



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11th 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)

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 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40th 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 (4th 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.

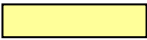
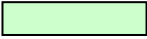
Section 2 is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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) 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), 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. 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

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: LATVIA	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Nature Protection and regional Development
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Guntis Pukitis, State secretary of the Ministry
Mailing address:	Peldu street 25, Riga, Latvia, LV-1494
Telephone/Fax:	Tel. +371 67026560, fax +371 67820442
Email:	Guntis.Pukitis@varam.gov.lv
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Mr. Juris Jatnieks, Deputy Director General, Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia (NCA)
Mailing address:	7 of Baznicas str., Sigulda, LV-2150
Telephone/Fax:	+371 29460345
Email:	juris.jatnieks@ daba.gov.lv
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Mr. Andris Urtans, Senior expert
Name of organisation:	Nature Conservation Agency
Mailing address:	7 of Baznicas str., Sigulda, LV-2150
Telephone/Fax:	+371 26535641
Email:	andris.urtans@ daba.gov.lv
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Ms. Skaidrite Ruskule, Director
Name of organisation:	The Nature History Museum of Latvia
Mailing address:	K. Barona street 4, Riga, Latvia, LV-1712
Telephone/Fax:	Tel. +371 67356023, fax +371 67603100
Email:	skaidrite.ruskule@dabasmuzejs.gov.lv
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title:	
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	

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?

As in previous triennium, implementation of the Convention in Latvia so far is mainly related to implementation of different projects in Ramsar sites and other wetland areas aimed at restoration and management of different specially protected habitats (inter alia - wetland habitats) and species.

The number of projects were successfully completed in the last triennium, while some projects are still ongoing or currently started. Restoration of specially protected habitats in raised bogs in protected areas (LIFE08 NAT/LV/000449, 2010 -2013) deals with elaboration of management plans for 4 Natura 2000 sites designated for protection of valuable wetlands. The restoration activities of the project are planned to rise water level in order to restore the damaged parts of wetlands. Project LIFE09 NAT/LV/000237 (2010 - 2014) deals with restoration of floodplain meadows for *Crex crex* including remeandering 2 km of the formerly straightened river Dviete.

LIFE+ funded project on a globally threatened species Baltic Aquatic Warbler, implemented by Latvian and Lithuanian non-governmental organizations, is being developed in Lake Pape Ramsar site and Lake Liepaja (2010 - 2015). Since 1992 there is an ongoing project on the distribution and protection of Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (2007 -2011) with the help of artificial nests build in wetlands suitable for this species. LIFE+ funded project LIFE10 NAT/LV/160, (2011 -2016) is aimed on restoration of the hydrological regime of the Kemeru National Park on 550 hectares of raised bog habitats, very well suitable for regeneration, and restoration of floodplain meadow in scale of 85 hectares.

Work on elaboration and revision of nature management plans for Ramsar sites and other wetland territories is in progress. As example, the nature conservation plan for Lake Engure Ramsar site wetland complex was accomplished in 2011.

During the triennium the management plans for 23 Natura 2000 sites embracing different types of wetlands were elaborated. Two management plans for species inhabiting wetlands, were recently elaborated: *Unio crassus* (2010) and *Hirudinea medicinalis* (2009).

In 2009, with the National level regulations of Council of Ministers of Latvia, the complex of 12 protected nature areas, previously called as Ramsar site 'Lubans wetland complex', was established as a joint specially protected nature area.

The relevant National level regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on the protection and use for 27 specially protected areas have been adopted in the period from 2008. to 2011. Wetland habitats in natural and well preserved conditions are present in almost all of those Natura 2000 sites.

Wetlands are supported with new tourism infrastructure: several new educational trails in wetlands are developed to minimize trampling of habitat and serve the necessary educational facilities within protected areas.

The Nature School of Kemeru National Park - an initiative supporting environmental education on voluntary basis, was established.

Annual activities related to World Wetlands Day are widely organised and supported in Latvia by NGO, entrepreneurs and other institutions.

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

Several large-scale projects in Ramsar sites and other wetland areas, e.g. Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia (2004 - 2008) were recently implemented. The restoration of hydrological regime in 4 peatland territories are carried out under that plan. The long term (1998. - 2011.) dam construction followed by rather successful rewildening of partly drained marginal parts of mire system in Teici area Ramsar site is one of most successful management examples in Latvia and good follow-up of the previously implemented LIFE-Nature and other projects. Nature school in Kemeru National Park, an initiative carried out by the former administration of the Administration of Kemeru National Park (currently Nature Conservation Agency), actively educates visitors, particularly school children, on wetland issues in the Ramsar site Lake Kanieris.

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

Latvia has no major difficulties in implementation of the Convention. In the same time Latvia belongs to the region where precipitation dominates over runoff and evaporation. Prosperity in water resources sometimes leads to ignorance or underevaluation of the role of water resources in changing environment. As another problem one can mention segmented structure of different authorities dealing with water issues and weak communication and coordination between them. Sometimes it leads to uncoordinated activities which are not in line with integrated water resource management.

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

Development and implementation of the Wise use concept in water resource management. More active cooperation and achievement of consensus among authorities dealing with different aspects of water resource management are needed. More active work with local society turning them into active supporters and implementors of Wise use concept is necessary.

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

No

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

We consider that the Secretariat fulfills its duties very well and is very open and co-operative.

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

No comment

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?

No comment

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)?

Landuse planning is one of tools which takes into account all existing and possible uses of the area. There are still many unused possibilities.

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

No comment

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
<p>1.1.1 Additional information: 1.1.1: A comprehensive inventory of specially protected and potentially protected territories (including also territories with wetlands) in Latvia was carried out in 2001 - 2004 during the establishment of Natura 2000 network. Currently the inventories (mapping and surveillance) are being carried out in all Natura 2000 sites including Ramsar sites within the national monitoring programme. The inventories include detailed mapping of protected habitats and species of European Union importance. The data are stored at the Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia. More profound and updated information on ecological character of wetlands is known for the specially protected territories which have local administrative authority, as well from protected territories in which management plans are elaborated. In example, Teichi Nature reserve Ramsar site have very detailed and recent mapping of habitats.</p>	

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>1.1.2: Natura 2000 inventory data was collected and stored in the database Specially Protected Nature Territories, available on the web (www.lvgma.gov.lv) and updated by the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Center subordinated to the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Information on ecological character, species and habitats of a number of wetlands is available for Protected areas, having an administrative authorities untill 2010.</p> <p>Starting from 2011. Nature Conservation Agency became responsible authority to collect and update all nature data. The GIS system of nature data and protected areas management 'Ozols' (qercus) is created to improve science and monitoring based governance of protected areas in Latvia. Data base will be accessible for all stakeholders involved in nature conservation.</p>	
<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites</p> <p>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>N - Status deteriorated</p> <p>N - Status deteriorated</p>
<p>1.1.3 a) Additional information: Deterioration trend is observed in open water ecosystems. For lake Engure Ramsar site as well for lake Pape eutrofication processes are accelerating. More and more opened water surfaces of the lakes are turning into monolite reed, bullrush or cottontail stands. Fragmentation of open water surface leads to the decrease of waterfowl numbers and nesting success for several species. Storage of excessive organic matter leads to deterioration of oxygen level during ice cover in winter. The Ramsar sites with mire and rised bog habitats are in good condition.</p>	
<p>1.1.3 b) Additional information: Increase of forest cutting and increasing agricultural activities in some parts of Latvia leads to accelerated sedimentation processes, which in turn simplifies the habitat structures of streams in particular, decreasing biodiversity as well the self-purification capacity. Uncontrolled increase of beaver population starts adversely affect sedimentation and aquatic species migration processes.</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.

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
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1.3.1 Additional information: Implementation of Mire habitat management plan for Latvia was elaborated in 2008

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}	B - No
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1.3.2 Additional information:

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 A - Yes A - Yes Z - Not applicable A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes
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1.3.3 Additional information: b) it relates to tasks set in River Basin Management plans according to Water Framework Directive,
c) Integrated Coastal zone management plan (ICZM) is elaborated for the Lake Engure and adjacent coastal area of the Gulf of Riga. In 2010, 7 protected Marine N2000 sites were established including offshore as well coastal zones.
d) Latvian forest policy (18 April, 1998) in general terms touches the role of water resources in maintaining biological diversity and forest integrity.
f) According to the Nitrate Directive, several regions of Latvia are announced as nitrogen sensitive with respective activities to be undertaken to decrease nitrogen leakage and consequent nitrogen load into waterbodies. Additionally there are Programme on maintenance of drainage systems for 2007 - 2013 in forest and agricultural lands.
g) New National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan is in revision.
As in previous Plan in coming one special Chapters deals with wetland (bogs and fens) as well separate Chapter deals with rivers and lakes.

1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii	A - Yes
1.3.4 Additional information: In Landuse and Development plans for the administrative areas where the Natura2000 sites are established, such practice is in force and are applied.	
1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	A - Yes
1.3.5 Additional information: After Application to undertake activities, which can adversely affect environment and inter alia wetlands, is handed over to the Responsible Authority issuing permission for the given activity, Responsible Authority is undertaking Preliminary EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) procedure and in case of finding real implications or threats to the Environment, including wetlands, is informing Competent Authority which decides on the necessity to apply the full EIA process.	
1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	A - Yes
1.3.6 Additional information: There a number of new legislative acts dealing with use of water as a resource, which in one or other way reflects commitments stated by the Ramsar Convention.	
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	B - No
1.4.1 Additional information:	
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
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	C - Partly

1.4.3 Additional information: There are ongoing integral research activities in Stone Age settlement and graveyard in Zvejnieki by the Lake Burtnieki (lakeshore area defined as Natura 2000 site) involving archaeologists, paleobotanists and geographers. At the same time there are no planning or political document related specifically to the recognition of the cultural values of wetlands.

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): Socio-economical values of wetlands are included of Development plans of several municipalities with high proportion of area covered with different wetlands - raised bogs, lakes, rivers.

Masterplan for Transboundary Ramsar site North Livonia (Wetland protection and Rural Development in the Transboundary area of Latvia and Estonia, 2006) addresses also socio-economical and cultural values of wetlands and adjacent areas.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation: ,

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

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

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information: Transboundary Ramsar site North Livonia is embedded in the area of North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve. There is agreement on co-operation between UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme and Ramsar Convention. Thus activities within Transboundary Ramsar site North Livonia are daily incorporated in the activities of North Vidzeme biosphere reserve

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
D - Planned
D - Planned

1.5.2 Additional information: There are a number of articles and information in mass media in which wetland issues are commented being in line with the spirit of International Conventions, not specifically stressing Changwon Declaration. It is planned that in INTERREG IVC Project Waterways forward there shall be developed Guidelines for wetland, specifically river use articulating the given Declaration.

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

B - No

1.5.3 Additional information:

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

B - No

1.5.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

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

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

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

KRA 1.6.i

A - Yes

A - Yes

B - No

1.6.1 Additional information: State-financed project KALME which was accomplished in 2009, dealt with the climate change issues. The project particularly focussed on inland and marine aquatic issues including segment of agriculture-wetlands as well processes in the Gulf of Riga and the open Baltic Sea. One of the work packages was devoted to River Salaca catchment which embraces also transboundary Ramsar site North Livonia.

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: Management plans in many cases still are sectorial aimed to solve specific problem of particular segment and not in all cases equally covering full scope of issues, including those related to integral wetland management in the sense of Ecosystem services.

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: Structure of the given document allows its successful use. In many cases it can be applied in not only informing decision makers and planners, but also in addressing individual constructors and developers in protected areas containing wetlands.

1.7.2 Does your country's water governance and management treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? KRA 1.7.ii

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information: In accordance with the tasks of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) wetlands are part of waterbodies defined in Latvia. They include also Ramsar sites/wetlands

1.7.3 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.4.2}

C - Partly

1.7.3 Additional information: Consultative Boards are established for each of the respective 4 River Basin Districts, and for Teichi area Ramsar site and Lubana wetland complex Ramsar site as well. In general, planning activities follows Critical Path principles. In the same time the source of such approach is not stressed as elaborated by the Ramsar Convention. In Latvia a Volunteer monitoring programme for assessment of the river biological quality is elaborated and promoted by the Nature Conservation Agency. In River Salaca basin active awareness programme 'Place a Stone in a Stream' is undertaken for integrated management of river stretches as parts of water objects. Those activities are in line with CEPA Programme 2009-2015.

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: 7 new marine protected areas are established during last Reporting period. For coastal protected areas Principles of Conventions Guidance on ICZM are incorporated. Guidance on sustainable development of Coastal zone 2011 - 2017 were adopted in 2011 as Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia.	
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	C - Partly
1.7.6 Additional information: Some activities were undertaken within DEMOFARM project dealing with sustainable use of natural resources to demonstrate the possibilities of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity. Still it has rather local level significance. No countrywide plans or projects are elaborated.	
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	B - No
1.8.1 Additional information: During reference period the priorities are stated by the Ministry of Environment to some extent, but mainly the initiative of administrations, governing each wetland area or stakeholders interested in particular wetland restoration issues (for fishery, protection of bird diversity etc) was a driving force for conservation actions within protected areas.	
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: The scope and numbers of such activities is increasing and includes restoration of water level in degraded raised bogs with more than 27 dams constructed in wetlands, re-meandering of straightened stream in Kemer National Park, improvement of biological diversity and water quality mainly dealing with reestablishment of salmonid spawning areas or removal of excessive vegetation to improve hydrology, diversity of rheophytic organisms and spawning capacity mostly for salmonids. Such activities were undertaken in rivers Salaca, Jaunupe, Musa, Venta. Annual mowing of about 200 hectares of reed in Pape Ramsar site and mowing of reeds in other coastal Lakes (Lake Engure and Lake Kanieris) is undertaken within the last years. Small scale tree cutting in several overgrown bogs were undertaken to reestablish open landscape habitats. The previous good experience serve as a stepping stone for further similar activities being planned in several wetland areas in the nearest future, e.g. restoration of raised bogs, re-meandering of streams and related floodplain restoration, restoration of wetland forests.

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: There is no binding or non-binding national level guidance elaborated and approved. Nevertheless, many of the defined principles (for example 15, 16, 19, 20) are applied by involving and encouraging the local stakeholders to undertake local river stretch maintenance under the Initiative Place a Stone in the Stream.

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: Giant hogweed *Heracleum sosnovskyi* is spreading along waterways and ditches. Monitoring programme (mapping surveys and surveillance) is developed and being implemented since 2008.

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

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information: Guidelines for eradication and control of giant hogweed *Heracleum sosnowskyi* are elaborated and approved, the species being common also along streams is acknowledged as an invasive alien species in the national legislation acts.

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: Handbooks are not translated into Latvian thus the scope of access is rather limited. But general interest is rather high.

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: a) according to Latvian legislation majority of small and medium size rivers and lakes belongs to private persons. There are a number of activities of private owners to use their wetlands in wise manner. In such respect Handbooks are usefull source to see the processes in wider manner. b) Most of existing Ramsar sites are partly uninhabited or representing vast waterbodies where the role of private ownership is small. Exemption is Lake Pape Ramsar site where local NGO undertakes reed cutting in an area of 200 hectares and Lubana wetlan complex Ramsar site, where ~1000 hectares of reed cutting action are planned by enterprises.

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

D - Planned

1.10.3 Additional information: There are material developed by WWF about waters in forests and their role to increase biodiversity as well how to act properly to increase added value of the forests. Material is approaching forest owners and to some extent they can be looked as consumers.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

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

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

B - No

1.11.1 Additional information:

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i

B - No

1.11.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. Apply the “Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance” (Handbook 14, 3 rd edition).

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	B - No
2.1.1 Additional information:	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	C - Partly
2.1.2 Additional information: Due to reorganisation processes in the national authorities updates are checked but not sent to the Secretariat.	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.3 Additional information:	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation):	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

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

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii	D - Planned
2.2.1 Additional information: There are discussions on the need for further development of Ramsar site network in Latvia, defining new Ramsar sites. Thus the given tools are actually used	

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: All Ramsar sites have adequate management planning. Due to enlargement of the Natura 2000 site Northern bogs, there is a need to amend the site management plan.	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.3.2} KRA 2.4.i	5 sites
2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i	5 sites
2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i	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	1 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information: Designated Ramsar sites in Latvia are rather vast areas. In conditions of limited funding only a part of foreseen Activities are implemented	
2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii	A - Yes
2.4.5 Additional information:	
2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv	0 sites

2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)): Consultative Boards are established for Lake Pape, Lake Engure and Lake Lubans Ramsar site. Consultative Boards of Kemeru National Park and North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve oversee issues related to the Ramsar sites Lake Kanieris and Northern bog. In the same time due to lack of funds Consultative Board of L.Pape haven't organised meetings

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

3 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number): Such description is developed for L.Engure Ramsar site, Teici bog Ramsar site as well for Northern bogs Ramsar site.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

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

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

B - No

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established): Such mechanism is foreseen in Latvian legislation.

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

Z - No negative change

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

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

Z - Not applicable

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

2.7.1 Additional information: Shadow list of Ramsar sites is elaborated for Latvia, containing information on numbers of particular bird species and respective specimens qualifying the given area to be further promoted as a Ramsar site.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.ii	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information: Ministry of Nature Protection and Regional Development is the national Administrative Authority for the Ramsar Convention and at the same time it is Headquarter for Focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements. Therefore the collaboration mechanism is viable.

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: Co-chair of UNESCO Programme 'Man and Biosphere' dealing with Biosphere Reserves participates in Ramsar Committee meetings

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	C - Partly
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3.1.3 Additional information: Formal links exist, but there are no close contacts

3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii	Z - Not applicable
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3.1.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

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

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

B - No

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

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

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

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}

B - No

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): Cooperation between the Estonian Nigula Reserve and North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve was based on Mutual Agreement on Cooperation (1996). Practical cooperation and sharing expertise were undertaken dealing with spread of invasive species Giant Hogweed with Estonian part as lead experts and river restoration issues with the Latvian counterpart as a lead expert. Exchange of expertise on negative aspects of dam construction in salmonid rivers was undertaken in 2011.

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: Masterplan for Transboundary Ramsar site North Livonia as a book is translated in Latvian and available in libraries. Information on wetlands and Ramsar sites are partly described in the book Important bird areas in Latvia. There are a number of links dealing with wetlands in respective local authority websites.

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

C - Partly

3.4.3 Additional information: Due to limited number of copies of Masterplan for North Livonia (2006) as well Mire Conservation and Management in Especially Protected Nature Areas in Latvia (2008) only few copies were handed to Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

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: Rather partly. There is ongoing joint investigation Project under Estonia - Latvia Programme on the water quality and biodiversity of river Gauja/Koiva, which runs along the border between both countries for several tens of kilometers. However, since the River Daugava runs across the borders of Latvia and Belarus, and the Rivers Lielupe and Venta is shared between Lithuania and Latvia, the issues related to the investigation and protection of the wetlands and related species should be addressed on all sides of the involved countries.

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): Activities in Transboundary Ramsar site North Livonia are based on findings and priorities set in Joint Masterplan for North Livonia. Due to restructuring of Administration of Nigula Nature reserves on both sides, joint activities have become more sporadic. Cooperation between Latvian and Lithuanian municipalities on joint and mutually tuned management activities mostly deals with water quality issues, to lesser extent as well to the biodiversity issues.

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: There are several Activities undergoing dealing with Baltic Aquatic Warbler

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

<p>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.</p>

<p>4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>a) At the national level</p> <p>b) Sub-national level</p> <p>c) Catchment/basin level</p> <p>d) Local/site level</p> | <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>D - Planned</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|

<p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)</p>	
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<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>

<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	<p>3 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)): Nature School in Kemerli as well includes training and educational events in Lake Kanieris Ramsar site.</p>

<p>Information points and observation towers in Lubans wetland complex Ramsar site and in Teichi area Ramsar site are established. Lake Pape Ramsar site visitor centre and educational trails with 35 km total length of trails invites more than 10000 visitors per year</p>

<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</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> | <p>A - Yes</p> <p>B - No</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|

<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): **Initiative Place a Stone in a Stream** promotes public participation in wetland management. Voluntary monitoring of river water biological quality raise public awareness and involves people in planning and decision making process at local level.

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

6 opportunities

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training): **There were approximately 6 trainings in wetland restoration issues specifically dealing with regeneration of degraded raised bogs using dam construction.** Initiative Place a Stone in a Stream is not specifically site manager oriented. In the same time the number of people involved in practical activities amounts to several hundreds. There were about 40 lectures on river management and some 10 on site training events during the last Reporting period.

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): **Representatives from all Ramsar sites added with representatives from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.**

4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and

- a. Ramsar Sites managers?
 - b. other MEA national focal points?
 - c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?
- {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi

B - No

B - No

B - No

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

4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}	A - Yes
4.1.8 Additional information: Yes. Each Administrative authority of respective Ramsar site during World Wetland Day is organising at least 1 event. The same deals with Latvian Ornithological Society and Latvian Museum of Natural History.	

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): Initiative Place a Stone in a Stream is spreading across the country with several hundred people involved. Volunteer Monitoring Programme on the River Water Biological quality Assessment involves several tens of people or people groups and school classes	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.

4.2.1 a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	

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

B - No

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

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

4.3.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii

A - Yes

□

4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring): In between Reporting period previous Report is used to highlight definite activities as milestones suitable to monitor the development trend.

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: Changes take place after the official deadline of this Report and Secretariat was informed on changes during September 2011.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

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

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

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

B - No

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

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

B - No

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

Section 4 (www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc) 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).