



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: NORWAY	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Janne Sollie, Director General
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 5672 Sluppen, 7485 Trondheim, NORWAY
Telephone/Fax:	+47 73 580 500 / +47 73 580 501
Email:	janne.sollie@dirnat.no
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Jan-Petter HuberthHansen, Senior Adviser (Alternate: Maja Stade Aarønæs)
Mailing address:	P. O. Box 5672 Sluppen, 7485 Trondheim, NORWAY
Telephone/Fax:	+47 73 580 500/533/ cell: +47 91372303 / +47 73 580 501
Email:	jan-p.huberth-hansen@dirnat.no (msa@dirnat.no)
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Jan-Petter HuberthHansen, Senior Adviser
Name of organisation:	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management
Mailing address:	P. O. Box 5672 Sluppen, 7485 Trondheim, NORWAY
Telephone/Fax:	+47 73 580 500/533/ cell: +47 91372303 / +47 73 580 501
Email:	jan-p.huberth-hansen@dirnat.no
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Maja Stade Aaronaes, Adviser
Name of organisation:	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management
Mailing address:	P. O. Box 5672 Sluppen, 7485 Trondheim, NORWAY
Telephone/Fax:	+47 73 580 500 / 662 fax: +47 73 580 501
Email:	msa@dirnat.no
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Candidate under consideration (separate letter to be provided)
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?

- Implementation of the Report 'The Norwegian Wetland Heritage – proposed efforts 2007-2010'. (Developed by a national group of experts designated by DN in 2006 with a mandate to assess and develop proposal for measures that could strengthen the management of the Ramsar Sites and other protected wetlands, enlarge the network of protected wetlands and identify new Ramsar sites.
- Completed the update of RIS for all the 37 Ramsar sites designated before 2011 (90 sheets all together)
- Improved routines in place for annual and regular reporting on ecological character of Ramsar sites between DN and the County Governors
- 16 regional and local initiatives on Wetland Information Centres/exhibitions established or planned with support from Ramsar Management Authority (DN) and MoE
- Increased funding for management plans for protected areas, including for 22 Ramsar sites
- Protection plans to enlarge three existing Ramsar sites – Presterødkilen/Ilene, Rinnleiret and Tyrifjorden – almost finished
- Identification of wetlands that could be restored to get back they natural values/biodiversity
- Endorsement of the last thematic protection plan for wetlands and seabirds.
- Inscription of 14 new Ramsar Sites on the Ramsar list - including four in Svalbard
- Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.
- Completion of an integrated management plan for the Norwegian Sea (2010) and work in progress on integrated management plan for the North Sea, as well as revision of similar plan for the Barents Sea
- National CEPA Action Plan compiled - released September 2011
- National Red List for Habitat Types - 80 types of which 40 are wetlands/wetlands related (May 2011)
- Identification of selected nature type (Nature Diversity Act) that should be given priority when comes to conservation/sustainable use
- New Parliament Report on Development Co-operation: Towards a Greener Development - that included wetlands issues and ecosystem service

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

- Strengthening the awareness of the internationally important wetlands - Ramsar Sites
- Useful framework for integrated approach to wetlands, nationally as well as internationally

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

- Lack of capacity - manpower - to follow up on Ramsar issues both in DN and at the regional authorities, including CEPA and outreach activities
- Moderate resources only for management and mapping/monitoring of Ramsar sites and other protected wetlands
- The underlying cause of these difficulties is the lack of understanding of the importance of wetlands. We should use the existing TEEB report more, and not least focus the connection to climate change

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

- Implementation of the National CEPA Action Plan (as of September 2011)
- identification of selected wetland habitat types
- Execute an initiative to restore priority wetlands
- Support an international TEEB report that focus on wetlands and water
- Support the Ramsar SGF
- Consolidate and follow up on the 16 wetland centres/exhibitions
- Increase the focus on wise use and protection of wetlands in plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation

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

Not as of today

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

No

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

No

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?

- As indicated in the report, the responsibility in Norway for biodiversity related conventions largely fall under the Ministry of the Environment, and we believe there are good linkages between these as it comes to national implementation and coherent and supportive positions in international fora. We would in particular like to highlight how the CBD and Ramsar conventions are mutually supportive, drawing of comparative advantages between constituencies and focus.

- There is still a need for increased understanding between the three Rio conventions (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC), including on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services as it relates to mitigating and adapting to climate change and to combatting desertification. We therefore support efforts to strengthen these linkages at the international level, which will also facilitate dialogue and understanding at the national level.

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)?

- By increased focus and communication concerning the ecosystem services of wetlands

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

Not as of today

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

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

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A - Yes
1.1.1 Additional information: A National Wetland Inventory has not been compiled and launched, but the elements that normally would constitute a NWI are be found in a set of high quality data bases.	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
1.1.2 Additional information: All data bases that include nature or environmental data are open / accessible to all. Also the maintenance of these data bases are generally very good.	

<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>
<p>1.1.3 a) Additional information:</p>	
<p>1.1.3 b) Additional information: The Nature index of Norway shows that the state of biological diversity is good in the marine areas, in coastal waters in freshwater and in the mountains. While mires-spring-floodplain is in poorer state (NI - 0,55). Some types of mires are particularly vulnerable to nitrogen (air pollution), climate change and motorised transport (when no snow cover). Palsa mires in Norway are an example. In the Norwegian Habiata Red List palsa mires are considered as endangered, mainly due to climate changes.</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

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

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i (If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.1 Additional information: Several instruments could be seen as part of a NWP - e.g. the implementation of the EUWFD, and the (new) Nature Diversity Act were in addition to protected areas, selected nature types (also wetlands/wetlands related) have been identified and priorities for conservation measures / wise use.</p>	
<p>1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.2 Additional information: Wetlands relevant WSSD targets and actions have been reflected in Norwegian policy, relating both to national implementation and to increased international development co-operation. This includes links to MDGs on water and sanitation, as well as WSSD issues related to management of the natural resource base. The latter would include water, oceans and fisheries (including application of the ecosystem approach and efforts against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing) and biodiversity.</p>	

<p>1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<p>Z - Not applicable A - Yes A - Yes C - Partly A - Yes C - Partly A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information:</p>	

<p>1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: To the extent SEA is carried out, impacts concerning wetlands are being assessed</p>	

<p>1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p>	

<p>1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.6 Additional information: Nomination of Ramsar Sites are described in the (new) Nature Diversity Act.</p>	

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.*

<p>1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
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1.4.1 Additional information:

No specific assessments have been conducted of the ecosystem services provided by Ramsar sites or by wetlands, but some studies have been conducted on ecosystem services.

It should be noted that a public commission is being established in 2011 to look at the values of ecosystems, including wetlands, in Norway, with the commissioned report (NOU) being due in late 2013.

Reference is made to a commissioned report (NOU 2010:10) presented to the Ministry of the environment in November 2010 on adaptation to climate change in Norway. This report looks broadly at society's vulnerability and need for adapting to the consequences of a changed climate, including consideration of wetlands and other ecosystems that will be affected and/or can contribute to an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation.

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

A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information: The Report to the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) No 14 (2010-2011); Towards a Greener Development includes a long list of follow up action items that will contribute substantially to poverty alleviation, food and water security etc

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:

In some RS cultural aspects are given attention - e g old agricultural practise with hay harvesting in mires.

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): In some RS this has been focus as part of the management plan / action items

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:

The responsibility in Norway for biodiversity related conventions largely fall under the Ministry of the Environment, and we believe there are good linkages between these as it comes to national implementation and coherent and supportive positions in international fora. Exchange mechanisms have been established both in DN and MoE, in particular for Ramsar and CBD.

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

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

B - No

B - No

B - No

B - No

1.5.2 Additional information:

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

A - Yes

1.5.3 Additional information:

The Changwon Declaration and Ramsar COP decisions have in particular been used for developing Norwegian positions to the CBD, in particular its programme on inland water biodiversity and the inclusion of water related elements in the CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011 - 2020.

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
D - Planned

1.6.1 Additional information:

On ecosystem services it should be noted that a public commission is being established in 2011 to look at the values of ecosystems, including wetlands, in Norway, with the commissioned report (NOU) being due in late 2013.

On climate change, reference is made to a commissioned report (NOU 2010:10) presented to the Ministry of the environment in November 2010 on adaptation to climate change in Norway. This report looks broadly at society's vulnerability and need for adapting to the consequences of a changed climate, including consideration of wetlands and other ecosystems that will be affected and/or can contribute to an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation.

The research programme on climate change and effects in Norway (NORKLIMA) has been open for proposals on climate change and wetlands. There are a few projects going on dealing with aspects concerning climate change and wetlands. Additionally here has been some research on climate gas (e.g CO₂, methane) exchange in different ecosystems. The climate research is now under evaluation.

Reference is also made to the April 2011 White Paper (Report to Parliament No. 14 2010 - 2011) Towards Greener Development, where several references are made to the importance of ecosystem services in meeting climate change and in development. Reference is in particular made to sub-chapter 4.3 on 'wetlands and underestimated ecosystem services'.

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: Most of the management plans are based on inventory of biodiversity done by experts, but scientific research is only done when it is considered as demanded.

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	D - Planned
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	D - Planned
1.7.2 Additional information: This will probably change now that the Water Framework Directive is fully implemented. Norway has 6 years delay of full scale implementation since we are not a member of the EU. Wetlands is part of the River Basin Management plans in several ways, particularly in the Register of protected Areas (Article 6 of the WFD)	
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}	B - No
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	B - No
1.7.5 Additional information: A new report to the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) on climate change is however under development	
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:	
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:

DN has ordered a report that will describe several hundreded restoration objects and their potential to be restored / get back their biodiversity.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

D - Planned

1.8.2 Additional information:

A handfull project only have been executed in Norway so far, but the report refered to in 1.8.1 will contribute as a basis for such a programme.

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:

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: In the Norwegian Black List (2007), ecological risk analysis have been carried out for 217 of the 2483 alien species recorded in Norway. In the high risk (invasive) category, 8 of 93 species are recorded in wetlands/freshwater shore/mire. A more comprehensive Black List is expected in 2012.

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: Wetlands are included in national and regional control policies against alien species, but there are no specific policies or guidelines for wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

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

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

B - No

1.10.1 Additional information:

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of:

a. Wetlands in general

b. Ramsar Sites

KRA 1.10.ii

B - No
A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

Statoil is supporting development of a seabird/wetland information center in Gjesvær in Finnmark county. Other centers may also have received support from private sector to a certain extent.

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

B - No

1.10.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information: -

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

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

Perverse incentives - like support to draining of wetlands for agricultural purposes - has been terminated.

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	A - Yes
<p>2.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>i) A preliminary investigation has been conducted by DN by asking the County Governors and the Governor of Svalbard to identify possible new sites for nomination using the Ramsar Criterias. About 40 potential sites have been reported, but the not all counties did respond. The intention is to nominate new sites in Svalbard, while the rest of this 'shadow list' and further investigations will be followed up.</p> <p>ii) The expert group that worked out the report 'The Norwegian Wetland Heritage' recommends further nominations and believe that the number of Ramsar sites needs to be at least doubled to include all/or most Norwegian wetlands of international importance in the list.</p>	
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
<p>2.1.2 Additional information: All the RIS that needed update have been forwarded to the Secretariat, but they have been returned with proposals for changes. An agreement has been made to resend even more updated RIS in several packages. 5 RIS (Svalbard) have been sent and is confirmed received by the Secretariat. 15 RIS are ready - to be sent shortly, and the rest asap</p>	
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
<p>2.1.3 Additional information: In addition to the 14 sites endorsed and inscribed on the Ramsar list in 2011, another 12 have been prepared by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management and sent to MoE for review before forwarding them to the Secretariat this autumn.</p>	
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):

i) Further nomination will be consider using mainly the 'non bird criterias' e g peatlands, vegetation, fish.

ii) In 2012 Norway will aim to start the work to expand/revise several RS (Lista, Fokstummyra, Ilene/Presterødkilen, Rinnleiret) to include areas that have been added to these existing PAs after they were nominated and inscribed on the Ramsar list.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

Norway has nominated RS in five rounds. As of September 15 Norway has 51 RS. After a new round (2011) - proposing 12 new sites, the number of Ramsar Sites (wetland systems) in Norway will reach 63.

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

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

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information: E g handbooks, wetland classifications and criterias.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

A discussion whether it would be relevant/wise to launch a campaign to urge for increased focus/more nominations of wetlands using 'non primarily bird criterias' - e g focus on fish, wetland vegetations etc

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: All Ramsar sites are protected according to the nature conservation act or the Svalbard environmental protection act. Like other protected areas it is given high priority to work out management plans for this sites. Four of the fourteen new ramsar sites have management plans, funding has been provided for two of the new sites.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation: The last few years priority has been given to develop management plans for RS - including the new proposals (14) recently prepared, nominated and inscribed, as well as the 12 sites prepared for designation.

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	18 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	18 sites
2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i	13 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: The goal is to develop and implement management plans for all the 51 (63).	
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: Yes, the 'new generation' management plans have such a management objective	
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)): This is less relevant as all the RS are protected areas - managed by the environmental authorities. The management plans, however, are always sent on a broad hearing that include cross-sectoral institutions/stakeholder.	
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): In management plans for the different sites it is given a description of the ecological character of the 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

C - Some sites

2.5.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available): In general this is handled when implementing the management plans.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

Management, including development and implementation of management plans are given priority concerning Ramsar sites (and National Parks, and World Heritage Sites)

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): Mandatory reporting is in place, and this has been further improved the later years due to improved awareness, but also increased conflict connected to some of the RS. It is the county governors and the Governor of Svalbard that are instructed to report immediately to the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management concerning Article 3.2.

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

A - Yes

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): Yes - 7 sites: Froan, Giske Kurefjorden, Nordre Øyeren, Presterødkilen/Ilene, Tyrifjorden, Øra, Åkersvika. Concluding / final reports will be provided for all this sites, but as of today the situation still remains unclear for some of them. For Giske (expansion of airport/runway) Kurefjorden (wastewater from airport) and Øra (oil spill) the situation is clarified, and final report will be sent shortly..

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): For several of the RS mentioned in 2.6.2 the Montreux Record was assessed.

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: Nominations are based on already protected areas only, so in principle the ecological character should be maintained.

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:

As outlined in 1.5.1 above, the responsibility in Norway for MEAs and biodiversity related conventions largely fall under the Ministry of the Environment, and we believe there are good linkages between these as it comes to national implementation and coherent and supportive positions in international fora. Exchange mechanisms have been established both in DN and MoE, in particular for Ramsar and CBD.

The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN) is the national authority for most of the relevant MEAs (CMS, UNESCO, Bern, Ospar, Polar Bear Agreement, ...) and it is easy to collaborate. MoE has the main responsibility for CBD, but collaboration is very good as DN both is strongly involved and is a directorate under MoE. Likewise cooperation is good with MFA who is responsible for UNCCD using DN as scientific and technical partner.

There is still a need for increased understanding between the three Rio conventions (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC), including on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services as it relates to mitigating and adapting to climate change and to combatting desertification. We therefore support efforts to strengthen these linkages at the international level, which will also facilitate dialogue and understanding at the national level.

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	C - Partly
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3.1.2 Additional information: A formal National Ramsar/Wetland Committee has not been formally established, but several issues relevant for such a committee are being handled in other fora where the MEA representatives are cooperating.

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	A - Yes
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3.1.3 Additional information:

Focal points for UN bodies generally sort under our Ministry of foreign affairs (MFA) with advice from other relevant ministries, including for example the Ministry of the environment for UNEP issues. In general collaboration is good, but there is still room for improvement to ensure coherent and preferably mutually supportive participation in different international fora.

There is for example still a need for increased understanding of the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services as it relates to other societal issues, including mitigating and adapting to climate change, combatting desertification, safeguarding water and food security and health and employment aspects.

Reference is also here made to the April 2011 White Paper (Report to Parliament No. 14 2010 - 2011) Towards Greener Development, where several references are made to the importance of ecosystem services in meeting climate change and in development. Reference is in particular made to sub-chapter 4.3 on "wetlands and underestimated ecosystem services". This White Paper also serves as one basis for Norwegian participation in relevant UN bodies included in this question.

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

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): Norway initiated the establishment of the Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative (NorBalWet) in 2005 as a follow up of the 1st Nordic Wetland Conference arranged in Norway i 2004. The following countries are included in the collaboration: Denmark (including the Faroe Islands), Estonia, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia (western regions), and Sweden. Two larger conferences (2004 and 2010) and seven expert seminars have been arranged. Norway is chairing NorBalWet 2010-2012.

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):
Some minor financial support has been provided to Wetland Link International - WLI.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

3.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate the countries supported since COP10):
Country supported: Ethiopia (Norway's Agreement partner is EMiS - Environmental Movements in the South). Agreement description: To maintain ecosystem integrity of wetlands-watersheds, reduce vulnerability of people to environmental shocks and enhance environmental consciousness among stakeholders.

In addition Norway supported IUCN with NOK 15 million as general support in 2010, and parts of this funding are most likely spent on wetlands.

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only ("donor countries")]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii

A - Yes

3.3.2 Additional information:

Practical Guide 'Assessment of Environmental and Social Sustainability and Climate Change Risk Management' (Dec. 2009).

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:

The Report to the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) No. 14 (2010-2011) Towards a Greener Development was launched 8th April 2011. It draw the strategy for the Norwegian cooperation with developing countries for the coming years. Included is among other issues a chapter on The signification of Ecosystems for development, and in particular a focus on Wetlands as underestimated ecosystem services.

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

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

C - Partly

3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): E g International Mire Conservation Group, Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative - NorBalWet (2005)

3.4.2 Has information about your country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information: The websites of the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management and the 18 county governors include such information. We also communicate information about wetlands and the Ramsar-convention in the website '<http://www.miljostatus.no/>' (a site presenting the latest information and status on the environment - main target groups: pupils and students). A Norwegian Red List of Habitat Types (80 types of which 40 are wetlands or wetlands related) was launched (with a publication and a website) in May 2011 by The Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre (Artsdatabanken). The first comprehensive book describing one of Norway's 51 Ramsar Sites was launched spring 2011 - Balsfjorden Wetlands System. Brochures/booklets have been developed for most of the 51 Ramsar sites and for many of the other wetland systems.

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

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information: Updated RIS (90 sheets) for the 37 existing RS/wetland systems were sent to the Secretariat for endorsement in August 2009. Some additional information/elaborations asked for by the Ramsar Secretariat concerning RIS are being handled. For the 14 new RS added to the Ramsar list in May 2011 all RIS were sent in due time.

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: In particular: Norway-Russia: Pasvik River, Norway-Finland: Tana river and wetlands in Øvre Annarjokka (N) and Lemmenjokki (F) national parks, Norway-Sweden: several - one transboundary wetland has Ramsar status on both countries - Kvisleflået (N), Storkjølen (S). Collaboration concerning management of the coastal/marine parks - Ytre Hvaler National Park (2010) and Kosterhavets National Park.

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

A - Yes

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place): Border river commission in place between Finland and Norway (Tana river), cooperation agreement in place for Pasvik river between Norway and Russia - especially Pasvik Zapovednik (R) - Pasvik Nature Reserve (N)., the Kvisleflået (N) - Storkjølen (S) is intended to be wilderness area with little demand for management

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: Relevant cases here are;

- i) Lesser Whitefronted Goose. Norway is paying for a coordinator working in the AEWA office in Bonn. This person mainly follow up the international action plan for LWfG. Norway is funding the international projects along the migratory route e g in Russia, Kazakhstan, Aserbaijan and Iran. Norway will also fund a large part of the EU Life+ programme to be started in 2012 (NOK 5 million for a 5 year pertiod). Norway participate in working groups with the AEWA secretariat (separate group on LWfG), with Russia, and with countries where LWfG occur.
- ii) Anser brachyrhynchus (Kortnebbgås) - the Svalbard population. Norway is paying for development of a Flyway Management Plan, that is being developed by an American cunsultant together with NERI in Denmark. A working group to assist this work cinsists of The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, and Norway. The management plan will be released next year (2012).

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>A - Yes
B - No
B - No
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): A working group appointed by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management has worked out a (simplified) CEPA Action Plan for Norway - launched and printed by DN in September 2011 (http://www.dirnat.no/content/500042614/CEPA-handlingsplan-for-vatmark-2011-2014). The acting Gov CEPA, the tentative NGO CEPA, as well as the NFP/STRP and representatives from wetland information centres, county governors environmental department and the Norwegian Nature State Inspectorate participated in the development of the action plan. As part of their 'strategic plans' several of the wetland information centers have/plan to have CEPA action issues included.</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>16 centres</p>
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4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)): There has been a small 'boom' concerning such centers/exhibitions - especially since it was opened up for a possibility to get funding for exhibitions and information material. The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management is organizing the distribution of the funds. It should be noted that several of the centers (at least at this stage) are more like permanent exhibitions. 3 out of the 16 centers are especially dedicated to seabirds/birdcliffs, 10 of the 16 are located at or nearby Ramsar sites. None of the centers so far get funding from the environmental authority for their day to day operations, but the new CEPA Action Plan (September 2011) includes suggestions on how a distribution scheme potentially can be arranged. A set of criteria for authorisation as Ramsar centers have been proposed (15 National Park centers in Norway have been authorised in a similar way).

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

A - Yes

A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):

Any land use plans proposed according to the Planning and Building Act, or proposed plans that include any kind of water or hydropower development are subjects to wide hearings were all relevant stakeholders are invited to participate. Hearings are included in any planning principles - so public participation is not a main obstacle

In Norway all existing / proposed new Ramsar Sites are already protected (Svalbard Environmental Act, Nature Protection Act, the new Nature Diversity Act). Prior to selection and establishment of protected areas there are wide hearings were all stakeholder are invited/included.

Norway has applied for Ramsar status for selected sites in several rounds. In this connection the county governors/Governor of Svalbard, research institutions and NGOs (like Norwegian Ornithological Society) and others have been consulted for candidates (In addition the report on Important Bird Areas and Potential Ramsar Sites compiled by Birdlife International et al has been an important background document).

All management plans are subject to hearings were relevant stakeholders are invited to participate.

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	0 opportunities
4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):	
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):	
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): RS managers, e g the staff at county governor level, are gathered once a year for sharing of information including sharing of Ramsar material. Likewise the Norwegian State Nature Inspectorate has frequent gathering where Ramsar related issues are looked into. Gathering for wetlands centres are conducted annually. Given that most MEAs are organised within DN or MoE they all have knowledge and easy access to Ramsar material. A team to co-ordinate the Conventions and other agreements has been set up in DN. Reference is also made to inter alia item 3.1 above. The MoE also undertakes efforts to handle co-operation and coordination between conventions, other agreements, both for national implementation and policy development and for participation in international fora.	
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: Both The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, approximately half of the county governors and some of the wetlands information centres have had celebration/activities on a yearly basis. There has also been activities in connection with the Nordic-Baltic World Wetlands Day the 2nd of September.	

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}

D - Planned

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):

The wetland information centers organize activities on a local level. The activities includes activity days, workshops and events with around a wide range of topics. The activities are mainly focused on the local population, children and school children.

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

A - Yes

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

Travel support for participants from developing countries etc has been provided to the Secretariat annually for many years by the MFA/MoE Secretariat. Support to Ramsar SGF was provided in 2010. STRP was also supported in 2010.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

By invitation from DN/MoE the Ramsar Vice Secretary General - Prof. Nick Davidson - was invited to Oslo 16.06.2011 to meet with the Vice Minister of Environment, MFA and the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. The intention was to discuss how the RC could assist in the follow up of the new Parliament Report (No 14) Towards a Greener Development - especially on issues concerning TEEB/wetlands - and the intention in the report to support Ramsar (eg the SGF).

Reference is made also here to the April 2011 White Paper (Report to Parliament No. 14 2010 - 2011) Towards Greener Development, where several references are made to the importance of ecosystem services in meeting climate change and in development. Reference is in particular made to sub-chapter 4.3 on 'wetlands and underestimated ecosystem services'. The White Paper also includes a number of government actions related to wetlands and ecosystem services, and these are under consideration by the Ministry of foreign affairs and the Ministry of the environment. This includes wetlands specific action items related to (1) support a report that will make visible the economic values of wetlands, as a follow-up of the TEEB initiative, and (2) to contribute to implementation of the Ramsar Convention, including through schemes supporting sustainable management of wetlands. The Paper also includes more general action points related to inter alia using experiences from the Norwegian Climate change and Forest Initiative as it relates to result based support and payment for ecosystem services in other Norwegian development co-operation, contributing to multilateral co-operation for strengthening and application of knowledge about the value of ecosystem services, encouraging communication and awareness of the value of ecosystems in national decision processes in developing countries, and increasing the understanding of the role of ecosystems in adapting to climate change, continuing efforts to support management of transboundary waterways in selected areas.

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):

E g when developing the report 'The Norwegian Wetland Heritage'.

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

C - Partly

4.3.2 Additional information:

The CEPA focal points appointed just after COP10 soon had to withdraw. The NFP has been acting as CEPA contact since. A new Government CEPA FP has recently been appointed, and a NGO CEPA FP will be appointed later.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

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

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

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

A - Yes

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

RAM Åkersvika RS spring 2010.

Advise/proposals from Birdlife International/Norwegian Ornithological Society concerning identification of new candidates for the Ramsar list.

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

A - Yes

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

Financial support has been provided to - Birdlife International/Norwegian Ornithological Society, World Wide Found for Nature - both for domestic and other projects - especially in developing countries.

Wetlands International has been supported by grants from the Norwegian Governments Project on Climate and Forests.

IUCN gets a general annually support (e g NOK 15 mill in 2010)

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).