



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.

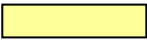

Section 2 is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: RUSSIAN FEDERATION	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of National Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	S.E. Donskoi, Minister
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Email:	belov@mnr.gov.ru
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Andrei Sirin, Director
Name of organisation:	Federal State Budgetary science Institution The Institute of Forest Science, Russian Academy of Science
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Telephone/Fax:	+7 495 6345257 / +7 495 6345257
Email:	sirin@proc.ru
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Vacant
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Irina E. Kamennova, Project Coordinator
Name of organisation:	Wetlands International-Russia Programme
Mailing address:	P.O.Box 3, Moscow 109240, Russia
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Email:	IKamennova@wwf.ru

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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

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

-- The regulations demanded Integrative Management and Protection of Water Objects are adopted and launched. They are based on the Federal Law "The Water Code" (2006). In view of the importance of water resources for sustainable development, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Water Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period through to 2020 and its implementation plan (2009); the Federal target programme "Clean Water" for 2011-2017 (2010); and the Federal target programme "Development of the water utilization sector of the Russian Federation in 2012-2020" (2012). The above documents contain a set of measures on protection and restoration of water bodies, which favors wetlands, including those of international importance.

-- The Wetland Link International-Russia has been set up as a network of wetland centres across the country, developing regular communication, web pages in Russian with details of wetland centre members and resources, and plans for project development. The WLI Russia network forms part of the international Wetland Link International project, benefitting from further resources and partner information provided via the website.

-- Peatland restoration approved as a beneficial management practice and effective fire prevention measure by the Government of the Moscow Region designing an ambitious programme for rewetting drained peatlands.

-- New initiative to promote Wetland CEPA announced: a Project on 'Establishing a network of educational wetland centres in European Russia to promote wetland conservation through the development and implementation of a CEPA Action Plan' has been started under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme with funding from the Matra Programme of the Netherlands Embassy in RF.

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

In 2009-2012 the Government of the Russian Federation adopted some fundamental documents that focus integrated management and conservation of water bodies. The UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of wetland biodiversity on the Lower Volga" is close to its completion; positive experience and lessons learned can be used on other wetlands of international importance (for more information, please visit <http://www.volgawetlands.ru>).

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

The greatest difficulty has been to find ways and integrate wetland conservation issues into broader planning frameworks, such as regional development plans, land-use planning and sector-specific strategies, given socio-economic and natural features of administrative regions of the Russian Federation.

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

In 2012, the President of the Russian Federation approved the Framework for national policy in ecological development of the Russian Federation for the period until 2020, that targets socio-economic problems providing environmentally-oriented economic growth, conservation of favorable environment, biological diversity and natural resources for the today's and future generations, the right of every person for favorable environment, strengthening of law enforcement in the environment conservation and provision of ecological safety.

In this context, we plan to strengthen, in the modern socio-economic conditions, the capacity of wetlands designated in 1994 by the Russian Federation as internationally important, and provide their effective functioning. This foundation makes it possible to elaborate a concept for the development of the network of Ramsar sites in new conditions and designate new wetlands of international importance. Other priorities are: to establish a national information system on wetlands; to evaluate and revise the 1999 Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in Russia, and adopt this document as a national strategy; to ensure effective functioning of the existing 35 Ramsar sites; to revise the existing Ramsar Shadow List and consider the designation of the shadow-listed wetlands as Ramsar sites; and to develop capacity for further implementation of the Ramsar Convention. Work on wetland conservation needs more support from local communities; continued attention must be paid to CEPA at local level.

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

Russian Federation propose Ramsar Secretariat and STRP to provide more coordination with UNFCCC in the development of the economic incentives for wetlands restoration (Strategy 1.8 Wetlands Restoration and Strategy 1.11 Incentive measures); to enhance international cooperation by coordination and mobilization international funding initiatives (GEF etc.), as well as to augment efforts in providing cooperation with the Convention on the Biological Diversity, including by facilitation of reporting.

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

The translation of a set of key Ramsar documents into Russian (in 2010) has been an important step towards the application of Ramsar guidelines in the country, in particular for full-scale integration of administrative regions of the Russian Federation and economic entities in the Ramsar process. It would be very useful to provide for regular update of this information in the future and extension of this positive practice. Absence of Russian translations of many Ramsar documents is responsible for the fact that updated RIS submitted to the Secretariat have not yet been fully integrated in the global data base.

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

It is important that the Ramsar Site Information Service be updated with information on Russian Ramsar sites that have been submitted to the Secretariat since 2007.

H. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the "Biodiversity cluster" (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

The national implementation linkage is currently more strong than international. There would be helpful if Conventions Joint Strategic plans involve, in all the UN languages, positive practical measures at the national level to exemplify the use of integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, including integration of biodiversity and wetland conservation issues, in various sectors of the economy.

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)?

Wetlands are an important ecosystem type, and therefore conservation and wise use of them should be regarded in the general context of biodiversity conservation and wise

use. The Convention on biological diversity provides guidelines on ecosystem approach, Addis Ababa principles of sustainable use of biodiversity, however, these are not directly linked to Ramsar Handbooks.


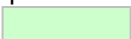
The clear guidance and methodology for intersectorial cooperation on wetlands conservation and wise use is needed.

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

Involvement mechanism of bilateral transborder cooperation and multilateral basin based cooperation needs more guidance and promotion through convention. Attention should be given to respective capacity building in the countries implementing the Ramsar Convention and dissemination of successful practical results obtained using the Convention Handbooks, keeping in mind financial needs for the implementation.

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

C - In progress

1.1.1 Additional information:

Information on wetlands has been collected by sectoral statistics, monitoring systems, and other governmental institutions, as well as by non-governmental organisations through various projects. In Russia, there exists a system of state and sectoral natural resource cadastres, including the Water Cadastre, Land Cadastre, Forest Cadastre, Peatland Cadastre, etc., accumulating statistical and other information on the extent and use of particular resources on the base of established protocols for collecting, recording and storing data, and standard procedures for reporting. The State Water Cadastre is a systematized collection of documents about water bodies owned by the state, administrative regions of the Russian Federation, municipal formations, natural and legal persons; about the use of these water bodies, river catchments, and basin regions, including information about water protection zones and coastal protection belts, other zones with special conditions of use, in order to provide integrated management of water bodies, proper use and protection of water bodies, as well as for planning and development of activities aimed to prevent adverse impacts of water and alleviate their consequences.

The Land Cadastre of the Russian Federation also contains data on areas covered by surface waters, which are provided in concise form for the annual National Report on the Environment, and on environment status and protection in the Russian Federation. Peatlands, which play a key part in most landscape types in Russia, are registered not only in the Land and Water Cadastres, but also as peat deposits, forested lands and agricultural lands, and other registers. Information on the coverage and current status of peatlands as peat deposits is collected by the Russian Geological Fund network and is presented in the annual State Balance of Mineral Resources in the Russian Federation. An inventory of forested lands conducted within the framework of the Forest Fund of the Russian Federation also provides data on areas covered by peatlands, shallow peat lands and waterlogged lands regardless of their vegetation cover (forested, sparsely treed, and open). As a whole, sectoral statistics give us an insight into the distribution and current status of wetlands used in national economy. The application of this information for the Ramsar Convention purpose is hampered by the difference of approach, with the resource approach being predominant over the ecosystem approach.

Since the late 1970s, an inventory of important wetland sites has been carried out in Russia in accordance with the Ramsar Convention methodologies. The results of recent wetland inventory activities have been presented by the Wetlands in Russia series of publications issued under the Wetlands International – Russia Programme. Since 1997, six volumes have been published. The first three volumes have summarized available information on the wetlands of international importance (Vol. 1, 35 Ramsar sites), important peatlands (Vol. 2, 51 sites), and wetlands that were selected for long-term planning of the national Ramsar network (Vol. 3, 166 sites). Volume 4 presents the first example of a detailed wetland inventory compiled for a major natural region of Russia. It contains descriptions of 37 wetlands totalling c. 3.7 million ha located in Northeastern Asia. Volume 5 provides information on wetlands located in southern Far-Eastern Russia (33 sites, 6.83 million ha). Volume 6 contains descriptions of 53 wetland sites, with a total area of c. 1.12 million ha, located in the North Caucasus Region.

In the reporting period, two projects including wetland inventory studies were carried out under the Wetlands International–Russia Programme, with financial support from the BBI Matra Programme of The Netherlands Government. A total of 41 important wetland sites covering 87,000 ha were identified in the Moscow Region. Of these, 3 sites meet the Ramsar Criteria for internationally important wetlands, and the others are considered of regional importance. An inventory of transboundary wetlands

located along the 1,600 km-long land border between Russia, Belarus and Ukraine was compiled in 2008-2010. Descriptions of 33 wetland sites totalling 721,431 ha, which need to be protected under the Ramsar Convention and national protected areas law, were prepared and published.

Scientific publications and reviews (including landscape, soil and vegetation maps of Russia) give background information on different wetlands types diversity and distribution. Institute of Forest Science Russian Academy of Sciences starting from beginning of 1990ies maintains GIS "Peatlands of Russia".

The national wetland inventory is far from completed. The level of our knowledge on wetlands located in different regions of Russia is uneven. The priority areas for future inventory studies include peatlands and shallow peat lands with special attention to tundra and forest-tundra, taiga, forest-steppe and mountain regions. Peculiarities and importance of peatland inventory was mentioned in the The Framework for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in Russia developed with participation of experts from various sectors of economy and adopted by the Scientific and Technical Board of the Ministry of natural resources of the Russian Federation in 2002. The current status of these matters was discussed at workshops organized by the Ministry in 2005 and 2010.

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:

Wetland inventory information published in the Wetlands in Russia series is stored in the Wetland Database developed under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. This is a data management system built on a computerized database using Microsoft Access, which is based on standard Ramsar datasheets and is linked to the ArcView map database providing two levels of analysis: at 1:1,000,000 and 1:250,000 scale. Part of the National Wetland Database (with information on the 35 Russian Ramsar sites) has been made available online at <http://wetlands.oopt.info/> by the Biodiversity Conservation Center.

A wetland inventory page was developed at the Wetlands International–Russia Programme’s website (<http://russia.wetlands.org>). All Russian-language volumes of the Wetlands in Russia series have been placed at this website.

Project "Restoring Peatlands In Russia – for fire prevention and climate change mitigation (PeatRus)" has under development portal on the peatlands of Moscow Region with regular updates on the status, monitoring results and restoration measures implementation as an example of regional data base.

The Federal State Statistics Service site (<http://www.gks.ru/wps>) provides access to the environmental data of this service. At this portal, the data on the specially protected nature areas, fresh water use, amounts and emissions of particular pollutants into atmosphere, generation, use and neutralization of wastes are available as the regulated tables only. Data on amounts of the sewage water discharges, including by the types of economic activity, and intake of contaminants with sewage into the water bodies is available as both the regulation tables and the data bases.

Information on the extent, current status, and use of wetlands collected by sectoral statistics, monitoring systems, and other governmental institutions at the cost of the state budget is available to all citizens of the Russian Federation.

1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}

- a) Ramsar Sites
b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

O - No change

1.1.3 a) Additional information: Information on the current status of Russian Ramsar sites was collected in 2009 under a special project of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. The analysis of this information identified a number of problems encountered by the Russian Ramsar network, both common and specific for individual sites. Large-scaled pollution from industrial sources, forest/peatland fires, poaching, high recreation pressure, overfishing, overgrazing, agricultural activities and logging in the water-protecting zones were the most frequently mentioned threats to the Ramsar sites. However, no risk assessments of these factors for particular wetlands have been carried out, which makes assessing their potential adverse impacts impossible. Therefore, no significant change in ecological character of Ramsar sites was reported. Data on the status and protection of the environment, including those for environmental components, such as surface water, are available from the National Report "Status and protection of the environment in the Russian Federation" published at the website of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources.

The potential risk of adverse changes in the ecological character of several Ramsar sites (the Volga Delta, the Moroshechnaya River, Parapolsky Dol, Utkholok, Upper Dvuobye) has increased due to the prospecting for and production of oil and gas in the adjacent areas. The risk of water pollution has increased in: the Kandalaksha Bay Ramsar Site due to intensive navigation; Khanka Lake – due to industrial developments; Chudskoye Lake – due to continuously increased concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds; and in the Upper Dvuobye wetlands accumulating plastic trash and many chemical pollutants coming with the waters of largest rivers Ob and Irtysh. Recreational pressure has increased in the Ramsar sites of Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland, Kama-Bakaldino Mires, Tobol-Ishim Forested Steppe, Chany Lakes, and in the Baltic coastal sites. Recent trends are towards increased selective and clear forest felling in the water-protecting zones, often followed by house constructions, which pose considerable threats to the Ramsar sites of Kama-Bakaldino Mires and the Kubal Delta.

The risk of peat and forest fires could increase due rising probability of dry periods in different Ramsar sites of European part of Russia (e.g. Kamo-Bakaldini mires and others), as well as in Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland, Zeya-Bureya Plains and Udyl Lake Ramsar Sites in Asian part of the country.

The national network of Ramsar sites includes, partly or wholly, 12 strict nature reserves (zapovedniki, IUCN Category I). Information on these areas is also available from the National Report "Status and protection of the environment in the Russian Federation". A special study was undertaken for the evaluation of extend of wetlands of different types covered by protected areas (Federal and local).

1.1.3 b) Additional information: Information to assess changes in wetland status is available in the system of State Environmental Monitoring (SEM) based on the net of permanent observation points, which are established in cities and in water bodies both in areas with increased anthropogenic impact and in non-polluted areas. Certain components of wetlands are monitored within the following sub-systems of SEM:

- State monitoring of status and pollution of the environment;
- State monitoring of air;
- State monitoring of lands;
- State monitoring of animal objects;
- State monitoring of forest pathology;
- State monitoring of status of land's interior;
- State monitoring of water bodies;
- Monitoring of aquatic biological resources;
- Monitoring of inland seawaters and territorial sea of the Russian Federation;
- Monitoring of the unique ecosystem of Lake Baikal;
- Monitoring of game resources and their habitats.

Given that the respective legal act was adopted at the end of 2011, the national data bank of the state environmental monitoring as a federal information system has not yet been established. No special synthesis of data from various monitoring subsystems has been made to assess wetland status. Nevertheless, general information is available from the annual National Report "Status and Protection of the environment in the Russian Federation". The 2010 Report is published at the website of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources (www.mnr.gov.ru). The oncoming 2011 Report will also be published at the website.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation: no information

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

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i
(If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

D - Planned

1.3.1 Additional information: The National Wetland Policy as standing document have not been prepared yet. The elements of Wetland Policy are found in general and sectoral policies and strategies.

Russian environmental policy has been formulated in the Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation (2002) that states principles, aims, directions and objectives of a long-term national policy.

In 2012, the President of the Russian Federation approved the Framework for national policy in ecological development of the Russian Federation for the period until 2020, that targets socio-economic problems providing environmentally-oriented economic growth, conservation of favorable environment, biological diversity and natural resources for the today's and future generations, the right of every person for favorable environment, strengthening of law enforcement in the environment conservation and provision of ecological safety.

Late in 2011, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Concept of development of the network of specially protected areas of federal importance for the period until 2020 and a respective action plan.

Implementation of the above documents is based on the federal laws and other normative legislative acts of the Russian Federation. Federal laws covering general environmental issues include "Environmental Protection", "Specially Protected Nature Areas", "Wild Animals", "Fisheries and Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources", Water Code, Land Code, Forest Code, and others.

Currently, the environmental legislation is undergoing a comprehensive reform focused to effective reduction of adverse human impacts. A programme aimed at reparation of accumulated earlier environmental damage is being implemented.

A section on wetlands has been included into the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation (2001). This Strategy is regarded as an informal basis for developing provincial/local strategies and sectoral plans and programmes for biodiversity conservation.

In addition to Federal policies, there are laws and legal acts in the administrative regions of the Russian Federation.

1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}

A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information: The principles of sustainable development have been incorporated into a number of policy documents, including the Presidential Decree 'On Concept for Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development' (01.04.1996 No. 440), "Measures to increase the energy and environmental effectiveness of the Russian economy" ((04.08.2008 No. 889), the Framework for national policy in ecological development of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030 approved in 2012 by President of the Russian Federation, and the Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation (31.08.2002 No. 1225-p).

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

C - Partly

C - Partly

A - Yes

C - Partly

C - Partly

A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information: Whenever possible and necessary, wetland conservation issues among other biodiversity conservation issues will be included in new sectoral strategies and plans.

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: SEA apply some large companies as voluntary input before large development projects are launched. Establishment of normative and legal foundations of SEA implementation and use in the development of plans and programmes that may affect the environment will be considered in the development of the Action Plan for the Framework for national policy in ecological development of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030.

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?

C - In some cases

1.3.5 Additional information: Implementation of economic and other activities should meet the environment conservation requirements set by the Federal Law "On environmental protection". Environmental impact assessment (EIA) should be carried out for planned economic and other activities that may directly or indirectly affect the environment, regardless of business structure and ownership forms of entities involved in economic and other activities. EIA conclusions should be documented in the assessment materials that constitute a part of the documentation on this activity submitted for the environmental impact assessment or state assessment as provided for in the urban development legislation. They should also be used in the managerial decision making process. Most companies working in extractive industries are carrying out EIA voluntary according to inner corporative rules.

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	B - No
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1.3.6 Additional information: No amendments have been specifically made for Ramsar implementation, some amendments for peatland conservation, marine and coastal wetlands, forested wetlands in the sectorial legislation.

The ongoing reform of the environmental legislation aims at the establishment of a legal framework for effective reduction of adverse impacts on the environment, which will also help fulfill obligations under the Ramsar Convention.

The following aspects will be considered in the development of the Action Plan of the Framework for national policy in ecological development of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030: policy implementation – providing growth of environmentally oriented economy and introduction of environmentally effective innovative technologies and alleys – development of economic regulation and market tools in environment conservation and provision of ecological safety.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation: no

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly
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1.4.1 Additional information: Carried out several projects for certain areas, including preassessment of wetlands ecosystem services values in the designated oil and gas leases.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i	Z - Not applicable
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1.4.2 Additional information: Pilot projects that promote alternative, environmentally friendly employment of local population on wetlands and involvement of local (municipal) authorities in making decisions on wetland conservation and wise use have been implemented under the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of wetland biodiversity in the Lower Volga region".

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
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1.4.3 Additional information: Actions aimed at raising awareness of the important links between the conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage of wetlands were taken at the municipal level. An example is provided by the Wetlands International-Russia's publication 'Wetlands in the Moscow Region: natural, economic, historical and cultural aspects'. This illustrated book includes descriptions of 14 wetland sites, which are of special significance as cultural heritage, primarily as elements of country estate complexes and traditional landscape architecture.

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): Sections on socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands have been included to all existing management plans for Ramsar sites. As an example, the Management Plan for the Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland Ramsar Site includes a plan of activities on monitoring and protection of historical and cultural heritage, which include 30 archaeological excavations, ancient settlements, burial sites, sacred stones, churches and historical places connected with the 1242 Battle on the Ice.

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

C - Partly

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
B - No
B - No
A - Yes

1.5.2 Additional information: It is available throu the wep pages of national organisation of IOP - WWF and Wetlands International

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: Resolution X.3 was translated into Russian by the Secretariat among other COP10 Resolutions.

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

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

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

KRA 1.6.i

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information: Interactions of agriculture and wetlands have been studied mainly for peatlands. Russia is actively involved in IPCC activities developing guidelines on inventory of wetlands and, in particular, peatlands for climate change mitigation.

Russia is involved in the project "Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)", including several initiative projects on wetland ecosystem services evaluation. Regional recommendations with regard to recreation pressure on natural complexes of the Lower Volga have been developed under that UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of wetland biodiversity in the Lower Volga region" that are currently considered by the Astrakhan Oblast Government for implementation in the province.

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including on potential threats to the wetlands? KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information: The most of Ramsar sites have management plans based on the comprehensive research.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation: no

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: Thanks to the Ramsar Secretariat's efforts, the Convention's guidance became available in the Russian language. More resources need to be invested in ensuring that this guidance is communicated to water resource planners and managers across Russia.

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: Article 3 of the Water Code of the Russian Federation (2006) states, among the basic principles of national water legislation, that 'water relationships are governed based on the understanding of water bodies as an essential environmental component providing habitat for animals and plants, including aquatic biological resources, as a natural resource used by humans for their personal and domestic needs as well as for economic and other types of activity, and also as an object of property and other rights'.

Water resources management is undertaken on a basin scale in accordance with the Water Code of the Russian Federation, and has been assigned to the Federal Agency of Water Resources subordinated to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. Ten basin regions (okrug) have been established, each should function in accordance with an individual Integrated Scheme for the Use and Protection of Water Resources. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, in cooperation with interested federal ministries and agencies, executive bodies of some administrative regions of the Russian Federation and academic experts, has been implementing the Water strategy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2020 and the Federal Target Programme 'Water sector development in the Russian Federation in 2012-2020'. These documents generally encompass the issues of wetland conservation and wise use.

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

C - Partly

1.7.3 Additional information: According to the Water Code of the Russian Federation, a basic principle of national water legislation is 'participation of public and social groups in resolving issues related to the rights in water bodies as well as to their duty to protect water bodies. Citizens and social groups have the right to participate in decision-making process where the implementation of such decisions may have an impact on the use and protection of water bodies. Government authorities, local self-government, parties involved in economic and other types of activity shall ensure such participation in a manner and in accordance with the procedures established by the laws of the Russian Federation'.

Article 29 of the Code establishes, for the purposes of water use and protection, public basin councils to develop recommendations regarding the use and protection of water bodies within the boundaries of basin districts. Basin councils shall be composed of representatives of federal executive bodies authorized by the Government of the Russian Federation, government authorities of the constituent territories of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government as well as of representatives of water users, public associations and communities of small indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation. Procedures governing the establishment and activities of basin councils are explained by the Regulations on Development and Activities of Basin Councils adopted by the Federal Government on 30 November 2006, No.727 "Procedures of establishment and operation of basin councils".

The above documents provide the legal basis for basin councils that have been developed as community initiative since the early 1990s. The realization of integrated basin approach to the water management is considered a key function of the basin council. Presently, the most actively working public councils are those established for the transboundary water courses of Amur, Dnieper and Ob-Irtysh.

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

C - Partly

1.7.4 Additional information: The Ramsar principles and approach are reflected in most plans and strategies related to ICZM.

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

D - Planned

1.7.5 Additional information: The Russian Federation pays close attention to develop approaches and adapt policies, planning and management to changing environmental conditions in the Arctic. Russia participates, under the aegis of the Arctic Council, in implementation of projects on identification and mapping of Arctic areas of special environment conservation importance and other projects. The role of wetlands is expected to be enhanced through the application of Rapid Assessment of Circum-Arctic Ecosystem Resilience (RACER) approach promoted by WWF. WWF Russia has launched a 2-year project on Adaptation and Low-Carbon Development in Key Russian Regions aimed at providing recommendations on adaptation actions in each Arctic and Far-Eastern region of Russia.

The Institute for Global Climate and Ecology under the Federal Service of Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring and the Russian Academy of Science developed a unified technology for monitoring and prognostication of climate changes in the regions of Russia and maintained an Internet portal providing information on climate changes to be used for social and economic development planning, and for the development of innovation projects in the climate-dependent economic sectors and regions. A regularly updated database on results of climatic modelling and a website on Climate Change in Russia was established. An integrated assessment of the impacts of climate change in the most vulnerable regions (the Arctic, the zone of permafrost), and an assessment of potential regional liability to forest fires was performed. President of the Russian Federation approved, by executive order No. 861-rp from 17.12.2009, the Climate Doctrine of the Russian Federation, and, by executive order No. 730-r from 25.04.2011, the comprehensive implementation plan of the Climate Doctrine of the Russian Federation for the period until 2020.

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

D - Planned

1.7.6 Additional information: The information is given in Section 1.7.2. The UNDP project is under start for peatlands restoration for the purposes of water management in steppe regions of the Russian Federation.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation: NO

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: A large-scale peatland rewetting programme is being implemented in the Moscow province for the prevention of peatland fires. Activities towards peatland restoration have been carried out. Project Restoring Peatlands In Russia – for fire prevention and climate change mitigation (PeatRus) produces the GIS for peatlands restoration prioritisation. Some of areas will be addresses PetRus itself and several other projects in pipe-line. Other wetland types need additional attention. Currently Russian-German bilateral project on the restoration of Klyasma River in Moscow oblast is under implementation.

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information: The project "Restoring Peatlands In Russia – for fire prevention and climate change mitigation (PeatRus)" aims to restore large areas of disturbed peatlands in five years in Moscow Oblast and other provinces. More than 2000 ha of peatlands were rewetted and restored in the Meshchora National Park (neighboring to Ramsar site Oka river valley). Wetlands restoration will be addressed in the UNDP upcoming project in the steppe and arctic zones.

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: Updated guidelines adopted for Russian conditions are in preparation. The Decision Making Scheme for wetlands restoration had been developed in 2010 withn a Russian-German bilateral project and the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of wetland biodiversity in the Lower Volga region".

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation: NO

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 problem of the invasion of alien species in the Russian Federation is under the observation of a large number of official departments (Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, State Committee for Fisheries of the Russian Federation), research and development organizations (A. N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution under the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Zoological Institute RAS, Komarov Botanical Institute RAS, Papanin Institute of Biology of Inland Waters RAS, Institute of Oceanology RAS, Murmansk Marine Biological Institute RAS, Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, Research Institute of the Azov Sea Fishery, The Main Botanical Garden RAS, Russian Institute for Plant Quarantine, Russian Institute of Phytopathology etc.), which are mainly dealing with specific aspects of the global problem, often involving only one group of organisms (fishes, mammals, insects, phytopathogenic microorganisms, nematodes, plants, etc.).

The need to consolidate the efforts of all relevant organizations and to develop a national strategy and action plan to prevent and control invasive alien species was the focus of the Meeting on Environmental Safety and Invasions of Alien Organisms held in Moscow in 2002.

The first steps to reach this goal were the development of a web-site on invasive alien species (<http://www.sevin.ru/invasive>) and the publication of Russian Journal of Biological Invasions that can be downloaded from <http://www.sevin.ru/invasjour>.

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: Not for wetlands specifically, but involves wetlands. Control and management of threats associated with alien species are provided for by the quarantine and other laws. The Federal Law "On wild animals" stipulates implementation of relatively comprehensive procedures of risk management in case acclimatization of animals has been planned.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation: NO

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: On April 20th, 2012 the seminar, "Oil and gas sector and wetlands conservation" took place at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.

The seminar was organized in the lead up to the 11th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The Russian Federation is a Party to the Ramsar Convention as the legal successor of the USSR, which joined the Convention in 1975. The Russian Federation has the greatest amount of wetlands in the world on its territory, including 35 Ramsar wetland sites, with a total area of 10,3 million hectares. License areas of oil deposits sometimes coincide with wetlands. These licenses are located on different categories of land, including nature conservation areas. In some cases these are Ramsar sites (five sites) or SPNA.

The Ramsar Convention suggests following the principles of wise use, which are based on an ecosystem approach, taking into consideration ecosystem services, and the multistage principle of decision making.

During the seminar it was discussed if the oil companies are ready to work according to the rules proposed by the Ramsar Convention on the one hand and if the legislator is willing to integrate the proposed measures and regulations into current law on the other hand.

The theme of the seminar aroused much interest. Over 40 participants took part in the discussion, among them people from 11 NGOs and scientific organizations and 16 people from oil and gas companies, including Surgutneftegaz, Yamal-SPG, SN-Invest, TNK-BP, Tatneft, TNK-Nyagan, Sakhalin Energy, Shell, and Total E&P Russia.

Companies shared their experience in mitigation and minimization of impacts on wetlands, based on modern technologies and methods of planning and management of the production cycle. There were examples of implementation of compensating measures for species protection and restoration of ecosystems. It was also discussed that there are some gaps in the legal base for implementation of several technologies for the minimization of impacts. The companies present expressed the opinion that the principles offered by the Convention are often implemented and exist in corporate practice, but need serious work to be fully integrated in the sphere of regulation.

Consultation with companies and scientific and non-governmental organizations will continue during preparations for the Position of the Russian Federation at the 11th Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention.

The partners of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in organization of the seminar were: the UNDP project implementation office in the Russian Federation, Wetlands International, WWF Russia.

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: The most active involvement - oil companies. As example Surgutneftegas developed special guidelines for operation on wetlands; TNK BP is exploiting its lease within Ramsar Site Verchnee Dvuoobje under the permanent control from Coalition of NGOs: WWF, Greenpeace, Wetlands International, Birdlife, Biodiversity Conservation Centre, Transparent World.

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: The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) developed guidelines for consumers that help identify origins of seafoods, describe population statuses of fishes and marine invertebrates, and specify the catch legality and quotes.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation: NO

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

D - Planned

1.11.1 Additional information: The introduction of incentive measures into the nature resource management is called for by a number of federal and regional laws, in particular by the Water Code of the Russian Federation. Article 20 of the Water Code defines the major principles of imposing charges on water use: the encouragement of wise use of water resource and the differentiation of water charges depending on the river basin.

The actual introduction of incentive measures into wetland management practices is planned under a number of proposed demonstration projects. An example is provided by the 5-year Russian-German project on Restoring Peatlands in Russia – for Fire Prevention and Climate Change Mitigation that was launched early in 2012 with funding from the International Climate Initiative of the German Government.

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

B - No

1.11.2 Additional information: Currently, the environmental legislations are undergoing a reform which includes legal measures on promotion of economic incentives for industries that introduce best management practices.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation: NO

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: The development of a strategy and action plan for possible further designation of Ramsar sites was carried out in the early 2000s. The assessment of the current status of wetland ecosystems over Russia and identification of priorities for their conservation was performed, and a list of important wetlands to be designated under the Ramsar Convention was compiled and published as Volume 3 of the Wetlands in Russia series.</p> <p>Recent legislation changes have resulted in the lack of agreed procedures for Ramsar site designations and management of existing sites. The country is undergoing a process of changes in the land ownership rights, and in legislation on natural resource uses, under which natural complexes fall under different ownership categories. Ownership rights are being divided among the federal and regional authorities, municipalities and private owners. For this reason, the procedures for site designation, management, monitoring of their ecological status, evaluation and reporting are still under development, and the major policy of National Ramsar Administrative Authority is to ensure effective functioning of the existing 35 Ramsar sites.</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: The RIS for Russian Ramsar sites were updated by experts in 2007. After having been agreed by the relevant local authorities and translated into English, the updated RIS were submitted to the Secretariat. The process is under way.</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: There is urgent need of integration in national legislation description of procedures on the Ramsar site designation and management. After this new sites could be considered from prepared shadow list.</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): Presently, there is no officially agreed plan for further Ramsar designations. A list of 166 wetland sites that meet the Ramsar Criteria was published in 2000, including a shortened list of 41 sites regarded as major priorities. It is a distinct possibility that information on some of the listed sites needs to be updated before planning further designations. The information obtained has been considered in implementation of the Concept of development of the network of specially protected areas of federal importance for the period until 2020.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation: NO

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: Many wetland sites that were identified as internationally important are protected under national law on specially protected nature areas. The areas protected at the federal level include the strict nature reserves (zapovedniki) of Pasvik, Kandalakshsky, Bolshoy Arctichesky, Nenetsky, Rdeisky, Polistovsky, Darvinsky, Bryansky Les, Dagestansky, Orenburgsky, Gydansky, Taimyrsky, Ust-Lensky, Kronotsky and Poronaisky and the national parks of Sebezhsy, Ust-Vilyuisky and Smolensk Lakeland. For these areas, management planning processes have been established (See 2.4.1). These management plans, however, do not focus specifically on the protection of wetland ecosystems, and wetland conservation appears only as a by-product of traditional biodiversity conservation activities in specially protected areas.

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	10 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	10 sites
2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i	6 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	8 sites
<p>2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information: The 35 Russian Ramsar sites include, in whole or in part, 12 strict nature reserves (zapovedniki, IUCN Category I) and one national park (IUCN Category II). The planning of activities for these protected areas is performed according to the Concept of development of the network of specially protected areas of federal importance for the period until 2020. Resolution of the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service No. 491 of 3 December 2007 on Improvement of the Planning System for Activities Performed by State Nature Reserves and National Parks provides guidelines for the development, reconciliation and adoption of middle-term management plans for state nature reserves and national parks and the format of annual work plans. The guidelines have been developed in conformity with relevant documents developed under the Convention on Biodiversity, the World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention, and the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves.</p> <p>This document contains comprehensive descriptions of the structure and contents of management plans for nature reserves and national parks, which are recommended to be developed for a 5-year period. The specification and partial correction of management plans is made each year, in the course of annual work plan compilation.</p> <p>The development of management plans specifically for Ramsar sites was mainly performed under international projects. Altogether there are 10 Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place.</p>	
2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii	A - Yes

2.4.5 Additional information: By and large the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites, forms of protective and sustainable use management regimes have been defined in individual regulations prepared for each site. The regulations were developed for the majority of sites in the late 1990s – early 2000s, approved by federal conservation authorities, and adopted by Administrations of relevant administrative regions of the Russian Federation.

During the preparation of updates of the Information Sheets on Russian Ramsar sites, conservation measures that need to be taken have been proposed. The implementation of these measures is going on unevenly in different Ramsar sites, depending on the substance and acuteness of problems, the level of funding and other factors.

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)): No official management structures of this kind were established. At the same time, the procedures established for the development and adoption of Regulations for Ramsar sites (See 2.4.5) and for medium-term management plans for state nature reserves and national parks include compulsory consultations with all land users. Practical management of Ramsar sites is usually conducted by executive authorities of administrative regions of the Russian Federation in permanent collaboration with all stakeholders and local communities.

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

35 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least “1 site”, please give the site(s) name and official number): Detailed baseline descriptions of ecological features were prepared for all sites as the basis for their Ramsar designations (in 1993-1994), and later updated (in 1996-1997 and in 2007). The regular monitoring of ecological parameters is conducted in all strict nature reserves (zapovedniki) under the Chronicle of Nature Programme (35 Ramsar sites include 12 strict nature reserves) and, outside specially protected areas, by executive authorities of administrative regions of the Russian Federation.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation: NO

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): No effectiveness assessments have been carried out in the reporting period. The effectiveness was assessed on federal SPNA in 2003-2005 and on coastal wetlands in 2005-2007 under a WWF project.

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

D - Planned

2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established): Procedures for regular reporting on the ecological character of Ramsar sites are under development. Information about Ramsar sites have been included in annual National Reports on environment status and protection of respective administrative regions of the Russian Federation.

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

B - No

2.6.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some cases", please indicate for which Ramsar Sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made): No such information has been submitted, as there is not any reliable data about changes or likely changes of ecological character of Ramsar sites. The updated RIS also indicate no changes of ecological character of Ramsar sites. Information about likely changes of ecological character of particular Ramsar sites submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat by third parties requires additional checking.

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

Z - Not applicable

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

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

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

C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information: The ecological character of important wetlands protected under national law as strict nature reserves (zapovedniki), national parks or protected nature areas of lower (regional or local) status is maintained in accordance with the individual PNA regulations. See also Paragraph 2.3.1.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation: NO

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: The work is coordinated under Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation.	
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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: Experts are being engaged. No Ramsar Committee has formally been introduced. Its functions have been implemented by the Ministry of natural resources and ecology of the Russian Federation.	
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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: Ministry of natural resources and ecology of the Russian Federation has organized and provided, within the scope of its competence, the fulfillment of obligations under international treaties in the field of environment and collaboration with global and regional organizations.	
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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:	
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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation: NO	
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STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i>

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 Russian Federation takes part in the development and implementation of regional initiatives under the Convention, such as the Black Sea and Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiatives. In cooperation with NorBalWet, the Conference on Wetlands and Flyways in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region was held in the Russian city of Murmansk in September 2011.

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}

D - Planned

3.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s): The International Workshop on Sustainable Development of Transboundary Wetland Ecosystems (Smolensk, Russia – Vitebsk, Belarus, 23–26 February 2011), organized by the UNESCO office in Moscow, recommended the establishment of a wetland centre in the Smolensk Lakeland Biosphere Reserve, which is to be later developed into a Category II UNESCO Regional Centre for Wetlands. The Smolensk Lakeland BR holds a key position in the ecological education system in the transboundary area where the land boundaries of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine meet. This wetland centre is presently under development; it will be equipped with interactive exposition on the wise use of wetlands, and will encourage Biosphere Reserves' site managers to carry out relevant actions of the Wetland CEPA Programme where appropriate.

Active work is implemented in the Amur river basin within trilateral cooperation between Russia, China and Mongolia. It was reported in COP10 at a special side event. The work is on going coordinated within bilateral and trilateral (Dauria) cooperation and implemented within WWF activities. The cooperation was significantly enhanced by implementation and follow up of the UNEP project on Crane conservation (International Crane Foundation).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation: NO

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

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i	Z - Not applicable
3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10):	

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii	Z - Not applicable
3.3.2 Additional information:	

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”): Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}	A - Yes
3.3.3 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10): Germany, International Climate Initiative (technical assistance - expertise exchange)	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation: NO

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
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3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): A network of educational wetland centres has been established through Wetland Link International as WLI-Russia. Further networking activities are planned under the Wetlands International-Russia's Project on 'Establishing a network of educational wetland centres in European Russia to promote wetland conservation through the development and implementation of a CEPA Action Plan' funded by the Matra Programme of the Netherlands Embassy in Russia.

No official twinning arrangements were established, although many cooperation arrangements exist. Examples include the cooperation agreement for wetland conservation signed between the protected nature areas of Sebezhsy National Park, Russia, and Osveysky Ramsar Site, Belarus. The Russian Pasvik Zapovednik and Norwegian Pasvik Naturreservat have long been cooperating for the designating of a transboundary Ramsar site along the Pasvik River. A programme of cooperation between the Daursky State Nature Reserve (the Torey Lakes Ramsar Site) and the Mongolian Daursky Nature Reserve, including training and staff exchange, is underway (See 3.5.2 for more information on transboundary cooperation). In 1996 Government of the Russian Federation and Government of People's Republic of China signed an agreement about the establishment of the Lake Xinghai/Khanka international nature reserve under the auspices of the Khankaisky zapovednik reserve in Primorski Krai and the Xinghai Hu reserve in the province of Heilongjiang that collaborate in wetland conservation.

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 web pages of the Wetlands International-Russia Programme (www.wetlands.org/Russia/Ru) and the Initiative Peatland Conservation Project (www.peatlands.ru) provide access to a wide range of wetland-related information for Russian-speaking audience.

The six published volumes of the Wetlands in Russia series are widely distributed to all interested organizations and persons free of charge, and can be downloaded from the WI-Russia Programme's website. Information on the 35 Russian Ramsar sites is also available at <http://wetlands.oopt.info/> (website of the Biodiversity Conservation Center).

A leaflet (2005), a booklet (2012) with brief descriptions of the 35 existing Ramsar sites, and their electronic versions on disks were published.

A set of activities on the importance of wetlands for the local population have been implemented under the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of wetland biodiversity in the Lower Volga region", including the support of a yearly festival – The Volga Day. Special information for the World Wetland Day is published every year at the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation.

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

3.4.3 Additional information: Yes. The article "Conservation of wetlands" (in Russian) published in the journal "Gosudarstvennoye upravleniye resursami" (No. 6/84/2012). Booklet and disk.

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

D - Planned

3.5.1 Additional information: There are 6 Ramsar sites in Russia that border or are located close to Ramsar sites of neighbouring countries: Kurgalsky Peninsula, Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland, Torey Lakes, Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland, Zeya-Bureya Plains, and Lake Khanka.

At least six large wetlands located near the national border meet the Ramsar Criteria. Although these wetlands have not been designated Ramsar sites so far, they are partly or wholly protected at national level. These sites are:

- Fjarvann – located within the boundaries of the Pasvik State Nature Reserve (Zapovednik), Russia, and the Pasvik Naturreservat, Norway;
- Ainovy Islands – located within the boundaries of the Kandalakshsky State Nature Reserve (Zapovednik);
- Sebez Lake Complex – protected as the Sebezhsy National Park. This area bordering Latvia and Belarus was studied extensively during 2008-2010 under the Wetlands International-Russia Project on Development of a Programme for Transboundary Wetland Conservation along the Border Area between the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine;
- Nerussa-Desna Woodland – located within the boundaries of the Nerusso-Desnyanskoye Polesye Biosphere Reserve bordering Ukraine. Information on this area was also updated under the above mentioned project;
- Lake Khasan and Tumannaya Delta – includes several nature monuments; a local nature park is being designed; and
- Coastal Aquatic Area around Kunashir Island and the Lesser Kuril Islands – includes the Maly Kurily Federal Refuge (Zakaznik).

Wetlands are also protected in a number of other federal PNAs located in the border regions, such as the Kostomukshsky, Orenburgsky, Kurilsky and Dalnevostochny Morskoi State Nature Reserves (Zapovedniki) and the Kurshskaya Kosa and Paanayarvi National Parks.

The Russian Federation borders 14 countries and, for the total frontier length of 60,993 km, 7,141 km extend on rivers, 475 km on lakes and 38,887 km on seas. There are over 1,000 transboundary watercourses and water bodies. In total, 70 large and middle-sized river basins are transboundary, such as the Vuoxa River (with Finland), the Narva River and Pskovsko-Chudskoye Lake (with Estonia), the Neman (with Lithuania), the Dnieper (with Belarus and Ukraine), the Western Dvina (with Belarus and Latvia), the Samur (with Azerbaijan), the Volga, Ural, and Irtys (with Kazakhstan), the Yenisey and Selenga (with Mongolia), the Amur (with China and Mongolia), and the Tumannaya (with China and North Korea). There is a good probability that the number of transboundary wetland sites that meet the Ramsar Criteria will increase, as a result of future wetland inventory studies.

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

C - Partly

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place): A cooperation agreement was signed between the bordering protected wetland areas of Sebezhsy National Park, Russia, and Osveisky Nature Reserve, Belarus. This document contains a list of strategic actions to be taken cooperatively in the future, including the practical protection measures, habitat and population management, ecotourism, environmental education, and research and monitoring of wetland ecosystems. Some schemes to coordinate management plans of the two reserves providing higher consistency of activities were explored under the Programme for Transboundary Wetland Conservation along the Border Area between the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine, which sets priorities and requirements for future initiatives on integrated management of these areas and provides a basis for cooperation. Cooperative management is also in place for the Desna River floodplain wetland system shared by Ukraine and Russia. Two biosphere reserves located in this area are expected to merge into a transboundary biosphere reserve and combine their efforts for sustainable wetland management.

The site managers of the Russian Pasvik Zapovednik and Norwegian Pasvik Naturresevat have long been cooperating for the designating of a transboundary Ramsar site along the Pasvik River, with a view of future designation of a trilateral Ramsar site (Russia, Norway and Finland) within the framework of Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park.

The Khankaisky State Nature Reserve (Lake Khanka Ramsar Site) has been cooperating with the Xingkai Lake Nature Reserve, China, for many years. These two nature reserves constitute a single transboundary reserve protecting the Chinese and Russian shores of Lake Khanka.

A programme of cooperation exists between the Daursky State Nature Reserve (the Torey Lakes Ramsar Site) and the Mongolian Daursky Nature Reserve, including training and staff exchange.

The transboundary protected areas network "The Green Belt of Amur/Heilong" has been established. Russian-Chinese cooperative efforts lead to an approval of the Strategy of the establishment of transboundary protected areas network in the Amur River basin and a Working Group on transboundary specially protected nature areas and conservation of biological diversity.

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: Participation at the expert level.

A large number of Russian conservation organisations participated in the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project. Many research projects on rare and endangered waterbird species were carried out by academic institutions and conservation NGOs (WWF Russia, Russian Bird Conservation Union, Wetlands International-Russia Programme etc.).

Russian experts participated in Wetlands International's Specialist Groups. The Crane Specialist Group, in cooperation with the International Crane Foundation, convened a workshop in the Muraviovka Park, Russia in May–June, 2010. The workshop, participated by 28 specialists representing the various crane working groups around the world, developed action plans related to the interaction of cranes with agriculture and the impacts of climate change on cranes.

The Goose Specialist Group of Wetlands International and the IUCN Species Survival Committee had its 13th meeting in conjunction with the 4th meeting of the Russian Goose, Swan and Duck Study Group of Northern Eurasia in Elista, Kalmykia (Russian Federation) in March 2011. This conference ('Waterfowl of Northern Eurasia: Geography, Population and Environmental Dynamics and Population Management') was attended by 140 participants from 18 countries. Results of the 5th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) were taken into consideration.

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>B - No
D - Planned
B - No
A - Yes</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): So far no national plan for wetland CEPA has been developed in Russia The country have been implementing the project 'Establishing a network of educational wetland centres in European Russia to promote wetland conservation through the development and implementation of a CEPA Action Plan'. One of the Project's objectives is to provide recommendations on the development of a draft wetland CEPA action plan for European Russia based on the Programme of CEPA Activities for the established network of wetland centres. Wetlands International – Russia programme has been engaged as the National Focal Point on CEPA.</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>	<p>10 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)): WLI (Wetland Link International) Russia has been set up as a network of wetland centres across the country, developing regular communication via skype conference call, web pages in Russian with details of wetland centre members and resources, and plans for project development. The WLI Russia network forms part of the international Wetland Link International project, benefitting from further resources and partner information provided via the website. Until 2010, no Russian educational centres participated in WLI network. At present, there are six such centres in the whole Russia, and at least five new wetland centres are to be developed in European Russia by Wetlands International-Russia project (mentioned above in 4.1.1). The networking is therefore at an initial stage but this seems a very promising activity as interest towards WLI is developing quickly among Russian wetland reserves' staff and educationalists.

It should be noted at the same time, that environmental education and awareness departments and visit centres are part of organisational structure of all strict nature reserves and national parks in Russia. There are 12 strict nature reserves ("zapovedniki") and one national park within 35 Russian Ramsar sites, all pay close attention to wetland education among local population, children in particular. Many other nature reserves (such as the Cranes Homeland NR in the Moscow Region, the Meshchera National Park in the Vladimir Region, and the Central Forest NR in the Tver Region), nature museums (such as the Timiryazev Biological Museum and Darwin Museum in Moscow, and many local museums of nature), and NGOs (WI-RP, Birds&People Partnership, Baltic Fund for Nature and some others) also carry out wetland education and awareness activities, and to a certain extent can be regarded as wetland centres.

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?

C - Partly

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): a) Public participation in decision-making regarding environmental issues is promoted by a number of federal and regional laws, in particular by the Water Code of the Russian Federation. The Water Code states, among the basic principles of national water legislation, that ‘Citizens and social groups have the right to participate in decision-making process where the implementation of such decisions may have an impact on the use and protection of water bodies. Government authorities, local self-government, parties involved in economic and other types of activity shall ensure such participation in a manner and in accordance with the procedures established by the laws of the Russian Federation’ (See 1.7.3 for information regarding public basin councils). Currently, the process “Open Government” is planning to improve participation procedures for public representatives in making managerial decisions.

b) The existing official procedures for the establishment of Ramsar sites and state nature reserves include compulsory consultations with all land users. Practical management of Ramsar sites is conducted by way of permanent collaboration with all stakeholders and local communities.

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

D - Planned

4.1.4 Additional information: No special assessment of training needs for the implementation of the Convention has been made so far. It is apparent though that training in the use of the Ramsar Guidelines is strongly needed for senior managers of all Russian Ramsar sites, including at the municipal level. An assessment of local needs in training the staff of wetland centres will be conducted under the Wetlands International-Russia project (see 4.1.1).

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

opportunities

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training): Three Russian experts participated in the Training of Trainers Course on Flyway Approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands organized by Wetlands International in cooperation with the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK) in October 2010 in Astana and Korgalzhin Nature Reserve, Kazakhstan. The trainees were key personnel from the academic institutes, nature reserves, governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations dealing with waterbird conservation.

4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}	D - Planned
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): Until 2004, the duties of National Ramsar Committee were performed by the Inter-sectoral Working Group on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Group was established under the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection by Chairman Resolution No. 9 issued on 15 January 1997. The members of the Working Group belonged to 16 bodies, including federal ministries, state committees, scientific institutions, and non-governmental organizations. In 2004, due to the reorganization of federal executive bodies (ministries and agencies), the Group's work was suspended. At the present time, the fulfillment of obligations under the Ramsar Convention is coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation. The Federal Agency for water resources, Federal Agency for Subsoil Use, Federal Forestry Management Agency, Federal Service for Supervision over Natural Resources Management, Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring are institutions within jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation.</p>	
<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ramsar Sites managers? b. other MEA national focal points? c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies? <p>{4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>D - Planned A - Yes D - Planned</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place): By Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 166-p enacted on 11 February 2002, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation was assigned to coordinate all activities related to the Russian Federation's membership in international conservation organizations and to the implementation of environmental conventions, including the Ramsar Convention.</p>	
4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}	A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information: World Wetlands Day activities have been carried out in Russia since 1998. Press conferences given by governmental (MNRE) officials and representatives of conservation NGOs were held on this day during several years. Information on the Ramsar Convention and WWD was published on the websites of MNRE, Wetlands International-Russia Programme, WWF-Russia, Birds and People NGO and many others. Materials prepared for WWD by the Ramsar Secretariat were widely distributed.

However, there is still no consolidated acquisition of information on wetland conservation activities carried out by various local organizations in Russia. Many conservation NGOs, museums of nature, nature reserves, educational centres take over the task of distributing information on major international environmental events and celebrations, timing relevant activities to these days.

An example is provided by the K.A. Timiryazev State Biological Museum in Moscow. The Museum has been celebrating the World Wetlands Day since 2005. In 2010 and 2011, the festival of 'Mysteries of Boloto (Peatlands)' was held in this museum, including quizzes, contests, exhibitions of plant and animal species that occur in peatlands, computer presentations and other activities for children and their parents. In 2009, the Moscow Zoo, Birds and People NGO and Wetlands International – Russia organized a WWD event by the Zoo's pond and House of Birds participated by school children and visitors of the Zoo. They took part in quizzes, contests and the excursion around the Zoo ornithological section. In 2011, a joint action was organized cooperatively by NGOs 'Birds and People' , 'Serebryany Bor' and Wetlands International-Russia at the exhibition hall of 'Khodynka' in Moscow. Programme included presentations by well-known ecologists, people working to protect wetlands in the Moscow regional nature reserves, performances for and by children and musicians.

Other WWD actions were reported by the Naturewatch Baltic Programme of the Baltic Fund for Nature (St.Petersburg), the Muraviovka Park for Sustainable Land Use and the Bolonsky Nature Reserve (the Amur Region), and by the Astrakhansky Nature Reserve (the Lower Volga) under the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of wetland biodiversity in the Lower Volga region". The detailed illustrated reports on these activities can be viewed on the Ramsar WWD webpage.

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): Wetland education and awareness activities are carried out on a large scale by the nature reserves located at the Ramsar sites. The Federal Law on Protected Nature Areas regards environmental education as one of the priority objectives of state nature reserves. Considerable awareness work is performed at many other wetlands, which are currently not listed as Ramsar sites. As an example, active work with all groups of local population has been carried out at the Dubna Peatland Complex, in and around the Cranes' Homeland Nature Reserve in the Moscow Region. Since 1994, the Crane Festival is held annually during a week in September.

The Meschera National Park provides another example. This NP carries on much work on wetland education and awareness of various local groups paying particular attention to peatland functions and values. For this purpose, a Wetland Educational Programme has been implemented in the park since 2005. This programme includes lectures, educational games, workshops and excursions to peatlands; from 300–400 people participated in these activities in 2010. There is a visitor centre in the park with peatland panoramas installed. A large section of the Park's Museum of Birds is devoted to water birds. Visitors of the Park's ethnographic museum can see the peculiarities of traditional life styles formed in the Meshchera peatlands.

All projects implemented under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme include CEPA components. The Naturewatch Baltic Youth Programme of the Baltic Fund for Nature focuses on introducing wetland component into formal and extracurricular education programmes, training courses for teachers and awareness activities. The Amur Branch of WWF Russia organised wetland awareness campaigns in the Amur basin area for several years.

In the framework of the UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of wetland biodiversity in the Lower Volga region", a special awareness raising block was implemented, including the development of schoolbooks and an educational course for schoolchildren on biodiversity of the Lower Volga.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

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

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:



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

B - No

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation: NO

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): During preparation of current report

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

A - Yes

4.3.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation: NO

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): Wetlands International, through its Russian Programme office, has provided considerable assistance to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Russian Federation. More detailed information on the Programme activities is provided in the relevant sections of this report.

WWF Russia contributes significantly to the realization of Convention’s objectives through several large-scale projects carried out in the Russian Arctic, Amur River basin, in the Caucasus, and other regions of Russia.

The Russian Bird Conservation Union (BirdLife International Partner Designate since 1995) carries out a long-term inventory programme on internationally and nationally important bird areas in Russia, participates in international programmes for monitoring many bird species, organizes actions under the World Birdwatch initiative and coordinates other BirdLife activities in Russia.

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

A - Yes

4.4.2 Additional information (If “Yes” please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided): Ministry of Natural Resources of Russian Federation regularly supports applications of IOPs for the international funding by letters of support; provides coordination of projects with other national and international initiatives, provides support in the intersectorial negotiations, working with private business involvement significant stakeholders.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation: NO

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).