of Strategic Environmental Assessment (March, 2007), the enforcement of SEA is in the process of being addressed.

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

For the construction derived from such development activities as airports or power plants including wetlands at a scale exceeding certain level, Environmental Impact Assessments procedures by business establishments are obliged when they construct such as airports or power plants

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	A - Yes
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## 1.3.6 Additional information:

Natural Parks Law and Nature Conservation Law regarding the Conservation of Ramsar site, have been amended. For the purposes, words to ensure biodiversity are added and additions to strengthen conservation measures at coastal area, to create projects to recover ecosystem and to regulate behavior, have been made.

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	A - Yes
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## 1.4.1 Additional information:

Pamphlets are prepared and distributed for the promotion of public awareness regarding wise use of Ramsar sites with the information as to the situation of utilization concerning fishery, agriculture and tourism.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i	Z - Not applicable
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## 1.4.2 Additional information:

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

Designation to Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems has been assisted and Sado and Noto regions were designated in 2011.

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

C - Partly

1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

Management plans such as Kushiro-shitsugen, Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies, and Nakaumi are including them. Furthermore, 8 landscape areas such as terraced rice field, waterside, river basin were selected as important cultural views and in their landscape preservation plan, directions are compiled for the description and value sustenance of cultural values.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

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

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

B - No  
A - Yes  
B - No  
A - Yes

1.5.2 Additional information:

As for the parliament, it was made known by a Diet members group organized to promote designation of Ramsar sites and as for civil society, by NGOs related to Ramsar Convention

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)?

C - Partly

## 1.5.3 Additional information:

Delegations recognized and used the 'Changwon Declaration' for the mentioned purpose at the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

A - Yes

## 1.5.4 Additional information:

Booklets translated into Japanese are available and information on web site is accessible.

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:

'Survey on living creatures in rice paddies' continues to be conducted by farmers, citizens and researchers in Japan. From the survey of NGOs, living creatures (5668 species) are identified and its list was released. Accordingly, the result of similar survey in Korea by NGOs shares information. Also perceptions about agriculture (mainly rice cultivation) and wetlands were amassed especially in the sate of Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies (white-fronted geese), Sado Island (Japanese crested ibis), and Toyooka city ( Oriental stork) which rice paddies are also important habitat of migratory birds and endangered species.

Reference: 'List of all living creatures in rice paddies' (revised); Agriculture and nature research center

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

C - Partly

## 1.6.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management.** *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are*

*included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i	B - No
1.7.1 Additional information:	
1.7.2 Does your country's water governance and management treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? KRA 1.7.ii	A - Yes
1.7.2 Additional information: At this stage, not all of wetlands are subject to such conditions.	
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: Promotion of environmental education is incorporated in nature restoration plan of the most of Nature restoration projects implemented in such wetlands as rivers, moors and tidal flats, including Kushiro-shitsugen.	
1.7.4 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {1.4.3}	C - Partly
1.7.4 Additional information: The Basic Plan on Ocean Policy was developed in 2008 which requests coastal zone management.	
1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii	B - No
1.7.5 Additional information:	
1.7.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands and water in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? KRA 1.7.v	A - Yes



1.7.6 Additional information:

To promote implementation of Rice Paddy Resolution (ResolutionX.31), MOE-Japan organized international workshops on Rice Paddy Resolution twice. One of them held in Takashima city collected good practices of rice cultivation which enhancing the biodiversity to be developed into report.

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:

Survey on wetlands with higher priority for nature restoration has been conducted and is to be continued for review.

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:

- At Katano-kamoike, 'The Basic Plan on Conservation Project', regulated in conservation project of 'Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law' had been prepared and at present, it is in process of developing the implementation plan. This project is expected to be put into effect from next year onward.
- Mikata-goko, 'Nature Restoration Committee' is set up in May 2011 and various stakeholders are in process of implementing the programme.
- At Nakaumi, based on the fact that functions for natural purification has been deteriorated, seaweed beds of eelgrass, recognized for water purification effect, has been developed. This is intended to restore the environment possible to sustainably purify the water by the use of natural purification function. Accordingly, 'Project for Recovery of Nakaumi Natural Purification Function' has been put into effect.
- At Nikko, with regard to the measure and research related to deer which increased in number, fences against them have been set up. In addition, elimination of alien plants, installation of dam for water shielding, monitoring ground water and introduction of device for eliminating nitrogen to improve water quality, are carried out.
- 'Project for vegetation restoration' is in process at Oze National Park.
- Since 2011, restoration project in Yatsu-higata has been put into practice. In addition, elimination of sea lettuce, recognized as causes of bad odour and poor oxygen status, is conducted.
- 'Sakata clean up activity' (group activity by local community) has been in process and discharging mud at the bottom of the lake and collecting dead aquatic plants are included in such activity.
- At Hotoke-numa, with the initiative of local NPO, the population survey of Japanese Swamp Warbler has been conducted. Besides, pumping facility will be repaired by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Furthermore, there exists 'Project Plan for Farm Land Maintenance' within the protected area.
- At Izu-numa, 'Project for the elimination of largemouth bass' is in process. In addition, based on 'Law for the Promotion of Natural Restoration', 'Nature Restoration Committee' was established, and the grand design was formulated. Action plans are implemented by Miyagi prefecture (breeding and cultivating submerged plants, planting wild rice, reaping lotus and common reeds, breeding and transporting native fish and shellfish, testing water conveyance, adjusting water level) are put into effect, intended to improve the quality of water.
- At Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies, burning up reed to prevent aridification, Besides, the introduction of reed pellet fuel manufacturing equipment, manufacturing and marketing of pellet by NGO are in the process.
- At Kejo-numa, the Ministry of the Environment has conducted a survey on geese surrounding protected areas. In addition, NPO has organized study sessions on the extermination of introduced alien fish. Since 2011, a grant from private sector has been used to put the eradication measure into practice
- At Kushito-shitsugen, 'Nature Restoration Project' is in process. At Kutcharo-ko, such measure for water purification has been taken at one of the inflowing rivers. Water purification (measure against eutrophication) using artificial wetlands has been under consideration at one of the inflowing rivers.
- At Miyajima-numa, such measure against the inflow of sediments are under consideration.
- At Sarobetsu-genya, as 'Nature Restoration Project', reburying floodway diversion channel, controlling expansion of bamboo grass habitat, relocating the site of Sarobetsugennseikaen ( the dissemination centre) and restoration of peatery are developed.
- At Kanashozushotaku Plant Communities (designated as a state's natural monument), for the restoration of plant communities, committee for 'Programmes

for Rehabilitation of Natural Habitats and Maintenance of Viable Populations' including experts was organized to conduct nature restoration plan. And for restoring wetlands, management of underground water supply has been conducted aimed to preventing from being dry.

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}

C - Partly

1.8.3 Additional information:

Based on 'Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration', 'Nature Restoration Committee' is organized. Project for Nature Restoration is practiced in such wetlands as rivers, moors, and tidal flats including Kusiro-sitsugen with the involvement of various sectors such as governments, experts, NPOs, and local communities.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

- At Nakaumi and Shinji-ko, from 2006 onward, local residents has been working together every year to take part in Ramsar sites 'Nakaumi/Sinji-ko Clean-up'. In 2011, 7,976 people has participated, collecting so far the largest volume, 17,8 tons of garbage.
- At Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike and surrounding areas, Turuoka city has implemented the Basic Plan for 'Shonai Nature Museum Concept', organizing such activities as nature environmental study sessions offering the opportunities of nature environmental restoration and contact with nature intended to contribute to the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature.
- At Kushiro-shitsugen, Notsuke-hanto, and Furen-ko and surrounding areas, eradication of invasive alien species are conducted.
- At Miyajima-numa, installing shielding walls to prevent automobile lights of the adjacent to road traffic, bird watching walls for bird-spotters to make observations, and gates from where trespasses are limited, are designed to mitigate the influence to inhabiting birds including white-fronted geese.
- At Utonai-ko, ecological research on raccoons, designated as alien species and the project for eradication are in process.
- Kushiro International Wetland Center, in collaboration with the community and the expertise, has conducted local environmental survey to the residents regarding the restored water flow of Kushiro River conducted for the purpose of nature restoration.

**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?

A - Yes

KRA 1.9.i	
<p>1.9.1 Additional information: Based on the 'Invasive Alien Species Act' enacted in June 2004, those species which have significant adverse effects on ecosystems or have likely effects, are designated as alien species, numbering 105 as of August 2011 and concerned inventory is prepared. Among these species include many of them of which inhabit areas are dependent on wetlands.</p>	

1.9.2 Have national invasive species control and management policies or guidelines been established for wetlands? {1.6.1} KRa 1.9.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.9.2 Additional information: To prevent adverse effects on ecosystems by alien species, the 'Basic Policy for Preventing Adverse Effects on Ecosystems caused by Invasive Alien Species' based on the 'Invasive Alien Species Act' has been in practice as well as the outline of elimination by the nation regarding 88 alien species are formulated and publicly announced.</p>	

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	B - No
<p>1.10.1 Additional information: It seems that this guidance does not entirely cover all the cases in consideration of specific conditions in Japan.</p>	
1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of: a. Wetlands in general b. Ramsar Sites KRA 1.10.ii	A - Yes A - Yes

## 1.10.2 Additional information:

There are many cases of wetland management activities considered as the activity of private establishment itself and the activity as part of its CSR concerning both wetland in general and Ramsar sites.

In addition, grass-roots NGOs, local governments and private sectors work together and the cooperation by media has been widely recognized especially taking the opportunity of the convention of the CBD COP10.

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:

Guidebooks are prepared introducing measure for wet rice cultivation at Ramsar sites (e.g. Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

## 1.11.1 Additional information:

There are cases of rice cultivation concerning inhabiting of migratory birds and other endangered species of wild flora and fauna, and selling the rice harvested from these rice paddies as name-brand rice at higher price than the usual. In addition, assistant measures are taken for these efforts. Support projects for regional biodiversity restoration activity assist such activity including that of wetlands

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:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

## GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A - Yes
2.1.1 Additional information: List of potential Ramsar sites, meeting the criteria has been prepared.	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	C - Partly
2.1.2 Additional information:	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.3 Additional information:	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation): Presently in process of adjustment with local government etc. in anticipation of registration in 2012. Subsequent registration will be dealt according to the conditions of each wetland and 2012 registration status.	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

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

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

In Japan, all Ramsar sites are designated as National or Quasi-National Parks, Special Protection Zone of Wildlife Protection Areas and/or Habitat Protected Areas for Endangered Species. Within these designated areas, wetland conservation and management are conducted based on Park Plans of Natural Parks and Designation Plans for Wildlife Protection Areas and for Habitat Protected Areas, and these plans were not developed directly based on the Convention's New Guidelines for management planning. However, there are some cases that the guidelines were used partly for developing management plans for Wildlife Protection Areas and they may be used as reference when drawing up such management plans. In addition, there are some cases that conservation and management plans concerning Ramsar sites have been formulated by relevant local governments.

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

37 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

37 sites

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

0 sites

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

5 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

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

A - Yes

## 2.4.5 Additional information:

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

14 sites

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

Nature Restoration Committees at Kushiro-shitsugen, Sarobetsu-genya, and Nakaumi, as well as committees or councils for wetlands conservation at several Ramsar sites including Kutcharo-ko, Tofutsu-ko, Furen-ko, Shunkuni-tai, Hotoke-numa, Izu-numa, and Uchi-numa, Sataka, Katano-kamoike, Kabukuri-numa, and the surrounding rice paddies, Fujimae-higata, Biwa-ko, and Kuju Bogatsuru and Tadewara-shitsugen, and Manko have been established.

In addition, besides individual committees at each sites, there exist coordinating organizations covering wide areas including several Ramsar sites such as Hokkaido Ramsar network and Kusiro-shitsugen Wetland Center.

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

37 sites

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

It has been prepared at all Ramsar sites including Kushiro-shitsugen(no.205).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

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

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

C - Some sites

2.5.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available):

At the occasion of revisions made to management plans at Wildlife Protection Areas as the need arises.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

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



2.6.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.4.1} KRA 2.6.i	A - Yes
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2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established):

Regional Environment Offices of Ministry of the Environment that have jurisdiction over respective Ramsar sites, will inform the Administrative Authority. Biodiversity Center of Japan will also inform the Administrative Authority of the results of Japan's National Survey of the Natural Environment for wetlands including lakes, tidal flats, and coral reefs and of the results of Monitoring Sites 1000

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {2.4.2} KRA 2.6.i	Z - No negative change
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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	Z - Not applicable
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2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

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

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? KRA 2.7.i	C - Some sites
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2.7.1 Additional information:

Owing to the Great East Japan Earthquake (March 11, 2011), some parts in coastal areas have been affected, causing land subsidence. In addition, at Awase-higata in Okinawa Prefecture, a project to build an artificial island is in process, and in part, concern about the partial loss of ecological characters exists.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

To some extent appropriate management and the wise use are promoted, such as clean up activities and surveys conducted by NGOs and also by wetland management within the natural parks based on 'Natural Parks Law'.

<b>GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>
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<p><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></p>
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<p>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 &amp; 3.1.ii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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3.1.1 Additional information:

Instead of establishing an inter-ministerial committee for coordinating Ramsar Convention and other Conventions concerned, Global Environment Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, administers all multilateral environmental conventions/agreements (MEAs) en bloc. Also, consultation and coordination are undertaken among the relevant Focal Points of other MEAs by providing information as necessary.

<p>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 &amp; 3.1.iv</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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3.1.2 Additional information:

The National Ramsar/Wetland Committee has not been established yet.

<p>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</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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3.1.3 Additional information:

<p>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</p>	<p>Z - Not applicable</p>
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3.1.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:

In Japan, instead of establishing an inter-ministerial committee for coordinating Ramsar Convention and other Conventions concerned, Global Environment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a diplomatic authority administers all multilateral environmental conventions/agreements (MEAs) en bloc. Also, consultation and coordination is undertaken among the relevant Focal Points of other MEAs by providing information as necessary. Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee for implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan under the CBD was established, and consultation and coordination regarding actions on biodiversity conservation are implemented through this mechanism.

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

3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i

A - Yes

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

Japan contribute actively to the promotion of the Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

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

A - Yes

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

- In Kota Kinabalu Wetland Center (KKWC), Sabah state, Malaysia, JICA has implemented the Bornean Biodiversity & Ecosystem Conservation Programme (BBEC).
- JICA has provided Group Training Program on "Conservation and Wise Use of Wetland in the Context of Implementing Ramsar Convention and CBD" in 2010 and 2011. The trainees were from India, Philippines and Malaysia in 2010, Philippines, Mongolia and Malaysia in 2011.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

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

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”)]: Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i	A - Yes
<p>3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10): Japan gives high priority to the cooperation projects in environmental field including wetland conservation. After COP10, technical cooperation was provided in Malaysia, Mali, Iran, Uganda and Costa Rica. Besides, Japan provided technical cooperation focused on preservation of mangrove in Myanmar, Indonesia and Oman. Japan has also provided voluntary contribution to Ramsar Small Grant Fund. Japan recognizes the importance of SGF for the capacity building, etc. in developing countries, and plans to make efforts to continuously provide voluntary contribution to SGF.</p> <p>Recipient country of this fund: Nepal (FY2010).</p>	

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”)]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii	A - Yes
<p>3.3.2 Additional information:</p> <p>JICA announced the new 'JICA guidelines for environment and social consideration' in April, 2010. In accordance with the guidelines, JICA provides support and conducts examinations in order to ensure that environmental and social considerations are appropriately reflected at each stage of projects.</p> <p>By implementing Environmental Impact Assessment and monitoring at each stage of formation, appraisal and implementation of projects, JICA is trying to implement projects with appropriate environmental and social considerations.</p>	

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”)]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}	Z - Not applicable
3.3.3 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10):	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

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

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.2.1}	A - Yes
<p>3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>There are Twinning arrangements between</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kushiro-shitsugen and Kooragang Wetlands (Australia)</li> <li>- Kiritappu-shitsugen and Kooragang Wetlands (Australia)</li> <li>- Akkeshi-ko and Kooragang Wetlands (Australia)</li> <li>- Bekambeushi-shitsugen and Kooragang Wetlands (Australia),</li> <li>- Yatsu-higata and Boondollar Wetlands (Australia)</li> <li>- Fujimae-higata and wetlands in Geelong City (Australia)</li> </ul> <p>In addition, based on the ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on Marine Protected Areas Net-Works, workshops are held in order to form MPA networks in East Asia. Consequently, under the ICRI, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) activities are greatly involved.</p> <p>Moreover, Japan promotes EAAFP activities and in recent years, Furen-ko/ Shunkuni-tai has newly designated as the Partnership Sites.</p>	
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
<p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>'500 Important Wetlands in Japan' (Both in Japanese and English) is posted on “Internet Nature Information System” organized by Planning Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, the Ministry of the Environment and Biodiversity Center of Japan. In addition, results of Japan’s National Survey on the Natural Environment which include information on wetlands are posted on 'Japan Integrated Biodiversity Information System (J-IBIS)'. Information about Ramsar sites in Japan is publicized in brochures and is posted on the website of the Ministry of the Environment.</p> <p>As for the nature restoration projects based on the Law for the Promotion of Nature Resoration implemented in such wetlands as rivers, moors and tidal flats including Kushiro-shitugen. Their information is posted on the web site of the Ministry of the Environment and also published in pamphlets.</p>	
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
<p>3.4.3 Additional information:</p> <p>Reports of CEPA activities and AWC date were provided</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:  
Activities by group of local governments which has Ramsar sites are available on the web.

**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	Z - Not applicable
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3.5.1 Additional information:

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {2.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii	Z - Not applicable
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3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

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

- The Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway has been actively supported by Japan.
- Under the Bilateral treaty between Japan and other China, Korea, US, Australia, and Russia, we promote information exchange and joint survey for the conservation of migratory birds.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:  
There exist no transboundary shared wetland systems .However, there are shared wetland systems across local administrative areas within the nation. As each local administrative authority has different approach. It could be said that those wetlands have similar problems as wetlands crossing national borders do.

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

	<p>C - In progress C - In progress B - No C - In progress</p>
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<p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)</p>	
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<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>	
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<p>d)</p>	
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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establishment of committees intended for regional wise use such as Biwa-ko Ramsar Convention coordinating committee</li> <li>● There are 'Action Plan for Public Awareness on Kushiro-shitsugen Nature Restoration' developed by Subcommittee for Public Awareness on Kushiro-shitsugen Nature Restoration, 'Action Plan for Public Awareness on Kami Sarobetsu Nature Restoration Committee', 'Master Plan of Sekiseishoko Nature Restoration', 'Grand design for Sekiseishoko Nature Restoration' and 'Grand design for Nakaumi Nature Restoration.'</li> </ul> |  |
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<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
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	<p>27 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)):</p>	
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<p>At Tofutsu-ko, water birds and wetlands center will be open in 2012.</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p>	
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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management<br/>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> |  |
|--|--|

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

- Ramsar site having rice paddies such as Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies has close relationships with the livelihood of local residents and wetland conservation. It is necessary to look for the appropriate state of wetland management based on the intent of local community.
- Nature restoration projects in such wetlands as rivers, moors, and tidal flats, including Kushiro-shitsugen, various stakeholders such as governments, experts, NPOs and local people are engaged, establishing nature restoration committees to implement a grand design and action plans

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

B - No

4.1.4 Additional information:

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

opportunities

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

At Hokkaido Ramsar Network, lectures, workshops and excursions at the time of annual general meeting were held to promote training of site managers. In addition, at the occasion of communication programme for children who live around the Ramsar sites, interpretations and technical exchanges related CEPA were organized. For example, at 2011 general meeting, lecture in commemoration 'thoughts about Sarobetsu-genya', workshops on culture and wetlands in Hokkaido and childrens communication programme took place. Furthermore, local municipality coordinating committees concerning Ramsar Convention regularly hold meetings with the participation of the head of local governments, intended to 'study and exchange' regarding conservation status and plan, as well as wise use of each wetland. Particularly in 2011, training programme including symposium open to the public commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention was developed.

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):

- a) its membership: 28, b) its frequency of meetings: before and after COP  
c) what responsibilities the Committee has: information sharing

<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites managers?  b. other MEA national focal points?  c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?  {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>C - Partly  B - No  A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):</p> <p>a: Sharing information through focal points of local municipality coordinating committees holding Ramsar sites  c: Sharing information through the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee</p>	
<p>4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World Wetland Day kit has been introduced by NGO in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment.</li> <li>● On World Wetland Day 2011, memorial symposium has been held for Ramsar 40th Anniversary celebration.</li> </ul>	
<p>4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- holding the ceremonies for the celebration of the 30th Anniversary since the 1st designation of Ramsar site in Japan</li> <li>- holding the symposium for celebrating Ramsar 40th Anniversary</li> <li>- creation and distribution of pamphlets and posters</li> <li>- creation and distribution of DVDs</li> <li>- promotion of public awareness at the annual event named 'Eco-life Fair'</li> <li>- offering opportunities such as various nature field observation trips, education of forests and symposium by local communities, elementary schools and NGOs</li> <li>- study sessions are held as estimating economic importance of ecological service regarding coral reefs in Japan in the process of formulating Action Plan for Coral Reef Ecosystems Conservation</li> </ul>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

Pamphlets regarding wise use of wetlands are prepared by the Ministry of the Environment.

In addition, the Ministry of the Environment provided the Japanese translation of the booklet of Ramsar 40th anniversary celebration, and that was published and distributed by CEPA NGO focal points.

**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:

Japan has made full payment for the annual contribution to the Ramsar Convention in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Respective amounts of these contributions are as follows:

FY 2009: 710,870CHF;

FY 2010: 561,843CHF;

FY 2011: 586,034CHF.

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.6.2} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):  
FY2010: Japan has provided 34,538CHF to Community-based wetland conservation in Mai Pokhari Ramsar Site, Nepal.

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):

Contents of previous Reports are reviewed and compared.

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

A - Yes

4.3.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

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

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

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

The Asian Waterbird Census conducted by WI and BLI and their information enables us to identify by 1% of individuals in the waterbirds population used in Criterion 6 and the fluctuation of waterbirds individuals.

In October 2011, AWS in Wuxi will be co-hosted together with the assistance of WI-China.

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):

- Japan became a member of WI in 1995 and has paid the membership dues annually. At the moment, Japan as the government, is a member with the largest amount of contribution.
- Japan became a State Member of IUCN in June 1995 and have paid the membership dues annually and in addition, as a member of government organizations, Ministry of the Environment, Japan separately pays contributions. Furthermore, to promote the implementation of the 'Aciton Plan for Protected area in East Asia', voluntary contribution is made by Japan for the mentioned plan.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation: