



## **NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,  
Romania, June 2012**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **15 September 2011**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org))

### Introduction & background

1. This National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee in Decision SC41-24 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2009, and its Decision SC40-29, this COP11 National Report Format closely follows that used for the COP10 National Report Format, which in turn was a significantly revised and simplified format in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In addition to thus permitting continuity of reporting and implementation progress analyses by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP10 NRF), this COP11 NRF is structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP10 as Resolution X.1, and the indicators speak to relevant Key Result Areas (KRAs) for each Strategy in the Strategic Plan.
4. The COP11 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee, certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in light of its work on assessing effectiveness indicators, and by the CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention. The format also includes indicator questions concerning the use of the "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands", as requested in Resolution X.3 (2008).
5. This COP11 NRF includes 82 indicator questions. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply additional information concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.
6. The COP11 Format also now includes an additional, optional, section (section 4) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, if it wishes to, on indicators relevant to individual Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

### The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's website.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
  - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
  - ii) capture lessons and experience to help Parties develop future action;
  - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
  - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable for their commitments under the Convention;

- v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and to plan its future priorities; and
  - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP11 consideration.
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
    - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 6);
    - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 7); and
    - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP10 DOCs 8-13);
  - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP. Examples at CO9 and COP10 included:
    - Resolution IX.15 and X.13, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
    - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar Sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC. 15), *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC. 25), *Overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2006-2008* (COP10 DOC. 16, and *Background and rationale to the Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character* (COP10 DOC. 27);
  - iii) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development

of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010); and

- iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the COP10 NRF indicators have been used extensively in 2009 in the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems that was being considered by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3).

### The structure of the COP11 National Report Format

12. The COP11 National Report Format is in four sections.

**Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

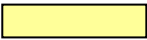

**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**Section 3** provides the 82 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional “free-text” section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity; and a further “free-text” section for adding further information on other aspects of implementation of that Strategy.

**Section 4** is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). This has been included at the request of a number of Parties.

### Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP11 National Report Format

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT**

- 13. All of the first three Sections of the COP11 National Report Format should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
- 14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **15 September 2011**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP11.
- 15. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
- 16. Fields with a pale green background  are optional free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since experience

shows that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.

17. In order to assist Contracting Parties in providing such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the “Additional implementation information” fields.
18. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the form and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties. If you need to work with an unlocked version of the Format, please contact Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org)), who will advise on how that can be done.
19. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
20. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
21. For a “free-text” field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box – this is because within the Microsoft “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes in the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
22. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic data entry into our database for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ] °°°° in the “free text” fields.
23. For each of the “Indicator questions” in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: “Yes”, “No”, “Partly”, “In progress”, etc. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
24. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
25. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
26. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party’s overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the

work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given. When filling in this form, it is also advised to refer back to the National Report submitted for COP10 for purposes of continuity and consistency.

27. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP11NRF [Country] [date].
28. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, e-mail: [dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org). The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in this electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
29. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP11 National Report.**
30. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP11 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

## SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

<b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: UNITED KINGDOM</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	<b>Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)</b>
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Mr Eric Blencowe, Head of International Biodiversity Sub-Programme.
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Defra, International Biodiversity, Zone 1/14, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol. BS1 6PN. United Kingdom.
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+44 (0)117 372 3589
<b>Email:</b>	Eric.Blencowe@defra.gsi.gov.uk
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Dr Ana Delgado
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Defra, International Biodiversity, Room 3B, 17 Smith Square, London. SW1P 3JR. United Kingdom
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+44 (0)20 7238 1184
<b>Email:</b>	Ana.Delgado@defra.gsi.gov.uk
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Dr David Stroud
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
<b>Mailing address:</b>	UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough. PE1 1JY. United Kingdom.
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+44 (0)1733 866810
<b>Email:</b>	David.Stroud@jncc.gov.uk
<b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Dr Ana Delgado
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Defra
<b>Mailing address:</b>	As above
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	As above
<b>Email:</b>	As above
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Mr Chris Rostron
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
<b>Mailing address:</b>	WWT, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	GL2 7BT. United Kingdom
<b>Email:</b>	+44 (0)1453 891214
	Chris.Rostron@wwt.org.uk





## 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?

References within this report to the 'UK' refer to implementation within the administrations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. References within this report to the UKOTCDs refer to implementation within the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, many of which have supplied additional information within the attached Annex (section 4).

The UK has taken a holistic approach in applying the Convention's 'wise use' principles and implementation of the strategic plan, which are delivered through a range of mechanisms. New measures include:

### Natural Environment White Paper

Defra published a Natural Environment White Paper in June 2011, which outlines the Government's priorities for the natural environment in England. This sets out a framework for practical action by Government, communities, businesses and civil society organisations to deliver on that ambition, and will include actions for ecosystems such as wetlands.

For example, the White Paper includes the following targets to reduce peat use to zero by 2030, setting the following milestones:

- a progressive phase-out target of 2015 for government and the public sector on direct procurement of peat in new contracts for plants;
- a voluntary phase-out target of 2020 for amateur gardeners; and
- a final voluntary phase-out target of 2030 for professional growers of fruit, vegetables and plants;
- we will establish a Task Force bringing together representatives from across the supply chain with a clear remit to advise on how best to overcome the barriers to reducing peat use, exploring all the available measures to achieve this goal;
- building on the advice of the Task Force, we will review progress towards these targets before the end of 2015 and consider the potential for alternative policy measures if necessary.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/>

### Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services

Defra published a new biodiversity strategy for England in August 2011. This ambitious strategy builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and provides a comprehensive picture of how Defra are implementing our international and EU commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea. It builds on the successful work that has gone before, but also seeks to deliver a real step change.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/>

A Living Wales: On 15 September 2010 the Welsh Government launched the first stage of its National Environment Framework consultation entitled A Living Wales. The new Wales framework will have a strong focus on sustainable land and marine management and will adopt an ecosystems approach. It aims to embed the holistic ecosystem and whole-landscape stewardship approach contained in much of the existing international legislation, from the Convention on Biological Diversity to the European Birds and Habitats Directives, and the European Landscape Convention, into protocols for effective action - including restoring, reintegrating and reconnecting ecosystems and their components.

Many of the principles of the Lawton report in England (see link:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf> ) are reflected in the development of a Natural Environment Framework (NEF) in Wales. The final outcome of the work in Wales is expected during 2012 and will provide a clear set of national priorities, backed up by institutional and regulatory changes and integrated local delivery mechanisms. To facilitate this integrated approach, the intention is to bring the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and Environment Agency (Wales) together into a single environmental delivery body. Existing duties, plus some additional roles which are still under consideration will be carried forward into the new body, with an opportunity to streamline and further strengthen powers as an outcome of the NEF process.

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/eshlivingwalescons/?lang=en>

#### Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The UK government has been working with its delivery agencies to ensure that WFD objectives in relation to Natura 2000 sites, many of which are also Ramsar sites), are met, noting that River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) measures need to become operational by 2012, and for Natura protected areas to achieve compliance by 2015.

#### Review of the UK SPA Network

The UK is currently undertaking a targeted review of its network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EU Birds Directive, which is being carried out in conjunction with an assessment to update avian interests on the UK Ramsar site network so as to promote further harmonisation between these two site networks.

#### Flood and Water Management Act 2010

In England and Wales, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 reinforces sustainable approaches to flood and coastal risk management. The linked flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy encourages the use of a wider range of measures to manage flooding and erosion in a co-ordinated way that balances the needs of communities, the economy and the environment. This will ensure that works to manage flooding and coastal erosion are carried out in a way that can bring benefits to the environment, supporting biodiversity and, where appropriate, habitat creation, all of which are likely to bring additional benefits for wetlands.

#### Scottish Planning Policy

In February 2010, the Scottish Government published the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which is the statement of the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters. The consolidated SPP provides a shorter, clearer and more focused statement of national planning policy, including policy on landscape and the natural heritage. In particular, the SPP contains specific reference to the Ramsar Convention and

provides that development plans should identify and promote green networks where this will add value to the provision, protection, enhancement and connectivity of open space and habitats in the city regions and in and around other towns and cities. The SPP gives acknowledgement that lochs, ponds, watercourses and wetlands form valuable landscape features, recreational resources and wildlife habitats and should be protected and enhanced wherever possible both as part of developments and green networks.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/0>

#### Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill was introduced to Parliament on June 9, 2010 and was passed by Parliament on March 2, 2011.

The Act covers a wide range of areas of relevance to the Ramsar Convention including:

- new invasive non-native species laws including powers to take action to stop the spread of invasive non-natives;
- improved intervention powers for SNH where deer are not being managed and causing damage to the environment;
- provision for licensing of muirburn out of season, changes to the muirburn season to protect ground nesting birds and simplified notification procedures; and
- improvements to the regulatory regime governing the protection and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/6/contents>

#### A Land Use Strategy for Scotland

Scotland's first Land Use Strategy was laid in Parliament on 17 March 2011. The strategy recognises the extent to which people's use of the land depends on natural resources and natural processes, placing great importance on the need for land-based businesses to work with nature (including the development of an ecosystem approach as the basis of a partnership with land managers).

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/17091927/0>

Leading on from this, the Scottish Government published (in July 2011) an information note on applying an ecosystems approach to land use as a first step towards delivery of the proposal in the Land Use Strategy (to, inter alia, demonstrate how an ecosystems approach might be taken into account in relevant decisions made by public bodies, to deliver wider benefits). This contributes to the objectives of Scotland's climate change legislation and the development of a low carbon future. It integrates the principles of an ecosystems approach to promote improved decision-making, acknowledging that ecosystems provide many services, such as food production, water and flood regulation, carbon capture, and recreation.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/16083740/1>

#### Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

On 10 March 2010, Scotland's Marine Bill received Royal Assent. This marked a major turning point in safeguarding the future of Scotland seas and laying the foundations for a more simplified marine planning and licensing system.

The Marine (Scotland) Act provides a framework which will help to balance competing demands on Scotland's seas. It introduces a duty to protect and enhance the marine environment and includes measures to help boost economic investment and growth in areas such as marine renewables. The main measures cover:

- marine conservation: improved marine nature and historic conservation with new powers to protect and manage areas of importance for marine wildlife, habitats and historic

monuments;

- marine planning: a new statutory marine planning system to sustainably manage the increasing, and often conflicting, demands on our seas;
- marine licensing: a simpler licensing system, minimising the number of licences required for development in the marine environment to cut bureaucracy and encourage economic investment;
- seal conservation: much improved protection for seals and a new comprehensive licence system to ensure appropriate management when necessary; and
- enforcement: a range of enhanced powers of marine conservation and licensing.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/5/contents>

#### Site designations

A number of further Ramsar site designations have occurred over the last triennium:

#### UK

- The Dee Estuary site extension (designated on the 10th December 2009) included updated Montreux Record documentation for the existing site.
- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (designated on the 7th of April 2011).

#### UK OTCDs

- Gough and Inaccessible Islands in the Southern Atlantic islands of Tristan da Cunha (designated on the 20th November 2008).

This increases the total number of sites designated by the UK to 171, including 24 in the UK OTCDs. 4 further designations are currently under development within the UK (Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay in Kent; the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore in the Wirral; Derryleckagh and Teal Lough both in Northern Ireland).

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

Many mechanisms have contributed to the implementation of the Convention's 'wise use' principles. For example the EU WFD and Nature Directives plus national biodiversity strategies. The notification of UK Ramsar sites as SSSIs/ASSIs under national legislation and Natura 2000 sites under EU legislation provides UK Ramsar sites with the strictest level of protection.

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

No specific difficulties have been encountered for the UK since the last report. This is largely because the objectives of the Convention are synonymous with already well established protected areas networks, nature conservation policies and initiatives, environmental protection regimes and development controls.

It should perhaps be acknowledged that in the UK, the Convention is sometimes overshadowed by policies and requirements associated with domestic legislation and EU Directives (particularly the Birds and Habitats Directives). A consequence of this is that the Convention can appear to have a lesser profile, given that the relevant EU Directives provide a parallel means of delivering the aims of the Convention in Europe; these related EU mechanisms (as outlined above), nonetheless echo, and in certain contexts exceed, the principles and requirements of the Convention.

Note that with the exception of Gibraltar, EU mechanisms do not extend to the UK OTCDs.

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

The UK is committed to achieving the aims and objectives of the Convention and aims to ensure that its wetlands continue to be managed according to the 'wise use' principles of the Convention.

The UK continues to seek to maximise opportunities for synergies between steps to implement the Ramsar Convention and the implementation of national and EU policies and legislation and other international agreements relevant to biodiversity and natural heritage, the water environment and wetlands.

In regard to further site designations, the UK continues to work with UKOTCD governments at their request on further designations in the OTCDs. Ongoing discussions and potential project work can potentially lead to further designations in the future.

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

A review to align the Ramsar Strategic Plan with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity agreed in October 2010 at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (Decision X/2) should be carried out and presented to the Ramsar CoP in 2012.

<http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

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

The UK is generally content with the assistance provided by the Ramsar Secretariat. However, the UK is concerned that three sites it formally designated some years ago have yet to be formally listed (see section 2.1.3: Killough Bay and Outer Ards, both in Northern Ireland and the Gouliot Caves and Headland, Sark).

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

The UK administrative authority works closely with a number of NGOs to implement the obligations and 'wise use' principles of the Convention. These include the RSPB, the UK partner organisation of Birdlife International, with which we maintain open and constructive dialogue, through forums such as the UK SPA & Ramsar Scientific Working Group and the UK Natura 2000 & Ramsar Forum.

- 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 UK strongly supports the streamlining and harmonising of reporting obligations, and supports the use of joint work-plans between MEAs in order to increase delivery efficiencies. See also answer under question E.

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


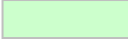
The key delivery mechanisms in the UK, analogous to the 'wise use' principles, are mainly delivered through national implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the Birds and Habitats Directives. The UK has adopted a strategic approach in order to ensure that the implementation of these Directives is done in a complimentary fashion to deliver common objectives.

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

The CBD/Ramsar joint work plan should be central to the Ramsar Secretariat's work.

## 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
<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Countryside Survey has reported on the extent and condition of wetland broad habitats, which has given an estimate of the resource at country and GB level, based on a stratified random sample. It has provided information on broad scale changes in extent and condition (<a href="http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk/">http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk/</a>).</p> <p>As part of the 2007 Countryside Survey, a Land Cover Map 2007 was published in June 2011. This provides continuous vector (land parcel) and 25m raster coverage for UK Broad Habitats, including wetland, bog, freshwater and littoral habitats. The map is derived from satellite data and uses a minimum mappable unit of 0.5 hectares.</p> <p>There are national inventories of specific wetland types (such as peatlands, saltmarshes, estuaries etc.) which give more detailed and precise data and information on the distribution and extent of these wetland types. Many of these datasets are available through the National Biodiversity Network (<a href="http://www.nbn.org.uk">www.nbn.org.uk</a>).</p>	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Although the UK does not have a comprehensive inventory of wetland data, a comprehensive inventory of designated Ramsar sites is available on the JNCC website (<a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1389">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1389</a>).</p> <p>Further information is available for the UK through the National Biodiversity Network (above), and considerable further information on the distribution and extent of wetlands in England and Wales has been collated by the multi-partner Wetland Vision project (<a href="http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/dyndisplay.aspx?d=home">http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/dyndisplay.aspx?d=home</a>).</p>	



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

---

---

1.1.3 a) Additional information: As part of the regular Common Standards Monitoring of statutorily designated sites in the UK, the condition of a selection of Ramsar Sites in Scotland (77 sites), and Northern Ireland (22 sites) was assessed in 2006. Aggregations of non-breeding birds are a feature of most UK Ramsar designations: in 88% of the assessments condition was evaluated as favourable, and in 12% of assessments condition was assessed as unfavourable.

Further information is at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2217>

1.1.3 b) Additional information: The UK has no specific dedicated national monitoring scheme for the status of wetlands generally although the information is available from a range of sources. The most comprehensive recent assessment was that undertaken as part of reporting on habitats and species of Community importance under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive in 2007. This assessed the conservation status of 77 different habitat types and 89 species listed for conservation action by the Directive. Assessments are for all of the habitat or species, not just that part which is within protected areas. Of these, 48 (62%) of the habitats are types of wetlands as defined by the Convention, and 58 (65%) are species which live in coastal or inland wetlands. Note there is a large overlap between the UK's SAC network and its Ramsar Site network. It is also worth noting that the assessment methodology is quite severe, such that if one of the four parameters within each assessment is unfavourable, the whole assessment is unfavourable. The reported national assessments were as follows:

Condition	Wetland Species	Wetland Habitats
Favourable	15 (25.9%)	3 (6.3%)
Unfavourable	31 (53.4%)	41 (85.4%)
Unknown	12 (20.7%)	4 (8.3%)

Of the species and habitats that were assessed as in unfavourable conservation status, 31% of habitats and 19% of species are improving, and 44% of habitats and 16% of species are deteriorating. The figures above relate to numbers and proportions of different types of wetland habitat in the UK. Some of these habitats (such as coastal lagoons) have very limited extent, whilst others (such as blanket bog and estuaries) are extensive. Converting these assessments to areas shows that the most extensive condition of assessed wetland habitats was 'bad and deteriorating'.

It is unsurprising that the great majority of the assessments for both the habitats and species have been assessed as unfavourable. This is because:

- I. the habitats and species which are listed on the annexes of the Habitats Directive were selected because they were severely impacted by the intensification of land use and other pressures which occurred in the second half of the 20th century both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe;
- II. the assessment standards agreed by Member States and the European Commission are strict;
- III. it takes time for the conservation action taken over the last 10-15 years to be reflected in observed benefits, particularly in relation to habitats where the responses of biological communities can be slow. It will take considerable time and effort to restore all of the species and habitats on the Directive Annexes to Favourable Conservation status.

Nevertheless the proportion that are improving is encouraging.

Further data and information on these assessments are available at (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4060>). The next assessment is due to be reported in 2013.

There is no regular monitoring or assessment of wetland condition in any of the UKOTCDs.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

## 1.3.1 Additional information:

The UK does not have a specific national policy for wetlands, although England and Wales have produced Ramsar policy statements.

## England

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/protected/ramsar-policy.pdf>

## Wales

[http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2001-ramsar-sites-in-wales/main/ramsar/1-26-45-88%5E21170\\_4000\\_0](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2001-ramsar-sites-in-wales/main/ramsar/1-26-45-88%5E21170_4000_0)

In Scotland, Ramsar is enshrined in Scottish Planning Policy which acknowledges that Ramsar sites are wetlands designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as waterfowl habitat. All Ramsar sites in Scotland are also Natura sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are protected under the relevant statutory regimes.

The UK has adopted a holistic approach to the development of biodiversity objectives, rather than a focus on specific ecosystems such as wetlands. This has achieved greater efficiencies in terms of delivery and has ensured win-win outcomes across the range of biodiversity objectives including the 'wise use' principles of the Convention.

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:

UK Biodiversity policies incorporate sustainable themes analogous to the WSSD targets and actions (managing natural resources, sustainable production and consumption, health).

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

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

## 1.3.3 Additional information:

1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: In the UK, the requirement for SEA comes from the EU SEA Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment). SEAs are applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands, where these fall within the prescribed thresholds of the UK's transposing Regulations.</p>	
1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	A - Yes
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: In the UK, the requirement for EIA comes from the EU EIA Directive (European Directive 85/337/EEC, on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment). EIAs are applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands, where these fall within the prescribed thresholds of the UK's transposing Regulations.</p>	
1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	B - No
<p>1.3.6 Additional information: In England and Wales, the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 recognises Ramsar sites as relevant conservation sites in the creation of a network of marine conservation zones (MCZs) under the Act. Similar arrangements are included in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for Marine Protected Area networks.</p> <p>In England and Wales, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 reinforces sustainable approaches to flood and coastal risk management. The linked flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy encourages the use of a wider range of measures to manage flooding and erosion in a co-ordinated way that balances the needs of communities, the economy and the environment. This will ensure that works to manage flooding and coastal erosion are carried out in a way that can bring benefits to the environment, supporting biodiversity and, where appropriate, habitat creation, all of which are likely to bring additional benefits for wetlands.</p>	
Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation:	
<p><b>STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services.</b> <i>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.</i></p>	
1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly

1.4.1 Additional information: For England, Defra is taking steps to embed an ecosystems approach in policy-making and delivery, including that relating to wetlands. The approach is set out in 'What nature can do for you - A practical introduction to making the most of natural services, assets and resources in policy and decision making' - a guide for policy makers on an ecosystems approach, updated in October 2010.

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/policy/natural-enviro/ documents/nature-do-for-you.pdf>

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment, published in June 2011, was a two-year assessment that covers UK terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems contained within eight broad habitat types, which includes sections on freshwater, wetlands and floodplains.

<http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Home/tabid/38/Default.aspx>

<http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC - the UK's main agency for funding and managing research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences) are carrying out a project Valuing Nature Network, which is likely to include some wetland-specific research into ecosystem valuation over the next two years.

<http://www.valuing-nature.net/>

In 2008, the Scottish Government established five ecosystem groups which cover all of Scotland's species and habitats (consisting of an Upland Ecosystem Group, a Freshwater and Wetlands Ecosystem Group, a Woodland Ecosystem Group, a Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Group and a Farmland and Lowland Ecosystem Group). Each group has a delivery plan which describes the ecosystem and its constituent habitats, sets out the key influences on that ecosystem and the services provided by it. There is also a plan of prioritized actions at ecosystem, habitat and species specific levels which identifies action over a three year period and is reviewed annually.

The main remit of the Freshwater & Wetland Ecosystem Group (FWEG) is to help deliver an ecosystem approach to biodiversity conservation for the freshwaters & wetlands of Scotland, to deliver coordinated planning, delivery and reporting of biodiversity action for freshwaters & wetlands and review priorities for biodiversity action and ecosystem health for freshwaters & wetlands.

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/safeguarding-biodiversity/working-with-others/sbf-working-groups/>

In 2008, the JNCC published a range of material related to ecosystem services of habitats (including wetlands) in the UK Overseas Territories and how these might be affected by climate change, giving particular emphasis to present this information via a range of different media. These materials may be relevant to other small island states.

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4362>

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

A - Yes

## 1.4.2 Additional information:

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

B - No

1.4.3 Additional information: No specific action has been taken. In regard to Ramsar sites, the current UK policy is to designate sites based on conservation (natural science) values only.

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): Most UK Ramsar sites are also Natura 2000 sites designated under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and, for the majority of UK countries as a matter of Government policy, listed Ramsar sites receive the same protection as designated Natura 2000 sites. In Scotland, all Ramsar sites are also Natura sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are protected under relevant statutory regimes.

In line with the site protection provisions of Natura 2000 sites, the UK allows socio-economic factors to be considered when developing management measures for sites and/or avoiding site deterioration. In this respect, relevant authorities are able to tailor their arrangements to suit local circumstances.

An example of this is Cors Fochno and Dyfi Ramsar site in Wales (Ramsar site code UK14004), which includes a drying estuary, adjacent dunes and a lowland raised mire. It is also designated as a Natura 2000 site, a National Nature Reserve under UK legislation and lies within a larger UNESCO Biosphere Reserve which includes much of the surrounding catchment. The management of the Ramsar site within this wider context integrates a wide range of ecological and socio-economic and cultural values, with particular emphasis placed on local stakeholder engagement.

<http://www.biosfferdyfi.org.uk>

An EU supported project 'Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies' involving the UK Overseas Territories of the Turks & Caicos Islands, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands is currently underway. The overall objective of the project is to comply with international environmental agreements and, in so doing, support sustainable development in above territories.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jamaica/projects/list\\_of\\_projects/20229\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jamaica/projects/list_of_projects/20229_en.htm)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation: For UKOTCDs, several of these topics received considerable coverage in the HMG-supported and UKOTCF-organised conference 'Making the Right Connections' in Cayman in 2009

<http://www.ukotcf.org/confs/grandCayman2009.htm>

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

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

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information: Policy focal points work closely through a range of co-ordinated mechanisms to identify cross cutting issues.

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  
A - Yes  
A - Yes

1.5.2 Additional information: While the UK endorses the messages contained in the declaration, it has not taken any action to disseminate the declaration further, given that we have a number of well established policies and procedures that echo its principles (eg national biodiversity policies and implementation of relevant EU obligations such as Water Framework Directive and Nature Directives).

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: See 1.5.2

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

Z - Not applicable



1.5.4 Additional information: See 1.5.2

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

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

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

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

KRA 1.6.i

A - Yes  
A - Yes  
A - Yes



1.6.1 Additional information: examples include:

a – CCW Science Report No. 831 - Nutrient Modelling and a Nutrient Budget For Llangorse Lake - studied the nutrient dynamics of a large shallow lake in South Wales and incorporated detailed chemical and hydrological monitoring. Details of flows and nutrient loading from each of the inflows are being used to drive management decisions. The project is an exemplar for further site-specific work.

b – Defra project (CR0422) developed computer models for an England assessment of the potential irreversible change in wetland habitats on the coastal 1:1,000 year tidal and tidal/fluvial floodplain due to sea level rise under different scenarios of climate change and coastal defences maintained or degrading. Results were reported according to broad habitat type and included aggregation to give figures for potential losses on Ramsar sites. It also included an assessment of ease of re-creation of the habitat types, for consideration of future planning and policies. The results contributed to the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.

A further Defra commissioned research project investigated potential changes in the abundance and distribution of birds, including wetland and migratory species, on the UK's SPAs, many of which are also Ramsar sites, under different climate change scenarios. A short policy guidance note and the report was published in summer 2011, and information will be made available on a special website (CHAINSPAN) for site managers to consult and consider.

Defra project (CR0439) - Priority Habitats, Protected Sites and Climate Change: Three Investigations to Inform Policy and Management for Adaptation and Mitigation. This study investigates how climate change could affect a selection of protected sites and assesses whether climate change is likely to make it impossible to attain favourable status, over the time periods 2020s-2080s and under low, medium and high emissions scenarios. It includes a number of case studies including wetlands, and makes a number of recommendations on the selection, management and monitoring of protected sites.

A Defra project is considering the current and potential disease and nuisance treats to humans and livestock from mosquitoes, midges and black fly associated with wetlands; whether future wetland creation will increase any risk; whether there are any common themes associated with the threats; and what mitigation measures might exist to help tackle them. The findings are expected to be published later in 2011.

CCW Science Report No. 858 - Understanding the effects of coming environmental change on Bosherton Lakes as a basis for a sustainable conservation management strategy. The project used a combination of hydrological modelling and nutrient studies to investigate the triple threat from climate change to the Lake, an internationally important freshwater body at risk from sea level rise. See also: Clarke SJ (2009) Adapting to climate change: implications for freshwater biodiversity and management in the UK. *Freshwater Reviews* 2, 51-64.

CCW has undertaken a preliminary climate change vulnerability assessment of the statutory site network in Wales (including Ramsar, SAC, SPA and SSSI sites), which will inform site management. In particular, it will enable the identification of those sites which are a priority for consideration of climate-related impacts. Wilson, L. (2010). *Climate Vulnerability Assessment of Designated Sites in Wales*. CCW Science Report No. 942.

CCW and EA have commissioned CEH, as part of a wider project to assess the use of UKCP09 climate projection data, to explore use of the data in evaluating the potential impacts of future climate on Welsh wetland sites. The study focuses on two Welsh wetland areas, Cors Bodeilio SAC on Anglesey and the Migneint-Arenig-Dduallt upland SAC in Snowdonia. The results will be published later in 2011.

c – A NERC-funded project combined natural science with socio-economic research to assess the costs and benefits to the rural community of changing farming and community practices to produce a healthy and sustainable river environment of good amenity value. The work combined physical environment models with economic analyses and surveys of farmer attitudes and behaviour to provide a highly interdisciplinary study of this multifaceted issue.

<http://www.relu.ac.uk/research/projects/SecondCall/Bateman.htm>

Scottish Government research on managing flood risk is focussing on how natural landscape features, including wetlands, ponds and floodplains, can be used to help mitigate flood risk, as well as providing other benefits.

- The Scottish Government is providing funds totalling £2.1 million over the next 5 years for strategic research on Natural Flood Management. The work will evaluate how natural landscape features, such as wetlands, perform in managing flood risk under a range of conditions. It will also develop ways to encourage land managers to co-ordinate and deliver such natural landscape features, and identify where they may bring additional benefits with respect to managing water quality, controlling diffuse pollution and supporting wildlife and biodiversity. (Strategic research 2011-2016 Water and Renewable Energy (Theme 2) (CR/2010/14))
- The performance and effectiveness of farm ponds to reduce pollution from farmyard dirty water: (CRE/002/06)

Scottish Government research on peatlands is focussing on estimating carbon stocks, restoration of peatland, impacts of windfarm development, and monitoring peatland erosion.

- Recent strategic research has produced guidance on best practice to restore peat bogs. Research has demonstrated a significant time lag between restoration of vegetation and the resumption of carbon sequestration. Experiments using typical restoration practices have explored the recovery of peat-forming plant species, the soil microbial community and soil carbon dynamics. (Strategic research 2005-2010 Programme 3)
- The Scottish Government continues to fund research to improve the evidence base on the impacts of external change on Scotland's peatland resource and is working alongside other public bodies to try and co-ordinate this effort. The new strategic programme of research includes a substantial block of work to quantify greenhouse gas emissions and sinks from Scottish peatlands, including those undergoing restoration (Work Package 3.1), and studies of peatland resilience and restoration using molecular biology approaches (Work Package 3.4). (Strategic research 2011-2016 Land Use Theme).
- Concerns that earlier methods used to calculate carbon 'payback' times for wind farm developments on peat did not fully take into account the greenhouse gas emissions from peatland soils, have led Scottish Government to update existing guidance and develop a 'carbon calculator' to calculate long-term carbon emission savings. (UAB/16/2007, UAB/18/2010).

- Scotland and Wales have developed a model (called ECOSSE) to simulate how stocks of carbon stored in soils with high organic matter (including peat) may respond to future changes in land use and climate. More recent research is strengthening the accuracy of this model using recent soil survey data from Scotland. (UAB/15/2007)
- In collaboration with the British National Space Centre, Scottish Government has commissioned research to assess the feasibility of using satellite information for routine monitoring of national trends in the severity and extent of erosion in upland organic soils (including peat) in Scotland. (QBC/001/07)
- In view of the increasing number of proposals for developments on peatland (notably wind farms, but also transmission infrastructure, surface coal mines, buildings, road widening/construction and forestry), guidance on conducting site surveys has been developed. This guidance identifies key principles for surveying peatland to inform peat landslide risk assessments, carbon payback calculations, waste management plans, site design and layout, drainage planning and hydrological assessment, post-construction habitat management/site restoration.

Research relevant to wetlands from the Scottish Government's Land Use and Rural Stewardship research programme (2006-2011) includes research into the influence of climate, air pollution and grazing on key habitats between the 1970s and 2008, including wetlands (mainly upland springs and lowland swamps). In both springs and swamps, it was shown that climate and pollution are strong influences on vegetation composition. However, grazing was not a significant influence on swamp habitats. By contrast, in upland springs, the influence of grazing has increased since 1970, and by 2008 was significantly affecting vegetation composition. This work highlights the importance of considering a range of influences when looking at change in upland habitats, and also emphasises that the relative importance of these influences will vary between habitats.

The 2006-2011 SG research programme also funded research into pioneering techniques to explore how different groups of microbes work to maintain healthy peatland ecosystems. With increased public awareness and concern about climate change, there have been many research studies focusing on animals and higher plants, but micro-organisms are still often overlooked.

Relevant research commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) includes:

The Scottish Government has recently tendered for a contract to monitor the natural heritage outcomes of its biodiversity measures under the 2007-2013 Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP). The monitoring project is due to run until mid-2014, reporting at the end of that year. This will include monitoring of SRDP options for wetlands and bogs.

'Managing and restoring blanket bog to benefit biodiversity and carbon balance'  
Blanket bog is Scotland's most extensive semi-natural habitat but around one third of it shows signs of erosion. The peat underlying blanket bog is Scotland's largest soil carbon store, containing well over 1 billion tonnes of carbon. The policy drivers to avoid deterioration of this resource are unequivocal, in terms of both biodiversity and carbon balance. Working closely with landowners and stakeholders, data on existing restoration techniques, costs and benefits will be analysed to inform construction of a decision support tool to assess future potential of sites for restoration. No actual restoration is planned under this project and any outputs will need to be evaluated before engaging in further work.

'Aquatic networks - investigating functional habitat linkages of rivers and water bodies'

In response to concern for terrestrial habitat fragmentation and deterioration, SNH has commissioned research to develop tools which use spatial modelling (BEETLE - Biological and Ecological Evaluation Tools for Landscape Ecology <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/beetletools>) to show how species and habitats operate at a range of scales. The resulting maps have been successful for informing policy and management decisions, and the potential of using this approach for freshwater and wetland habitats is now being explored. As in terrestrial ecosystems, this approach has the potential to aid decision-making for a range of issues - from management of invasive species (such as mink) to wider integrated catchment management planning.

'Quantifying the Climate Change Response of Micro-organism (Desmid) Diversity in Scotland's Blanket Mires' (PhD project) SNH is funding PhD research into how climatically sensitive blanket bog microorganisms called desmids can act as early indicators of climate-warming. At present there is a lack of fundamental quantitative knowledge in the structure of microorganism diversity, and the sensitivity of response to environmental drivers. This lack of information is in stark contrast to many other biological groups. This research should help inform peatland conservation and management to minimise projected impacts of climate change.

SNH has commissioned research to shed light on the reasons for the decline of the common scoter in Britain, which declined by 45% between 1995 and 2007. The research aims to look at food availability, water quality, competitors, predators and habitat, and may help to clarify the impact of afforestation.

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: Applied where wetlands are underpinned by national (SSSI/ASSI) legislation and/or EU legislation either as Natura 2000 sites or where such sites form part of a river basin management plan under the EU WFD.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management.** *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i

C - Partly

1.7.1 Additional information: UK implementing bodies use a variety of guidance to aid their work, as appropriate. EU and Ramsar guidance is likely to be similar.

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: This is analogous to the UK's obligations under the EU WFD.

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

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information: UK implementation is by way of the EU WFD. Examples include the Environment Agencies Ecohydrological Guidelines and UK Fen Management Handbooks.

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 UK approach to ICZM is built upon the European Commission's Recommendation of 2002. UK implementation is detailed in the following report:

United Kingdom Report to the European Commission - Implementation of the ICZM Recommendation 2006 – 2010 (published in December 2010)

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/documents/interim2/201012-iczm-report.pdf>

The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) repeats the UK's commitment to implementing ICZM and seeks to embed the principles of ICZM into planning and decision making on the coast: any public body that makes an authorisation or enforcement decision must do so in accordance with the MPS.

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/documents/interim2/marine-policy-statement.pdf>

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 includes new legal duties and powers on marine planning in Scottish waters and a pre-consultation draft of a marine plan covering Scottish inshore and offshore waters was published in March 2011. The final objectives of the plan will include sustainable development and the protection and enhancement of the health of the marine environment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/21114728/0>

Defra's policy statement - Appraisal of flood and coastal erosion risk management (published in June 2009), highlights the value of working with natural processes by protecting, restoring and emulating the natural regulating function of catchments, rivers, floodplains and coasts, for example through the creation of washlands and wetlands to store flood water away from high risk areas. At the coast natural features such as sand dunes, shingle structures, salt marshes and mudflats also provide an important role as effective first line of defences as well as ecologically important habitats.

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/policy/guidance/erosion-manage.pdf>

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

C - Partly



1.7.5 Additional information: There are a series of framework documents that provide generic guidance on adaptation action: in 2007 the UK Biodiversity partnership published general guiding principles for practitioners - Conserving Biodiversity in a changing climate: guidance on building capacity to adapt. In England this was refined into England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Principles in 2008. More geographically explicit guidance on the challenges and opportunities for all habitats in England is being provided by a programme that is revising 'objectives' for all habitats in the 159 National Character Areas that cover all of England. This is ongoing and due for completion in 2012. The statements are set in the context of recent landscape and ecological change and use a risk assessment including climate change to suggest actions and opportunities.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 received Royal Assent on August 4 2009.

- Part 1 of the Act, creates the statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland by setting an interim 42 per cent reduction target for 2020, with the power for this to be varied based on expert advice, and an 80 per cent reduction target for 2050. To help ensure the delivery of these targets, this part of the Act also requires that the Scottish Ministers set annual targets, in secondary legislation, for Scottish emissions from 2010 to 2050.
- The Scottish Ministers will take advice on the targets they set. In the first instance this advice will be provided by the UK Committee on Climate Change. However, Part 2 of the Act contains provisions which will allow the Scottish Ministers to establish a Scottish Committee on Climate Change or to designate an existing body to exercise advisory functions should it be decided that this is appropriate.
- Part 3 places duties on the Scottish Ministers requiring that they report regularly to the Scottish Parliament on Scotland's emissions and on the progress being made towards meeting the emissions reduction targets set in the Act.
- Part 4 places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies. This Part also contains powers to enable the Scottish Ministers, by order, to impose further duties on public bodies in relation to climate change. Section 35 of the Act places a duty on Scottish Ministers to lay a report before Parliament on proposals and policies already in place to cut emissions, and further proposals to enable Scotland to meet the annual emissions targets from 2010 to 2022.

This statement recognises that Scotland's soils, and especially its peatlands, can play a key role in retaining and sequestering carbon. Scottish peatlands contain about 1,600 million tonnes of carbon of the estimated 3,000 million tonnes held in all Scottish soils. In support of informed discussions with stakeholders, in December 2010 the Scottish Government published a discussion paper on carbon-rich soils, setting out the activities that we currently support and areas where further work is required. The paper contains particular detail about the current state of knowledge about carbon sequestration through rewetting peatlands. Measures such as drain blocking and the installation of other flow regulation structures to re-wet peatland which has previously been drained for reasons such as improving grazing or to permit afforestation could have the potential, in the medium to long-term, to reduce and even prevent drying and the exposure to air which can otherwise lead to increased oxidation rates and enhanced emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The Scottish Government is considering the potential benefits of peatland restoration. There is potential to enhance biodiversity by improving and restoring wetland habitats. However, the effects of restoration on greenhouse gas emissions are complex and uncertain both in scale and in timing. No figure for the emissions abatement potential of peatland restoration was given in the report because there is currently insufficient data on which to base a suitable estimate so further research is under way. In December 2010 the Scottish Government announced £200,000 of funding to support Scottish Natural Heritage's work to develop an inventory of Scotland's carbon-rich soils, and the RSPB's peatland restoration work at Forsinard to examine different approaches and benefits. These projects will contribute to enhancing understanding of soil and emissions science. The outcomes of this work will help in the development of a programme to support conservation and restoration - where it can be shown to prevent further greenhouse gas emissions or bring about carbon sequestration.  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/12/contents>

In 2008, the JNCC published a range of materials related to climate change adaptation, mitigation and ecosystem services in the UK Overseas Territories, giving particular emphasis to present this information via a range of different media. These materials are at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4362> and are relevant to other small island states.

The UK Biodiversity Partnership guiding principles have been widely promoted in Wales. However as part of the new Welsh Natural Environment Framework – A Living Wales initiative (see section 2), it is proposed that the guiding principles should be reviewed in a Welsh context. In addition, Low Carbon Regions have identified carbon conservation in peatlands as a priority in Mid and North-west Wales. Projects are under development to enhance carbon conservation in these areas.

For UKOTCDs, this issue was captured at the HMG-supported and UKOTCF-organised conference 'Making the Right Connections' in Cayman in 2009.

<http://www.ukotcf.org/confs/grandCayman2009.htm>

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

A - Yes



1.7.6 Additional information: Examples include the England Catchment Sensitive Farming initiative, which delivers practical solutions and targeted support to enable farmers and land managers to take voluntary action to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture thereby protecting water bodies and the environment.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/csf/default.aspx>

A pilot agri-environment scheme run by the Welsh Government ran for three years on the catchments of Llyn Tegid Ramsar site (UK14008) and the Deepford Brook in Pembrokeshire. Farm-scale improvements to infrastructure delivered via a targeted grant scheme were combined with environmental monitoring to quantify effects. The Pontbren catchment study is a collaboration between a group of 10 farms and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology CEH to quantify the effect of agricultural activities on flood risk in the valley in mid Wales. The activities being studied include tree planting, land use, surface and subsurface processes, agricultural drainage and flows. The lessons from these projects are being applied to the design of Glastir, the new agri-environment scheme currently being rolled out across Wales. The Countryside Council for Wales can provide further information if required.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation:

**STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration.** *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified?  
{1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information: As an example, the ongoing England and Wales 'Wetland Vision' partnership sets out a 50-year vision for freshwater wetlands in England and Wales. It will show where new wetlands could be created and current wetlands restored.

<http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/>

The Corsydd Mon a Llyn / Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site in Wales (UK14005) is the subject of a major restoration programme (see 1.8.2).

Many wetland habitats in all parts of the UK are included within SSSIs and Natura 2000 sites. Where such wetlands are considered to be in an unfavourable condition, by being included in designated sites they can be considered as priorities for restoration.

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information: See 1.8.1

Examples also include, the Corsydd Mon a Llyn / Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site (UK14005) in Wales, which is the subject of a 5 year, 5 million Euro habitat restoration and management programme being part funded by EU LIFE instrument (also designated as Natura 2000 sites). The project aims to bring 750 ha of wetlands into favourable or recovering condition, while developing new economic and social opportunities for local landowners and communities. <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-landscapes--sites/life-project/conservation.aspx>. A new website dedicated to the project will be launched shortly

The Newport Wetlands area in South Wales has been the subject of an ecological restoration project. CCW has owned the site since 2000. Created from old industrial and agricultural land as part of the compensation package for Cardiff Bay barrage, the site was notified under UK legislation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in March 2010. This site is now functioning as a prospective extension to the adjacent Severn Estuary SPA/Ramsar site. In addition to 2 overwintering bird features that are features of the SPA, the SSSI features include a range of wetland breeding birds, ditch habitat, reedbed and associated plant and invertebrate features. The site was also notified as a National Nature Reserve in April 2008. There is a visitor centre run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds which raises awareness of wetlands in general and the reserve in particular.

Management of wetlands can be funded through the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA) Restoration fund.

[http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/restoration\\_fund.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/restoration_fund.aspx)

Management of fens, a particular kind of wetlands, is helped by the Fen Management Handbook that SEPA developed with a wide range of UK partners.

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/about-scotlands-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/lochs-rivers-and-wetlands/fen/>

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

C - Partly

1.8.3 Additional information: UK implementing bodies use a variety of guidance to aid their work, as appropriate. EU and Ramsar guidance is likely to be similar.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

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

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

D - Planned

KRA 1.9.i

1.9.1 Additional information: A Non-Native Species Information Portal (NNSIP) for Great Britain is in advanced stages of development. This will be a comprehensive portal for information on alien species in Great Britain. The Portal provides access to the most current distribution data for over 3,000 alien species in GB as well as additional information such as place or origin, date of introduction and methods of introduction. For 300 species much more detailed information will be provided, including identification, impacts and control methods. The basic species information page links to relevant risk assessments, photographs, ID sheets and management plans, including information and distribution data on over 3,000 alien species. Through reports to its Government users, the Portal will inform policy making and action. It includes a rapid alerts system and an element of recording by the public. Marine/aquatic recording is a key element.

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/factsheet/index.cfm>

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: The Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy provides the framework for all action undertaken on invasive alien species in Great Britain. England, Scotland and Wales work together under this framework (through a GB Programme Board) developing both GB-wide tools and measures while also pursuing individual priorities. Under the Strategy Defra has supported the development of a generic GB risk assessment mechanism (assessments published on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat website at [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)) and the GB Non-native Species Information Portal. An interim GB rapid response agreement between the Administrations and their agencies has been developed together with joint information and awareness raising campaigns.

Practical action (specific eradication or control projects) is focussed on several invasive aquatic alien plant and animal species – some are shared priorities while others are not. A public awareness campaign urging responsible practices and disposal of aquatic IAS by pond owners and the aquatics retail sector has been launched with significant industry support (<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/beplantwise/>).

A second campaign aimed at promoting bio-security practices amongst water users urges them to 'Check, Clean and Dry' their equipment and clothing after use (<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/index.cfm?sectionid=98>).

Specific examples:

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership Invasive Non Native Species Group has compiled a list of all of the action (research, management and awareness raising) currently being taken on Invasive non native species (INNS) in Wales. The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) keeps up to date maps of all marine non-native species records in Wales. CCW has also identified a list of high, medium and low risk species. Eradication and/or control plans have been/are being drawn up in Wales by CCW, WG and EA for specific species such as *Didemnum vexillum* the Carpet seasquirt. A Code of Good Practice for mussel seed movements to and from the Menai Strait has also been jointly developed by CCW and the Bangor Mussel Producers. The overall aim of the code is to minimise the risk of introducing INNS via mussel movements into the Menai Strait with an emphasis placed on prevention.

*Dikerogammarus villosus*, the 'killer' shrimp, was discovered in the UK in September 2010 (in England and then subsequently in Wales), rapid response experience in England was swiftly transferred to Wales and working together the current priorities are containment of the three known populations, implementing surveillance and raising bio-security. Eradication or effective control measures have yet to be scoped. England has pursued control of *Pseudorasbora parva* (Topmouth gudgeon) and eradication of *Rana catesbeiana* (American bullfrog) and *Ludwigia gradiflora* (Water primrose).

Floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) is subject to local control programmes and has been eradicated from the ditch system of the Gwent Levels St Brides SSSI in Wales (part of the Newport Wetlands - see 1.8.2). This invasive weed can grow 30 cm a day, blocking water courses, causing flooding as well as leading to loss of SSSI features. Eradication is extremely difficult and control is also undertaken at sites in England while Defra is funding the continuation of research into potential biological control agents for *Hydrocotyle* and other key

aquatic IAS plants in the search for sustainable management tools.

In Scotland, provision in the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 will enable the adoption of the internationally recognised 3-stage approach to dealing with invasive non-native species. The Act aims to:

- prevent the release and spread of non-native animal and plant species into areas where they can cause damage to native species and habitats and to economic interests;
- ensure a rapid response to new populations;
- ensure effective control and eradication measures can be carried out when problem situations arise.

The Act amends the 'release' offences in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and introduces new sections on 'keeping', 'notification' and 'control' of invasive non-native species. The Act adopts the 'general no-release approach' in the regulation of invasive non-native species.

The Act introduces a new regime of Species Control Agreements and Orders enabling relevant bodies (Scottish Ministers, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Forestry Commission Scotland) when necessary to make a Species Control Order setting out measures that must be taken to control or eradicate an invasive non-native plant or animal where viable and of sufficient priority.

A Code of Practice on non-native and invasive non-native species is being developed; this code will provide practical guidance in respect of the release, keeping, sale and notification offences contained in the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act. It also contains information on species control agreements and species control orders, and sets out a framework of responsibilities agreed by the key government agencies (Forestry Commission Scotland, Marine Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage) dealing with invasive non-native species.

The Scottish Invasive Non-Native Working Group co-ordinate the overall response of public-sector bodies in Scotland to the environmental, social and economic challenges presented by invasive non-native species. This working group promotes the better integration of policy and practice across the public sector, and contributes to and supports the effectiveness of wider action on invasive non-native species at the GB level. The group meets 4 times per annum.

The Scottish Working Group is also developing a list of priority species – high alert species; local, regional or national eradication species; strategic control priorities. This document will also include an action plan for each species which will detail issues such as: lead organisation, partners and action (awareness, practical, legislation, regulation).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information: Private sector involvement is integral to the achievement of targets such as UK Biodiversity Action Plans and the development of River Basin Management Plans. Regulatory processes such as EIA/SEA and the planning process echo these principles.

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: As an example, the Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP), developed by United Utilities in association with the RSPB, aims to apply an integrated approach to catchment management in two key areas of United Utilities land in England (Bowland and the Peak District area).

<http://www.unitedutilities.com/scamp.aspx>

In Wales, CCW is building up an internet based 'actions database' identifying site management priorities and key partners for designated sites, including Ramsar sites. This is already being used to engage public, private and voluntary sector organisations in taking forward management actions on sites.

In the UKOTCDs, examples include an initiative in the Turks & Caicos Islands, where several private sector companies, particularly in sustainable tourism, are involved in wise use of wetlands, including Ramsar sites, and are exploring involvement in management.

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

A - Yes

1.10.3 Additional information: Examples include the 'Act on CO2' campaign launched in 2010, which targets amateur gardeners who use the majority of the peat (around 70%) that is used in horticulture. The campaign focuses on raising awareness of the environmental impacts associated with peat and promoting a switch to peat-free alternatives in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and protect the valuable biodiversity and wildlife of lowland raised bogs (from which peat is extracted for horticulture use).

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Greenerhomeandgarden/Greenergarden/DG\\_064415](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Greenerhomeandgarden/Greenergarden/DG_064415)

See also section 2A

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

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



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

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information: Various incentive measures exist to deliver wetland 'wise use' objectives, although these are not necessarily wetland specific. These include agri-environment schemes that provide funding to farmers and other land managers to deliver effective environmental management on their land. Examples include the England Catchment Sensitive Farming initiative (see 1.7.6), and the Welsh agri-environment schemes Tir Gofal and Glastir.

Application of measures under the EU Nitrates Directive to claimants of support under CAP schemes will have a positive impact on wetlands. For example, the introduction of no spread zones outside of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) prohibits the application of fertilizer/manure close to watercourses, boreholes, wells and springs. Farmers with land in NVZs already have to follow mandatory rules to tackle nitrate loss from agriculture.

See also the Biodiversity Agri-environment indicators:

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4243>

The Scotland Rural Development Programme (2007-2013) includes options which aim to help in the restoration and management of wetland, for the benefit of plants, birds and invertebrates, and to improve biodiversity, the landscape and flood management.

Amongst these, there are options for land managers to manage grazing on peatlands and to restore peatlands. The 'Management/Restoration of Lowland Raised Bogs' Rural Priorities option provides support for land managers to block ditches in order to raise the water levels on lowland raised bog sites to within 15cm of the surface. The 'Moorland Grazings on Uplands and Peatlands' and 'Wildlife Management on Upland and Peatland Sites' options support capital items for ditch blocking and peat dams to benefit upland and peatland sites, and there are also capital items available under woodland clearance options to assist the felling of tree plantations in order to restore the hydrology of bog habitats.

The Scottish Government is considering the design of its next rural development programme, which is expected to begin in 2014, and will take account of possible options for the creation, restoration and management of wetlands.

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

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information: The UK has taken a broad approach to identifying and removing perverse incentives where these discourage nature conservation. It is therefore difficult to tease out positive impacts specifically for wetlands. However, we will be working towards reform of the Common Agricultural Policy to have a positive impact on Ramsar sites, for example, where these include grazing marshes. Management agreements and other stewardship schemes will also have addressed this.



Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation: Lowland wet grasslands in the UK are particularly important habitat for a range of breeding wader species. Populations of these birds have been adversely impacted by agricultural intensification and drainage of these areas.

During 2009 and 2010, breeding waders were surveyed on 275 lowland wet grassland sites across England. Coverage was based on a similar survey in 2002, and 194 of the sites were also surveyed in 1982, enabling direct comparison of numbers across the three surveys spanning nearly 30 years.

One of the aims of this survey was to investigate whether the distribution of waders in 2009-10 was related to site designation and/or presence of wader related agri-environment prescriptions.

Results showed that Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus*, Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and Redshanks *Tringa totanus* were more likely to be present if fields were also under specific higher-level agri-environment management (such as Higher Level Stewardship). Furthermore, the probability of occupation by waders increased in fields which were not under wader-specific agri-environment management in 2002 but were in 2010. These are welcome signs that such agri-environment schemes may be working for this vulnerable group of birds.

## GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?</i> {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	B - No
2.1.1 Additional information: Although the UK continues to work with UKOTCD governments at their request on further site designations in the UK OTCDs, there is no strategy to establish further sites in the UK.	
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	B - No
2.1.2 Additional information: It is planned that updated RIS (where these are required) for Ramsar Sites in the UKOTCDs will be submitted by CoP 11.  For sites in the UK, updated RIS will be submitted following CoP 11 so as to exploit the anticipated revised RIS format and proposed new on-line reporting facility.	
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	3 sites
2.1.3 Additional information: Killough Bay and Outer Ards, both in Northern Ireland, and the Gouliot Caves and Headland, Sark, have been designated by the UK but not yet listed by the Secretariat.  The UK is currently liaising with the Ramsar Secretariat to obtain the basis for their decision not to list these sites.	
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	4 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Levels and Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore are currently under development but if successful designation is anticipated in 2012.</li> <li>• Derryleckagh (anticipated designation by early 2012)</li> <li>• Teal Lough (anticipated designation by early 2013)</li> </ul>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

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

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information: More detailed information is available via national databases and information sources.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information: In the UK most Ramsar sites are notified under national SSSI/ASSI or equivalent designation before being formally designated. This underpinning provides the necessary management mechanism to ensure site conservation measures are achieved.

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

131 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

131 sites

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

28 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

sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information: The UK has a range of different types of management plans and management planning processes in place for most Ramsar sites within the UK. Site specific information is available on the UK RIS – see 1.1.2.

The figures above come from the UK's International Designations Database and were last updated when the Ramsar Information Sheets were last comprehensively revised. They are therefore somewhat out-of-date and are likely to be an under-estimate compared to the current position. The UK plans to update its RIS after CoP using the new RIS format being proposed by STRP (assuming this is approved by CoP); more up-to date figures will then be available.

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: The outcome of management planning process in the UK is assessed by regular Common Standards Monitoring processes (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2217>). This assesses the 'condition' of the species or habitat 'features' for which statutory sites have been designated according to defined assessment criteria.

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

sites

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

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

0 sites

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

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

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

C - Some sites

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

Effectiveness of management is assessed through the normal review and feedback processes associated with site management planning. Management effectiveness reviews have not been undertaken as a separate evaluation process.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established): Most Ramsar sites in the UK are notified as Natura 2000 sites under the EU Birds and Habitats Directive, which provides mechanisms analogous to Ramsar Article 3.2 provisions – ie under Articles 6(2), 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive and, where applicable, Article 4(4) of the EU Birds Directive.

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

C - Some cases

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):

Negative human-induced change can be at a variety of scales and have varying implications for the maintenance of the ecological character of a site. Their consequences can range from essentially short-term and local to sufficiently significant (long-term and extensive) to warrant listing a site on the Montreux Record.

Not all cases of human induced negative change have been reported to the Secretariat under Article 3.2, but where the extent or nature of such change is sufficiently significant to warrant Montreux Record listing, such cases have been notified to the Ramsar Secretariat (see 2.6.3 below). The UK tracks whether change occurs through its statutory site monitoring protocols and in most cases believes that management action and the regulatory systems in place will be sufficient to remedy issues which have been observed.

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

A - Yes

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

The UK is making good progress to address the issues affecting the sites it has listed on the Montreux Record (Ouse Washes and Dee Estuary). However, the UK considers that it would be premature to remove these sites from the Montreux record at present. A summary of progress was submitted to the Secretariat in February 2011.

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:

Within the UK any potential Ramsar site is almost certainly already designated as a nationally important site (ie SSSI or ASSI), and will therefore be subject to the management planning processes and requirements to maintain favourable site condition that apply to those sites. It is therefore likely that processes are in hand to maintain the ecological character of these sites through their national status, although no formal national process exists to assess this.

There is no information as to whether processes exist to maintain the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites in the Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:



<b>GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>
--

<b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.</b> <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i>
--

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
---	---------

3.1.1 Additional information: Focal points work closely through various mechanisms and fora to identify cross cutting issues and promote synergies.
---

3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	A - Yes
--	---------

3.1.2 Additional information:
-------------------------------

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
--	---------

3.1.3 Additional information: Focal points are able to collaborate on cross cutting issues where necessary.
---

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

3.1.4 Additional information:
-------------------------------

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:
---

<b>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives.</b> <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	B - No
---	--------

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

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

B - No

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10):  
The Darwin Initiative is a UK grant scheme which assists developing countries to conserve their biodiversity. Its key objective is to provide funding for experts in biodiversity conservation, from the UK, to assist developing countries, including UK Overseas Territories, to implement their biodiversity commitments. Around £840,000 of funding has been allocated since April 2008 on wetland-related projects (<http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/>).

A number of the UK Overseas Territories have received funding through the UK Overseas Territory Environmental Programme (OTEP), which will contribute to wetland conservation. OTEP is a joint programme of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development to support the implementation of the Environment Charters and environmental management more generally in the UK Overseas Territories (<http://www.ukotcf.org/otep/>).

In addition to the above, it would be appropriate to note that support from UK Government to conservation in the UKOTs is complemented by major contributions to UKOTCDs of personnel, expertise and other resources from NGOs in the UK and the UKOTCDs themselves.

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

A - Yes

3.3.2 Additional information: A central aim of the Darwin Initiative is to support projects that enable local partners in resource-poor countries to achieve conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, helping them to achieve their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD - including under programmes of work such as that for Inland Waters), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Projects are monitored and evaluated to ensure that they will have a lasting impact and legacy on biodiversity in host countries and helping them meet their obligations under the three biodiversity conventions

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”): Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}

Z - Not applicable

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

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

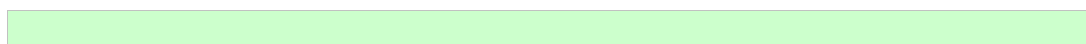
3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.2.1}

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):

Twinning arrangements exist between the Wash and Waddensee (Netherlands) and between Strangford Loch and sites in Canada and Iceland.

Networks have also been established through Wetland Link International (WLI), a support network for wetland centres which provide education and visitor activities on site. The project is run from the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust in the UK, and has around 350 members across six continents (<http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli>).



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: See 1.1.2.

Information is also available through initiatives such as the England 'Wetland Vision' work (<http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/>).

JNCC's web-site provides a range of information about UK Ramsar Sites (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1388>).

Information on the status of UK wetlands is widely available through the UK's National Biodiversity Network (<http://www.nbn.org.uk>).

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

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

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

3.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information: Undertaken within audit process forming part of the cross-border River Basin Management Plan development programme in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland at International River Basin District level.

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

A - Yes

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

Cooperation occurs through a number of mechanisms:

- Government bodies with responsibility for cross-border designated wetlands meet bi-annually (Northern Ireland Environment Agency and National Parks and Wildlife Service). This body also considers cross-border policy issues of common interest.

- Three International River Basin Districts are shared between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – the River Basin Management Plans for these apply to groundwater, all surface water bodies, transitional and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water and address cross-border considerations.
- A Cross-border body, The Loughs Agency, addresses protection and management of those cross-border catchments centred on shared coastal areas (Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough - both Ramsar sites) and their associated catchments.

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: The UK is signatory and active participant in a number of agreements under the Convention on Migratory Species which have implications for the conservation of wetland-dependent species. These include:

- African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels
- Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas
- MoU on the Aquatic Warbler
- MoU on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia
- MoU on Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia

Further information on the UK's involvement in these international initiatives can be found in the most recent UK report to CMS CoP 10:

([http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/national\\_report/048\\_united\\_kingdom\\_e.pdf](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/national_report/048_united_kingdom_e.pdf)).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

## GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

**STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.** *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.*

4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i

- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

(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)

C - In progress  
A - Yes  
A - Yes  
A - Yes

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): 'Conserving Biodiversity - the UK approach' 2007 set out the vision, approach and priorities for conserving biodiversity shared by the four countries of the UK. It included a theme on engaging people and encouraging behaviour change. A new framework is in preparation, which will capture the commitments from the EU biodiversity strategy and the 20 Aichi targets agreed at Nagoya in October 2010, which need action at the UK level. It is expected to be published in 2012.

An England wetland CEPA plan had been formulated, which captures known activities and identify gaps and priorities. Broad CEPA objectives are incorporated at all levels through biodiversity strategies and programmes.

On 15 September 2010 the Welsh Government consulted on the principles against which it will develop its new Natural Environment Framework. It invited public and partners' input to help design how the new approach will be made operational. This programme entitled A Living Wales includes a workstream dedicated to the engagement and communication surrounding the development and promulgation of the new framework. Collating existing environmental information sets and developing better information sharing on Wales' environmental capital are among the ongoing activities of this workstream.

By developing the framework in an inclusive and transparent fashion, it is hoped that stakeholders and the wider public will understand and engage with it. The new approach encourages high levels of participation and input to the process which should in turn yield a greater knowledge of what the framework is trying to achieve and what it means for the organisations, sectors or communities involved.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/nef/currentwork/partn>

erships/?lang=en

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

50 centres

4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)): Through the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) Wetland Link International (WLI) network, the UK has an existing list of around 50 WLI contacts.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

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

A - Yes

A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved): Public consultation precedes all Ramsar site designations, which are selected on scientific criteria only. Public participation is central to the development of site management plans, which may take account of socio-economic and cultural factors.

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

A - Yes

4.1.4 Additional information: Training needs are assessed on an organisation by organisation basis.

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): It is not possible to give a precise figure as such opportunities are assessed on an organisation by organisation basis (there is no central co-ordination).

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

A - Yes

4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): Natura 2000 & Ramsar Forum: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/protected/internationally-designated-sites/n2krf-tor-0810.pdf>; and



Natura 2000 & Ramsar Steering Committee:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/protected/internationally-designated-sites/n2kr-sector-1011.pdf>

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

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

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

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

Focal points (both wetland specific and broader conservation) are established throughout the UK administrations and its agencies and have established networks to ensure joined up implementation of 'wise use' principles. JNCC, the Government's advisor on nature conservation issues, provides a coordination role for the UK nature conservation agencies.

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), Wildlife Trusts and RSPB convened a 'wetland futures' conference in summer 2011 for wetland practitioners (attended by approximately 90 people largely from NGOs). The conference included sharing best practice and workshops: with a view to agreeing a collective view of wetland conservation in the UK.

<http://www.wwt.org.uk/our-work/wetland-futures-conference-2011>

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum disseminates information and collates input to and from NGO and governmental bodies throughout the UKOTCDs, by means of emails, web-site, newsletters, meetings including remote participation, and occasional conferences. The most recent of the last was in Cayman in 2009, involving over 100 practitioners primarily from the UKOTCDs.

<http://www.ukotcf.org/confs/grandCayman2009.htm>

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: A range of activities have taken place to promote WWD. Examples include:

- Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change Conference  
February 10th February 2009, London <http://www.coastms.co.uk/conferences/226>
- Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change Conference

February 2nd – 3rd 2010, Peterborough  
<http://www.coastms.co.uk/conferences/428/show>

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):

- Wetlands International Symposium - Wetlands matter: valuing wetland ecosystems in a changing climate, 24 February 2011, Edinburgh.

<http://www.wetlands.org/NewsandEvents/CalendarofEvents/WetlandsSymposium2011/tabid/2523/Default.aspx>

- The International Year of Biodiversity 2010 initiative promoted the importance of biodiversity generally to the public. Defra part-funded this and over 400 partners took part.
- The Muck in4Life environmental volunteering initiative includes wetland themes within broader environmental activities

<http://muckin4life.direct.gov.uk/index.html>

- See also NEA (section 1.4.1)
- In 2010, Wetland Link International (WLI) added a virtual visit site to their website with funding support from Defra. The project includes case studies to compliment their existing 'How to develop a wetland centre' online manual in order to enable users to take virtual tours of a number of wetland centres around the globe. The case studies detail how people plan, design and run their centres and include everything from involving local people in the planning stage, via visitor management, how to create specific habitats and interpretation, to visitor monitoring and evaluation. It is hoped that this resource will enhance the philosophy, thinking and questions to be considered when developing and running a wetland centre, with the emphasis on CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) - the 'people' aspects of creating and running a wetland centre.

<http://www.wlbsitevisit.org/>

- Wildlife and Countryside Link's BluePrint for Water campaign continues to advocate its 10 step action plan to sustainable water.

<http://www.wcl.org.uk/blueprintforwater.asp>

- Water for Wildlife is a partnership supporting wetland conservation across the UK. It aims to co-ordinate the wetland work of The Wildlife Trusts, working with water

companies, the Environment Agency and other key partners, to provide a more consistent and targeted approach to wetland conservation. It will also support national and regional project development, raise the profile of wetland conservation, and encourage sharing of best practice between the trusts and their partners.

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=environment:wfw>

- With some support from HMG, the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) established a web-database of environmental education resources designed for or adaptable to UKOTCDs. UKOTCF is currently involved in a joint project with Turks & Caicos Education Department to develop and introduce to schools a curriculum and related coursework for upper primary and lower secondary school, entitled 'Wonderful Water'.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

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

4.2.1

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

A - Yes

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

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

A - Yes

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

- £15,000 - Joint Ramsar STRP/AEWA Technical Committee project to review the impacts of extractive industries on wetlands (STRP task 2.3);
- £6,000 - STRP task 2.4 scoping review of the implications for wetlands of energy generation and distribution activities;
- £12,000 STRP task 9.1 guidance on the mitigation and compensation for wetland losses.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

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

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

B - No

4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

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

A - Yes

4.3.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

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

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

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

A - Yes

4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided): The UK works closely with the RSPB (the UK partner of Birdlife International) in implementing the 'wise use' principles of the Convention.

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): JNCC has worked with Wetlands International to seek sustainable funding mechanisms for the International Waterbird Census – the data and information from which is fundamental to the implementation of aspects of the Ramsar Convention, AEWA and CMS. This involved the funding of an independent review and scoping study in 2009/10.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation: