



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.

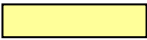
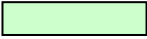
Section 2 is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: THE NETHERLANDS - PART B CARIBBEAN PART OF THE KINGDOM	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Drs. R. P. van Brouwershaven, Director of the Department of Nature, Landscape and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I)
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands
Telephone/Fax:	+31 70 3785004
Email:	r.p.van.brouwershaven@minlnv.nl
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Ir. Gerard van Dijk, Senior Policy Officer and Marjan van Meerloo MSc., Policy Officer, Department of Nature, Landscape & Rural Affairs Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation (EL&I) Contact person for the Dutch Caribbean drs. Paul C. Hoetjes (EL&I; based in Bonaire)
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands
Telephone/Fax:	+31 70 3785009; fax +31 70 3786146
Email:	g.van.dijk@minlnv.nl and m.van.meerloo@minlnv.nl; p.c.hoetjes@minlnv.nl
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	vacancy
Name of organisation:	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation (EL&I)
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	M. van Meerloo MSc., Policy Officer, Department of Nature, Landscape and Rural Affairs
Name of organisation:	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands
Telephone/Fax:	+31 70 3784364; fax +31 70 3786146
Email:	m.van.meerloo@minlnv.nl
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Ir. L. Hoogenstein
Name of organisation:	Vogelbescherming Nederland (VBN; the Dutch partner of Birdlife International)

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Telephone/Fax:	+31 30 6937773; +31 30 6918844
Email:	luc.hoogenstein@vogelbescherming.nl



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?

Since the previous report the Kingdom of the Netherlands went through some constitutional changes with the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles into various separate entities: The islands of Curaçao and St. Maarten became autonomous entities within the Kingdom, with a status comparable to that of the island of Aruba; The three smallest islands of the Netherlands Antilles opted for a direct relationship with the Netherlands and became special municipalities of the Netherlands governed from The Hague.

The legislation of the Netherlands Antilles was largely adopted unchanged for the new entities, including the nature legislation, so there were no changes in the level of protection for species or areas. The 6 existing Ramsar Areas in the Dutch Caribbean, one on Aruba and 5 on Bonaire remained unchanged

With the three smallest islands, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba now directly part of the Netherlands and known as the Caribbean Netherlands (distinct from the "Dutch Caribbean", which comprises all six Caribbean islands irrespective of the precise type of relationship to the Netherlands), Dutch policy focused more on the Caribbean. For nature conservation policy one of the effects was that a decision was made to report to the Ramsar Convention separately for the Caribbean and for the European parts of the Kingdom, and to become more directly involved in Caribbean activities of the Convention such as the Wetlands Caribbean Initiative. This direct involvement resulted in the hosting of the 2nd Meeting of the Wetlands Caribbean Initiative on Bonaire from 5-8 July 2011.

At the island level, Bonaire adopted new nature- and zoning legislation providing better protection of nature, including wetlands. The zoning legislation designated two buffer zones of 100 m and 500 m around the 5 Ramsar Areas.

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

The Bonaire zoning law, providing greater protection for wetlands on the island and establishing bufferzones around the Ramsar sites, was an important milestone. Other notable developments were the start by Stinapa Bonaire, the protected areas management organization, of a shorebird monitoring program in 2010 focusing on the salinas—hypersaline inland bays—including Slagbaai and Goto, two of the 5 Ramsar sites. Much attention was focused on the Lac Ramsar site by a mangrove restoration pilot project, a conch restoration project, a seagrass protection project, and a survey of recreational use. These activities are currently ongoing.

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

The small islands in the Caribbean face the problems that are typical for small island developing states: With their small area and small populations they have to deal with limited capacity, very few and limited resources, and no hinterland. Their economies are completely dependent on outside factors and in most cases tourism is the main driver of the economy. This results in a constant pressure to develop more area to accommodate more tourism and thus provide for economic growth. This is one of the greatest threats to the coastal (wetlands) ecosystems, the loss of which would eventually destroy tourism. Yet biodiversity conservation is generally perceived on the islands as being in conflict with economic development instead of being an integral factor for economic development. Consequently it is very difficult to argue the need to protect wetlands. However the fact that Bonaire did adopt zoning- and nature legislation that generally protects wetlands and coastal areas shows that the island understands its dependence on its nature resources.

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

Caribbean Netherlands Priorities:

For the Caribbean Netherlands the priorities will be identified as part of the development of a nature policy plan for the Caribbean Netherlands to be finalized by the end of 2011. For Bonaire one of the priorities is to expand the Slagbaai Ramsar site to the extent that it will include the Goto Ramsar area and all the salina's of the northern half of the island.

In the context of the Dutch Caribbean it is considered important to discuss with Curaçao the possibilities for designation of one or more new Ramsar sites on Curaçao.

Dutch Caribbean Regional priorities:

It is considered important that the Dutch Ramsar Sites in the Caribbean, five on Bonaire and one on Aruba, be integrated in the Caribbean database rather than the European database. Participation from the Caribbean Netherlands in the Wetlands Caribbean Initiative (now named CaRIWet) is also considered important. The former Netherlands Antilles always actively participated in the regional Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol and the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC). This will be continued through the Caribbean Netherlands and close cooperation between SPAW, IAC, and the Ramsar Caribbean Initiative will be supported and promoted.

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

There are no proposals

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

For the Caribbean Netherlands the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative is felt to be important and it is recommended that this initiative be facilitated by the Secretariat as much as possible.

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

Birdlife International's Dutch partner, Vogelbescherming Nederland, has developed a support program for the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) the umbrella organization for the protected areas management organizations of all six Dutch islands in the Caribbean. This support strengthened DCNA, an important partner for nature conservation in the islands, and led to several bird monitoring training workshops in the Dutch Caribbean, providing important capacity building for conservation of wetlands.

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?

SPAW Protocol

The SPAW Protocol is the main regional instrument to implement the CBD and protection of wetlands (mangroves, coral reefs, sea grasses, coastal nature conservation) is an important part of its work. SPAW has an Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention. Mutual participation in meetings is satisfactory.

IAC:

The inter-American Sea Turtle Convention shares many common goals with Ramsar in the protection of wetlands since sea turtle nesting beaches and foraging areas are all located in wetlands. The Lac Ramsar site on Bonaire has been identified as a very important foraging area for sea turtles that grow faster there than anywhere else in the Caribbean. Protection of sea turtles in Lac goes hand in hand with the protection of the seagrasses of this wetland area. The 2nd meeting of the Ramsar Caribbean Wetlands Initiative held on Bonaire in July 2011, recommended that a Memorandum of Cooperation be developed between the two organizations, and we fully support this recommendation.

CITES:

Conch (*Strombus gigas*) is listed on appendix II of CITES and is an important fishery target species both on Bonaire and on St. Eustatius. Wetlands with seagrasses are very important to these shellfish and sustainable use of conch is dependent on protection of these wetlands. A conch restoration project was started in 2010 in the Lac Ramsar Site that not only looks at these shellfish but also at the seagrass beds they feed on.

A monitoring program of conch will soon be started on St. Eustatius to ensure that harvest of these shellfish in the shallow waters around this island remains sustainable. This is not only a requirement of CITES but also aids in the protection of island's shallow waters with seagrass beds.

WHMSI:

The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative is an informal platform of countries in the Western Hemisphere to cooperate in the protection of migratory species. As many migratory species are dependent on wetlands there is natural overlap of the objectives of WHMSI and Ramsar. Ramsar has a seat on the Steering Committee of WHMSI and we are satisfied with this cooperation. A draft resolution for CMS COP 10 includes inter alia a close partnership between the CMS and WHMSI and requests the development of an Action Plan.

ICRI:

The Caribbean Netherlands are an important coral reef area and the participation of the former Netherlands Antilles in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) will be continued for the Caribbean Netherlands. The Klein Bonaire Ramsar Site includes some of the most pristine coral reefs of Bonaire and protection of this wetland area must take into account the protection of its coral reefs.

WHC

Bonaire is working towards a World Heritage Site Nomination for its entire marine park. This would largely include the Ramsar Sites of Lac and Klein Bonaire. Also, buffer areas of the further three areas extend into the marine park. For Bonaire, future linkage of the Ramsar Convention should be sought with the World Heritage Convention.

- 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)?

The Nature Policy Plan 2012-2017 that is currently being developed for the Caribbean Netherlands will provide the opportunity to link various strategies. The plan will be ready by the end of 2011.

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

No further comments

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

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

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	D - Planned
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1.1.1 Additional information:

The National Nature Policy Plan 2001-2005 of the Antilles planned for an inventory of Ramsar sites though this has not been achieved. To date six wetlands have been designated as Ramsar sites (5 on Bonaire and 1 on Aruba). The inventory of potential Ramsar sites may be an action in the new Nature Policy Plan currently under construction for the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St, Eustatius, Saba).

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>An advanced network of monitoring, data storage and data sharing as in the Netherlands is lacking for the Antillean islands. To date much data has been collected, but no central data coordinating unit has been set up to guarantee the availability of this data to stakeholders. Data and studies were widely scattered and hard to access by managers or policy decision makers. Recently however a Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database was developed and now contains information on over 4000 species: http://www.dcbiodata.net/explorer/.</p> <p>This year a start has been made to develop a knowledge system for the Caribbean Netherlands which would bring together all available biodiversity information for the islands and would also include a database for monitoring data.</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 b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>O - No change O - No change</p>
1.1.3 a) Additional information:	
1.1.3 b) Additional information:	

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>	A - Yes
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1.3.1 Additional information:

The Netherlands Antilles was an autonomous Caribbean country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Aruba seceded in 1986 as a separate country, and the rest dissolved on 10 October 2010, resulting in two new constituent countries, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, and the so-called Caribbean Netherlands, comprising the islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, joining the Netherlands as "special municipalities". Only Bonaire has adopted a nature policy plan (1999-2004). The development of a new Nature Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands under responsibility of EL&I, started at the end of 2010.

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}

D - Planned

1.3.2 Additional information:

The Nature Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands is under development and will be ready by the end of 2011

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

B - No

Z - Not applicable

D - Planned

1.3.3 Additional information:

The Bonaire Nature Policy Plan incorporates water management and coastal and marine management. For Bonaire a marine park - and a specific Lac (Ramsar site) management plan have been developed. There is as of yet no National Strategy for sustainable development for the Caribbean Netherlands, nor is there a policy for agriculture. The nature policy plan to be developed for the Caribbean Netherlands this year will include a biodiversity strategy which will also include wetland conservation.

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

B - No

1.3.4 Additional information:

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
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1.3.5 Additional information:

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:

The Law on Spatial Planning for Bonaire adopted in 2009 enacted bufferzones around the Ramsar sites in order to improve the protection of these sites. The Development Plan Klein Bonaire (2000) has taken into account 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	D - Planned
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1.4.1 Additional information:

A PhD study is currently underway to elucidate the economic value of ecosystem services on the island of Bonaire (which covers 5 Ramsar sites).

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i	B - No
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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:

Lac Ramsar Site on Bonaire: Management Plan Lac/Nature Legislation Bonaire (Conch/Mangrove/Fisheries in relation to cultural use).

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): For the Lac Ramsar Site on Bonaire.	

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 B - No
1.5.2 Additional information:	

1.5.3 Has the "Changwon Declaration" been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?	B - No
1.5.3 Additional information:	

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the "Changwon Declaration" into local languages relevant for your country?	B - No
1.5.4 Additional information:	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

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

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

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

KRA 1.6.i

A - Yes
D - Planned
A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

In the past a variety of research projects/monitoring have been conducted in the Bonaire Ramsar Sites.

The Ministry of EL&I has funded three research programs to be carried out by the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

- 'Beleidsondersteunend onderzoek' (Policy Support Research): this research supports the realisation of the societal task of the ministry of EL&I.
- 'Wettelijke onderzoekstaken' (Legal Research Tasks): research to support laws and regulations.
- 'Kennisbasisonderzoek' (Knowledgebase Research): research for the development of knowledge that will become relevant on a medium term for the ministry of EL&I and other social parties.

The topics on agricultural interactions, climate change and valuation of ecosystem services are covered by these three research programs. These research programs will also be adopted for the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba after their accession to the Netherlands as special municipalities on 10-10-2010.

A project on socio-economic valuation of nature of Bonaire, including the Lac Ramsar Site and other wetlands is underway and will be finalized by the end of 2011. Another study is looking at grazing effects by goats on mangroves in the Lac Ramsar Site as part of a broader study of the Lac site.

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:

All Ramsar sites in the Netherlands are protected through the Natura 2000 legislation. But, for the wetlands in the Dutch Caribbean, wetland management planning will need special attention in the new Nature Policy Plan that is currently underway.

Of the Ramsar sites on Bonaire, the Lac site has its own management plan based on sound research. The Klein Bonaire site is part of the Bonaire Marine Park which has a sound management plan. The Goto and Slagbaai sites fall within the Washington Slagbaai Park for which there is also a sound management plan. Only the Pekelmeer Site has no management plan but is managed as a strict reserve where no use whatsoever is allowed.

The Spaans Lagoen site on Aruba does not have a management plan.

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:

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

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

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

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

1.7.4 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {1.4.3}

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

1.7.5 Additional information:

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

B - No

1.7.6 Additional information:

In the Caribbean Netherlands there are no fresh water wetlands relevant to farming systems. With the exception of karst systems that hold underground fresh water all wetlands are saline to hyper-saline.

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:

The Lac Ramsar Site on Bonaire is the location of a pilot project to restore mangrove vegetation and protect it from grazing.

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:

see above

1.8.3 Has Ramsar guidance (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidance on wetland restoration been used in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {1.5.2}

A - Yes

1.8.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species. *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands?
KRA 1.9.i

C - Partly

1.9.1 Additional information:

The 'Team Invasieve Exoten' (team on invasive alien species, Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority) supports the Ministry of EL&I on the implementation of its policy to control invasive species. One of the main activities of the team is to (let) carry out risk analysis and monitoring of invasive species. Furthermore, the team established an alien species surveillance network, consisting of volunteers and professionals. These activities are relevant to all habitats, including wetlands.

For the Caribbean Netherlands an inventory of invasive species on land and at sea with recommendations for action is currently underway.

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:

To date no less than 65 (potentially) invasive species have been recognized for the Caribbean Netherlands. Invasive species however have received sporadic attention in the islands until recently. Currently an inventory of invasive species is underway for the Caribbean Netherlands. Each island has a management plan to deal with invasive Lionfish. Currently a study is underway to gauge the effectiveness of the eradication efforts of Lionfish on Bonaire.

Bonaire has identified certain invasive species (i.e. Lionfish) upon which eradication procedures have been established through nature legislation.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {4.2.1} KRA 1.10.i

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information:

1.10.2 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:

Dive operators active on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands routinely instruct their customers on how to behave on sensitive coral reefs.

At the Lac Ramsar Site some of the private operators have helped to fund awareness/information programs and in one case a resort has taken on the maintenance of floating lines to protect sea grass. Two kayak tour operators work closely with the management organization and play an important role in creating awareness and compliance with the rules for use of the area.

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:

Each of the Marine Parks of the Caribbean Netherlands distributes brochures about proper conduct for divers.

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

Z - Not applicable

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, 3rd 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	D - Planned
2.1.2 Additional information: Not yet, but agreements on this issue have been made. The site descriptions for the five sites on Bonaire are currently being updated. They will be sent as soon as possible.	
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: All Ramsar sites of The Netherlands, including the ones in the Dutch Caribbean are listed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.	
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): For the Dutch Caribbean four potential new Ramsar sites were planned in the former National Nature Policy Plan 2001-2005, but this was never implemented. Recent discussions with the new independent entity of Curaçao indicate that establishment of one or more new Ramsar Sites on that island may be realized in the near future. This will need to be followed up on.	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation: ..

STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information. *Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands*

of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

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

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

C - Some sites

2.3.1 Additional information:

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA, established in 2003) is a regional network of protected areas set up to help and assist the park management organisations on the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St Eustatius and St Maarten. Generally however, these parks (Ramsar sites included) lack sufficient capacity and funding for adequate management planning processes.

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

4 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

3 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

3 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

Four of the five Ramsar sites on Bonaire have a management plan or are part of a larger protected area with a management plan. The mgt plan of the Lac site is not being implemented fully yet due to a lack of capacity. The results of a currently ongoing study of the area may lead to revision of the management plan. The mgt. plan for the Washington/Slagbaai Park, which includes the Goto and Slagbaai Ramsar sites, is currently being reviewed through stakeholder input.

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

4 sites

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

Four of the five Ramsar sites on Bonaire fall under the management of the National Park Foundation, Stinapa Bonaire. The Board of Stinapa Bonaire consists of representatives of all relevant sectors. In addition, nature management decisions are subject to advice from the Island Nature Commission which includes representatives from various sectors

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

0 sites

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

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

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

B - No

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

Although management effectiveness assessments for the protected areas under management of Stinapa Bonaire have been carried out through DCNA, the assessments did not look at specific effectiveness with regard to the Ramsar Sites.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

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

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

C - Some sites

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

For the Caribbean sites there is still a lack of capacity and funding for adequate monitoring of human induced changes or likely changes of the ecological character.

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):

A Ramsar Advsiroy Mission was requested an conducted for a potential negative development in the Lac Ramsar site. Development was not executed.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

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

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

The ecological character of these sites has been maintained or improved due to measurements taken in light of the protection under the SPAW-protocol.

For one potential Ramsar Site on Bonare (Lagun) the ecological character has possibly not been maintained due to an adjacent landfill.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i>
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3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.ii	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information:

There is close and frequent contact with focal point of CITES, CBD, SPAW, IAC, WHMSI, ICRI, CMS (including AEWA), Bern, WHC and, indirectly, UNFCCC.

3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	B - No
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3.1.2 Additional information:

The focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands for Ramsar, SPAW, IAC, WHMSI and ICRI is based on Bonaire in the Caribbean and consequently cannot easily participate in a Netherlands based Committee. However there is close contact with the National focal points in the Netherlands. As yet there is no Ramsar/Wetland Committee for the Dutch Caribbean

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:

The focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands for the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean, which is the legal instrument of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme for the Caribbean, is also the focal point for the Ramsar Caribbean Initiative, assuring short communication lines between UNEP and Ramsar at the regional level.

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):

The Netherlands, through the focal point in the Caribbean Netherlands, is actively involved in the Caribbean Wetlands 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}

Z - Not applicable

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) is the umbrella organization of the protected areas (terrestrial and marine) management organizations of all six islands of the Dutch Caribbean. It functions as an effective network that regularly meets for knowledge exchange, organizes staff exchanges, and a wide range of training workshops, in many cases very relevant to management of wetlands

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}

C - Partly

3.4.2 Additional information: Information about the Ramsar sites can be found on the website of Stinapa Bonaire, which manages all but one of the sites.

The DCNA website lists all protected areas, which includes most of the Ramsar areas, but they are not highlighted separately.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) has devoted a webpage to seagrass protection in the Lac Ramsar site. As part of this project signs were placed at the most visited area of the Lac site with information about the site and its regulations.

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	D - Planned
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3.4.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. <i>Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.</i>

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 Kingdom of the Netherlands is a range state for many Caribbean species. It is noted that the Netherlands, through its focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands based on the island of Bonaire:

Is now an active partner in the UNEP Regional Seas Program for the Caribbean, and its legal instrument, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention), in particular its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol). It has been actively involved in the development of a Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean, adopted by the Parties to the SPAW Protocol in 2009 and is now exploring the possibilities to designate all of the waters of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Caribbean a marine mammal sanctuary in cooperation with a similar initiative by France for its Caribbean waters as well as the existing sanctuaries of the USA and the Dominican Republic.

Noting the scarcity of CMS Parties in the Caribbean region, is actively engaging with the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) which is uniting and supporting various initiatives for the conservation of migratory birds in the Americas such as the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds as well as initiatives for the conservation of other migratory species such as sea turtles, bats, and marine mammals.

Actively participates in the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and hosted the IAC's 5th Conference of Parties on Bonaire;

Engages with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI); and

Participates in the Ramsar Wetlands Caribbean Initiative and hosted this Regional Initiative's 2nd Meeting on Bonaire.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
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<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <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
b) Sub-national level
c) Catchment/basin level
d) Local/site level</p> | |
|--|--|

	<p>D - Planned A - Yes B - No A - Yes</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>The management organization for the Ramsar Sites on Bonaire has a general nature education program and awareness activities which includes information on the Ramsar sites, in particular the Lac site, and other wetlands. The STCB (Sea Turtle Conservativo Boanire) has a public awareness campaign for sea turtles and seagrass focusing on the Lac Ramsar Site</p>	
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<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
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	<p>1 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>Currently there is only one Education/recreational centre for the Ramsar sites of the Dutch Caribbean: Washington Slagbaai (Bonaire).</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
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> | |
|--|--|

	<p>A - Yes</p>
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	<p>B - No</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): Within the framework of the management plan for the Lac site on Bonaire, stakeholders are informed and consulted about recreational use, and the conch restoration project.

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

1 opportunities

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

1 opportunity: Stinapa Bonaire staff member participated in mangrove workshop in Panamá

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

B - No

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

No such Committee has been established yet for the Dutch Caribbean, but is present in The Netherlands. For more details, see the non-Caribbean part of the National Report.

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

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

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

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

Regular information exchange meetings are held on Bonaire between the focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands, the island government, the protected areas management organization, and other relevant NGOs. The focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands is in close contact with the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the NFPs in the Netherlands.

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}	B - No
4.1.8 Additional information: Not in the Dutch Caribbean other than a press release.	

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): As part of the conch restoration project, a broad public awareness campaign was initiated by Stinapa Bonaire together with DCNA and World Wildlife fund Netherlands, focused on the Lac Ramsar site.	

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): But the 2 nd meeting Caribbean Wetlands Initiative was hosted by Bonaire.	

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 □	Z - Not applicable
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4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i	A - Yes
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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
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4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

WWF Netherlands has provided support for the conch restoration project in Lac Ramsar site through Stinapa Bonaire.

WWF-NL also provides support for STCB helping them to do important awareness and protection work at the Lac site.

Vogelbescherming Nederland (Dutch partner of Birdlife International) provided support through DCNA for bird monitoring training for all the islands.

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

For additional information, please see the answer in the non-Caribbean part of this report.

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).