



**NATIONAL PLANNING TOOL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**(And the approved format for National Reports to be  
submitted for the 9th Meeting of the Conference of  
the Contracting Parties, Uganda, 2005)**

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SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION (OPTIONAL)	

*Please, include a summary on the implementation of Ramsar Convention in your country during the last triennium*

#### Wetlands in Latvia

There are more than 12 400 rivers in Latvia and 2256 lakes which are larger than 1 ha, which altogether with water reservoirs cover up to 3.7% of Latvia's territory (National Programme on Biological Diversity, 2000; Characteristic of river basin districts, 2005). Relatively untouched peatlands cover 4.9 % from Latvia's territory. Peat deposits, i.e. peatlands of more than 1 ha large and with more than 0.3 m peat (including wet forest types on peat soil), comprise 10.4% of the total land area of Latvia (Mire Habitat Management Plan, 2003, Riga). Besides these wetlands there are also sea aquatorium, coastal meadows, floodplains and other

natural and human made wetlands in Latvia.

### **Ramsar sites in Latvia**

There are 6 Ramsar sites designated in Latvia. 3 of them were designated at the end of 2002 (after COP 8). These sites are: Pape Wetland Complex, Lubana Wetland Complex and Northern Bogs (Ziemeļu purvi). All Ramsar sites have legal protection status (under national legislation), except Lubana Wetland Complex. This complex includes 10 existing nature reserves; it is planned to designate one unified territory there during the next 3 years.

### **Protection of wetlands**

Protection of wetlands are ensured by the national legislation (on Specially Protected Nature Territories, on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Impact Assessment, on Protected Belts etc.) and strategic documents (National Environmental Policy Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> edition in 2004)), National Programme on Biological Diversity (Action Plan of the Programme updated in 2003) and other sectoral plans and programmes. The work on improvement of legislation related to nature conservation has been continued. Different amendments to existing legislative acts (such as, laws and regulations on Impact Assessment, on Specially Protected Nature Territories etc.) and new regulations (e.g. regulations “On General Use and Protection of Specially Protected Nature Territories”, etc.) have been adopted. Also the draft law “On Landowners Rights to Receive Compensation for the Legal Restrictions Established in Protected Territories” has been elaborated by the Ministry of Environment and submitted to the Parliament for adoption. Since 2002 when Law on Water Management was adopted, Latvia has started implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. So far, different legislative acts regarding river basin management have been elaborated and approved. A pilot project on elaboration of Daugava river basin management plan was carried out (2000-2003) and characteristic on river basin districts (including assessment of anthropogenic loads on surface and underground waters) was prepared (in 2005).

The main activity during the last triennium related to biodiversity (and also related to wetlands) protection was the designation of *Natura 2000* sites in Latvia. To reach this a comprehensive national inventory of existing specially protected nature territories as well as designation of new ones was carried out. During this process more than 240 of existing specially protected nature territories were inventoried, proposal for establishment of 122 new territories was prepared and significant changes of borders of 48 sites were proposed. It resulted in a list with 336 potential *Natura 2000* sites (331 pSCIs and 97 SPAs). The inventory was carried out according to the requirements of the EU Habitats and Birds Directive and according to the EU habitat classification. All 6 Latvia's Ramsar sites as well as other territories the most suitable for habitats and species listed in the Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I of the Bird Directive were included in this list. The list contains significant number of territories designated for protection of different wetland habitats and wetland dependent species. All 336 potential *Natura 2000* sites are already protected under the Latvian legislation – they are stated as specially protected nature territories. The total area of specially protected territories after the inventories increased from 8.8 to 12 %. 300 territories (including all Ramsar sites) out of mentioned 336 potential *Natura 2000* sites are included also in the register of protected territories according to the EU Water Framework Directive (Characteristic of River Basin Districts, 2005). Protection of wetlands in Latvia is being promoted also by issuing different informative and educational materials as well as by celebrating Worlds Wetlands Day annually.

### **Management and restoration of wetlands**

During the last triennium several large scale projects related to management and restoration of wetlands have been started. These projects operate in all Ramsar sites in Latvia, as well as in other wetland territories. The projects are mainly financed by the EU Life Nature programme, but there are also projects financed by PIN MATRA etc.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1.1:** Describe the extent of wetland resources, especially at global and national (or, where appropriate, provincial) scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the convention and in particular the application of the wise use principle

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Obtain the information on valuable wetland territories in Latvia</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<b>1. Complete the inventory and assessment of potential Natura 2000 territories;</b> <b>2. Propose the new territories for including in the list of Ramsar sites.</b>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 1.1.1.-** Promote and encourage the use of standard wetland inventory methodologies following the *Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6)*, to undertake, update and disseminate national (or, where appropriate, provincial) scientific inventories of wetlands.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** By COP9, all Parties without completed inventories to have initiated action in line with the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory, and as far as possible to have completed and disseminated comprehensive national wetland inventories.

<b>1.- Country has a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory (<i>if inventory exists, please include the number of sites</i>)</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>	<b>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</b>
<b>2.- Methodologies recommended in the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6) were used for National Wetland Inventory</b>	<b>H</b>		
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the application of inventory methodologies, the status of the inventory - end date or expected timeframe, contents of the inventory - and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
<p>A comprehensive inventory of specially protected and potentially protected territories (including also territories with wetland habitats) in Latvia was carried out in 2001-2004 during the establishment of <i>Natura 2000</i> network (according to the EU Habitats and Birds Directive). During this process more than 240 of existing specially protected nature territories were inventoried, proposal for establishment of 122 new territories was prepared and significant changes of borders of 48 sites were proposed. It resulted in a list with 336 potential <i>Natura 2000</i> sites (331 pSCIs and 97 SPAs). The inventory was carried out according to the requirements of the EU Habitats and Birds Directive and according to the EU habitat classification. All 6 Latvia's Ramsar sites as well as other territories the most suitable for habitats and species listed in the Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I of the Bird Directive are included in this list. The list contains significant number of territories designated for protection of different wetland habitats and wetland dependent species. All 336 potential <i>Natura 2000</i> sites are already protected under the Latvian legislation – they are stated as specially protected nature territories. The total area of specially protected territories after the inventories increased from 8.8 to 12 %.</p>			

**Action 1.1.2.-** Include in national wetland inventories information which identifies: a) potential Ramsar sites; b) wetlands of national, provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party; and c) wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation, with a list of priorities, giving particular priority to inventories of karst



and caves, intertidal wetlands, coral reefs, peatlands, sites supporting globally threatened species, and other wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All national wetland inventories initiated after COP8 to include information on wetland importance; potential Ramsar sites; wetlands for restoration; location of under-represented wetland types; and values and functions, in particular in relation to poverty eradication strategies.**

<i>See actions 3.2.1, 3.3.1, r4.1.1, and Operational Objective 10.1</i>			
<i>Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:</i>			<b>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</b>
<b>1. The inventory assesses and documents potential Ramsar Sites</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>	
<b>2. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands of national, provincial or local importance</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i>	
<b>3. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>E = In progress;</i>	
<b>4. The inventory assesses and documents wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status</i>	
<b>5. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>(explain below); I = No answer</i>	
<b>6. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of coastal protection</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>	
<b>7. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of flood defense</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i>	
<b>8. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of food security</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>E = In progress;</i>	
<b>9. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of poverty alleviation</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>	
<b>10. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of cultural heritage</b>	<b>H</b>	<i>H = Other status (explain below);</i>	
<b>11.- The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research</b>	<b>H</b>	<i>I = No answer</i>	
<b>12.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Comments on the information included in the wetland inventory in light of the items indicated above]</b>			
<p>The targets of the inventory done in Latvia (described under the Action 1.1.1.) were not exactly the targets mentioned above. Though there is available information on wetlands which could be potentially designated as Ramsar sites in Latvia. During inventory of potential <i>Natura 2000</i> sites in Latvia all Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Latvia were inventoried as well. Criteria of designation of IBAs are compatible with criteria of designation of potential Ramsar sites, thus we can consider that we have the information on potential Ramsar sites in Latvia at least regarding bird species. Regarding action No 2 – all specially protected territories with wetland habitats are of national importance. Regarding action No3 – the need of restoration and rehabilitation has been assessed for the EU priority species or habitats in the wetland territories designated as potential <i>Natura 2000</i> sites. Restoration activities are always also assessed during elaboration of the management plan for a particular territory. Preparation of management plans is an ongoing process; so far, management plans for only approximately 60 territories have been elaborated. Regarding action No 5 - wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply will be assessed within the elaboration of river basin district plans according to the EU Water Framework Directive. Action No 10 - the special inventory which assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of cultural heritage has not been carried out in Latvia. Though there exist different other inventories which assess monuments of cultural heritage (including also monuments related to wetlands). The special inventory which assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research has not been carried out so far. Though there are several wetlands (and also Ramsar sites) which have been used for scientific researches for a very</p>			

See actions 3.2.1, 3.3.1, r4.1.1, and Operational Objective 10.1

Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:

N°  
wetlands/  
Ramsar sites

long period (e.g. Lake Engure, Teicu Bog etc.)

**Action 1.1.3.-** Ensure that national arrangements for the custodianship, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data and information, including metadata, are in place and introduce the necessary measures to ensure that this resource is both as comprehensive as possible and readily accessible to the full range of stakeholders.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All wetland inventories to have full data management, custodianship, and metadata records in place.**

1. National arrangements established for the custodianship, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data and information, including metadata

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

All inventory data and information obtained during inventory of *Natura 2000* sites regarding habitats and species is collected and stored in database called National Cadastre of Specially Protected Territories, which is stored and updated by the Latvian Environmental, Geology and Hydrometeorological Agency (former Latvian Environment Agency). The Cadastre contains information on plant and animal species, habitats and other values in the territory, as well as information on impacts and threats, presence of management plans etc. The Cadastre is available on the web ([www.lva.gov.lv](http://www.lva.gov.lv)), updated all the time and accessible by all interested.

Metadata on nature conservation and biodiversity (including wetlands) in Latvia is collected in the web based system called Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) prepared to fulfil the requirements of the Convention of Biological Diversity. The CHM web site is also updated by the Latvian Environmental, Geology and Hydrometeorological Agency and available at [www.lva.gov.lv/daba/](http://www.lva.gov.lv/daba/). Information from the inventories assessing wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply will be kept in the River Basin Management Authority under the Latvian Environmental, Geological and Hydrometeorological Agency.

**Action 1.1.4.-** Make available a web-based wetland inventory meta-database and encourage the inclusion of a metadata record for all national (including provincial) wetland inventories.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: By COP9, a Web-based metadatabase in place and populated with information on all national wetland inventories.**

1. National (including provincial) wetland inventory metadata record provided for inclusion in Ramsar's Web-based wetland inventory metadatabase

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

**Action 1.1.6.-** Encourage the use of relevant information from wetland inventories by decision-makers, wetland managers and wetland users in the development and implementation of national wetland policies and national and local wetland programmes.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: By COP9, all Parties with wetland inventories to have made these available to all stakeholders.**



1. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among decision makers	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among wetland managers	<b>B</b>	
3. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among other wetland users	<b>B</b>	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
All information (values, threats etc.) on the specially protected territories (also territories with wetland habitats) is available on the Web (in the Cadastre of Specially Protected Nature Territories) and therefore available for the decision makers (ministries, their subordinate institutions etc.), wetland managers and wetland users. It is requested that during elaboration of the management plans for specially protected territories all available and relevant information on particular territory should be collected - it includes also the use of the Cadastre. The wetland users along the use of the Cadastre are also invited to participate in public discussion organised during the elaboration of the site management plan.		

**Action 1.1.7.-** Give high priority to developing projects for inventory activities for the *Small Grants Fund*.

1. Wetland inventory project proposals were submitted to the Small Grants Fund and were funded	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Wetland inventory project proposals were submitted to the Small Grants Fund and were not funded	<b>C</b>	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1.2:** Assess and monitor the condition of wetland resources, both globally and nationally (or, where appropriate, provincially), in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention and in particular the application of the wise use principle

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>D</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>TARGETS</b> (text answer):	<b>Implement sub-program on monitoring of Ramsar sites in Latvia (elaborated under the National Environmental Monitoring program)</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b> (text answer):	<p><b><u>In Lake Engure:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor the conditions of populations and nesting success of the waterbirds;</li> <li>To monitor changes of habitats' types and their area in the lake;</li> <li>To obtain information on dynamics of animal species which directly or indirectly have an impact on populations of waterbirds; etc</li> </ol> <p><b><u>In Lake Kanieris:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor changes of habitats' types and their area in the lake;</li> <li>To obtain information on dynamic of animal species which directly or indirectly have an impact on populations of waterbirds;</li> <li>To monitor changes of structure of vegetation in the lake and coastal meadows etc</li> </ol> <p><b><u>In Teicu and Pelecares Bogs:</u></b></p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To obtain an information of bird species, size and density of their populations;</li> <li>2. To obtain an information on plant species in bog, meadows and forests;</li> <li>3. To monitor the changes of groundwater in the bog;</li> <li>4. To obtain an information on mammal species etc.</li> </ol>
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### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 1.2.1.-** Actively contribute to the work of the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)* project (<http://www.millenniumassessment.org>) by serving on its Board and Executive Committee and on its various working groups; analyze the MA's methodologies, results and findings at Ramsar COP9, and review the necessary actions, if any, to update and make comprehensive the global assessment of wetland resources and their condition. (Refer also to Action 1.1.5)

**1. Contribution made to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project (MA)**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution made to the work of the MA.]**

No progress made.

**Action r1.2.i.-** Make available to Contracting Parties and other interested organizations the findings and guidance developed by the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)* for their use, as appropriate, of the MA guidance and methods for sub-global ecosystem assessments in the assessment of wetland ecosystems at the local, national and regional (supra-national) scale, including through international cooperation on the assessment of transboundary aquatic ecosystems. (Resolution VIII.7).

**1. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at national scale**

**A**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;*

*D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at regional (supranational) scale**

**A**

**3. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at local scale**

**A**

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the use of MA guidance and methods.]**

**Action 1.2.2.-** Establish a repository for the contribution by Contracting Parties of summarized national (or, where appropriate, provincial) assessments of changes in the status of wetland resources, as the basis for regular analysis and improved reporting on the status of wetland resources.

**1. Repository of assessments of changes in wetland status established**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the repository of assessment of changes in wetland status, its contents and uses.]**

The Action Plan of Monitoring of Ramsar Convention Sites under the chapter "Biodiversity Monitoring" of the National Environmental Monitoring Program was elaborated and approved in 2002. So far, it describes monitoring of 3 Ramsar sites (out of 6). The main targets of this Action Plan is to follow and document the changes of habitats and areas they cover, to obtain the information on waterbirds (their population dynamic, nesting, threats etc.), to obtain the information on other species (fishes, predators) related to particular wetland, to follow the changes of groundwater level (in bogs) etc. This (Ramsar Sites Monitoring) is closely connected with other monitoring programs, such as Monitoring of River Habitats and Species, Monitoring of

Mire Habitats and Species, Monitoring of Lake Habitats and Species etc. These monitoring programs are also a part of the National Environmental Monitoring Program and also are related to assessment of wetlands but not directly to Ramsar sites. The supervisor of the National Environmental Monitoring Program is Latvian Environmental, Geological and Hydrometeorological Agency (LEGHA). LEGHA stores all the reports on realised monitorings and part of them are also available on the web, in Latvian with English summary ([www.lva.gov.lv](http://www.lva.gov.lv)). Unfortunately a special state funding only for monitoring of Lake Engure Ramsar site is allocated regularly so far. Monitoring of Lake Kanieris Ramsar site is done by Kemeru National Park administration and Institute of Biology, and monitoring of Teicu Bog is done mainly by Teici Nature Reserve administration. Funding for monitoring programmes other than monitoring of Ramsar sites also has been allocated irregularly and not in full amount.

The administrations of territories with Ramsar sites (Kemeru National Park, North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve, Teici Nature Reserve) also store and analyse information on wetlands.

**Action 1.2.5.-** Undertake assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character, including their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: SC/Bureau to identify at least 20 Parties willing to undertake vulnerability assessments and report to COP9.**

<b>1. Assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character were undertaken</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
<b>2. The assessments include impacts of climate change</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>
<b>3. The assessments include impacts of sea-level rise</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessments undertaken.]**

Assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character are undertaken within the National Monitoring Programmes and also such assessments are undertaken in the largest wetland territories by their own administrations (Teici Nature Reserve etc.) which follow all changes in the particular territory.

Assessments of vulnerability of wetlands to the impacts of climate change and impacts of sea-level rise have not been undertaken so far. The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Report within UNFCCC includes some evaluations of possible sea-level rise, its impact on coastal zone and lower reaches of the largest rivers; it also includes short description on changes in vegetation related to climate change, but in total this Report is not targeted to wetlands. The 4<sup>th</sup> National Report is going to be elaborated during 2005.

Some assumptions on potential sea level raise and territories affected are described also in publication "The Sea Coast of Latvia" (Eberhards G., 2003). The author presumes that if average water level of the ocean according to prognosis will rise for more 30-50 cm within the next 50-100 years, then the relative water level in the southern part of Riga Gulf will raise for 50-70 cm. The author indicates that raise of sea level in this territory will raise the level of groundwater; it will lead to development of new (possibly short term) water bodies and flood the floodplains and low lands after enlargement of existing water bodies. He states that raise of sea level may impact several specially protected nature territories; it will lead also to raise of water level in lower reaches of the largest rivers. The other affected territory can be territory between Lithuanian/Latvian border and Liepaja town.

**Action r1.2.iv.-** Continue to document the past losses and current status and trends of coastal wetlands, including in national wetland inventories, and report on their conservation status in National Reports to COP9. (Resolution VIII.4)

<b>1. Past losses and current status and trends of coastal wetlands documented</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands.]**

There are more than 40 territories along the Baltic sea and Riga Gulf coast in Latvia that have been designated as *Natura 2000* sites. 3 of them are designated as Ramsar sites, 11 are designated as Important Bird Areas and a lot of them include different wetland habitat types. 7 of these territories have also sea aquatorium. In 2002 the LIFE Nature co-financed project “Protection and Management of Coastal Habitats in Latvia” was started. The aim of the project is the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of 23 habitat types (7 of them EU priority) and 4 plant species listed in the Habitats Directive, 9 habitat types according to the Bern Convention, and 16 species listed in Birds Directive; development of the basic framework for sustainable management of the coastal protection belt of the Baltic Sea in Latvia; promotion of a network of protected nature territories and microreserves of the Baltic Sea coast; raising of public awareness regarding the need for protection of habitats of the Community importance. The project area is entire Baltic Sea coast in Latvia.

There are also different other projects related to particular territories situated in the coastal zone – “Management of Wetlands in Kemeru National Park” (including management of Lake Kanieris – Ramsar site), “Lake Pape – Conservation, Preservation and Evolution” (Lake Pape – Ramsar Site), “Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park” (Lake Engure – Ramsar Site); the project finished in 2004. All these projects are targeted to explore the territories, map the habitats and implement the management activities that will help to preserve and, if necessary, restore the valuable habitats. All these projects also contain actions devoted to information and education of local inhabitants, different target groups and overall society about these territories, their values and threats. Also UNDP/GEF financed project “Biodiversity protection in North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve” *inter alia* is related to coastal area protection.

Since all these more than 40 territories are also protected under national legislation a management plan for each territory should be elaborated. There are 13 territories with completed management plans, for 5 territories the management plans are still under development. Each management plan contains description of the territory (status, values, threats etc.), sets targets for conservation and management and provides actions to be realised to achieve these targets.

There is also a special monitoring action plan elaborated under the National Environmental Monitoring Programme – Monitoring of Coastal Habitats and Species (realised from 2002).

**3.- Summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands [Please provide here a summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands and provide reference citation to any relevant publication, reports or analysis.]**

1. There are more than 40 territories along the Baltic sea and Riga Gulf coast in Latvia that have been designated as *Natura 2000* sites and are also protected by national legislation.
2. Half of Latvia’s Ramsar sites are located along the coast. These territories are also designated as *Natura 2000* sites and are protected by national legislation.
3. In total 11 Important Bird Areas are designated along the coast line.
4. There are several major projects dealing within the protected coastal territories. These projects include also activities related to conservation and restoration of different wetland habitat types.
5. A special monitoring program - Monitoring of Coastal Habitats and Species – was elaborated.

**Publications**

1. Action Plan for Implementation of Biodiversity Monitoring chapter under the National Environmental Monitoring Program, in Latvian ([www.lva.gov.lv](http://www.lva.gov.lv))
2. Racinskis E. 2004. Important Bird Areas of European Importance in Latvia. Riga, LOB
3. Laime B., Berzins E. Territorial planning and protection of coastal habitats. (In publication “An actual example of species and habitats management in Latvia”), Riga, 2002.
4. Project proposals for EU Life Nature programme: “Protection and Management of Coastal Habitats in Latvia” ([www.piekraiste.daba.lv](http://www.piekraiste.daba.lv)), “Management of Wetlands in Kemeru National Park” ([www.kemeru.gov.lv](http://www.kemeru.gov.lv)), “Lake Pape – Conservation, Preservation and Evolution” ([www.wwf.lv](http://www.wwf.lv)), “Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park” ([www.ldf.lv](http://www.ldf.lv)).
5. Project proposal for UNDP/GEF programme “Biodiversity Protection in North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve” ([www.biosfera.gov.lv](http://www.biosfera.gov.lv))

**Action r1.2.v.-** Update information on mangrove forest cover and conservation status and levels of use of mangroves, and provide this information to the Bureau and STRP. (Resolution VIII.32).

1. Information on mangrove forest cover has been compiled	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Information on conservation status of mangroves has been compiled	A	
3. Information on levels of use of mangroves has been compiled	A	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the information compiled related to mangroves.]</i>		
There is no mangrove forest ecosystem in Latvia.		

**Action r1.2.vi.-** Report on the impacts of dams on wetlands in the territory of each Contracting Party, in National Reports to COP9. (Resolution VIII.2).

1.- The impacts of dams on wetlands have been assessed ( <i>if available, please include number of sites affected</i> )	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the impacts of dams on wetlands, sites affected, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
<p>In 2004 the WWF –Latvia Bureau completed a report “Small hydroelectric power stations in Latvia and their impact on environment. 2001-2003”. In this report it is stated that there are 149-166 (according to different sources) small hydroelectric power stations built on Latvia’s rivers. According to this report the main impacts of these stations on wetland habitats are: the small hydroelectric power stations cause the degradation or destroy different habitats including sites of fish spawning and decreasing the number of different fish species and individuals. The small hydroelectric power stations degrade and destroy the valley of the river in the length of several kilometres. The dams of small hydroelectric power stations are an unconquerable barrier for fish during their time of migration. The natural water flow of the river also is destroyed.</p> <p>In 2004 the Ministry of Environment contracted “Environmental projects” State Ltd. to evaluate functioning of small hydroelectric power stations. The report states that there are 150 small hydroelectric power stations in Latvia. The report of evaluation contains description of different negative impacts of small hydroelectric power stations to environment and fish and other biological resources. The report contains also prescriptions to undertake to decrease negative impacts to the environment. However, it is stated in the report that full impact on small hydroelectric stations on river ecology can be evaluated after fulfilment of complex inventory of specially protected habitats and species in the territories influenced by small hydroelectric power stations.</p> <p>The impacts of dams in a particular river basin could be evaluated also within the elaboration of a river basin district management plan. So far, only the Daugava river basin district management plan as a pilot project is elaborated. It contains a short description of dams and problems caused by construction of them.</p> <p>To protect the most valuable rivers for fish conservation purposes the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No 27 “Regulations on Rivers (Parts of Rivers) on which for Fish Conservation Purposes Building and Restoration of Hydroelectric Stations Dams and Building of any Artificial Dams are Prohibited” was adopted in 2002. It includes more than 200 rivers and parts of rivers.</p> <p>Since 1998 the Law On Environmental Impact Assessment is in force. It prescribes that before the building of hydroelectric power stations the screening of this action to the environment should be done.</p> <p>Almost 40 000 ha in Latvia around lakes and rivers are maintained by system of polders to ensure the necessary water level for agro activities. Systems of polders reduce the natural water level and prevent the natural overflowing of rivers and lakes.</p>			
3.-Impacts of dams on wetlands <i>[Please provide here a summary of impacts and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]</i>			
<p>The main impacts of dams on rivers and fish resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They cause the degradation or destroy different habitats including sites of fish spawning and decreasing the number of different fish species and individuals.</li> <li>2. The small hydroelectric power stations degrade and destroy the valley of the river in the length of several</li> </ol>			



kilometres.

3. The dams of small hydroelectric power stations are an unconquerable barrier for fish during their migration.
4. The dams destroy natural water flow of the river.

Impacts of system of polders:

1. Reduce the natural water level.
2. Prevent the natural overflowing.

Publications:

1. Lebus R. Small Hydroelectric Power Stations in Latvia and their Impact on Environment. 2001-2003. WWF-Latvia Bureau. Riga, 2004
2. Evaluation of Small Hydroelectric Power Stations. State Ltd. "Environmental projects". Riga, December, 2004- January, 2005
3. Daugava River Basin District Management Plan. Daugava project. Riga, 2003
4. Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture. Riga, 2003

**Action r1.2.vii.-** Monitor and assess the impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, and on the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples dependent on these wetlands, and report this information to the Ramsar Bureau and STRP. (Resolution VIII.35).

<b>1.- Impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands have been assessed (<i>if available, please include number of sites assessed</i>)</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;	<b>N° wetlands /Ramsar sites</b>
<b>2.- Impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples dependent on these wetlands have been assessed</b>	<b>A</b>	E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the impacts of drought and other natural disasters on wetlands and people dependent on them, with any other information you consider relevant.]</b>			
Not relevant for Latvia			

**Action 1.2.6.-** Assess the contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries, including utilizing information available from the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)* and other assessment programmes, and recommend sustainable management practices which can contribute to the WSSD target of, where possible by 2015, maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield.

<b>1. The contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries has been assessed</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below) ;I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]</b>		
In 2002 the Regulations "On Quality of Surface and Underground Water" related to the EU Directive 78/659/EEK (Directive on the Quality of Fresh Waters Needing Protection or Improvement in Order to Support Fish Life) was adopted. This Directive determines that all waters which are significant for fish populations have to be protected and appropriate chemical quality has to be ensured. In Latvia it concern to 123 rivers and their parts and 45 lakes (so called priority fish waters).		
Publication "Characteristic of River Basin Districts" (Latvian Environmental, Geological and Hydrometeorological Agency, 2005) includes the list of the most important waterbodies in Latvia for		



reproduction of fish resources. This list includes also Lake Kanieris and Lake Lubans (Ramsar sites). In total, 26 rivers (36 parts of rivers) and 14 lakes from inland waters can be stated as economically important. As most important lakes for protection of economically important fish species, *inter alia*, there are listed also Lake Kanieris, Lake Engure and Lake Lubans (all Ramsar sites).

To protect the most valuable rivers for fish conservation purposes the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No 27 “Regulations on Rivers (Part of Rivers) on which for Fish Conservation Purposes Building and Restoration of Hydroelectric Stations Dams and Building of any Artificial Dams are Prohibited” was adopted in 2002. It includes 214 rivers or parts of rivers (Characteristic of River Basin Districts).

Short description on fish resources and related problems can be also found under the National Environmental Policy Plan. It states that multiform surface waters is prerequisite for diversity of fish fauna in Latvia – there are approximately 70 native fish species; 24 of them are typical sea species, 38 – freshwater species and 8 are migratory fish species. In order to evaluate amount of fish stock in inland waters a fishery researches are being undertaken and statistical data on commercial catch are being used; status of fish stocks can be defined as stable (National Environmental Policy Plan, 2004).

Assessment of fish resources in inland waters in Latvia was also carried out in 2003 within the research “Scientific Background for Realisation of Regional Programme “Baltic-21” in Inland Waters in Latvia”. This research also contains analysis of protection of specially protected and endangered fish species and analysis of impact of large hydroelectric power stations located on Daugava river to fish resources.

The total amount of commercial fish catch in inland waters in 2003 was 572 tons (52% in lakes, 38% in rivers). The biggest catch was in Lake Lubana (64.4 tons), Lake Babite (31.2 tons) and Lake Engure (28.7 tons) (Assessment of Consumption of Resources, 2004). Reproduction of fish resources is financed from different sources. Since 2003, the main part of financing comes from the State Stock Company “Latvenergo” as compensatory payments for damages on fish resources caused by functioning of Daugava hydroelectric power station. Reproduction of fish resources is carried out by 7 state hatcheries.

In few Ramsar sites (Lubana Wetland Complex, Pape Wetland Complex and Lake Kanieris) special activities related to maintenance of fish resources have been undertaken (deepening of the channel to the fish wintering area in lake Lubans, reconstruction of sluices at Lake Kanieris, Lake Lubans etc.) within the EU Life Nature projects.

**3. Recommendations on sustainable management practices of fish stocks in wetlands have been transmitted to relevant authorities/stakeholders**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the recommendations and their transmission to relevant authorities/stakeholders.]**

Each year The State Fishery Board issues order on maximum amount of fishing tools allowable in watercourses according to the recommendations of Latvian Agency of Fish Resources. This order is circulated to all relevant authorities/stakeholders.

Each year regulations on exploitation of fish resources for 10-15 public lakes are elaborated. These regulations are approved by the State Fishery Board and contain description of fish stock in the concrete lake, description of possible use of fish resources and regulations on exploitation of fish resources. These regulations are binding to the managers of the lake.

The research “Scientific Background for Realisation of Regional Programme “Baltic-21” in Inland Waters in Latvia” provides suggestions on rational and sustainable use of fish resources. This research is available on the web ([www.vzp.gov.lv](http://www.vzp.gov.lv)), in Latvian.

**Action 1.2.7.-** Undertake assessments of water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands, to support the implementation of the *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands* (Resolution VIII.1), as a contribution to the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: At least 50 CPs to have undertaken water quality and quantity assessments.**

1. The water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands has been assessed	<b>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]</i>		
The water quality is going to be assessed (according to different biological and chemical indicators) for wetlands which are connected with identified surface water bodies. This assessment will be done within the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. More precise information will be available by 2009.		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION, INCLUDING IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND VALUATION

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2.1. Specify the most appropriate policy instrument(s) to be used in each country to ensure the wise use of wetlands

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>To have updated policy instruments</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<b>1. Ensure implementation of the National Environmental Policy Plan; 2. Ensure implementation and evaluate the efficiency of the National Program on Biological Diversity.</b>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 2.1.1.-** If not yet done, develop and implement a National Wetland Policy using the guidelines adopted by COP7 for this purpose (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2), and ensure that policy goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument initiated by all Parties not having it, incorporating WSSD targets and actions, as appropriate.

1. A National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) is in place	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible	<b>B</b>	
3. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporates WSSD targets and actions	<b>B</b>	
4- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the status of the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument, its contents, and any other information you consider relevant.]</i>		

All obligations under the Ramsar Convention are integrated in the National Programme on Biological Diversity (NPBD). The NPBD goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible. The NPBD contains also a list of concrete actions to be done for protection of each ecosystem. List of actions is updated every 3 years (last update in 2003). For example, regarding lakes and rivers, it includes actions such as - restore the natural water course of Slampe river in Kemer National Park, develop the management plan for specially protected nature territories which are established for protection of wetland habitats etc.

Protection of wetland habitats is also highlighted in the National Environmental Policy Plan 2004-2008. It contains several strategic goals and actions to be realised for wetland protection.

Both National Programme on Biological Diversity and National Environmental Policy Plan incorporate

## WSSD targets and actions.

**Action 2.1.2.-** Ensure that wetland policies are fully integrated into and harmonized with other strategic or planning processes and documents, in particular those related to biodiversity, desertification, climate change, agriculture, trade in endangered species, water resource management, integrated coastal zone management and environmental planning in general including national strategies for sustainable development called for by the WSSD. When these other documents include chapters or sections on different ecosystems, ensure that one of them is devoted to wetlands.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument fully integrated into other strategic and planning processes by all Parties, including poverty eradication strategies and water resources management and water efficiency plans and national strategies for sustainable development in line with WSSD targets.**

1. Wetland issues have been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development called for by WSSD	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
2. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies	<b>A</b>	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans	<b>E</b>	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>
4. Wetland issues (conservation, wise use, restoration/rehabilitation) have been integrated into other sectoral strategic or planning processes and documents at any of the following levels: national, regional, provincial, and local	<b>E</b>	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>

**5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the incorporation of wetland issues into other sectoral strategic or planning processes.]**

Wetland issues as a part of biological diversity issues have been incorporated in the Basic Statements of Sustainable Development in Latvia (approved in 2002) and in the Agenda 21 for Baltic Sea Region (approved in 1998 during the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of Ministers Council of Baltic Sea Countries).

The Law on Water Management was adopted in 2002 and it includes requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. According to the Law, the river basin district management authorities have to be established and river basin district management plans for each river basin district have to be elaborated. These river basin district management plans will include also wetland issues. So far, only the Daugava river basin district management plan as the pilot project was elaborated. The river basin management plans for all river basin districts have to be elaborated till the end of 2008.

As mentioned above (action 2.1.1.) - all obligations under the Ramsar Convention are integrated in the National Programme on Biological Diversity (NPBD), approved in 2000. The NPBD issues are incorporated into the Forest Policy in Latvia, into the Rural Development Plan (it provides special subsidies for maintenance of biodiversity in natural grasslands (including floodplains), into legislation of territorial planning etc. Since particular sectoral strategic or planning processes and documents are still under development, we are following this process very carefully to ensure that biodiversity as well as wetland issues are incorporated in these processes and documents.

**Action r2.1.i.-** When reviewing land tenure policies consider, where appropriate, wetland tenure systems and user rights in a manner that promotes fair, transparent and sustainable management of wetlands and their resources. (Resolution VIII.34).

1. Wetland tenure systems and user rights have been considered in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland tenure systems and user rights in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management.]**

During elaboration of management plans for specially protected nature territories wetland tenure systems

and user rights have been considered.

Landowners' rights have been considered also in the draft law "On Landowners Rights to Receive Compensation for the Legal Restrictions Established in Protected Territories" elaborated by the Ministry of Environment and submitted to the Parliament for adoption. The objective of the law is to determine:

- 1) Conditions for allocation of compensations;
- 2) The procedure for of estimation and allocation of amount of compensation;
- 3) The procedure for exchange of land in protected territories to equivalent state or municipality land property.

It is expected that law will come into force from January, 2006.

**Action r2.1.ii.-** Give priority to reviewing legislation, policies and incentives directly or indirectly related to high Andean wetlands and prepare additional national strategies designed to ensure their wise use and conservation, duly integrated into National Wetland Policies, National Biodiversity Strategies, National Development Plans, and other similar instruments. (Resolution VIII.39)

1. A review of legislation, policies and incentives directly or indirectly related to high Andean wetlands has been completed	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The conservation and wise use of high Andean wetlands has been incorporated into relevant national strategies / processes	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the actions taken in relation to high Andean wetlands.]</i>		
There is no high Andean wetlands in Latvia		

**Action 2.1.3.-** Ensure best practice examples of integration and harmonization of policies and legislation are made available to the Ramsar Bureau and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, so as to contribute to the development of good practice guidance to assist Contracting Parties.

1. Examples of best practice related to the integration and harmonisation of policies and legislation have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau/STRP	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION, INCLUDING IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND VALUATION

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2.2.** Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supra-national policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the Convention, and especially the wise use principle, is being fully applied

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	Transpose the requirements of the Convention and its documents into national legislation and policy	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b>	1. Adopt the Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers "Order on how to	

(text answer):	<p><b>Evaluate Impact of Potential Action on the Environment”;</b></p> <p><b>2. Control the implementation of legislative acts regarding environmental impact assessment</b></p> <p><b>In 2003 Latvia signed the protocol under the ESPOO Convention and is working on its ratification process. The Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on Strategic Environmental Assessment is planned to be ready by March 2004.</b></p>
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### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 2.2.1.-** Apply the *Guidelines for Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 3) to carry out a review of legislation and institutions and, as necessary, amend or modify legislation and institutional procedures to preclude unwise use of wetlands.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** SC/Bureau to identify at least 100 Parties to initiate and if possible complete by COP9 comprehensive reviews of their laws and institutions.

1. The Party is one of the 100 CPs identified by the Ramsar Bureau to initiate and if possible complete by COP9 a comprehensive review of wetland-related legislation and institutions	<b>C</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable;</i></p> <p><i>B = Yes; C = No;</i></p> <p><i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i></p> <p><i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i></p> <p><i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2. A review of legislation and institutions to promote the wise use of wetlands has been completed	<b>B</b>	
3. Legislation and institutional procedures have been modified to preclude unwise use of wetlands	<b>B</b>	

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the review of legislation and institutions and the amendments made to preclude unwise use of wetlands.]**

Wetlands as a part of ecosystems are integrated in the nature conservation legislation. The protection of wetlands is ensured by laws and regulations on Specially Protected Nature Territories, Specially Protected Species and Habitats, also by laws and regulations on EIA, Strategic Impact Assessment, Protected Belts etc. A significant part of specially protected nature territories is established for protection of wetlands. For protection and management of the largest wetlands (and also Ramsar sites) the management authorities and /or consultative bodies have been established. The rest of specially protected territories (also including wetlands) are managed by the Nature Protection Board (an institution under the Ministry of Environment) established in 2002. The Nature Protection Board cooperates closely with land owners, local municipalities and other stakeholders (NGOs etc.) for elaboration of management plans for the territories and also for practical management of the territories. In the Strategy of the Ministry of Environment (approved in 2004) for the next 3 years a regional institutions under the Nature Protection Board (NPB) are planned to be established. NPB regional institutions will be situated in the Latvia's regions and therefore it will be easier to supervise and manage the territories.

**Action r2.2.i.-** Where not already undertaken, initiate intra- and inter-ministerial dialogues including, as appropriate, institutions represented in Ramsar/ National Wetland Committees where these have been established, with a view to enhanced integration of relevant policies related to the conservation of water resources, wetlands and biodiversity. (Resolution VIII.34)

1. Intra- and/or inter-ministerial dialogues have been established	<b>D</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i></p> <p><i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i></p> <p><i>I = No answer</i></p>
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

The Interministerial Committee for Implementation of the National Programme on Biological Diversity was established in 1999 yet it is not acting as expected.

In 2003 the Environmental Consultative Board was established. It includes representatives from NGOs, professional associations, educational and scientific institutions and the Ministry of Environment. The targets



of this Board are to facilitate involvement of wide society in taking decisions concerning environmental issues, facilitate exchange of information between state institutions and municipalities, between society and each individual etc.

**Action r2.2.ii.-** Recognize cultural and heritage values relating to wetlands in existing heritage protection, legal frameworks and policies. (Resolution VIII.19)

*See action r3.3.iii*

**1. Cultural and heritage values related to wetlands have been incorporated into existing heritage protection, legal frameworks and policies**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

A special attention to cultural and heritage values related to wetlands has not been paid, so far, at national level, but since wetlands occupy a significant part of Latvia's territory, we have a lot of cultural and heritage values which actually are related to wetlands, but they are not specially treated, so far. For instance, we have the list of the State protected cultural monuments including also cultural monuments related to wetlands, but they are not highlighted separately. We also have a few specially protected territories of cultural history (Abava Valley (established in 1996), Libiesi Coast (established in 1991)) and even museums which are related to wetlands and traditional use of wetlands. On regional and local level the issues of cultural and heritage values related to wetlands are recognised and maintained in the largest specially protected nature territories with their own administration (e.g. Gauja National Park, Kemeru National Park). There is also one biosphere reserve in Latvia – North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve – which accordingly to the definition of biosphere reserves also pays attention on cultural and heritage issues. Short description of cultural heritage is included also in the management plan of any particular specially protected nature territory. Wetlands in Latvia have preserved also a unique and well known archaeological monuments, such as, settlements from Stone Age at Lubana lake, etc.

**Action r2.2.iii.-** Give priority to assessing the conservation status of mountain wetlands, to reviewing the legislation, policies and practices that may be impacting negatively on these important ecosystems, and to taking the necessary actions for stopping and reversing such impacts. (Resolution VIII.12)

*See action r3.1.i*

**1. The conservation status of mountain wetlands has been assessed**

**A**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2. A review of legislation, policies and practices that may be impacting negatively on mountain wetlands has been completed**

**A**

**3. Actions have been taken for stopping and reversing impacts on mountain wetlands**

**A**

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on assessment, reviews and other actions taken in relation to mountain wetlands.]**

There are no mountain wetlands in Latvia.

**Action r2.2.iv.-** Make use, as appropriate, of the *Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/ or processes and in strategic environmental assessment*, as adopted by Decision VI/7 of CBD COP6, with the assistance of the guidance prepared by the STRP and embedded in the text of the CBD Guidelines (Resolution VIII.9); and encourage full participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in impact assessments. (Resolution VIII.9)

**1. The Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment annexed to Resolution VIII.9 are being applied**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (annex to Resolution VIII.9).]**



The Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment have not been applied directly in Latvia. Existing legislation on screening and environmental impact assessment in Latvia already contains a lot of principles, criteria, methods described in these Guidelines.

The Guidelines have been forwarded to the State Environment Survey which coordinates and supervises environmental impact assessment in Latvia.

**3. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in impact assessment processes**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in impact assessment processes.]**

Local communities are involved in the impact assessment process by participating in public discussions organised at different stages of environmental impact assessment process. Procedure on public discussions is defined in appropriate legislative acts.

**Action 2.2.2.-** Apply Strategic Environmental Assessment practices when reviewing national and provincial policies, programmes, and plans that may impact upon wetlands.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: SC/Bureau to identify at least 50 Parties to have in place Strategic Environmental Assessment for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands.**

**1. The Party has been identified by the Ramsar Bureau as one having in place Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to wetlands**

**H**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2. A review of policies, programmes, and plans that may impact upon wetlands has been completed**

**B**

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the review of policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands.]**

Strategic Environmental Assessment is in place in Latvia. Though, it is not targeted particularly on wetlands but on entire environment (including the concept of biodiversity) and also on *Natura 2000* sites. A list of policies, programmes and plans which need Strategic Environmental Assessment is included in the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on Strategic Environmental Assessment (No 157).

**4. Strategic Environmental Assessment practices have been applied while reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the way Strategic Environmental Assessment practices have been applied while reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands.]**

In 2003 amendments to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment on Strategic Environmental Assessment were adopted. In 2004 the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) were adopted.

According to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment, SEA is requested for those policies, plans and programmes which may impact specially protected nature territories, *Natura 2000* territories. A great part of Latvia's wetlands (also Ramsar sites) are included in *Natura 2000* network and accordingly under a special control.

**Action 2.2.3.-** If not yet in place, develop and implement Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation so as to ensure that an EIA is carried out, as appropriate, in wetlands, including Ramsar sites, where adverse impacts may occur due to a proposed development, change in land/water use, invasive species, etc., in line with additional guidance adopted by Resolution VIII.9 and enlisting the collaboration, if required, of the *International Association of Impact Assessment (IALA)*. Ensure that these impact assessments include full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All CPs to have required EIA, as appropriate, for proposed projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands.**

1.- Legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applicable to wetlands is in place	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° wetlands /Ramsar sites</b>
2.- EIA is carried out for projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>D</b>		
3.- EIAs have included full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts	<b>B</b>		
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include comments on Environmental Impact Assessment implementation at national level.]</b>			
<p>The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and consequent regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers are in place in Latvia. Objects which development requires the EIA are listed in the Annex 1 of the Law. The EIA is also requested for each action which is not listed in the mentioned Annex but which may significantly impact the environment and <i>inter alia</i> Natura 2000 territories. The EIA process in Latvia is supervised by the State Environment Survey (under the Ministry of Environment). In total 22 EIAs are being carried out; so far, the EIA process has been finished for 35 projects in total. Several of them were related to wetlands, e.g. the most recent finished EIA relating wetlands was the EIA for reconstruction of North mole of Mersrags harbour. Mersrags harbour is surrounded by the Lake Engure Nature Park which is designated as Ramsar site. EIAs include consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts.</p>			

**Action r2.2.vi.-** Establish contact with the relevant national contact points from within the networks of the *International Association for Impact Assessment* with a view to identifying sources of expertise and advice for assisting with wetland-related impact assessment. (Resolution VIII.9)

1. Experts from the International Association for Impact assessment have been involved in EIA processes in the country	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the involvement of IAlA experts in EIA processes in the country.]</b>		

**Action r2.2.vii.-** Provide impact assessment materials relevant to wetlands, including case studies indicating lessons learned, guidelines, sources of advice, and other relevant materials, to the Bureau for incorporation into the *IUCN Biodiversity Economics Web site*. (Resolution VIII.9)

1. EIA materials, including case studies, have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau for loading in the EIA-dedicated Web site	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on EIA materials.]</b>		

**Action 2.2.4.-** Promote the continuing development, wide dissemination - primarily through the Internet-based resource kit (<http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/assessment/ramsar-503-01.htm>) and application of methodologies to undertake valuations of the economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands, in collaboration with the *International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA)*, Ramsar's International Organization Partners, and interested Parties and organizations.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: STRP to have made progress on methodologies for economic, social and environmental valuation, and all CPs with experience in this area to have engaged in the STRP work.**

1. Progress has been made in the development and/or application of methodologies for the valuation of economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status</i> <i>(explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work on methodologies for economic, social and environmental valuation of wetland benefits and functions	<b>C</b>	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on progress made and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]</i>		

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.1. Develop and disseminate methodologies to achieve the conservation and wise use of wetlands

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#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Improve the quality of the nature management plans for protected territories</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<b>1) Develop the unified methodology for elaboration of the nature management plans;</b> <b>2) Develop the unified methodology for elaboration of regulations on individual protection and use of protected territories;</b> <b>3) Organize regular seminars on elaboration of nature management plans.</b>	

#### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 3.1.1.-** Review the wise use concept, its applicability, and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** STRP to spearhead process of reviewing and updating guidance on the wise use concept, including the ecosystem approach, in particular in line with the outcomes of WSSD.

1. Work has been done to review the wise use concept, its applicability and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work to review and update the guidance on the wise use concept, including the ecosystem approach	<b>C</b>	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the revision of the wise use concept and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]</i>		

**Action 3.1.2.-** Compile advice, methods and best practice studies for the wise use of wetlands, including the application of the ecosystem approach, and disseminate these to wetland managers

1. Advice, methods and best practice studies on the wise use of wetlands, including the application of the ecosystem approach, have been compiled and distributed to wetland managers	<b>D</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.</i> ]		
<p>Experience on wise use of wetlands has been summarized as a result from different projects. In 2002 a compilation of the best examples and case studies on habitat restoration and management “Actual Examples of Species and Habitats Management in Latvia” was published within the DANCEE project “Elaboration and Implementation of the Management Plan for Kemeru National Park”. Life Nature projects have also published their experience on wetland restoration and management (e.g. Life Nature project “Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area” published in 2004 a booklet “Conservation of meadow and bog habitats in Teici Area”, etc.).</p>		

**Action 3.1.3.-** Ensure that the principles embodied in the *Convention’s new management planning guidelines* adopted by Resolution VIII.14 are applied to decision-making about, and the wise use of, all wetlands.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** All CPs to consider how to adapt and to incorporate, as necessary, into national practice the new management planning guidelines to the wise use of all wetlands.

1. Ramsar’s new management planning guidelines (Resolution VIII.14) have been adapted and incorporated into national practice	<b>D</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.</i> ]		
<p>The concept and content of management plans for specially protected nature territories were elaborated already in 1997 in Latvia. No significant action can be undertaken in the concrete territory before the management plan is elaborated. Since 1997 the concept and contents of the management plans have been updated and revised several times. At present a content of management plan is regulated by the order of the Minister of Environment (2002) and it is unified for all management plans for all specially protected nature territories. The order of the Minister was elaborated on the basis of publication “Handbook for Developers of Management Plans for Specially Protected Nature Territories” (I. Racinska, Riga, 2002). This publication partly incorporates Ramsar’s new management guidelines.</p> <p>Each management plan contains description of the territory (biological (habitats, species, natural processes), socio-economical, geographical and relevant legal obligations), assessment of the territory (values, impacts and threats), objectives of the site management and protection, action plan (with concrete actions, necessary resources, possible contractors, priorities, monitoring necessity), including proposal for zoning of the territories and implementation and updating of the plan. The management plans are supplied also by a plenty of different maps which show the values of the territory, existing and proposed infrastructure and other management activities, zoning etc. The management plans are mostly elaborated for the next 5-10 years, but they can be also updated earlier (if it is necessary) and definitely after this period. The Order of the Minister of Environment on elaboration of management plans also prescribes the process of involvement of different stakeholder groups into management planning. It also requires that management plans have to be confirmed by local municipalities and public hearing should be organised. All stakeholder groups are informed about the intention to elaborate a management plan in the very early stage and therefore involved in elaboration since the beginning. Different experts and specialists also take part in the elaboration of a management plan. All management plans are public documents and available for all stakeholders in the web and in particular institutions.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment continues to work with the concept of management plans by revising and updating it. It is planned that in future the Cabinet of Ministers will define the procedure of elaboration of the management plans by adopting special regulations. It is also planned that the management plans for smaller territories could be briefer than the management plans for large territories.</p>		

**Action 3.1.4.-** Disseminate and encourage the use of the Convention's guidance on the wise use concept to governments, responsible agencies and bilateral and multilateral donor organizations, in order to assist their development and implementation of sustainable development funding policies that fully address the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

**1. Ramsar guidance on the wise use concept and its application has been made available to appropriate decision-makers, institutions and processes**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r3.1.i.-** Share information, expertise and experience concerning the study, conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands, and develop, as appropriate, national, regional or local strategies and plans for their conservation and wise use, particularly with a view to strengthening coordination of Ramsar implementation with work underway in the framework of bilateral and multilateral environmental agreements, especially the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and those agreements dealing specifically with mountains, as well as with the initiatives of international organizations, including the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*, with the Bureau to report on progress to COP9. (Resolution VIII.12)

*See action r2.2.iii*

**1. Actions have been taken to improve the awareness and understanding of values and functions of mountain and high altitude wetlands**

**A**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable;*

*B = Yes;*

*C = No;*

*D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned;*

*G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below);*

*I = No answer*

**2. Information, expertise and experience concerning the study, conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been shared with other interested Parties**

**A**

**3. National, regional or local strategies and plans for the conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been developed**

**A**

**4. Ramsar work on mountain wetlands has been coordinated with other environment-related and mountain-related agreements and institutions**

**A**

**5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on information available and strategies developed concerning mountain and high altitude wetlands.]**

There are no mountain and high altitude wetlands in Latvia.

**Action r3.1.iii.-** Establish, with the support of IOPs and other partners and collaborators of the Convention, specific work programmes for high Andean wetlands and the basins fed by them, in order to preserve their valuable biodiversity, their function as regulators of water, and as living space of many local and peasant communities and indigenous peoples. (Resolution VIII.39)

**1. Specific work programmes for the wise use of high Andean wetlands and the basins fed by them have been established**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

There are no high Andean wetlands in Latvia.



**Action r3.1.v.-** Exchange information relating to the conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems, especially where this involves the full participation of local communities and indigenous peoples. (Resolution VIII.32)

**1. Information relating to the conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems, especially in relation to the participation of local communities and indigenous people, has been exchanged with other Parties and institutions**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;*

*D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

There are no mangrove ecosystems in Latvia.

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.2. Ensure the conservation and wise use of peatlands as a demonstration of the ecosystem-based approach under the Convention**

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#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Ensure the protection and restoration of peatlands.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<b>1. Ensure the protection of peatland nature reserves (develop the management plans, improve the restoration of peatlands after the peat extraction, implement the monitoring of peatlands);</b> <b>2. Implement the Life Nature projects dealing with protection of peatlands (“Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area”, “Management of Lubana Wetland Complex”, “Conservation of Wetlands in Kemer National Park”, “Lake Pape – Conservation Preservation and Evolution”).</b>	

#### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action r3.2.i.-** Establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands and prepare an implementation plan for global action on peatlands. (Resolution VIII.17)

**1. The Party has participated in the Ramsar Bureau-led process to establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some*

*cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action 3.2.1.-** Implement the *Guidelines for global action on peatlands* as adopted by Resolution VIII.17, noting the priority sought therein for inventories of peatlands, the protection and possible designation of peatlands as Ramsar sites, the transfer of peatland restoration technology, and the maintenance of the cultural significance of peatlands, and implement those actions identified as national priorities.



1. Action has been taken to implement at national level the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>Relatively untouched peatlands cover 4.9 % from Latvia's territory. Peat deposits, i.e. peatlands of more than 1 ha large and with more than 0.3 m peat (including wet forest types on peat soil), comprise 10.4% of the total land area of Latvia (Mire habitat management plan, 2003, Riga). Almost all peatland habitat types (non-forested and forested) which are represented in Latvia are listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive. About 60% of average area of bogs and fens habitats and more than 20% of average area of wet forest types on peat soil are covered by <i>Natura 2000</i> sites and therefore under special protection in Latvia. All the 6 Ramsar sites in Latvia also include peatland habitats, 2 of them (Northern Bogs, Teicu and Pelecares Bogs) include almost only peatlands.</p> <p>The importance of peatlands and their conservation issues are highlighted in the National Environmental Policy Plan (adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2004) and in the National Programme on Biological Diversity (adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2000). The Mire Habitat Management Plan for the whole Latvia was elaborated in 2003.</p> <p>The National Environmental Monitoring Programme (approved in 2002) contains 2 action plans related to peatland monitoring: Monitoring of Ramsar Sites (includes actions of different monitoring in Teicu and Pelecares Bogs) and Monitoring of Mire Species and Habitats in Latvia. Funding for monitoring programmes has been allocated irregularly and not in full amount. Different monitoring activities are carried out also by administrations of specially protected nature territories containing peatland habitats.</p> <p>The overall protection of peatlands in Latvia is ensured by the national legislation on species and habitats and on specially protected nature territories. The concrete management and restoration activities are implemented by particular large scale projects – Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area, Conservation of Wetlands in Kemeru National Park and by projects already mentioned – Management of Lubana Wetland Complex and Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia etc.</p> <p>Several management plans for peatland territories have been elaborated, few are going to be elaborated in the coming months, but much more are needed. 41 management plans are going to be elaborated within the ongoing Life Nature project “Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia”.</p> <p>Regarding international cooperation, the project “Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North-Livonia; Estonia-Latvia” was started in 2002 and will continue till 2005. The project activities are aimed to establish transborder co-operation on the protection and management of wetlands and forests in North-Livonia through integrated transborder management planning, including organizational build up, introduction to the nature friendly farming and sustainable forestry practices and the execution of small scale management planning. A significant part of project territory is covered by peatlands.</p> <p>Education and public awareness about peatlands is ensured by development of informative materials (booklets, films etc.), by publishing different articles on peatland restoration, lessons learned and peatland values, by establishment of nature paths along the peatlands etc. The mentioned activities are carried out within different projects.</p>		

**Action r3.2.ii.-** Identify and make available sources of funds in order that the activities identified in the implementation plan for global action on peatlands can be undertaken. (Resolution VIII.17)

1. Funds have been made available at national level for the implementation of the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>Issues stated in the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands are covered by several large scale projects ongoing in Latvia (mainly financed by Life Nature programme, with Latvia's co-finance). These projects are:</p>		

- Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area
  - Conservation of Wetlands in Kemer National Park
  - Management of Lubana Wetland Complex
  - Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia
  - Lake Pape – Conservation, Preservation and Evolution
  - Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North-Livonia; Estonia-Latvia (funded by PIN/MATRA)
- Some actions related to peatland management are financed also by the Latvian Environmental Fund (e.g. elaboration of management plan for Teicu Bog etc.)

**Action r3.2.iii.-** Include information on the status and trends in national peatland resources in National Reports to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the *Ramsar Convention*, and other conventions, as appropriate. (Resolution VIII.17)

**1. Summary of the status and trends in national peatland resources is available**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Status and trends in national peatland resources [Please include information on the conservation status and trends of peatland resources and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]**

Almost all peatland habitat types (non-forested and forested) which are represented in Latvia are listed in the Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive. According to the most recent information (May 1, 2004) given by the project "Preparation for Latvia's Compliance with the *Natura 2000* Network of Protected Areas" about 60% of average area of bog and fen habitats and more than 20% of average area of wet forest types on peat soils are covered by *Natura 2000* sites and therefore under special protection in Latvia. The concrete breakdown is following:

- 45% of the average area of **active raised bogs** are covered by *Natura 2000* sites (habitat conservation status has been defined as medium favourable). The major threats are peat extraction and drainage in bogs and surrounding areas.
- 40% of **degraded raised bogs** are covered by *Natura 2000* sites (conservation status has been defined as favorable). The habitat has developed because of drainage of raised bogs and peat extraction in adjacent areas. Continuation of peat extraction and change of hydrological regime can destroy the habitat totally.
- 48% of **transition mires and quaking bogs** are covered by *Natura 2000* sites (habitat conservation status has been defined as favourable). An actual threat is overgrowing with reeds and shrubs. The habitat is influenced by peat extraction and drainage, and change of hydrological regime in lakes and their surroundings that took place in the Soviet period.
- 41% of **mineral-rich springs and fens** are covered by *Natura 2000* sites (conservation status has been defined as favourable). The main threats are forest cutting at springs, dredging of spring outflows, trampling and also beaver activities.
- 96% of **Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus*** are covered by *Natura 2000* sites (conservation status has been defined as favourable). Habitat is endangered by changes of hydrological regime and lake eutrophication.
- 71% of **petrifying springs with tufa formation** are covered by *Natura 2000* sites (habitat conservation status has been defined as favourable). The main threats are trampling, various works on riverbanks, also beaver activities can pose threats to springs.
- 81% of **alkaline fens** are covered by *Natura 2000* sites (habitat conservation status can be defined as medium favourable). The main threats are land cultivation, changes of hydrological regime, closeness to towns and highway construction. Due to drainage, lack of management (grazing, mowing) and natural succession fens can overgrow with shrubs and trees.

Wet forest types on peat soils:

- 24% of the average area of **Fennoscandian deciduous swamp forests** are covered by *Natura 2000* sites (conservation status is not favourable as the area of the habitat is decreasing because of forest cutting. Also intensive forest drainage until 80-ies has caused habitat deterioration in many sites). The main threats are different kind of forest cutting and forest drainage.
- 23% of the average area of **bog woodland** are covered by *Natura 2000* sites (conservation status of the habitat can be defined as favourable). The main threats are different kind of forest cuttings and forest drainage.

Several from these habitats are included also in the national list on specially protected habitats and therefore their protection is ensured by the national laws and regulations.

For further conservation of these habitat types the management plans have to be elaborated, studies on hydrology, vegetation dynamics and monitoring is necessary. The National Environmental Monitoring Programme (approved in 2002) contains 2 action plans related to peatland monitoring: Monitoring of Ramsar Sites (includes actions of different monitoring in Teicu and Pelecares Bogs) and Monitoring of Mire Species and Habitats in Latvia, but due to lack of funding these monitoring programmes have not been realized regularly and in full amount.

The management of several peatland territories is realized within the different projects (Implementation of Mire Habitat Plan in Latvia, Management of Lubana Wetland Complex, Measures to Ensure Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area etc.) financed by Life Nature program and other projects (e.g. Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North-Livonia; Estonia-Latvia).

#### Publications, reports, analysis

1. Distribution and Abundance of Habitats Listed in the Annex I and Species Listed in the Annex II of the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC. Prepared for the European Topic Centre – Nature Protection and Biodiversity by the Project *Preparation for Latvia's Compliance with the the Natura 2000 Network of Protected Areas*, Riga, 2004
2. Mire Habitat Conservation Plan for Latvia. M. Pakalne, J. Nusbaums, L. Kalnina. Riga, 2003
3. Peatlands in Latvia. M. Pakalne with the contribution from A. Lacis, L. Kalnina, L. Salmina. Riga, 2000
4. Bragg, O. and Lindsay, R. (Eds.) (2003). Strategy and Action Plan for Mire and Peatland Conservation in Central Europe. Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Vi+94 pp.

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.3. Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, and scientific research**

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#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Implement the Water Framework Directive</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Establish advisory boards for co-ordination of management activities in each river basin;</li> <li>2) Establish management institutions for river basin areas;</li> <li>3) Elaborate and approve the management plans for all river basins;</li> <li>4) To sign an agreement on international co-operation on river basins management;</li> <li>5) Establish working groups for management of international river basins.</li> </ol>	

<b>COP9 REPORT SECTION</b>
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**Action 3.3.1.-** As part of national (or, as appropriate, provincial) wetland inventories, assess and document wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, and/or scientific research, and, where appropriate, seek to have these sites protected in recognition of these values.

*See action 1.1.2*

**1. Measures have been taken to protect wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, and/or scientific research**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;*

*G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);*

*I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

There are only 2 surface water bodies in Latvia which are used for drinking water supply – the main part of drinking water comes from groundwater (Characteristic of River Basin Districts, 2005). There are several laws and regulations defining different restrictions for protection of drinking water abstraction sites. According to the Law On Protected Belts specially protected belts around the drinking water abstraction sites should be designated in order to secure maintenance and renovation of water resources and to decrease impact of pollution as well. The Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers “On Quality of Surface and Underground Water” determines normatives for water quality, monitoring and activities for pollution prevention.

There are no large and frequent wetlands in Latvia which are of special significance for reasons of coastal protection. As such territories we can consider coastal meadows which in average cover only 165 ha of Latvia’s territory and almost for 100% included in specially protected nature territories.

A lot of wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of cultural heritage are included in specially protected territories of different types (territories for nature protection, territories for protection of cultural heritage).

**Action 3.3.3.-** Consider using the guiding principles in Annex I of Resolution VIII.19 to promote full recognition of the social and cultural heritage of wetlands, and ensure that this is fully appreciated and taken into account in their wise use and management.

*See actions r2.2.ii, 6.1.6*

**1. Actions have been taken to promote the recognition of the social and cultural heritage of wetlands**

**D**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;*

*D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below);*

*I = No answer*

**2. The social and cultural heritage of wetlands is being taken into account in their wise use and management**

**D**

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the on recognition of social and cultural heritage of wetlands.]**

Issues on the social and cultural heritage of wetlands are incorporated in the wetland management plans. Administrations of specially protected nature territories support the traditional use of wetlands (as fishing, reed-cutting etc.). Actions to promote the recognition of the social and cultural heritage of wetlands have been and will be realised also within the different projects related to wetlands. Within the project “Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park” (finished in 2004) a several booklets and a film on Lake Engure – Ramsar site in Latvia was issued. An education centre near Lake Pape (also Ramsar site) was established already in 2002. In 2003 the Life Nature financed project started there. Within this project a programme on public education and information will be elaborated. Informative centre in Lubana Wetland Complex will be established within the project “Management of Lubana Wetland Complex” which also is a Ramsar site. During the implementation of the project “Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North Livonia; Estonia-Latvia”, survey on cultural heritage is carried out.

In 2003 the booklet “Values and Functions of Wetlands” was issued. It contains information on cultural heritage and other values of wetlands. The booklet was widely disseminated among the educational

institutions, local administrative institutions, wetland managers etc.

The recognition of the social and cultural heritage of wetlands has been promoted also within events of the World Wetlands Day.

**Action r3.3.ii.-** Urge public institutions to ensure that a more decisive effort be made with regard to groundwater, placing emphasis on the hydro-geological, social, economic and environmental aspects within the framework of communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) regarding wetlands. (Resolution VIII.40)

**1. Actions have been taken to ensure that public institutions place emphasis on the hydrogeological, social, economic and environmental aspects of groundwater**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Issues related to groundwater will be described in the river basin district management plans. So far the characteristic of river basin districts is prepared and it contains description of current situation of groundwater, protection of groundwater as well as economical analysis of the significance of water use. The document on characteristic of the river basin districts soon will be available on the web (under the Latvian Environmental, Geological and Hydrometeorological Agency).

**Action r3.3.iii.-** Within national and legal frameworks and available resources and capacity, consider *inter alia* the compilation and assessment of both material and non-material cultural elements related to wetlands and water, taking into account, as appropriate, intellectual property rights, customary law, and the principle of prior informed consent, in accordance with CBD and WIPO rules; promoting the appreciation and revitalization of these cultural values among populations close to wetlands, and in general among the wider public; including all relevant aspects of cultural heritage in the design and implementation of wetland management, carrying out such efforts with active participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders; and consider using the cultural values of wetlands as a tool to strengthen this involvement, particularly in wetland planning and management. (Resolution VIII.19)

**1. Compilation(s) and assessment(s) of both material and non-material cultural elements related to wetlands and water have been undertaken**

**C**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable;*

*B = Yes;*

*C = No;*

*D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned;*

*G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below);*

*I = No answer*

**2. Actions have been taken to promote the appreciation and revitalization of cultural values related to wetlands and water**

**D**

**3. All relevant aspects of cultural heritage have been incorporated in the design and implementation of wetland management**

**D**

**4. Cultural values of wetlands have been used as a tool to strengthen involvement of local stakeholders, particularly in wetland planning and management**

**C**

**5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the actions made to take into consideration cultural heritage and values of wetlands.]**

According to the order of the Minister of Environment "Suggestions on Elaboration of the Management Plans for Specially Protected Nature Territories", the management plan has to include description on cultural values of the territory.

The publication "Values and functions of wetlands" (issued in 2003) contain some information on cultural values related to wetlands. The promotion of cultural heritage of wetlands has been done also within events of the World Wetlands Day.

Aspects of cultural heritage have been incorporated in the management of wetlands mainly during the different projects (mainly financed by Life Nature programme). The traditional management methods (hay mowing, reed cutting etc.) have been used and promoted through these projects.

**Action 3.3.4.-** Develop and implement wise use wetland programmes and projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and food and water security plans at local, national and regional levels.



1. Wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and food and water security plans have been developed	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
Not relevant for Latvia.		

**Action 3.3.5.-** Promote research, including through the establishment of national and regional research and training centres, into the role of wetlands in water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, and cultural heritage.

<i>See action 20.1.8</i>		
1. Research has been promoted on the role of wetlands in any of the following areas: water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, and cultural heritage	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**Action r3.3.v.-** Secure the wise use of temporary pools through ensuring, as a high priority, that their management is sustainable, respecting their specific characteristics and addressing root causes of their loss and degradation, taking into consideration the guidance in Resolution VIII.33, and including by:

- i) undertaking, as far as possible, baseline inventory of temporary pools;
- ii) raising awareness of their presence and their specific values and functions;
- iii) ensuring the maintenance of their specific hydrological functioning;
- iv) ensuring that their natural resources are sustainably used and not overexploited;
- v) recognizing the commitment to, and importance of, temporary pools to local communities and indigenous peoples, and supporting their management and protection; and
- vi) undertaking regular surveillance of temporary pools so as to identify and avert any threat to their values and functions, always considering the traditional uses and management. (Resolution VIII.33)

1. Actions have been taken to secure the wise use of temporary pools	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
Temporary pools are not identified as a separate habitat type in Latvia. According to the definition of temporary pools (given in the Resolution VIII.33) in Latvia, the temporary pools may overlap with habitats of lakes of gypsum karst, different pools at sea coast or in meadows and fields. Lakes of gypsum karst and humid dune slacks are habitat types listed in the EU Habitats Directive and accordingly under special protection.		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.4.** Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties, and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Implement the EU Water Framework Directive</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Improve the cooperation of spatial planning specialists with elaborators of nature conservation plans for specially protected nature territories;</b></li> <li><b>2. Ensure the close cooperation of wetlands specialists and specialists from river basin management authorities;</b></li> <li><b>3. Establish the river basin management authorities.</b></li> </ol>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 3.4.2.-** Apply the Guidelines in *Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) and, where appropriate and feasible, participate in the related CBD/Ramsar project entitled the “*River Basin Initiative*” so as to support the WSSD agreement to increase understanding of the sustainable use, protection and management of water resources.

<b>1. The Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) have been used/applied</b>	<b>F</b>	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on application of the Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management.]</b>		
River basin management in Latvia is carried out according to the EU Water Framework Directive. The requirements of this directive are incorporated into the national legislation by the Law on Water Management and by the related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. The River Basin Management Authority is established in Latvia, it is working on preparation of river basin management plans, register on protected areas etc. It is planned to use the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> during the elaboration of the river basin district management plans.		
<b>3. The Party has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the participation in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.]</b>		

**Action r3.4.i.-** Ensure that due attention is given to the role of mountain and high-altitude wetlands, and the importance of their conservation and wise use, in the preparation and implementation of river basin management plans. (Resolution VIII.12)

1. Due attention has been promoted / given to the role of mountain and high altitude wetlands in the preparation and implementation of river basin management plans	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Not relevant for Latvia		

**Action r3.4.ii.-** Use, where appropriate, in managing or assessing the impact of dams on sensitive riverine and wetland ecosystems, all available information, including information provided by the World Commission on Dams (WCD), in association with the guidance adopted by the Ramsar Convention, to inform and guide local and national processes for allocation of water resources and decision-making, in order to ensure that wetlands and their values and functions are fully taken into account in decision-making on large dams. (Resolution VIII.2)

1. Wetland values and functions have been taken into account in decision-making on large dams	<b>H</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
There have not been planned large dams in Latvia for the last triennial.		

**Action r3.4.iii.-** Take the necessary steps, wherever possible and appropriate, in order to maintain the migration access for indigenous fish and other species past dams. (Resolution VIII.2)

1. Steps have been taken to ensure that dams are not impeding the migration of indigenous fish and other species	<b>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>Following steps have been taken during the last triennial to ensure that dams are not impeding the migration of fishes are: 1) different suggestions for protection of fish species and resources resulting from several inventories and researches mentioned also under Action r1.2.vi. Also inventory of small hydroelectric powerstations and analysis of methods on evaluation of negative consequences to fishery done by the State Fishery Board in 2003 can be mentioned here. This research also contains suggestions for the changes in the relevant legislation; 2) based on mentioned researches different amendments to the relevant Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers have been elaborated (in 2005), but not yet approved.</p>		

**Action r3.4.iv.-** Undertake the systematic implementation of environmental flow assessments, where appropriate, to mitigate socio-economic and ecological impacts of large dams on wetlands, and encourage the development of appropriate centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation, and in doing so apply the *Guidelines on water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands* (Resolutions VIII.1, VIII.2)

1. Assessments of environmental flow have been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the assessments of environmental flow undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams.]</i>		

3.- Centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation have been encouraged ( <i>if available, please include number of centres</i> )	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =</i> <i>Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<b>N° centres</b>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>If applicable, please include information on the centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation that have been encouraged.</i> ]			

**Action 3.4.5.-** Apply the *Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management (ICZM)* as adopted by Resolution VIII.4.

1. The <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management (Resolution VIII.4)</i> have been used/applied	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.</i> ]		

**Action r3.4.vi.-** Document case studies of good practice in the integration of wetlands into ICZM and make these available to the Convention for review by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) as the basis for preparing further guidance on wetlands and ICZM under the Convention. (Resolution VIII. 4)

1. Case studies of good practice examples on the integration of wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.</i> ]		

**Action 3.4.6.-** In decision-making processes related to freshwater resources, apply the *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands*, as adopted by Resolution VIII.1.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** All CPs to have made available the guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision-making on water resource management in all CPs, as a contribution to achieve the WSSD target on water resources management and water efficiency plans.

1. The <i>Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1)</i> have been used/applied in decision-making related to freshwater	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.</i> ]		

**Action r3.4.viii.-** Bring the *Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands* and the additional guidance on tools and methodologies to the attention of national ministries and/or agencies (at different levels of territorial organization) responsible for water resource management; encourage these bodies to apply the guidance in order to ensure appropriate allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands in their territory; ensure that the principles contained in the Ramsar Guidelines are incorporated into national policies on water and on wetlands; and include representatives of national water management ministries and/or agencies in the membership of National Ramsar/Wetland Committees. (Resolution VIII.1)

<i>See action 18.1.2</i>		
<b>1. Representatives of national water management ministries and/or agencies are included in National Ramsar/Wetland Committee</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**Action r3.4.ix.-** Develop projects and other activities that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, make such good practice examples available to others through the information exchange mechanisms of the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative, and report to COP9 on the successes achieved and lessons learned from these activities. (Resolution VIII1)

<b>1. Projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands have been developed</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant projects.]</b>		
<p>The greatest part of Life Nature projects and other projects currently ongoing in Latvia are targeted on management for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands. These projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia;</li> <li>• Restoration of Latvian Floodplains for EU Priority Species and Habitats;</li> <li>• Protection of Species and Habitats in Nature Park “Razna”;</li> <li>• Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area;</li> <li>• Conservation of Wetlands in Kemeru National Park;</li> <li>• Management of Lubana Wetland Complex;</li> <li>• Lake Pape – Conservation, Preservation and Evolution;</li> <li>• Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park (project finished in 2004).</li> <li>• Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North-Livonia; Estonia-Latvia</li> </ul>		
<b>3.- Summary on successes achieved and lessons learned in developing this type of projects [Please provide a summary on the relevant projects, successes achieved, and lessons learned in their development.]</b>		
<p>Since almost all of these projects are still ongoing, more detailed information on successes achieved and lessons learned will be available after conclusion of these projects.</p>		

**Action r3.4.x.-** Develop mechanisms to better plan and manage for the wise use of water in the Andean region. (Resolution VIII.39)

<b>1. Mechanisms to better plan and manage the wise use of water in the Andean Region have been developed</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
Not relevant for Latvia		

**Action r3.4.xi.-** Seek to maintain, as far as practicable in countries affected by drought, the continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands, so as to ensure that they can continue to provide their full range of values and functions for people and biological diversity. (Resolution VIII.35)



1. Efforts have been made to maintain continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands in situations of drought	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Not relevant for Latvia		

**Action r3.4.xiv.-** Study, from an interdisciplinary point of view and with the participation of civil society, the impact of the use of groundwater on the conservation of the wetlands in those territories where these impacts exist. (Resolution VIII.40)

1. Interdisciplinary studies on the impact of the use of groundwater on the conservation of wetlands have been undertaken	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action r3.4.xv.-** Promote proposals for the participation of civil society, both public and private, related to the management of groundwater within the framework of integrated management of water resources. (Resolution VIII.40)

1. The participation of civil society in the management of groundwater resources has been promoted	F	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
The consultative boards for the management of each river basin district are going to be established during 2005. Governmental and municipal institutions and NGOs will be equally represented in these boards.		

**Action 3.4.9.-** Ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the *Kyoto Protocol*, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** All relevant CPs to have assessed implications of *Kyoto Protocol* implementation on wetlands (including applying COP8 restoration guidelines).

<i>See action 4.1.4</i>		
1. The implications of implementation of the Kyoto Protocol for wetland conservation have been assessed	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Latvia signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1998 and ratified in 2002. According to the national legislation on Impact Assessment (developed in 1998) and Specially Protected Nature Territories (developed in 1993), an Impact Assessment has to be carried out for all plans (except nature conservation plans for specially protected nature territories) and activities which may have a negative impact on environment and particularly <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.		

**Action r3.4.xvi.-** Make every effort, when implementing UNFCCC and, where appropriate, its *Kyoto Protocol*, including revegetation and forest management, afforestation and reforestation, that this implementation does not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of their wetlands, using, where appropriate, strategic and other forms of environmental impact assessment and risk assessment, taking account Resolutions VII.10, VII.16 and VIII.9, as well as Article 4.1 of the UNFCCC and Article 2.1 of the Kyoto Protocol, as appropriate. (Resolution VIII.3)

**1. Efforts have been made to avoid serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands due to the implementation of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol**

**H**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Special efforts have not been made. However, we consider our legislation will not allow undertake actions which could damage specially protected habitats including wetland habitats. The national legislation on Impact Assessment is in place from 1998. According to the national legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment and Specially Protected Nature Territories, an Impact Assessment has to be carried out for all plans (except nature conservation plans for specially protected nature territories) and activities which may have a negative impact on environment and particularly *Natura 2000* sites.

**Action r3.4.xvii.-** Consider, and use as appropriate, the information on climate change and wetlands in the background papers Ramsar COP8 DOC. 11 and COP8 DOC. 40 when integrating climate change considerations into national policy pertaining to the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.3)

**1. The information provided in COP8 documents related to climate change has been considered and used in national policies pertaining to wetlands**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

The information provided in COP8 documents related to climate change has not been used in national policies pertaining to wetlands.

The National Programme on Biological Diversity (adopted in 2000) says that mire ecosystems are important in stabilization of the climate and the water regime. The Programme prescribes several targets related with reducing of impact of peat extraction, such as: Reduce impact on plant and animal communities in territories surrounding peat harvest fields (including a) Study the effect of changes in hydrological regime of peat harvest fields on surrounding ecosystems; b) After termination of peat harvest in a bog or in a part of a bog, develop recommendations for modification of hydrological regime to improve renewal of maintenance of bog and surrounding territory wetland ecosystems) and prevent destruction of rare bog and forest habitats due to peat extraction (including a) In the development or improvement of peat extraction and recultivation projects, conduct environmental impact assessment, including evaluation of biological diversity; b) Continue peat extraction in existing peat harvest fields, and in fields prepared for extraction. Prohibit use for peat extraction of those bogs which were not used for this purpose, so far; c) After termination of peat harvest in an entire bog or its part, ensure that the closure procedures regarding recultivation projects are carried out; d) Study the natural regeneration of harvested bogs and develop recommendations for artificial renewal; e) Define recultivation methods in physical plans for peat harvest fields).

**Action r3.4.xviii.-** Take action to minimize the degradation, as well as to promote restoration, and improve management practices of those peatlands and other wetland types that are significant carbon stores, or have the ability to sequester carbon and are considered as mitigation factors, as well as to increase the adaptive capacity of society to respond to the changes in these ecosystems due to climate change. (Resolution VIII.3)

1. Actions have been taken to minimize degradation, restore and improve management of peatlands and other wetland types that are significant carbon stores, or have the ability to sequester carbon	<b>D</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Restoration activities are planned or already undertaken in several large peatlands in Latvia (also in the largest peatland – Teicu Bog) within the different Life Nature projects. These projects are: Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia (restoration of 4 peatlands planned), Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area, Management of Lubana Wetland Complex, Conservation of Wetlands in Kemeru National Park and Lake Pape – Conservation Preservation and Evolution.

2 hydrological researches in one of the largest peatland in Latvia “Seda mire” and its surrounding have been started in 2004. The peat extraction is still going on in the part of this territory. Situation with melioration, level of surface waters and groundwaters will be explored in one of researches (financed by the State Stock Company “Latvian State Forests”). During the other one (financed by UNESCO Small Grant facility) the model of possible development of hydrological regime of mire will be designed.

Also the National Programme on Biological Diversity prescribes several targets related with reducing of impact of peat extraction (see Action r3.4.xvii.).

**Action r3.4.xix.-** Recognize the important role of mangrove ecosystems in mitigating climate change and sea-level rise, especially in low-lying areas and Small Island Developing States, and plan their management, including required adaptation measures, so as to ensure that mangrove ecosystems may respond to impacts caused by climate change and sea-level rise. (Resolution VIII.32)

**1. Management planning measures have been taken to preserve the role of mangrove ecosystems in mitigating climate change and sea-level rise**

**A**

Choose an answer  
A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Not relevant for Latvia

**Action r3.4.xx.-** Undertake, where possible, studies of the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration and in mitigating the impacts of sea-level rise and make their findings available to the Convention. (Resolution VIII.3)

**1. Studies on the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration and in mitigating the impacts of sea-level rise have been undertaken**

**C**

Choose an answer  
A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r3.4.xxiv.-** Contribute information on wetlands and agriculture to the *Wise Use Resource Centre* maintained by the Ramsar Bureau, to the *River Basin Initiative* and to the *Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment*, and future meetings of the *World Water Forum*. (Resolution VIII.34)

**1. Information on wetlands and agriculture has been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau and others**

**C**

Choose an answer  
A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4.1. Identify priority wetlands 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**

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Ensure the restoration of wetlands ecosystems in nature park “Lake Pape”, in Lubana Wetland Complex, in Kemeru National Park and in Teici Nature Reserve.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Implement the activities under the 4 Life Nature projects in above mentioned areas;</b></li> <li><b>2. Develop new proposals for Life Nature program and other funds on management of large-scale wetlands.</b></li> </ol>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 4.1.2.-** Establish wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, where feasible, at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in those associated with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value, in line with Recommendation 4.1 and Resolutions VII.17 and VII.20.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** All CPs with lost or degraded wetlands to have identified priority sites for restoration; restoration projects underway or completed in at least 100 CPs.

**1. Wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects have been developed**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

There are several large scale projects in Latvia ongoing related to restoration of wetlands. The projects are co-financed by Life Nature programme:

1. Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area (one of the project's activities is to restore dams in order to reduce runoff from Teicu bog);
2. Conservation of Wetlands in Kemeru National Park (project's activities include restoration of natural hydrological regime in Great Kemeru Bog and restoration of natural river flow of Slampe river, and restoration of natural floodplains around it);
3. Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia (project includes restoration of natural hydrological regime in 4 peatland territories);
4. Lake Pape-Conservation, Preservation and Evolution (project includes restoration of natural wetlands in Nida bog and its surrounding);
5. Management of Lubana Wetland Complex (restore the natural hydrological level in bogs and meadows);
6. Restoration of Latvian Floodplains for EU Priority Species and Habitats (project targeted on

restoration floodplains in 16 territories in Latvia).

The project “Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park” was also related to wetland restoration in Lake Engure Nature Park; the project was finished in 2004.

The project “Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North-Livonia; Estonia-Latvia” includes planning of further restoration activities in this territory.

2 hydrological researches in one of the largest peatland in Latvia “Seda mire” and its surrounding have been started in 2004. The peat extraction is still going on in the part of this territory. Situation with melioration, level of surface waters and groundwaters will be explored in one of researches (financed by the State Stock Company “Latvian State Forests”) during the other one (financed by UNESCO Small Grant facility) the model of possible development of hydrological regime of mire will be designed.

**Action r4.1.i.-** Report on progress in implementation of Actions 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 in triennial National Reports to the COP (Resolution VIII.16).

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>			
<b>1.- Actions have been taken to restore / rehabilitate those wetlands defined as priority for restoration (if available, please include number of sites)</b>	<b>H</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>			
There were not set priority wetlands for restoration in Latvia (see also Action 1.1.2. and report to COP8). Though there are several projects related to wetland restoration in Latvia (see Action 4.1.2.).			

**Action r4.1.ii.-** Integrate fully the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* (Resolution VIII.16) into National Wetland Policies and plans, paying particular attention to issues of legislation, impact assessment, incentive measures, and the mitigation of impacts of climate change and sea-level rise. (Resolution VIII.16).

<b>1. The Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration (Resolution VIII.16) have been integrated into the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument(s)</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
National Programme on Biological Diversity (including also wetland related issues) was elaborated and approved in 2000 and so far it has not been revised.		

**Action r4.1.iii.-** Pay particular attention to the role of wetland restoration in management at the catchment and river basin level in relation to the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions (Resolution VIII.1), integrating the conservation and wise use of wetlands into river basin management (Resolution VII.18), and transboundary action (Resolution VII.19). (Resolution VIII.16).

<b>1. The role of wetland restoration has been taken into account in river basin management</b>	<b>F</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
River basin district management plans will include information on wetlands which need to be restored in order to achieve good water quality. This information will be available by 2008.		

**Action 4.1.3.-** Compile information on new research and methodologies for the restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands and disseminate this information.



**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Continue to add new case studies and methods to Ramsar wetland restoration Web site.**

1. Information and/or case studies on wetland restoration and rehabilitation is available	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Information on new research and methodologies for wetland restoration/rehabilitation has been compiled and disseminated	<b>D</b>	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the information on restoration/rehabilitation of wetlands and its dissemination.]</i>		
Information on wetland restoration has been prepared within several projects. The project “Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area” has prepared booklet “Protection of Meadow and Mire Habitats in Teici Region” with description about restoration of hydrological regime in Teicu Bog and meadows. The project “Implementation of the Management Plan of the Lake Engure Nature Park” prepared information on restoration of habitats. In 2002 a compilation of the best examples and case studies on habitat restoration and management “An Actual Examples of Species and Habitats Management in Latvia” was published. It contains a few articles also on wetland restoration and management. Experts who deal with restoration of wetlands also participate in different seminars, conferences to share their experience.		

**Action 4.1.4.-** Apply the guidelines on wetland restoration adopted by Resolution VIII.16 to ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the *Kyoto Protocol*, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation, do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands.

*See action 3.4.9*

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been used in the assessment of the implications of the implementation of the <i>Kyoto Protocol</i> for wetland conservation	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action r4.1.iv.-** Apply the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* when considering the provision of compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention, using the guidelines for such provision of compensation adopted by Resolution VIII.20. (Resolution VIII.16)

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been applied in relation to the provision of compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
The total area of Ramsar Sites in Latvia has not been reduced.		

**Action r4.1.v.-** Ensure, when implementing the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration*, that the cultural and archaeological heritage significance of wetlands being considered for restoration is fully recognized so as to ensure that this significance is maintained, taking into account the *Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites*, annexed to Resolution VIII.19. (Resolution VIII.16).

*See action r3.3.iii*

1. Cultural and archaeological heritage significance of wetlands has been considered in restoration actions	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r4.1.vi.-** Identify, as part of national training needs assessments, training needs in wetland restoration, identify training opportunities and expertise in wetland restoration, and create relevant training modules as part of the *Ramsar Wetland Training Initiative*, once established. (Resolution VIII.16). (Refer also to Action 20.1.5)

*See action 20.1.5*

**1. Training needs in relation to wetland restoration have been assessed**

**D**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2. Training opportunities and expertise in relation to wetland restoration have been identified**

**D**

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on training needs and opportunities in relation to wetland restoration.]**

On the national level training needs and opportunities on wetlands restoration have not been identified. Though, within different projects and through activities of the administrations of the specially protected nature territories, different trainings and expertises in wetlands restoration have been carried out. For example, in Kemer National Park within the projects “Building Capacity in Wetland Biodiversity Conservation” and EU Life Nature Project “Conservation of Wetlands in Kemer National Park”; 1 expert from the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve took part in international training programme on wetland hydrology and restoration in 2004; representatives from Teici Nature Reserve are often involved as trainers and lectors on wetland restoration issues etc.

**Action r4.1.vii.-** Investigate opportunities to link poverty relief to wetland restoration, by incorporating the provision of work, skills and opportunities into restoration projects and by focusing on the restoration of ecosystem goods and services upon which communities depend. (Resolution VIII.16).

**1. Restoration projects linked to poverty relief have been developed and implemented**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r4.1.viii.-** Disseminate the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* (Resolution VIII.16) to community stakeholders who have an interest in wetland restoration; and involve local communities and indigenous peoples in restoring and maintaining wetlands, in line with the guidance in Resolution VII.8 concerning establishing and strengthening local communities’ and indigenous peoples’ participation in the management of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.16).

**1. The *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* have been disseminated to community stakeholders**

**C**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;*

*D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =*

*Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in wetland restoration activities**

**D**

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the dissemination of the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* and the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in wetland restoration.]**

Local communities have been involved in wetland restoration activities through different projects, for instance, Management of Lubana Wetland Complex (bush cutting and hay moving in meadows were done by the local unemployed people), Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management in Teici Area (local communities were involved in wetlands restoration activities), Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park (local inhabitants were involved in bush and grass cutting etc. activities), etc.

**Action r4.1.ix.-** Utilise the information and resources of *Ramsar's restoration Web site*, and contribute relevant additional information on wetland restoration projects and experience to this Web site, so as to increase the wide availability of such information, and particularly to provide demonstration projects that illustrate the application of the principles and guidelines adopted by Resolution VIII.16. (Resolution VIII.16)

<p><b>1. The Ramsar Web site on wetland restoration has been used and materials have been provided to it</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i>  <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>  <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the use of Ramsar web site on wetland restoration and the materials provided to it, if applicable.]</b></p>		

**Action r4.1.xi.-** Prepare guidance on compensation for wetland losses in response to Resolution VII.24, and report on these matters to COP9. (Resolution VIII.16)

<p><b>1. Contribution has been made to preparation of guidance on compensation for wetland losses, in response to Resolution VII.24</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i>  <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>  <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b></p>		

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5.1. Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems**

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**PLANNING TOOL SECTION**

<p><b>PRIORITY:</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i></p>
<p><b>RESOURCING:</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i></p>
<p><b>TARGETS (text answer):</b></p>	<p><b>Eradicate and monitor the invasive alien species in Latvia (and especially in wetlands).</b></p>	
<p><b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b></p>	<p><b>1. Eradicate invasive alien species American mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>) in Lake Engure Ramsar Site;</b>  <b>2. Implement the monitoring of invasive alien species sub-program (under the National Environmental Monitoring Program), the monitoring of Ramsar sites, the monitoring of bog species and habitats, the monitoring of lake habitats and species and monitoring of river habitats and species.</b></p>	

<b>COP9 REPORT SECTION</b>
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**Action r5.1.ii.-** Work closely with counterpart national focal points for the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, the *UN Convention to Combat Desertification*, the *UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)*, the *International Maritime Organization (IMO)*, and others in the development and implementation of national policies, strategies and management responses to threats from invasive alien species, and ensure that prevention, eradication and control of such species are fully incorporated in national legislation and national wetland and biodiversity policies, strategies and action plans, applying the *Ramsar Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands* (Ramsar Handbook 3) and *Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies* (Ramsar Handbook 2). (Resolution VIII.18)

<b>1. National policy, strategy and management responses to threats from invasive species have been developed and implemented</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
<b>2. Prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species have been fully incorporated in national legislation and national wetland and biodiversity policies, strategies and action plans</b>	<b>D</b>	D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;
<b>3. Actions related to invasive species have been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organizations/processes</b>	<b>D</b>	G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on incorporation of invasive species matters in national legislation and policies, actions taken, and cooperation in this field.]**

Invasive species matters are incorporated in the National Environmental Policy Plan and in the National Programme on Biological Diversity. 2 monitoring subprograms – on invasive plant species and on invasive animal species under the National Environmental Monitoring Programme were elaborated in 2002 but they were not started due to lack of funding. Actions on monitoring of several invasive species are included also in the monitoring subprogram on Ramsar sites (for instance, monitoring of American mink (*Mustela vison*) in Lake Engure and Lake Kanieris, but due to lack of funding were not realised.

From 2003-2004 Latvia participated in an international project on research of invasive plant species – *Heracleum sosnowskyi*. The project was financed by the EU and also other EU countries, such as Denmark, Germany etc. participated in it. During the project the distribution and biology of *Heracleum sosnowskyi* was explored; a publication “*Heracleum sosnowskyi*. Limitation of Distribution” was issued.

There is a possibility for those farmers whose land is overgrown with *Heracleum* to get financial support from the activity “Cleaning of overgrown abandoned agricultural land from shrubs and invasive weeds (Giant Hogweed, etc.)” under the sub-priority “Promotion of Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas” of Single Programming Document. According to this, the Ministry of Agriculture has elaborated methodical instructions for limitation of distribution of plants from *Heracleum* kin.

Latvia participates also in an international project “Nordic-Baltic Network of Invasive Species” (NOBANIS). NOBANIS will include searchable lists of alien species, a catalogue of experts on alien species, species accounts, species distributions and recommended preventative, eradication and control measures. Latvia has to prepare information on invasive species for NOBANIS till April, 2005. Information will be available on the web ([www.sns.dk/nobanis](http://www.sns.dk/nobanis)).

**Action r5.1.iii.-** Undertake risk assessments of alien species which may pose a threat to the ecological character of wetlands, taking into account the potential changes to ecosystems from the effects of global climate change, and applying the guidance available in Ramsar’s *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* (Resolution VII.10). (Resolution VIII.18)

<b>1. Risk assessments of alien species that pose a threat to wetlands have been undertaken</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r5.1.iv.-** Identify the presence of invasive alien species in Ramsar sites and other wetlands in the Party's territory, the threats they pose to the ecological character of these wetlands (including the risk of invasions by such species not yet present within each site), and the actions underway or planned for their prevention, eradication or control; for Ramsar sites, report on this to the Ramsar Bureau without delay in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention, so that this information may be included in the *Ramsar Sites Database* (refer also to Operational Objective 11.2); and make information provided by Contracting Parties available to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and others in support of the implementation of the *CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2002-2006*. (Resolution VIII.18)

**1.- Problems of invasion by alien species in Ramsar sites have been assessed and communicated to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant Article 3.2 of the Convention (if applicable, please include number of sites)**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;  
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;  
F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  
H = Other status (explain below);  
I = No answer*

**N° wetlands / Ramsar sites**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the problems of invasion by alien species, sites affected and other additional comments you consider relevant.]**

There is no one common assessment of invasive species in Ramsar sites and other wetlands in Latvia. Information of invasive alien species in different territories and ecosystems is being obtained within the different monitoring programmes, researches and projects and within occasional observations (e.g. Amur sleeper *Percottus glebni*).

Presence of alien species has been identified in few Ramsar sites – Lake Engure (invasive alien species American mink (*Mustela vison*) Raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonides*)) and Teicu Bog (*Heracleum sosnowskyi*, *Mustela vison*, *Nyctereutes procyonides*), Lake Kanieris (*Mustela vison*). Measures to reduce distribution of invasive species have been undertaken in these territories (in Lake Engure – reduction of American mink (within the Life Nature project), in Teicu bog – reduction of *Heracleum sosnowskyi* (measures undertaken by the staff of Teici Nature Reserve). No invasive species were found in Northern Bogs Ramsar site during inventory 2004/2005.

Alien species were assessed as already existing threat in all the 4 Baltic Sea Protected Areas (designated according to the HELCOM) in BSPA Questionnaire prepared by the Ministry of Environment in 2005. 2 of these territories partly include 2 Ramsar sites – Pape Wetland Complex and Lake Engure.

Additional information on few invasive species

The Report of Fish Species Monitoring (2004) completed according to the National Monitoring Programme of River Habitats and Species includes information that invasive species Signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus* has been found in Salaca river and its tributaries and in one tributary of Gauja river. *Pacifastacus leniusculus* was found in river Gauja basin also within the monitoring „Fish Monitoring in the Large River Basins” in 2003. The UNDP/GEF financed project “Biodiversity protection in North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve” *inter alia* is going to undertake inventory and limitation of distribution of Signal crayfish in the Salaca river basin.

From 2003-2004 Latvia participated in the international project on research of invasive plant species – *Heracleum sosnowskyi*. The project was financed by the EU and also other EU countries, such as Denmark, Germany etc. participated in it. During the project the distribution and biology of *Heracleum sosnowskyi* was explored; a publication “*Heracleum sosnowskyi*. Limitation of Distribution” was issued. In Latvia more than 12 000 ha of land have overgrown with *Heracleum sosnowskyi*.

Information on invasive species in the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Riga is being obtained by the Institute of Hydroecology. Data about distribution of most successful invasive species and their impact on environment of Gulf of Riga was presented by the representatives of this Institute in international conference “Baltic – the Sea of Aliens” Gdynia, Poland, 24-27.08.2004. V. Jermakovs and M. Ceitlina - *Marenzelleria cf. viridis* (Verrill) in the Gulf of Riga - history of invasion and its impact on zoobenthos. S. Strake, A. Ikauniece and G. Aispure - Distribution features of invasive cladoceran *Cercopagis pengoi* in the Gulf of Riga.



The Report of Marine Coastal Monitoring (2005) completed according to the National Environmental Monitoring Programme includes information about distribution of invasive soft bottom zoobenthos, zooplankton and phytoplankton species in the Gulf of Riga and Latvian coast of Baltic Sea. We don't have any information about distribution of most dangerous hard bottom macrozoobenthos species in the Latvian Coastal area due to lack of financial support of hard bottom monitoring.

Problems of invasion by alien species have not been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau.

**Action r5.1.v.-** Cooperate fully in the prevention, early warning in transboundary wetlands, eradication and control of invasive species concerning invasive species in shared wetlands, river systems, and coastal/marine zones, including examining carefully, prior to moving water between river basins, the potential environmental impacts due to invasive species, and applying the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Ramsar Handbook 9) in recognition that many aquatic invasive species, both inland and coastal and marine species, can spread rapidly and repeatedly throughout entire wetland ecosystems, river basins and coastal and marine zones, such that eradication in one place may not prove effective at preventing further invasions. (Resolution VIII.18)

**1. International cooperation related to invasive species in transboundary/shared wetlands and water systems has been agreed and implemented**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Only the project "Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North-Livonia; Estonia-Latvia" includes mutual transboundary inventory on game animals with additional recording of invasive species.

**Action 5.1.2.-** In collaboration with the *Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)*, the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, Ramsar's International Organization Partners, and interested Parties, continue to develop and disseminate practical guidance for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species, based on case studies and documented experiences from around the world.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Guidance for invasives' management prepared.**

**1. Practical guidance for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species has been developed and disseminated**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

From 2003-2004 Latvia participated in an international project on research of invasive plant species – *Heracleum sosnowskyi*. The project was financed by the EU and also other EU countries, such as Denmark, Germany etc. participated in it. During the project the distribution and biology of *Heracleum sosnowskyi* was explored; a publication "*Heracleum sosnowskyi*. Limitation of Distribution" was issued.

There is a possibility for those farmers whose land is overgrown with *Heracleum* to get financial support from the activity "Cleaning of Overgrown Abandoned Agricultural Land from Shrubs and Invasive Weeds (Giant Hogweed, etc.)" under the sub-priority "Promotion of Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas" of Single Programming Document. Relating to this, the Ministry of Agriculture has elaborated methodical instructions for limitation of distribution of plants from *Heracleum L.* kin.

**Action r5.1.ix.-** In the development and implementation of national strategies and responses to invasive alien species, recognize that terrestrial invasions by alien species can threaten and affect the ecological character of wetlands, including through the lowering of water tables and alteration of water flow patterns, and ensure that appropriate measures to prevent or control such invasions are in place. (Resolution VIII.18)

1. The impact on wetlands of terrestrial invasions by alien species has been assessed	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 6. LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND CULTURAL VALUES

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 6.1. Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, in particular women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands**

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Ensure the involvement of local inhabitants in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<b>1. Establish the advisory boards for protected territories; 2. Involve local stakeholders in management planning of wetlands.</b>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 6.1.1.-** Apply the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 5), giving particular attention to the importance of incentive measures (refer to Operational Objective 8.1), the building of trust, the need for flexible approaches, the exchange of knowledge, capacity building and the continuity of resources and efforts.

1. The guidance for the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management has been applied	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action 6.1.2.-** In consultation with and with the full support of indigenous people, document and encourage the application of appropriate traditional knowledge and management practices of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly where wetlands are under the traditional ownership of local communities and indigenous people.

1. Traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands has been documented and its application encouraged	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Traditionally, in Latvia, wetland management in meadows and in lakes was related to grazing and hay mowing (in meadows) and reed cutting (in waterbodies). During last decades these traditional management		

methods have not been used in such amount as earlier. Therefore a few large projects (financed by Life Nature etc.) include activities with a target to restore different type of habitats by using traditional management methods. For instance, within the project "Implementation of Lake Engure Nature Management Plan" beef cattle and also cattle "Latvian Blue" (which is traditional in Latvia, but almost extinct) were bought and started to use. These animals are on the pastures all year around and will maintain Lake Engure and coastal meadows. Grazing of meadows is promoted also in other territories in Latvia (e.g. in Randu meadows, in Pape Wetland Complex etc.). Local people are still harvesting reed in the Lake Engure in the winter, but it is not enough for preventing the lake from overgrowing. Therefore reed cutting machine was purchased (also in several other lakes in Latvia) to increase the area of open water. Cutting of reed is planned also in another Ramsar site – Pape Wetland Complex.

Traditional management practices in relation to wetlands have been described in several booklets, shot on video etc. These materials have been prepared within the different projects related to wetland management (mainly within Life Nature projects).

**Action 6.1.4.-** Promote public participation in decision-making processes with respect to wetlands and their conservation and ensure that there is full sharing with the stakeholders of technical and other information related to the selection of Ramsar sites and management of all wetlands.

**1.- Public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands has been promoted**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the promotion of public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands.]**

Public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands is promoted through:

1. participation in discussions on designation of specially protected nature territories;
2. participation in public hearings during elaboration of site management plan;
2. participation in elaboration of different legislative acts, national policies, programmes and plans;
3. participation in different activities (management, information) within the management of the particular site.

**3.- Local stakeholders have been involved in the selection of new Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites)**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites  
3**

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the participation of local stakeholders in Ramsar site selection, the sites involved (if applicable), and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]**

Local stakeholders (administrations of specially protected nature territories, local municipalities etc.) participated in meetings (during 2002) where designation of new Ramsar sites were discussed.

**Action r6.1.i.-** Implement, where appropriate, Resolution VII.8 on *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* with respect to the planning and operation phases of dams, and extend this principle of participation to wider issues related to water resources management at basin level, utilising Resolution VII.18 on *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management*, and Resolution VIII.14 on *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands*. (Resolution VIII.2)

**1. Local stakeholders have been involved in wider issues related to water resources management at basin level**

**F**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

For the management of river basin districts the consultative boards for each river basin district are going to be established in 2005. The governmental and municipal institutions and NGOs will take part in these boards. These boards will supervise the elaboration of the river basin management plans. According to the legislation,

when the river basin management plans will be elaborated (planned by 2008) they will be placed for public discussion. The local communities will be involved in the management of the river basin district through participation in the consultative boards and through public discussions.

**Action 6.1.5.-** Elaborate for consideration by COP9 further guidance on the application of the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 5), based on experiences gained at the field level, and in particular the experience of Pacific Island States and other Small Island Developing States, and working with the CBD and others in line with the *CBD-Ramsar 3rd Joint Work Plan*.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Elaborated guidelines, developed jointly with CBD, available to COP9.**

<b>1. Resource information on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management has been compiled</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the resources compiled about local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management.]</b>		
<b>3. The Party has contributed with case studies and other materials to the elaboration of further guidance on the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution to the elaboration of the guidance indicated above.]</b>		

**Action r6.1.iii.-** Report on progress and successful experiences in applying Participatory Environmental Management strategies, in National Reports to COP9. (Resolution VIII.36)

<b>1. Participatory Environmental Management strategies have been applied</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Summary on progress and successes in relation to Participatory Environmental Management strategies [Please provide here a summary on progress and successes and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>		

**Action 6.1.6.-** Consider using the *Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites* (Resolution VIII.19), and continue to document case studies on social and cultural values of wetlands and how they can be incorporated into the effort to conserve and sustainably use wetland resources.

<i>See action r3.3.iii</i>		
<b>1. The guiding principles on cultural values (Resolution VIII.19) have been used or applied</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guiding Principles on cultural values.]</b>		
Wetlands have a special meaning in social and cultural field although they are not explored very well from the cultural point of view. However, description of wetlands social and cultural values has been included in the Ramsar sheets as well as in the management plans; these issues have been included also in the reports on environmental impact assessments. Different objects and monuments of cultural heritage related to wetlands are included in the national list of specially protected cultural monuments, a lot of wetlands with a special		

cultural value and wetlands related cultural objects are located in the territories with special protection (specially protected nature territories, specially protected territories of cultural history), for instance, Kemer National Park, Gauja National Park etc. In these territories a special attention on cultural values of wetlands has been paid. Cultural values of wetlands have been described in several publications (such as, Functions and Values of Wetlands); these issues have been highlighted also during the celebration of World Wetlands Day.

**3. Resource information and case studies on cultural aspects of wetlands have been compiled**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the resource information compiled.]**

A small part on cultural aspects of wetlands has been described in the publication “Functions and values of Wetlands” (issued in 2003).

**Action r6.1.v.-** Establish appropriate consultation mechanisms at regional or national levels, in order to consider how the list of Guiding Principles included in the Annex to Resolution VIII.19 might be applied in developing and promoting cultural values of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.19)

**1. Consultation mechanisms on the application of the guiding principles on cultural values have been established**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r6.1.vi.-** Consider using the cultural values of wetlands as a tool to strengthen active participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders in wetland conservation and wise use, particularly in wetland planning and management. (Resolution VIII.19)

**1. Cultural values of wetlands are being used to improve local stakeholders' involvement in wetland planning and management**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

For example, the project “Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North Livonia; Estonia-Latvia” foresees promotion of local entrepreneurship based on cultural values of wetlands through the development of nature friendly and traditional activities such as gathering of medical herbs. In the lake Kanieris reed cutting is done by local stakeholders.

**Action r6.1.vii.-** Consider conducting appropriate joint educational and training activities with regard to the cultural values of wetlands and developing pilot projects for testing on a local, regional and national scale further improvement of the application of and/or integration of the Guiding Principles included in the Annex to Resolution VIII.19 in wetland conservation and wise use. (Resolution VIII.19)

**1. Educational and training activities have been developed in relation to cultural aspects of wetlands**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

In 2001 Latvian – Danish co-operation project “Development of Latvian Environmental Interpretation Service” started (finished in 2003). The aim of this project was to establish the basic framework of the national Environmental Interpretation Service in Latvia. Environmental interpretation is a pedagogical activity



performed by environmental interpreter with the aim to achieve better understanding of the environmental processes (the interaction between the natural, cultural and socio-economical development), promoting public awareness raising and environmentally friendly behavior. So far more than 40 environmental interpreters have been trained; they are acting in different places in Latvia, including specially protected nature territories and their administrations. They offer different educational activities also related to cultural aspects of wetlands.

**Action r6.1.ix.-** Undertake the necessary measures to retrieve, assess and document for current use all ancestral practices of indigenous peoples that are compatible with the environment in the Andean region. (Resolution VIII.39)

**1. The ancestral practices of indigenous people in the Andean region that are compatible with environment protection have been retrieved, assessed, and documented**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action 6.1.7.-** Apply the *New guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* (Resolution VIII.14) in such a way as to ensure the full incorporation of the cultural features of wetlands in their sustainable use.

**1.- Cultural values of wetlands have been incorporated into the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of sites)**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N° wetlands / Ramsar sites**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the incorporation of cultural values into management planning, sites involved, and other comments you consider relevant.]**

In particular sites cultural values have been incorporated into the management planning of Ramsar sites (e.g. in Kemer National Park, Lake Engure); in the Northern Bog it is in progress since general guidelines for the management of the Northern Bogs will be elaborated till the end of 2005.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7.1. Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands**

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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Improve the management of wetlands by involving the private sector in the conservation of wetlands.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<b>Inform the interested target groups on possibilities of management and wise use of wetlands.</b>	

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**Action 7.1.1.-** Encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle (Ramsar Handbooks 1 to 6) in their activities and investments affecting wetlands.

1. The private sector has been encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
Done mainly in particular territories (with their own administrations) or through different projects.		

**Action 7.1.2.-** Seek opportunities to involve the private sector, national science academies, universities and other professional, scientific, and technical societies of recognized merit in wetland-related decision-making, through vehicles such as National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees, site or river basin management authorities/committees, and outreach activities.

1. The private sector, academia and specialized institutions have been brought into decision-making related to wetlands	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
Representatives from the private sector, scientific and technical etc. institutions have been included in the Consultative boards for almost all Ramsar sites (see Action 11.1.5.). The consultative boards for the management of each river basin district are going to be established during 2005. Governmental and municipal institutions and NGOs will be equally represented in these boards.		

**Action 7.1.4.-** Establish, where appropriate, national and local private-sector “Friends of Wetlands” forums where companies can seek advice on applying wise use practices in their businesses, and can also identify opportunities for supporting the activities of the Convention.

1. A private-sector “Friends of Wetlands” forum or equivalent mechanism has been established	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**Action 7.1.5.-** Review, in cooperation with the private sector, domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products, both exports and imports, and as appropriate implement the necessary legal, institutional and administrative measures to ensure that harvesting is sustainable and in accordance with the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)*.

1. A review of domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products has been carried out	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Legal, institutional and administrative measures are being implemented to ensure sustainable harvesting of wetland products	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the measures taken to ensure sustainable harvesting and trade of wetland products.]</b>		
There are almost no wetland-derived plant or animal products in Latvia, which are listed in the CITES and which can be used for trade. The only exception is orchids from <i>Orchidaceae</i> kin, but since they are included in the national list of specially protected species, they can not be gathered for trade.		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8. INCENTIVES

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8.1. Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use principle, and the removal of perverse incentives

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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Develop and make available the different incentive measures and remove the perverse ones.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Support the implementation of agro-environmental activities financed under the “Rural development Plan” (responsible – Ministry of Agriculture);</b></li> <li><b>2. Inform the farmers on possibilities to apply for funding of agro-environmental schemes;</b></li> <li><b>3. Adopt the law “On Landowners Rights to Receive Compensation for the Legal Restrictions Established in Protected Territories”;</b></li> <li><b>4. To prevent adoption of new incentive measures that can lead to degradation of wetlands.</b></li> </ol>	

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**Action 8.1.1.-** Continue to review existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** SC/Bureau to have identified at least 50 CPs to have reviewed policy and legal and institutional frameworks and sought to remove measures adversely affecting wetland conservation and wise use.

<b>1. A review of positive and perverse incentive measures in relation to the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been completed</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
<b>2. Actions have been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>
<b>3. Actions have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the promotion and implementation of incentive measures and removal of perverse ones.]</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The review of incentive measures for conservation of biological diversity in Latvia was completed in 2002.</li> <li>2. Incentive measures which <i>inter alia</i> encourage conservation of wetlands: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) reduction of cadastral value and real property tax for forest land properties located in the specially protected nature territories with significant restrictions for forestry;</li> <li>b) subsidies form the Rural Development Plan for preservation of biodiversity in grasslands (maintenance of grasslands in an environmentally friendly manner by implementation of the following activities: extensive pasturing, late mowing of grasslands), establishment of buffer belts (establishment and maintenance of grasslands, as: water protection belts alongside rivers, lakes, water reservoirs and trenches of reclamation systems and field buffer belts).</li> <li>c) buying of land from private land owners;</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		

- d) recompense of damage for spoilage or destruction of individuals of specially protected species or habitats;
  - e) recompense of damage of fish resources;
  - f) tax of use of nature resources.
3. Actions which have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures:
- a) according to the legislation double tariff for energy purchase will not be applied for small hydro electric power stations built after 2003;
  - b) the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No 27 “Regulations on Rivers (Parts of Rivers) on which for Fish Conservation Purposes Building and Restoration of Hydroelectric Stations Dams and Building of any Artificial Dams are Prohibited” was adopted in 2002. It includes more than 200 rivers or parts of rivers.

**Action r8.1.ii.-** When reviewing agricultural policies, identify possible subsidies or incentives that may be having negative impacts, on water resources in general and on wetlands in particular, in the territory of a Contracting Party and/or elsewhere in the world consistent with their other international rights and obligations, and remove or replace them by incentives that would contribute to wetland conservation, ensuring that these activities and support measures should not support agricultural policies that are inconsistent with trade-related agreements. (Resolution VIII.34)

<b>1. Agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular have been identified</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2. Actions have been taken to remove or replace agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular</b>	<b>C</b>	

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on agriculture subsidies and incentives and their impacts on water resources and wetlands.]**

In order to receive subsidies from The European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund farmers have to follow the Conditions of Good Farming Practice. It concerns reduction of pollution in protected belts, prohibits melioration in certain territories, determines conditions of storing of chemicals, prohibits disturbance and destruction of habitats of the animals and species under special protection etc.

Subsidies form the Rural Development Plan for establishment of buffer belts (eligible activities – establishment and maintenance of grasslands, as: water protection belts alongside rivers, lakes, water reservoirs and trenches of reclamation systems and field buffer belts).

**Action r8.1.iii.-** Review programmes of subsidies concerning the use of groundwater in order to guarantee that those programmes do not lead to negative consequences for the conservation of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.40)

<b>1. The programmes of subsidies concerning the use of groundwater have been reviewed in relation to the negative consequences that they may have on wetland conservation</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

There are no such programmes of subsidies concerning the use of groundwater in Latvia.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) <sup>2</sup>

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.I. Integrate CEPA processes into all levels of policy development, planning and implementation of the Convention

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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Integrate CEPA processes in National Environmental Policy Plan</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Elaborate the National Environmental Policy Plan;</b></li> <li><b>2. Ensure the adoption of the Plan by the Government;</b></li> <li><b>3. Ensure the implementation of the Plan.</b></li> </ol>	

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**Action r9.i.ii.-** Integrate wetland CEPA into all relevant regional (where applicable), national, catchment and local wetland and other appropriate sectoral policies, strategies, plans and programmes, such as those for biodiversity conservation, water management, fisheries, poverty reduction, etc.

**1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into sectoral policies, strategies, plans and programmes**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Wetland CEPA issues are incorporated into the National Environmental Policy Plan, National Programme on Biological Diversity, Environmental Protection Strategy of the Ministry of Defence the National Armed Forces, and partly in the Daugava river basin district management plan and National Forest Policy.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) <sup>3</sup>

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.II. Demonstrate that CEPA processes are effective in achieving Ramsar's wetland wise use objectives at the global, national and local levels

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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	-	

<sup>2</sup> The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

<sup>3</sup> The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).



<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b> (text answer):	–
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**Action r9.ii.i.-** Develop pilot projects to evaluate a range of approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands, in particular involving those who make a direct use of wetland resources

<b>1. Pilot projects have been developed to evaluate different approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**Action r9.ii.ii.-** Review existing CEPA programmes and case studies and document the lessons learned regarding effective approaches from these experiences.

<b>1. A review of existing CEPA programmes has been completed</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>2. Lessons learnt in implementing CEPA programmes have been documented</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on implementation of CEPA programmes and information available.]</b>		

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) <sup>4</sup>

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.III. Provide national leadership, networks and cohesive frameworks to support and catalyse CEPA for the wise use of wetlands**

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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>		
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Support the network of public awareness specialists in all Ramsar sites in Latvia;</b></li> <li><b>2. Support the work of working group for Wetlands Day in Latvia.</b></li> </ol>	

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**Action r9.iii.i.-** Contracting Parties (as requested by Resolution VII.9) are urged as a matter of priority to appoint suitably qualified persons to fulfil the roles of national government and non-government Focal Points for wetland CEPA, and to advise the Ramsar Bureau of the persons fulfilling these roles and their contact details.

<sup>4</sup> The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

<b>1. A National Government Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i>
<b>2. A National NGO Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information about Government CEPA and NGO CEPA Focal Points].</b>		
A National Government Focal Point for wetlands: Ms Skaidrite Ruskule, Head of Natural History Museum of Latvia		
A National NGO Focal Point for wetland CEPA: 1) Ms Ilze Strausa, Latvian Ornithological Society 2) Mr Uldis Cekulis, Environmental Film Studio For contact information on National CEPA Focal Points see pp. 4		

**Action r9.iii.ii.-** Establish a national *Wetland CEPA Task Force* (if no other mechanisms exist for this purpose), ensuring suitable stakeholder and NGO representation, to undertake a review of needs, skills, expertise and options, and to set priorities for the implementation of this programme of work.

<b>1. A National wetland CEPA Task Force has been established</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
National CEPA Focal Points and representatives from a few administrations of specially protected nature territories meet several times per year. The target of these meetings are to discuss about planned activities, to review the needs, to plan a celebration of the Worlds Wetlands Day etc.		

**Action r9.iii.iii.-** Formulate, drawing upon the *Additional Guidance on reviewing and action planning for wetland communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)* developed for this purpose, a national (and, where appropriate, sub-national, catchment or local) action plan for wetland CEPA which incorporates the conclusions to emerge from Action r9.iii.ii above, and provide a copy of this to the Ramsar Convention Bureau so that it can be made available to other Parties and interested organizations and individuals. (The Additional Guidance document is available in hard copy from the Bureau and in html at [http://ramsar.org/outreach\\_reviewsactionplansI.htm](http://ramsar.org/outreach_reviewsactionplansI.htm))

<b>1. A National Action Plan for wetland CEPA has been developed</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
A special National Action Plan for wetland CEPA has not been developed. On the National level the Environmental Communication and Education Strategy and Action Plan was elaborated, but it contains general targets and actions on environmental communication and education. Issues on communication and education regarding biodiversity protection are included in the National Programme on Biological Diversity and National Environmental Policy Plan.		

**Action r9.iii.iv.-** Review and, where appropriate, integrate wetland CEPA into the business of national wetland, biodiversity, forestry, agriculture, irrigation, power generation, mining, tourism, and fisheries committees, and other relevant policy and planning committees where they exist.

<b>1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into the business of sectoral policy and planning committees</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r9.iii.v.-** As part of undertaking actions r9.iii.ii, r9.iii.iii and r9.iii.iv, ensure that attention is given to the efficiency and effectiveness of communication and information-sharing systems between relevant government ministries, departments and agencies, and where necessary develop mechanisms to address any shortcomings.

**1. Actions have been taken in relation to communication and information-sharing on wetland issues between relevant ministries, departments and agencies**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Communication and information-sharing on wetland issues exist between several ministries, departments and etc. institutions (e.g. between the Ministry of Environment and its subordinated institutions and municipalities, between the Ministry of Environment, the Natural History Museum and the Ministry of Defence, between the Natural History Museum and subordinated institutions of the Ministry of Science and Education etc.). Though there is no common mechanism developed regarding such information-sharing.

**Action r9.iii.vi.-** Collaborate globally and nationally to encourage synergy with the CEPA activities under other international conventions and programmes, including the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and the *UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme*.

**1. Actions have been taken to encourage synergies on CEPA activities among international conventions and programmes**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

The Natural History Museum is nominated also as a CEPA focal point of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and therefore there is cooperation between the Ramsar Convention CEPA and the CBD CEPA within the Museum and within the activities they undertake.

**Action r9.iii.vii.-** Establish and maintain an on-line searchable listing of expertise in CEPA and of the CEPA Focal Points, one which can be accessed to assist CEPA activities at national and international levels, and promote this service to assist CEPA programmes and activities.

**1. A roster (or equivalent tool) on wetland CEPA expertise in the country is available**

**F**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

It is planned to create a web page on wetlands (including information on wetlands CEPA and other relevant information) based on the web page on the Natural History Museum.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)<sup>5</sup>

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.IV. Transfer, exchange and share CEPA information and expertise that promotes and results in the wise use of wetlands

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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>E</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>E</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	-	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	-	

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**Action r9.iv.iii.-** Continue to produce, distribute and share resource materials to support wetland CEPA actions

<b>1. Materials to support wetland CEPA have been produced and distributed</b>	<b>B</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>There have been several materials produced during the last triennial:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Video “Ramsar Convention on wetlands” adapted with a help of Environmental Film Studio. Distributed to all the administrations of specially protected nature territories, to all the environmental guides and school boards etc.</li> <li>2) Publication “Wetland values and functions”, supported by Nature Protection Board, Regional Environmental Center and Latvian Ornithological Society. Distributed to all the administrations of specially protected nature territories, to all the environmental guides and school boards, NGOs, universities, teachers etc.</li> <li>3) Publication “Lake Kanieris – child view”. Issued by the administration of Kemer National Park for the World Wetlands Day.</li> <li>4) Booklet on Ramsar Convention issued by the Ministry of Environment. It contains information easy to understand on Ramsar Convention, explanation what wetlands are and why they should be protected etc.</li> </ol> <p>A lot of materials were published also within the different projects (e.g. Life Nature projects related to wetlands).</p>		

**Action r9.iv.iv.-** Maintain, and seek to expand, the Ramsar global e-mail networks to include Ramsar Administrative Authorities, Ramsar national wetland CEPA Focal Points, CEPA professionals, Ramsar site managers, those facilities dedicated to environmental education and awareness raising, and local stakeholders. Establish and support similar national e-groups and the linking of these with the global network.

<b>1. A national email network on wetland CEPA has been established</b>	<b>D</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>
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<sup>5</sup> The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Information is exchanged among Ramsar national wetland CEPA Focal Points.

**Action r9.iv.v.-** Promote and seek to resource the coordination of the *Wetland Link International* programme of the *Wildfowl & Wetland Trust*, UK, in order to allow it to assist wetland education centres to create a global network and national centres of excellence for promoting CEPA, and to facilitate information exchange between centres in developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

**1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are part of the Wetland Link International Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)**

**F**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;  
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;  
F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =  
Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
centres**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are part of the Wetland Link International Programme, and any other comments you consider relevant.]**

The existing wetland centres are planned to be involved in the Wetland Link International Programme of the Wildfowl& Wetland Trust.

**Action r9.iv.vi.-** Promote and seek to resource the twinning of wetland education centres to encourage the exchange and transfer of information and expertise between centres in developed countries and those in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

**1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are twinned with similar facilities in other countries (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;  
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;  
F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
centres**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are twinned with similar ones in other countries, and further comments you consider relevant.]**

Active co-operation between North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve with Nigula Nature Reserve (Estonia), administrating, the Estonian part of the Northern Bogs is ongoing.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) <sup>6</sup>

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.V. Improve the individual and collective capacity and opportunities of people to participate in and contribute to using wetlands wisely, through the recognition of the values of wetland resources**

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Inform and involve the local inhabitants in activities of wise use of wetlands.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Implement the public awareness and information activities under the</b>	

<sup>6</sup> The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).



(text answer):	LIFE Nature financed projects going on in wetlands areas in Latvia.
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### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action r9.v.i.-** Review the current national needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA, including in relation to the establishment and operations of wetland education centres (see Operational Objective r9.viii) and use this to define capacity-building priorities within the national wetland CEPA action plan (see Action r9.iii.iii)

**1. A review of needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA has been completed**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r9.v.ii.-** In collaboration with Ramsar's International Organization Partners, identify sources of expert information and training opportunities in wetland CEPA in order to facilitate the sharing of expertise and knowledge at the local, national, regional and global levels.

**1. Sources of expert information and training opportunities in wetland CEPA have been identified**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r9.v.iii.-** Seek resources through appropriate mechanisms to support the capacity building identified as priorities through Action r9.v.i, ensuring that key groups such as women and indigenous and rural communities are not overlooked.

**1. Resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA have been sought**

**C**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;*

*G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);*

*I = No answer*

**2. Progress in obtaining resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA has been made**

**C**

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the activities for resourcing capacity building in wetland CEPA.]**

**Action r9.v.iv.-** Review formal educational curricula to ensure that they are incorporating information on the ecosystem services provided by wetlands, promoting the wise use principle, and recognizing the importance of CEPA in pursuing the objective of wise use.

**1. A review of formal educational curricula in relation to wetland services and wise use has been carried out**

**D**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;*

*D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2. Changes in the formal educational curricula to incorporate wetland-related issues have been effected**

**C**

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland services and wise use in the formal educational curricula.]**

Regarding review of formal educational curricula it is stated that present educational curricula does not include issues directly related to wetland services and wise use.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) <sup>7</sup>

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.VI. Foster sustained national campaigns, programmes and projects to raise community awareness of the important ecosystem services provided by wetlands as well as their social, economic and cultural values**

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Develop the national CEPA Policy Plan/ Action Programme</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the activities implemented by CEPA governmental (Latvian Nature Museum) and non-governmental (Latvian Ornithological Society) focal points (information and education campaigns etc.)</li> <li>2. Develop the exhibition on Ramsar sites to be placed in all Ramsar sites in Latvia;</li> <li>3. Organize annual celebration of Wetlands Day in Latvia;</li> <li>4. Develop a public education and information program (within the Life Nature project “Lake Pape – Conservation, Preservation and Evolution”).</li> </ol>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action r9.vi.i.-** Undertake national campaigns, programmes or projects to raise awareness, build community support, and promote stewardship approaches and attitudes towards wetlands.

<b>1. National campaigns, programmes or projects to increase awareness on wetland issues have been launched</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
Several national campaigns and projects to raise awareness on wetlands were undertaken:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In March 2003, a campaign “Propose a territory!” was launched and it took place till the end of May 2003. The main goal of this campaign was raising public awareness about the process of establishment of the <i>Natura 2000</i> network and also inviting the people to suggest new potential <i>Natura 2000</i> sites (including wetlands) that they find valuable for the nature protection.</li> <li>2) Since 2001, each year WWF Latvia bureau launches national campaign “Protection of the wild Atlantic salmon in Latvia”. The goal of the campaign is to ensure additional protection of salmon during their spawning period in rivers of Latvia and raise public awareness on salmon protection and problems related to it.</li> <li>3) In 2003-2004, the Children Environmental School organised campaign “Clean water in clean rivers”. In 2004 approx. 4000 schoolchildren from 33 schools took part in this campaign. The campaign included education and information on water, rivers etc. and clean up of river banks in different sites.</li> <li>4) Each year the Children Environmental School organises also an environmental education project “Nature</li> </ol>		

<sup>7</sup> The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

watch” with subprogram “Coast watch”. The goal of the subprogram is to gain understanding of coastal ecosystems, their interaction. Coast watchers observe banks of rivers and sea, pollution, water plants, animals etc.

A few interactive educational materials have been also produced and available also on the web, such as programme “Lake Burtnieks and its surrounding – our common treasure”. These materials are produced by local schools, public organisations, North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve and other governmental institutions. These materials introduce to the Lake Burtnieks nature values, cultural history, management etc. issues.

**Action r9.vi.ii.-** Celebrate *World Wetlands Day* with appropriate national and local events and promotions and the distribution of resource materials, in order to raise awareness of wetland values and functions

**1. World Wetlands Day activities have been carried out**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the WWD activities that have taken place, if any, at national and local levels.]**

The World Wetlands Day is celebrated since 2001 in Latvia. Each year different activities are undertaken by the Natural History Museum, administrations of specially protected territories and other institutions.

In 2003, the Natural History Museum organised exhibition “Birds in Kemeru National Park” and children drawings exhibition “Water in my life”, presented video “Ramsar Convention on wetlands” and prepared 2 pedagogical programmes “Wetland values and functions” and “Wonderful bog”. Gauja National Park organised presentations on wetlands in local schools. Kemeru National Park also announced competition on drawings “Water in my life”.

In 2004, the Natural History Museum organised an exhibition “What are the wetlands?”. Gauja National Park and Kemeru National Park presented information on wetlands in local schools.

In 2005, the Natural History Museum organised seminar for biology teachers. Kemeru National Park arranged presentations for local schools. The Ministry of Defence celebrated Wetlands Day in the Adazi military centre. The Adazi military centre is located in the protected landscape area “Adazi” with a significant territory of wetlands.

**Action r9.vi.iii.-** Collaborate with the media to inform decision-makers and the broader society about the values and benefits of wetlands.

**1. Collaboration with the media has been systematically used to convey the wetland message**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Active and systematic collaboration with mass media is done by the Teici Nature Reserve and during the implementation of Life Nature projects (e.g. “Management of the Lubana Wetland Complex”, “Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park etc.); dissemination of information to mass media on irregular basis occurs in Kemeru National Park and North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve. The Natural History Museum and Latvian Ornithological Society also from time to time prepare press information on different issues or activities related to wetlands.

**Action r9.vi.iv.-** Promote appropriate *Wetlands of International Importance* as ‘demonstration sites’ for Ramsar’s wise use principle and ensure that they are suitably equipped in terms of capacity, signage, and interpretive materials.

**1.- Actions have been taken to promote and equip Ramsar site(s) as demonstration sites for the wise use principle (if available, please include number of sites)**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites  
4**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the actions taken, the Ramsar site(s) equipped, and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]**

There are 4 Ramsar sites in Latvia which we could consider equipped as demonstration sites for wise use principle:

- The Nature Centre near Lake Pape in Pape Wetland Complex was established in 2002. It is a multi-functional centre which provides educational information (permanent exposition and booklets), offers various commercial packages (B&B, bird watching, fishing, and hiking, biking, horse attendance) and serves as an example of successful and environmentally friendly business activities promoting nature conservation and sustainable rural development (Ramsar Information Sheet). Several nature paths are made around the Lake Pape
- The Lake Engure. There are three bird watching towers available for tourists and one nature path “Orchid path” in the Nature Park Lake Engure. The information signs have been set up in the area informing visitors about nature values (birds and plants), rules and zoning of the nature park. A new summer lecture house was built in 2003, it is located near the lake and can accommodate up to 30 participants. There is also possibility to see several traditional cattle breeds and horse breed used for grazing of meadows. Different informative materials are available on the Lake Engure, nature values and management. These activities were realized during Life Nature project running from 2001-2004 in the Lake Engure Nature Park.
- The Lake Kanieris in the Kemeru National Park. Information on the Lake Kanieris values and management can be obtained at the administration of the Kemeru National Park. The nature path along the Lake Kanieris and information signs were set up in 2002. Establishment of the educational and information centre at the Lake Kanieris is being planned. Different management activities (e.g. reed cutting etc.) in the Lake Kanieris have been undertaken during the Life Nature project running in the Kemeru National Park from 2003-2005.
- The Teicu Bog Ramsar site is managed by the administration of the Teicu Nature Reserve. The nature path in the Teicu Bog has been established, different informative materials (on nature values, management activities etc.) can be obtained in the information centre located at the administration of the Teicu Nature Reserve.

Establishment of the information centre and other tourism infrastructure (signs etc.) is planned also in Lubana Wetland Complex within the Life Nature project recently started there.

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) <sup>8</sup>**

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.VII. Support and develop mechanisms to ensure that CEPA processes are incorporated into participatory, multi-stakeholder wetland management**

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**PLANNING TOOL SECTION**

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	–	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	–	

<sup>8</sup> The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

## COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action r9.vii.iii.-** Ensure that multi-stakeholder bodies are in place to guide and inform catchment/river basin and local wetland-related planning and management, and that these bodies include appropriate expertise in CEPA.

**1. CEPA expertise has been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management tools**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r9.vii.v.-** Where they do not already exist, introduce into site management plans the appropriate strategies and actions for complementary communication, education and public awareness

**1.- CEPA strategies and actions have been incorporated into the management plans of Ramsar sites (if available, please include number of sites)**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the actions taken, the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]**

CEPA actions partly have been incorporated into the management plans for the following Ramsar sites – the Lake Kanieris (located in the Kemer National Park for which the management plan was elaborated) and the Teicu Bog. For the rest of Ramsar sites the management plans are going to be elaborated in the coming few years (Lubana Wetland Complex, Lake Pape and the Northern Bogs).

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)<sup>9</sup>

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.VIII. Promote and support the role of wetland and other education centres as focal points for global, national and local CEPA efforts**

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## PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Establish an information centers in the specially protected nature territories with wetlands.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Establish an information facility for visitors ( within the project “Management of the Lubana Wetland Complex”);</b></li> <li><b>2. Arrange the informative and educational center (within the project “Protection and Management of the Northern Gauja Valley”);</b></li> <li><b>3. Establish the management center at the lake Kanieris and a field station near the river Lielupe (within the project “Conservation of Wetlands in Kemer National Park”);</b></li> <li><b>4. Develop a public education and information program (within the Life</b></li> </ol>	

<sup>9</sup> The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).



Nature project “Lake Pape – Conservation, Preservation and Evolution”).

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action r9.viii.i.-** Seek to establish education centres at Ramsar and other wetland sites to provide focal points for local and national CEPA activities.

<p><b>1.- Education centres have been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of centres and sites)</b></p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>  <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>  <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>  <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p><b>N° centres</b>  <b>2</b>  <b>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</b>  <b>2</b></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the centres established and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b></p>			
<p>Education centres have been established in the Pape Wetland Complex and in the Lake Engure Ramsar site. Information centres within the existing administrations of specially protected nature territories are established in Kemer National Park, Gauja National Park and Teici State Reserve.</p>			
<p><b>3.- Additional education centres are planned for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of centres and sites)</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>  <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>  <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>  <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p><b>N° centres</b>  <b>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</b></p>
<p><b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the centres planned and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b></p>			
<p>Additional information centres are planned in the Lubana Wetland Complex and in the Lake Kanieris Ramsar site.</p>			

**Action r9.viii.ii.-** Where wetland education centres exist, review the information they present and ensure that it is serving to promote in suitable ways the *Ramsar Convention* and its wise use principle, and also that the centres are helping to foster communication and, where appropriate, participation, among the local wetland management ‘actors’ and stakeholders

<p><b>1. The information provided at wetland education centres has been reviewed to ensure that it is in line with the Convention’s principles and goals</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i>  <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b></p>		

**Action r9.viii.iv.-** Seek to involve suitable places of learning, education and training (museums, zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens and related institutions) in national CEPA efforts; encourage the development of wetland-related interpretative exhibits and programmes at such venues, and facilitate linkages with wetland-based centres. (see also Operational Objective R9.v).

<p><b>1.- Places of learning, education and training (museums, zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens, etc.) are involved in national CEPA efforts and activities (if available, please include number of facilities)</b></p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>  <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p><b>N° facilities</b>  <b>1</b></p>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include information on the facilities involved in national CEPA efforts and activities, and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]*

The Natural History Museum is involved in national CEPA efforts and activities. It is planned to involve also the Riga Zoo in these activities.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10.1. Apply the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Handbook 7)**

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Designate 3 new Ramsar sites in Latvia.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<b>Designate Lubana wetland complex, Northern Bogs and Pape wetland complex as next sites for List of Ramsar sites</b>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 10.1.1.-** Renew efforts to apply the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the Ramsar List* (Resolution VII.11) including, as a matter of priority the establishment of a strategy and priorities for the further designation of Ramsar sites so as to achieve, as soon as possible, the coherent national networks called for in the Vision for the List. (Resolution VIII.10).

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** Report on implementation progress to the Ramsar Bureau by 31 December 2003, with consolidated Bureau report circulated to all Parties by 31 March 2004. Each CP which has not designated a Ramsar site since accession to the Convention to have designated at least one new site. Designation of a further 55 million ha and 250 Ramsar sites, as progress towards global targets of 2500 sites and 250 million ha by 2010.

1. A strategy and priorities have been established for further designation of Ramsar sites, in application of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

**Action r10.1.i.-** Identify all wetlands which potentially qualify for designation as Ramsar sites, as a concrete output of the strategy and priorities called for in Action 10.1.1, establish targets for future designation in terms of number of sites to be designated, and communicate these targets to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to the Ramsar Bureau. (Resolution VIII.10)

*See action 1.1.2*

1. All potential Ramsar sites have been identified and targets for future designations have been defined.

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

A few of potential Ramsar sites have been identified within the establishment of *Natura 2000* network.

**Action r10.1.ii.-** Use the appropriate 1% thresholds contained in *Waterbird Population Estimates 3rd Edition* in identifying and designating *Wetlands of International Importance* under Criterion 6 of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VIII.11). (Resolution VIII.38)

**1.- The appropriate 1% thresholds contained in *Waterbird Population Estimates 3rd Edition* have been used in identifying and designating Ramsar sites under Criterion 6 (if applicable, please include number of sites designated under Criterion 6)**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes;  
C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  
E = In progress; F= Being planned;  
G = Being updated; H = Other status  
(explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites  
3**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and any other additional comments on the implementation of this action that you consider relevant.]**

All the 3 recently (in 2002) nominated Ramsar sites correspond to this criterion. These sites are: Pape Wetland Complex, Lubana Wetland Complex and Northern Bogs. There are also several Important Bird Areas, which correspond to Ramsar Criterion No 6 identified in Latvia.

**Action 10.1.2.-** In undertaking Action 10.1.1, give priority attention to the designation sites for each representative, rare or unique wetland types present in the territory of a Contracting Party, as well as to wetland types currently under-represented in the Ramsar List, including, inter alia, karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, salt marshes, tidal flats, peatlands, wet grasslands, temporary pools, arid-zone wetlands and mountain wetlands (Resolution VIII.12), and in so doing apply the guidelines so far approved by the COP to assist in the designation of some of these wetland types (Resolutions VIII.11 and VIII.33), and report on progress to COP9.

*See action 1.1.2*

**1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of representative, rare or unique wetland types present in the territory has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;  
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;  
F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =  
Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites  
3**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments on the implementation of this action that you consider relevant.]**

All the 3 recently (in 2002) nominated Ramsar sites correspond to the Ramsar criterion No 1. These sites are: Pape Wetland Complex, Lubana Wetland Complex and Northern Bogs.

**3.- Designation of wetland types currently under-represented in the Ramsar List has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;  
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;  
F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites  
3**

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments on the implementation of this action that you consider relevant.]**

The recently nominated Ramsar Sites in Latvia are: Pape Wetland Complex, Lubana Wetland Complex and Northern Bogs. All the 3 territories include wetland types under-represented in the Ramsar List, mainly peatlands and wet grasslands.

**Action 10.1.3.-** Give priority to the designation of coastal and marine Ramsar sites, as a contribution to the WSSD target of establishing representative networks of marine protected areas by 2012.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> In line with Articles 1.1 and 2.1 of the Convention, which include as Ramsar wetlands areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres, and indicates that Ramsar sites may "incorporate islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six metres at low tide lying within the wetlands."

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>			
<b>1.- Designation of coastal and marine Ramsar sites has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b> <b>1</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
One coastal Ramsar site (Pape Wetland Complex) has been designated in Latvia since COP 8.			

**Action 10.1.4.-** In addition to the priority established in 10.1.2, also assign priority to the designation as Ramsar sites of wetlands hosting globally threatened species and species that are unique or endemic to the territory of a Contracting Party or for which the territory supports a significant proportion of the global extent of the species.

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>			
<b>1.- Designation of Ramsar sites supporting globally threatened species and species that are unique or endemic, or for which the territory supports a significant proportion of the global extent of the species, has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b> <b>3</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
All the 3 recently (in 2002) designated Ramsar sites correspond to Ramsar criterion No 2. According to the information given in Ramsar Information Sheets the Lubana Wetland Complex supports the following globally threatened species – <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> , <i>Aquila clanga</i> , <i>Gallinago media</i> and <i>Crex crex</i> ; the Northern Bogs support <i>Aquila clanga</i> .			

**Action r10.1.iv.-** Collaborate in the identification and designation as Ramsar sites of national and international site networks for migratory species, including migratory waterbirds, as a contribution to other initiatives under related international and regional environmental conventions and programmes, including, *inter alia*, the *Convention on Migratory Species* and its Agreements such as the *African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA)*, and other existing arrangements such as the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan*, the *Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network*, and the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy*. (Resolution VIII.10)

<i>See action 12.2.2</i>			
<b>1.- Designation of Ramsar sites that form part of networks for migratory species has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b> <b>3</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
All the 3 Ramsar sites designated since 2002 in Latvia- Lubana Wetland Complex, Pape Wetland Complex and Northern Bogs are important sites for migratory birds. For more information see Ramsar Information Sheets in <a href="http://www.wetlands.org">www.wetlands.org</a> Latvia is going to join the AEWA during 2005.			

**Action 10.1.5.-** Designate, as a priority, those eligible sites that are not under any form of protective or sustainable use management regime, including those utilised for agriculture, as the basis for accelerating the establishment of such regimes, and ensure that this is done soon after designation.

<b>1.- Designation of Ramsar sites that are not under any form of protective or sustainable use management regime, including those utilised for agriculture, has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

**Action 10.1.6.-** Consistent with the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands* (Ramsar Handbook 9), designate the national area of transboundary wetlands as a Ramsar site and invite the concerned neighboring country(ies) to do likewise, with a view to establishing a harmonized management regime for the entire wetland.

1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of the national area of transboundary wetlands has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).

**D**

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;  
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;  
F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =  
Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites  
1**

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

The Ramsar site Northern Bogs comprises two large bogs (Kodu-Kapzemes mire, Ollu mire). A part of these bogs is located in the territory of the Republic of Estonia; it is proposed by Estonian experts to designate this part as Ramsar site as well.

**Action r10.1.v.-** Identify additional high Andean wetlands for inclusion in the *List of Wetlands of International Importance*. (Resolution VIII.39)

1.- High Andean wetlands have been designated as Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).

**A**

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;  
D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being  
planned; G = Being updated;  
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

**Action r10.1.xi.-** Develop, for consideration by COP9, additional Criteria and guidelines for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites concerning their socio-economic and cultural values and functions that are relevant to biological diversity, as listed in Annex 1 of the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, which would be applied on each occasion in conjunction with one or more existing Criteria for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites; and include in this work a full analysis of the implications for Contracting Parties of the implementation of such Criteria for the management of Ramsar sites, including Contracting Party obligations and responsibilities for maintaining the ecological character of any sites so selected in order to ensure that the coherent national networks of Ramsar sites fully incorporate all relevant aspects of the biological diversity of wetlands. (Resolution VIII10)

1. The Party has contributed to the elaboration of additional Criteria and guidelines concerning socio-economic and cultural values and functions that are relevant to biological diversity

**C**

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in  
some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;  
G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);  
I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

**Action r10.1.xviii.-** [The STRP has been asked to] review . . . the ecological roles played by reservoirs and other human-made wetlands, including their use by aquatic and other water-dependent biota, and prepare guidance for Contracting Parties concerning the identification and designation of such wetlands for the Ramsar List, taking into account the experience gained by Parties that have already done so. (Resolution VIII.2)



1. The Party's experience with the ecological roles played by reservoirs and other human-made wetlands, and lessons learned, have been communicated to the STRP for inclusion in its review	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action 10.1.8.-** Continue to support the work of *Wetlands International* and others in the updating for each COP of the 1% thresholds for waterbird populations for the application of Criterion 6 for Ramsar site designation, having first undertaken international scientific consultation on its contents; seek to provide such population information for other wetland-dependent taxa; and apply this information for the designation of Ramsar sites. (Refer also to Operational Objective 12.2.)

1. Contributions have been made to the updating of the 1% thresholds for waterbird populations	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the contributions made.]</i>		
Information about waterbird concentrations has been collected in the framework of Important Bird Areas project by Latvian Ornithological Society. Updated information dealing with inland IBAs has been published in 2004 (Important Bird Areas of European Union Importance. Compiled by E. Racinskis. Latvian Ornithological Society, Riga, 2004). Together with previous summarization (Internationally Important Bird Areas in Latvia, by E. Racinskis and A. Stipniece, Latvian Ornithological Society, Riga, 2000; in Latvian) which includes also 7 marine IBAs, provides all our recent knowledge about waterbird concentrations.		
3. Populations information for wetland-dependent taxa other than waterbirds have been provided to Wetlands International	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the information provided.]</i>		

**Action r10.1.xxi.-** Assist *Wetlands International* and *BirdLife International* through the continued collection and supply of population data on waterbirds, including globally threatened species and those species identified by *BirdLife International* in *Threatened Birds of the World* as being data deficient. (Resolution VIII.38)

1. Population data on waterbirds is collected regularly	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
2. The population data on waterbirds collected has been regularly provided to Wetlands International	<b>E</b>	A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
3. The population data on waterbirds collected and supplied to WI included information on globally threatened species and species with deficient data	<b>C</b>	H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the information available about population data on waterbirds.]</i>		
Mid-winter counts of waterbirds have been organized every year in Latvia by the Institute of Biology. Information about them has been provided to WI (national coordinator – A. Stipniece).		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10.2. Maintain the Ramsar Sites Database and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the database as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance**

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Have an updated Ramsar Sites Database for Latvian sites</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Update the database;</b></li> <li><b>2. Forward all relevant information to the Bureau</b></li> </ol>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 10.2.2.-** Ensure that the social and cultural values and features of listed sites are fully recognized in the descriptions of Ramsar sites in the *Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*, as the basis for their incorporation in site management planning.

**1. Special care has been taken to include the social and cultural values and features in the 'Information Sheets on Ramsar Wetlands' submitted for inclusion in the Ramsar Database**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Short information on social and cultural values has been included in the Information Sheets for all Ramsar sites in Latvia.

**Action 10.2.3.-** Submit missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of listed sites as a matter of utmost urgency, and also ensure that all previously submitted site descriptions are in the format of the approved *Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*.

**1. All missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of Ramsar sites have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau**

**E**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

At the moment an updated information for the latest format (adopted by COP8) Information Sheets on previously (in 1995) designated Ramsar sites are being prepared. All other information (Information Sheets on the rest of Ramsar Sites and maps) has been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau.

**Action 10.2.4.-** Fully update and submit revised *Ramsar Information Sheets* as frequently as necessary to record changes in the status of sites, and at least at intervals of not more than six years, so that they can be used for reviewing change in ecological character and progress in achieving the Vision and Objectives of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Handbook 7) at each COP.

1. All required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau	<b>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
At the moment updated information on previously (in 1995) designated Ramsar sites are being prepared.		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11.1. Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites

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#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support water level restoration for Teicu Bog;</li> <li>2. Establish regular reed cutting and grazing for Lake Engure;</li> <li>3. Improve water quality of Slocene river;</li> <li>4. Ensure the full implementation of reconstruction of Tukums waste water treatment system.</li> </ol>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish dams on drainage ditches in Teicu Bog;</li> <li>2. Purchase of reed cutting machine for Lake Engure and ensure the reed cutting;</li> <li>3. Purchase of cattle for grazing management in Lake Engure , building of fences for keeping the cattle and taking care of the cattle;</li> <li>4. Restore natural riverbed of the river Slampe;</li> <li>5. Implement the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of reconstruction of Tukums waste water treatment system.</li> </ol>	

#### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 11.1.1.-** Consistent with Article 3.1 of the Convention, define and apply the measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, using as the basis for this the official definitions of “ecological character” and “change in ecological character” adopted by Resolution VII.10 and the integrated package of Convention tools for site management as presented in Ramsar Handbook 8 as well as the supplementary guidance adopted by COP8, and ensure that this information is included in the *Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*.

1.- The measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been defined and applied <i>(if available, please include number of sites where measures have been applied)</i> .	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites 6</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of sites involved and any additional comments on the implementation of this action that you consider relevant.]			
The measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been defined in the management plans for those Ramsar sites for which they have been elaborated (Lake Engure, Lake Kanieris and Teicu Bog). For the Lubana Wetland Complex these measures have been defined in the Environmental Management Plan for Lubana Wetland Complex (elaborated in cooperation with Japan International			

Cooperation Agency from 1999-2000). The management plans for the rest of the Ramsar sites (Pape Wetland Complex and Northern Bogs) are going to be elaborated within the next few years. Large management projects in all Ramsar sites in Latvia have been started or already finished in order to implement defined necessary management measures.

**Action 11.1.2.-** Apply the Convention's *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* (Resolution VIII.14) to develop management plans or strategies for all Ramsar sites.

**1. The *New Guidelines for management planning* have been used in the development of management plans or strategies**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the way the guidelines have been used.]**

The project "Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North Livonia, Estonia-Latvia" follows these guidelines. During the project the general guidelines on the management of the Northern Bogs Ramsar site are going to be elaborated. Also Teici Nature Reserve follows these Guidelines.

**MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES**

**N° Ramsar sites**

**3.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place**

**1**

**4.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place and being fully applied**

**3**

**5.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being prepared**

**2**

**6.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being revised or updated**

**1**

**7.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites whose management plans fall under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant.]**

Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place – Pelecares Bog

Ramsar sites with management plans in place and being fully applied: Lake Engure, Lake Kanieris, Teicu Bog and Lubana Wetland Complex.

Ramsar sites with management plan being prepared: Northern Bogs (general guidelines on the management of the Northern Bogs Ramsar site are going to be elaborated till the end of 2005) and Pape Wetland Complex.

Ramsar sites with management plans being revised or updated: management plan for Teicu Bog is being planned to update during 2005.

**Action r11.1.i.-** When reviewing and updating existing management plans, recognize that other management planning processes exist, especially where other designations apply to the same areas that are listed as Ramsar sites, and that these may be valid alternatives for delivering management planning where such approaches adequately and fully implement clearly stated conservation objectives to ensure the conservation and wise use of these wetlands. (Resolution VIII.14)

**MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES (CONT.)**

**N° Ramsar sites**

**1.- Ramsar sites in which management plans developed under other processes (e.g., Biosphere Reserves) are being applied**

**4**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites under this category, and any other comments you consider relevant.]**

Management plans for Lake Engure, Lake Kanieris, Teicu Bog and Lubana Wetland Complex developed as for specially protected nature territories are being applied.

**Action r11.1.ii.-** Utilize all the available Ramsar tools and guidance to assist in management planning processes, including *inter alia* the description and maintenance of ecological character and designing a monitoring programme (Resolution VI.1); the wetland risk assessment and indicators (Resolution VII.10); the guidance on impact assessment (Resolution VIII.9) and on wetland restoration, including identification of sites appropriate for restoration (Resolution VIII.16); and, where appropriate, the *Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands* (Resolution VIII.17). (Resolution VIII.14)

1. The full array of Ramsar tools and guidance have been used in the development or updating of management plans for wetland sites	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action r11.1.iii.-** Take note of the emphasis in the *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* (Resolution VIII.14) on ensuring the involvement of all stakeholders in all stages of the management planning process, and utilize the guidelines adopted by Resolution VII.8 on *Establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands* (Ramsar Handbook no. 5) and the *Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites* annexed to Resolution VIII.19 to assist in this process. (Resolution VIII.14)

1. All stakeholders have been fully involved in the management planning processes	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>In the management planning process stakeholders are involved through the participation in the Consultative Boards (for Ramsar sites) and surveillance groups on elaboration of management plans for specially protected nature territories. Almost 40 management plans for specially protected nature territories were elaborated during the last triennial; almost 30 are going to be elaborated during 2005.</p>		

**Action r11.1.iv.-** Take into account, when planning the management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, the wider management implications of activities within river basins and other catchments, which duly acknowledge the need for appropriate implementation of agricultural practices (Resolution VIII.34), applying Resolution VII.18 on *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Ramsar Handbook no. 4), and the guidance adopted by COP8 on integrated coastal zone management (Resolution VIII.4) and on the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1). (Resolution VIII.14)

1. The wider management implications (e.g., agricultural practices, river basin management, coastal zone management) have been taken into account in preparing the management plans for Ramsar sites	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>Conditions of Good Farming Practice usually have been taken into account in preparing the management plans for Ramsar sites. Elaboration of river basin district management plans has just started in Latvia, therefore these management implications have not been widely used yet.</p>		

**Action r11.1.v.-** Include in each management plan for a Ramsar site an objective of maintenance of the ecological character of the site so as to provide a basis for implementation of Article 3.1 of the Convention, in recognition that this greatly facilitates the identification, reporting and resolution of changes in ecological character (refer also to Operational Objective 11.2). (Resolution VIII.8)

1.- Measures to maintain ecological character have been incorporated into the site management plans <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

The management plans have been elaborated for 3 Ramsar sites (Lake Engure (in 2001), Lake Kanieris (in 2003) and Lubana Wetland Complex (in 2000)) and for Teicu and Pelecares Bogs Ramsar site (for Pelecares Bog in 1997 and for Teicu Bog in 1999); these plans have not been updated so far. The management plan for Teicu Bog is going to be updated during 2005. Elaboration of the management plan for Pape Wetland Complex has started in 2005. The general guidelines for the management of the Northern Bogs Ramsar site are going to be elaborated till the end of 2005.

**Action r11.1.vi.-** Manage wetlands so as to increase their resilience to climate change and extreme climatic events, and reduce the risk of flooding and drought in vulnerable countries by, *inter alia*, promoting wetland and watershed protection and restoration (refer also to Operational Objective 4.1). (Resolution VIII.3)

**1. The need to increase wetland resilience to climate change and extreme climatic events has been taken into account in management planning**

**C**

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r11.1.vii.-** Apply waterbird monitoring data, and analyses drawn from them, when appropriate, as a means of providing objective information for site management planning and the evaluation of national or regional wetland policies. (Resolution VIII.38)

**1. Waterbird data and analysis derived from them have been used in management planning**

**D**

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Information about waterbird concentrations has been collected in the framework of Important Bird Areas project by Latvian Ornithological Society. Mid-winter counts of water birds have been organized every year in Latvia by Institute of Biology.

Information on water birds is being used in the process of planning of management of Ramsar sites (e.g. Kemeru National Park, Lake Engure, Teici Nature Reserve) as well as in preparation of management plans for other specially protected nature territories with wetland habitats.

National Programme on Biological Diversity which incorporates wetland issues was approved in 2000 and has not been updated since then.

**Action r11.1.x.-** With the support of Contracting Parties and IOPs, the Ramsar Bureau should identify agriculture-related management practices developed for areas that include Ramsar sites, and contribute this information to the preparation of the guidelines as requested in Action r11.1.ix and share this information with the secretariats of CBD and the *Convention to Combat Desertification* (CCD). (Resolution VIII.34)

**1. Assistance has been provided to the Ramsar Bureau in the identification of agriculture-related management practices developed for areas that include Ramsar sites**

**C**

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r11.1.xii.-** Identify examples of effective management and exemplary models at Ramsar sites and other wetlands for listing on the *San José Record* and submit nominations for consideration through the approved procedure, once established. (Resolution VIII.15)

1.- Best-practice examples of effective management of Ramsar sites have been identified for possible nomination to the San José Record <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>F</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b> <b>1</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites identified and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			
Lake Engure Ramsar site is being planned to nominate to the San José Record.			

**Action 11.1.4.-** Promote, as necessary, the establishment and implementation of zoning measures for larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves, and other wetlands (Recommendation 5.3 and Resolution VIII.14) and strict protection measures for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity (Recommendation 5.3).

1.- Zoning measures have been established for larger Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b> <b>3</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites with zoning measures, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
<p>Proposals for zoning are incorporated in management plans for particular territories. For those territories with the individual regulations of protection and management adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, zoning is included in these regulations.</p> <p>Lake Engure, Pape Wetland Complex, Lubana Wetland Complex and Teicu and Pelecares Bogs are larger Ramsar sites in Latvia. For two of these territories (Lake Engure and Pape Wetland Complex) the individual regulations on protection and management are elaborated and approved by the Government. These individual regulations determine zoning for the territory as well as conditions of management and protection. For Teicu and Pelecares Bogs only Teici Nature Reserve has the zoning approved by the Government. Zoning of Pelecares Bog is described in the management plan of the territory (elaborated in 1997). Lubana Wetland Complex includes 10 nature reserves (according to the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands), individual regulations of protection and management and accordingly zoning have been prepared for 3 of them.</p>			
3.- Strict protection measures have been established for Ramsar sites of small size and/or particular sensitivity <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b> <b>2</b>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites with strict protection measures, and any additional comments you may consider relevant.]</i>			
<p>Lake Kanieris and Northern Bogs can be considered as Ramsar sites of small size in Latvia. Strict protection measures have been established in both of these territories. Lake Kanieris is located in Kemeru National park and is included in the nature reserve zone of the National park. Part of the Lake Kanieris is included in the strict regime zone of Kemeru National park because of presence of significant amount of different bird species. Both regimes (nature reserve zone and strict regime zone) determine strict measures concerning economic management (forestry, fishing, tourism etc.) or even prohibit it at all. Northern Bogs are located in the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve and are included in the nature reserve zone of the Biosphere Reserve. According to the individual regulations on protection and management of North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve, in nature reserve zone “Northern Bogs” different restrictions regarding fishing, travelling etc. are imposed.</p>			

**Action 11.1.5.-** Consider as a matter of priority the establishment of cross-sectoral site management committees for Ramsar sites, involving relevant government agencies, local community representatives, and other stakeholders, including the business sector.

			N° Ramsar sites
1.- Site management committees have been established at Ramsar sites <u>(if available, please include number of sites)</u>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>	<b>5</b>
2.- Cross-sectoral site management committees established at Ramsar sites <u>(if available, please include number of sites)</u>	<b>B</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with management committees under each category, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
<p>Consultative boards for 5 Ramsar sites have been established. Their statutes are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, but personnel - by the Minister of Environment. These consultative boards are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Engure Consultative Board (established in 1998). Includes 12 persons from state institutions (Nature Protection Board, State Forest Service etc.), local municipalities, Wetland International;</li> <li>• Lubana Wetland Complex Consultative Board (established in 2003). Includes 33 persons from state institutions (Nature Protection Board, Ministry of Agriculture, State Forest Service, local melioration Board etc.), local municipalities, NGOs, scientific institutions;</li> <li>• Kemeru National Park (included Lake Kanieris) (established in 2002) Consultative Board. Includes 18 persons from state institutions (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, State Inspection of Cultural Monuments etc.), local municipalities, NGOs;</li> <li>• Teici Nature Reserve Consultative Board (established in 2000). Includes 15 persons from local municipalities, NGOs and state institutions;</li> <li>• North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve (includes Northern Bogs) Consultative Board (established in 1998). Includes 12 persons from local municipalities, state institutions (Nature Protection Board, State Forest Service, and State Inspection of Cultural Monuments etc.), NGOs and UNESCO MAB programme.</li> </ul> <p>The main objectives of the consultative boards are to encourage coordination of nature protection and economic management interests, to facilitate and support co-operation among state, municipal, NGO etc. institutions in order to secure conservation and sustainable use of the territory.</p> <p>Consultative Board for Pape Wetland Complex was established within the Life Nature project “Lake Pape – Conservation, Preservation and Evolution” currently ongoing there.</p>			

**Action r11.1.xiv.-** Give priority for support to the development of coherent national and international networks of Ramsar sites and their effective management, in recognition of their essential values and functions in combating poverty through the sustainable use of their ecosystems and their role in maintaining the quality and quantity of water, including at the basin scale; and give priority to projects addressing these issues in the future operation of the *Small Grants Fund*. (Resolution VIII.10)

1. Actions have been taken to develop coherent national and international networks of Ramsar sites and their effective management as a tool for combating poverty	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

**Action 11.1.6.-** Continue to give high priority in the *Operational Guidelines for the Small Grants Fund* to support for management planning at Ramsar sites.

1. Project proposals to support management planning of Ramsar sites have been submitted to the Small Grants Fund	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

Some projects related to management of Lubana Wetland Complex are being planned to submit to the Small Grants Fund.

**Action r11.1.xv.-** Take into account the *General guidance for interpreting “urgent national interest” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and considering compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention (Resolution VIII.20)* when invoking the right under Article 2.5 and considering compensation in those cases where the boundaries of sites included in the Ramsar List are restricted or a Ramsar site is deleted from the List. (Resolution VIII.20)

1.- Article 2.5 of the Convention has been invoked to reduce the area of Ramsar sites and/or to delete sites from the List, and Article 4.2 (compensation) has been applied *(if applicable, please include number of sites)*

**A**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;*

*D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =*

*Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

No Ramsar site has been deleted from the Ramsar List nor the area or Ramsar site reduced.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11.2.** Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Bureau without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<p><b>Implement the sub-program on monitoring of Ramsar sites in Latvia (elaborated under the National Environmental Monitoring Program) containing the following activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Obtain an information on changes of area of habitats in Ramsar sites and consequences caused for biological diversity;</li> <li>2. Monitor the conditions of populations and nesting of the main waterbirds groups (<i>Anseriformes, Charadriiformes</i>);</li> <li>3. Monitor the condition of populations of specially protected species of plants and animals;</li> <li>4. Monitor the distribution and impact of alien species on habitats and species in Ramsar sites;</li> <li>5. Monitor the extent of use of ecosystem's biological resources (waterbirds, fishes and reeds).</li> </ol>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<p><b>In Lake Engure:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To monitor the conditions of populations and nesting success of the waterbirds;</li> <li>2. To monitor changes of habitats' types and their area in the lake;</li> <li>3. To obtain information on dynamic of animal species which directly or indirectly have an impact on populations of waterbirds; etc</li> </ol> <p><b>In Lake Kanieris:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. To monitor changes of habitats' types and their area in the lake;</li> <li>5. To obtain information on dynamic of animal species which directly or</li> </ol>	

<p>indirectly have an impact on populations of waterbirds;</p> <p>6. To monitor changes of structure of vegetation in the lake and coastal meadows etc</p> <p>In Teicu and Pelecares bogs:</p> <p>7. To obtain an information of bird species, size and density of their populations;</p> <p>8. To obtain an information on plant species in bog, meadows and forests;</p> <p>9. To monitor the changes of groundwater in the bog;</p> <p>10. To obtain an information on mammal species etc.</p>
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### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 11.2.1.-** Establish for each Ramsar site an effective monitoring programme, ideally as part of the site management plan, which is designed to detect and provide early warning of changes in ecological character. In so doing, use the Convention's framework for designing an effective monitoring programme (Resolution VI.1) and its *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* (Resolution VII.10) (Ramsar Handbook 8).

			N° Ramsar sites
1.- Monitoring programmes have been established at Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
2.- Monitoring programmes are part of the site management plan <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites falling under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant about monitoring programmes.]</b>			
<p>1) The monitoring programme for 3 Ramsar sites (Lake Engure, Teicu and Pelecares Bogs and Lake Kanieris) was elaborated under the National Environmental Monitoring Programme (approved in 2002), but unfortunately a special state funding only for monitoring of Lake Engure is allocated regularly so far; Lake Engure monitoring is carried out by the Institute of Biology. Monitoring of Lake Kanieris Ramsar site is done by Kemeru National Park administration and Institute of Biology, and monitoring of Teicu Bog is done mainly by Teicu Nature Reserve administration. Some activities from other monitoring programmes are also being carried out in Ramsar sites. For example, butterfly monitoring was carried out in Teicu Bog in 2003-2004; monitoring of bog bird species was carried out in the Northern Bogs (under the Monitoring Programme of Bog Species and Habitats); monitoring of Lesser Spotted Eagle was carried out in 2003-2004 in Teicu Bog (under the Monitoring Programme of Endangered Bird Species), migratory birds monitoring has been carried out in Pape since 1995 etc. Due to lack of funding a lot of state monitoring programmes were not undertaken or were undertaken partly. During 2005 the whole National Environmental Monitoring Programme is going to be revised. Information on so far executed monitoring programmes and reports is available at: <a href="http://www.lva.gov.lv">www.lva.gov.lv</a> (reports in Latvian with English summary).</p> <p>2) All Ramsar sites' management plans (which have been elaborated and approved) provide different monitoring activities. A lot of these activities overlap with activities in the National Environmental Monitoring Programme, but there are also additional monitoring actions mentioned. Administrations of the Ramsar sites are responsible for implementation of the activities mentioned in the management plans. Management plan for Pape Wetland Complex is going to be elaborated during 2005; general guidelines for the management plan of the Northern Bogs are also going to be prepared till the end of 2005.</p>			

**Action 11.2.2.-** Ensure that sites on the Ramsar List are used as baseline and reference areas for national, supranational/regional, and international environmental monitoring to detect trends in the loss of biological diversity, climate change and the processes of desertification (Objective 4.1 of the Objectives for the List (Resolution VII.11), and report on status and trends to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.



1.- Ramsar sites are used as baseline and reference areas for national environmental monitoring <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and any additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			
3.- Status and trends on the loss of biological diversity, climate change and the process of desertification <i>[Please include a summary of the cited issues and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]</i>			

**Action 11.2.3.-** Ensure that at Ramsar sites where change in ecological character may occur as a result of proposed developments or changes in territorial and/or water use which have potential to affect them, an impact assessment is carried out which considers the full range of environmental, social and economic benefits and functions provided by the wetland, and that the resulting conclusions are communicated to the Ramsar Bureau, in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention, and fully taken into account by the authorities concerned.

*See action 2.2.3*

1. Proposed developments that may affect the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been subject to EIAs, and the results communicated to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2	<b>H</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>1. According to the Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories and the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment the EIA is requested for all activities which could potentially impact the Ramsar sites (or <i>Natura 2000</i> sites since all Ramsar Sites in Latvia are designated as <i>Natura 2000</i> sites as well). For more information see Action 2.2.3.</p> <p>2. The results of EIAs have not been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau.</p>		

**Action r11.2.iv.-** Put in place, as a matter of high priority in fulfillment of 3.2 of the Convention, mechanisms in order to be informed at the earliest possible time, including through reports by national authorities and local and indigenous communities and NGOs, if the ecological character of any wetland included in the Ramsar List has changed, is changing or is likely to change. (Resolution VIII.8)

1. Mechanisms have been established to collect information on changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites in accordance with Article 3.2	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action 11.2.4.-** In fulfilment of Article 3.2 of the Convention, report to the Ramsar Bureau without delay all actual or likely changes in ecological character on Ramsar sites, and include Ramsar sites “where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur” in the *Montreux Record* as appropriate.

1.- Changes or likely changes (both positive and negative) in ecological character at Ramsar sites have occurred or may occur (Art. 3.2) <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
2.- Changes or likely changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites have been reported to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2	<b>A</b>		
3.- Ramsar sites were included in the Montreux Record since COP8 <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>A</b>		<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the changes or likely changes in ecological character, and list the sites affected.]</i>			
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the steps followed to include sites in the Montreux Record since COP8.]</i>			

**Action r11.2.vi.-** Utilize all appropriate mechanisms to address and resolve as soon as practicable the matters for which a site may have been the subject of a report pursuant to Article 3.2; and once those matters have been resolved, submit a further report, so that both positive influences at sites and changes in ecological character may be fully reflected in reporting under Article 3.2 and in the reporting to all meetings of the COP in order to establish a clear picture of the status and trends of the Ramsar site network at three-year intervals (Resolution VIII.8)

1. Actions have been taken to address the problems that have originated a report to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the actions taken.]</i>		

**Action 11.2.5.-** For sites included in the *Montreux Record* request a *Ramsar Advisory Mission* of independent experts, where appropriate, to review the problems affecting the site and offer recommendations for remedial actions.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** For all sites on the *Montreux Record*, and which have not been subject to a *Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM)*, CPs to request such a Mission prior to COP9.

1.- Ramsar Advisory Missions have been requested to review the problems at Ramsar sites included in the Montreux Record, if any <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			

**Action 11.2.6.-** Where a *Ramsar Advisory Mission* has been completed for a *Montreux Record* site, take all necessary steps to implement the recommendations, and report at regular intervals to the Bureau on the results of these actions. At the appropriate time, seek the removal of the site from the *Montreux Record*, having provided the Bureau and STRP with details of the site condition using the approved questionnaire (Ramsar Handbook 7).

<i>(For CPs with sites in Montreux Record and RAMs made)</i>			N°Ramsar sites
1.- Actions have been taken to implement the recommendations of Ramsar Advisory Missions <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Actions have been taken to address the issues for which the site(s) was/were listed in the Montreux Record <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	A		
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, comments on RAM missions, results of the actions taken, including possible removal of sites from Montreux Record.]</i>			

**Action r11.2.viii.-** For sites included in the *Montreux Record*, regularly provide the Ramsar Bureau with an update on progress on taking action to address the issues for which these Ramsar sites were listed on the Record, including reporting fully on these matters in National Reports to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Resolution VIII.8)

			N°Ramsar sites
1.- Actions have been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites were listed in the Montreux Record <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	A	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Actions taken to address issues at Montreux Record Ramsar sites have been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau	A		
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned and results of the actions taken.]</i>			

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12. MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS AND WETLAND SPECIES

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.1. Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins

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#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	D	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	E	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	-	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	-	

#### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 12.1.1.-** Identify all wetland systems in each Contracting Party shared with other Parties and with non-parties and promote cooperation in their management with the adjoining jurisdiction(s), applying, where appropriate, the *Guidelines on integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Ramsar Handbook 4, Section A1 of the Guidelines), and the *Principles and Guidelines for integrating wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)* (Resolution VIII.4).

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All CPs to have identified their transboundary wetlands. 50% of CPs to have identified cooperative management mechanisms.**

1.- All transboundary/shared wetland systems have been identified <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N°</b> <b>wetlands/ wetland systems</b> <b>Not known/ 4</b>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please list the transboundary wetlands identified and provide any other additional comments you consider relevant.]*

Transboundary/shared wetland systems have been identified within the establishment of river basin districts according to the EU Water Framework Directive. There are 4 river basin districts established in Latvia. All of them are transboundary districts. An agreement between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on common management of 3 shared river basins (Daugava, Lielupe and Venta river basins) was concluded in 2003. Such agreement was concluded also between the Ministry of Environment of Estonia and the Ministry of Environment of Latvia (on the establishment of Gauja/Koiva district and its common management). Unfortunately there is no such agreement on the management of Daugava river/ Zapadnaja Dvina river basin among the governments of Latvia, Russia and Belarus concluded so far.

**Action 12.1.2.-** Pursue cooperation on shared hydrological basins, lake systems and coastal systems through the establishment of bi- or multilateral management commissions. (Section A2 of the Guidelines).

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: 50% of CPs with shared basins and coastal systems to be part of joint management commissions or authorities.**

1. Cooperative management of shared wetland systems has progressed	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

Conclusion of agreements mentioned in Action 12.1.1. can be considered as a progress in this field.

**Action r12.1.i.-** Cooperatively apply the *Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands* (Resolution VIII.1) within the context of the management of water allocations in shared hydrological systems, making use of the *Ramsar Guidelines for international cooperation under the Convention* (Resolution VII.19).

1. The guidelines for allocation and management of water have been applied in the context of shared water systems	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

**Action 12.1.3.-** Where appropriate, engage in joint impact assessment processes with neighbouring countries that share wetlands, international river basins, or coastal systems, taking note, where applicable, of the terms of the *Espoo Convention on impact assessment* in a European transboundary context.

*See action 2.2.3*

1. Joint impact assessment processes with neighbouring countries have been applied in shared wetland systems	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

There have not been large projects requiring joint impact assessment so far.

**Action 12.1.4.-** Ensure enhanced accessibility to information, analyses, good practice examples, and experience-sharing on integrating wetlands and biodiversity into integrated river basin management, including through the *Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative*.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: River Basin Initiative fully operational.**

1. Actions have been taken to ensure accessibility of information, analysis, good practice examples, etc., on integrating wetlands and biodiversity issues into river basin management

**E**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;*

*G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);*

*I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Management of river basins is in preparatory phase; all the river basin district management plans will be elaborated till the end of 2008. The Daugava river basin district management plan (elaborated as a pilot project) contains description of habitats and specially protected nature territories. It is highlighted that maintenance of water quality in wetland habitats and particularly in wetland habitats included in the specially protected nature territories should be considered as a priority when implementing river basin management principle.

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12. MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS AND WETLAND SPECIES**

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.2. Promote cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species**

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**PLANNING TOOL SECTION**

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	–	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	–	

**COP9 REPORT SECTION**

**Action 12.2.1.-** Identify and designate as Ramsar sites all wetlands which satisfy the relevant Ramsar Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species, giving priority in the first instance to waterbirds, fish, and marine turtles, especially those that are globally threatened. (Section B1 of the Guidelines)

1.- Wetlands which satisfy Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species have been designated as Ramsar sites *(if applicable, please include number of sites designated)*

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;*

*D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =*

*Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites  
6**

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

All the designated Ramsar sites in Latvia satisfy Ramsar Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species (mainly in relation to waterbirds, but some of the territories also in relation to fish species).



Other wetlands which satisfy Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent bird migratory species have been identified within the inventory of potential *Natura 2000* sites in Latvia and have been designated as Important Bird Areas.

**Action 12.2.2.-** Continue to promote and support the development of further regional site networks and initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species, as exemplified by the *African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)*, the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy*, the *Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network*, and others. (Sections B2 and B4 of the Guidelines)

*See action r10.1.iv*

**1. New regional site networks and initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species have been developed**

**F**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Joining to AEWA is planned during 2005.

**Action 12.2.5.-** Ensure that national hunting legislation is consistent with the wise use principle for migratory waterbird and other wetland-dependent species, taking into account geographical range, life-history characteristics of species, and research on sustainable harvesting.

**1. National hunting legislation is consistent with wise use principle for wetland-dependent species, including waterbirds**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

There are several reasons to be sure that our national hunting legislation is consistent with wise use principle for wetland-dependent species, including waterbirds:

1. There is a very short hunting season according to the hunting legislation for waterfowls in Latvia. Hunting season for ducks is from the second Saturday of August till 15<sup>th</sup> of September every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and from 16<sup>th</sup> of September till 15<sup>th</sup> of November. Hunting season for geese is from 15<sup>th</sup> of September till 15<sup>th</sup> of November.
  2. There is a small number of waterbird species allowed to hunt (Common coot *Fulica atra* (L.), 14 duck species and 3 species of geese).
  3. There are led shot restrictions for waterfowl in specially protected nature territories.
- There are also few Ramsar sites or their parts and other wetlands where waterfowl hunting is forbidden at all.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12. MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS AND WETLAND SPECIES

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.3. Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements

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#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	–	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	–	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 12.3.2.-** Encourage development of regional arrangements under the Convention similar to *MedWet*, where appropriate, applying the *Guidance for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands* (Resolution VIII.30) for example in the Black Sea, Caspian Sea, the Caribbean, South America and the Altaj-Sayansky region.

**1. Party has been involved in the development of a regional initiative in the framework of the Convention**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Not relevant for Latvia.

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13.1. Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies**

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Have one strategy for implementation of all biodiversity related MEAs</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<b>Ensure implementation of the National Program on Biological Diversity</b>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 13.1.1.-** Continue to strengthen cooperation and synergy with the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, the *Convention to Combat Desertification*, the *Convention on Migratory Species* and its Agreements, the *World Heritage Convention*, and the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, in particular through the vehicles of Joint Work Plans and collaboration among the respective subsidiary scientific bodies of the conventions and the secretariats, and at national level among the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and Focal Points of the different MEAs.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: 3rd CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan fully implemented. CMS/AEWA Joint Work Plan in place and being implemented. Joint activities developed with UNCCD and UNFCCC, including through participation in the Joint Liaison Group with UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.**

*See action 18.1.1*

**1. Mechanisms are in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the MEAs involved and additional comments you consider relevant.]**

The Department of Nature Protection under the Ministry of Environment is the responsible Administrative Authority for most of Conventions and Agreements related to nature conservation.

**Action r13.1.iii.-** Make renewed efforts to increase collaboration at the national level between the institutions and focal points responsible for the implementation of MEAs, including through ensuring their participation in National Ramsar Committees, so as to foster synergies and harmonization. (Resolution VIII.5)

*See action 18.1.2*

**1. Amongst other efforts to increase collaboration at the national level between the institutions and focal points responsible for the implementation of MEAs, focal points of other MEAs have been encouraged to participate in the National Ramsar / Wetland Committee**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the MEAs whose focal points participate in the Ramsar Committee and additional comments you consider relevant.]**

**Action 13.1.2.-** Maintain and, where appropriate, seek opportunities to further promote cooperation with UNESCO, in particular its *Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)*, especially as regards wetlands within *Biosphere Reserves*, and in the area of the development of curricula to integrate wetland issues.

**1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the National Committees and contacts of UNESCO MAB Programme**

**F**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the relevant mechanisms.]**

New representatives for UNESCO MAB Programme in Latvia are going to be designated. After this designation the Ramsar Administrative Authority is planning to start collaboration with this/ these representatives.

**Action 13.1.3.-** Give priority to the implementation of the Memoranda of Cooperation or Understanding with the *Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)*, the *Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona Convention)*, the *Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea*, other regional seas conventions, and the *Danube River Protection Convention*, and seek to establish similar cooperative arrangements with other regional instruments, such as the *Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)*.

**1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of the applicable regional seas conventions**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the relevant mechanisms.]**

The relevant convention for Latvia is the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea. The focal point of this Convention is Latvian Environmental, Geological and Hydrometeorological Agency which is subordinated institution to the Ministry of Environment.

**Action 13.1.5.-** Develop closer working relationships with appropriate regional bodies or programmes which have an interest in wetland conservation and wise use, including the *Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)*, the *Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)*, the *European Union (EU)*, the *Council of Europe*, the *Southern African Development Community (SADC)*, the *African Union (AU)*, and the *Organization of American States (OAS)*.

1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and regional bodies or programmes which have interest in wetland conservation and wise use	<b>B</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional information on the mechanisms in place.]</i>		
<p>Latvia is a member state of the EU since 2004. Accordingly Latvia has incorporated all requirements of the EU Directives (also relating nature protection) into the national legislation. Latvia also participates in the establishment of the network of EU specially protected territories (<i>Natura 2000</i> network) resulting from the EU Habitats and Birds Directive by nominating specially protected nature territories to be included in this network.</p>		

**Action 13.1.6.-** Support and contribute to the development and implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement Africa's Wetland Management Strategy under the Environmental Initiative of *NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa's Development*.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: NEPAD's Action Plan to have fully incorporated Ramsar issues and mechanisms, and being implemented by relevant CPs, in lines with WSSD targets.**

1. The Party has participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD	<b>A</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Not relevant for Latvia.		

**Action 13.1.7.-** Continue to contribute, through the application of Ramsar tools and mechanisms, to the implementation of the *Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Review of Ramsar's contribution to the *Barbados Programme of Action*, as a contribution to the WSSD target.**

1. The Party has participated in wetland-related activities within the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	<b>A</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Not relevant for Latvia.		

**Action 13.1.8.-** Continue the development and implementation of joint work plans under the Memorandum of Cooperation between the *Ramsar Convention* and the *South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)*

1. The Party has participated in the implementation of the Ramsar/SPREP Joint Work Plan	<b>A</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Not relevant for Latvia.		

**Action r13.1.vi.-** Make use, as appropriate, of the *UNEP Guidelines on Enhancing Compliance with multilateral environmental agreements and on National Enforcement, and International Cooperation in Combating Violations, of Laws Implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements* in enhancing and supporting compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, including the *Ramsar Convention*. (Resolution VIII.24)

**1. The Party has made use of the UNEP guidelines in relation to Ramsar**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14.1. Promote the sharing of expertise and information

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#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Share the knowledge on Ramsar sites.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Make information on Ramsar sites monitoring etc. information on Ramsar sites fully available;</b></li> <li><b>2. Place the actual information on Ramsar sites and wetlands on one common web site;</b></li> <li><b>3. Co-operate with neighbor countries on sharing information on shared wetlands.</b></li> </ol>	

#### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 14.1.1.-** Using mechanisms such as the national focal points for communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) and for the STRP, promote the sharing of knowledge (traditional, indigenous, and more recently derived technologies and methods) at the global, regional, and national levels. (Section D1 of the Guidelines.)

**1. Actions have been taken to share knowledge at the global and/or regional and/or national level**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

In April, 2004 the Baltic Environmental Forum organised seminar on “Management of wetlands in protected areas – experience exchange for improved know-how”. Seminar was organised in the frame of Life-Coop project “Experience exchange on habitat management among Baltic Life Nature projects”. Coordinators/ representatives of the Baltic Life Nature projects dealing with wetland management and their counterparts from the EU Member States, government officials, wetland experts from protected areas, scientific institutions, NGOs and EU institutions participated in the seminar. Report on the seminar is available on the web ([www.bef.lv](http://www.bef.lv)).

A few booklets and publications on wetland management and especially on peatland restoration have been produced and disseminated.



In August, 2005, an international seminar on raised bogs is going to be held in Latvia within the Latvian Life Nature project "Implementation of Mire management Plan in Latvia". The seminar is organised together with Life Co-op project "Dissemination of ecological knowledge and practical experiences for sound planning and management in raised bogs (7110\*, 7120, 7140, 7150, 91D0\*, 3160) and sea dunes (2110, 2120, 2130\*, 2140\*, 2150\*, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 3110)" from the Netherlands.

**Action 14.1.2.-** Recognize training as an important element of international cooperation under the Convention and provide access to such training, especially for wetland managers, and wetland educators and those others responsible for implementing the Convention, from other countries that would benefit from these opportunities. (Sections D2 and D3 of the Guidelines).

**1. The Party has engaged in international cooperation activities related to training on wetland issues**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

See information under the Action 14.1.1.

**Action 14.1.3.-** Develop twinning and/or networks of transboundary wetlands and wetlands sharing common features, as an important mechanism for sharing knowledge and providing training opportunities.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: At least 75 twinning arrangements to be in place and reported to the Bureau for Web publicity on the Ramsar Web site.**

**1.- Networks among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the wetland networks established and other comments you consider relevant.]**

-

**3.- Twinning arrangements among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training (if applicable, please include number of sites involved)**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N° wetlands / Ramsar sites**

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the twinning arrangement, the sites involved and other comments you consider relevant.]**

1. An ongoing project "Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North Livonia; Estonia-Latvia" is targeted on management of transboundary territory - the Northern Bogs.
2. Teici Nature Reserve is a partner of Lubana Wetland Complex. Experts from Teici Nature Reserve provide expertise in wetland management, ornithology, botany, bog hydrology in Lubana Wetland Complex.

**Action 14.1.4.-** Further review and develop Internet-based resource kits and knowledge and information sharing, including the *Convention's Wetland Expert Database*, on topics including impact assessment, incentives, management planning, river basin management, participation, education and public awareness, and Ramsar sites.

**1. Internet-based resource kits for knowledge and information sharing on wetland issues have been developed**

**D**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

So far, only information on designated Ramsar sites is available in the Internet ([www.lva.gov.lv](http://www.lva.gov.lv);

[www.vidm.gov.lv/dad](http://www.vidm.gov.lv/dad) , in Latvian).

**Action r14.1.i.-** Share information and experiences on the management, conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems similar to those of the high Andean region. (Resolution VIII.39)

**1. Actions have been taken to share information and experiences on wetlands in mountain ecosystems**

**A**

*Choose an answer*  
*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*  
*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*  
*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Not relevant for Latvia

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15. FINANCING THE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15.1. Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands**

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Inform the target groups on possibilities to attract the funding for wise use of wetlands.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Inform the land owners about the possibilities to attract the EU funding for protection of biological diversity;</b></li> <li><b>2. Implement 2 Life Nature projects (approved in 2003) in Ramsar sites: “Lake Pape – Conservation, Preservation and Evolution” and “Management of Lubana Wetland Complex”;</b></li> <li><b>3. Promote elaboration of new proposals for LIFE Nature program and other funds;</b></li> <li><b>4. Secure regular co-funding.</b></li> </ol>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 15.1.1.-** Mobilize direct funding support from multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies in order to assist developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition in the conservation and wise use of wetlands and in implementation of the present Strategic Plan. (Based on Section E1 of the Guidelines).

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** Each CP with a bilateral donor agency to have encouraged it to give priority for funding for wetland conservation and wise use projects in relation to poverty alleviation and other WSSD targets and priorities.

**1. (For CPs with development assistance agencies) Funding support has been mobilized from development assistance agency for wetland issues**

**A**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*  
*A = Not applicable; B = Yes;*  
*C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

**2. Other forms of funding support have been mobilized for wetland issues**

**A**

*E = In progress; F= Being planned;*  
*G = Being updated; H = Other status*  
*(explain below); I = No answer*

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**Action r15.1.i.-** Encourage bilateral and multilateral donors to assign priority to supporting wetland inventories in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition in recognition of the importance of inventory as the basis for developing and implementing sustainable use of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.6)

**1. The Party has worked with bilateral and multilateral donors to mobilize funding support for wetland inventories**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Ongoing projects including wetland inventories:

- 1) Project “Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North-Livonia; Estonia-Latvia” funded by PIN/ MATRA;

Projects financed by the Life Nature programme:

- 2) Implementation of Management Plan for Lake Engure Nature Park (project finished in 2004);
- 3) Conservation of Wetlands in Kemer National Park;
- 4) Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area;
- 5) Lake Pape – Conservation, Preservation and Evolution;
- 6) Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia.

**Action 15.1.2.-** Mobilize resources to support the implementation of management plans for Ramsar sites in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition. (Refer also to Operational Objective 11.1)

**1.- The Party has worked with donors to mobilize resources for implementation of Ramsar site management plans (if applicable, please include number of sites)**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**N° Ramsar sites**  
**4**

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the sites involved and include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

The management plans for the following Ramsar sites are being implemented:

1. Lake Engure Nature Park (project finished in 2004)
2. Lake Kanieris (located in Kemer National Park – the management plan for the whole Kemer National Park is being implemented through the Life Nature financed project “Conservation of Wetlands in Kemer National Park”)
3. Teicu Bog (through the Life Nature financed project “Measures to Ensure Nature Conservation Management of Teici Area”)
4. Lubana Wetland Complex (through the Life Nature financed project “Management of Lubana Wetland Complex”)

Also the Life Nature financed project “Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia” was started in 2004.

**Action r15.1.ii.-** Encourage Contracting Parties and donor organizations to give priority for support to the development of coherent national and international networks of Ramsar sites and their effective management, in recognition of their essential values and functions in combating poverty through the sustainable use of their ecosystems and their role in maintaining the quality and quantity of water, including at the basin scale. Resolution VIII.10) (Refer also to Operational Objective 11.1)

1. The Party has worked with donors to mobilize support for the establishment of coherent national and international networks of Ramsar sites and their effective management	<b>C</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
-		

**Action r15.1.iii.-** Urge multilateral and bilateral donors to ensure that the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands and production potential of wetlands is fully addressed in the design, planning and implementation of river basin and water resource management projects, taking into account the special circumstances and constraints of the concerned countries. (Resolution VIII.1)

1. The Party has worked with donors to ensure that the ecological functions of wetlands are conserved when designing and implementing water projects	<b>D</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>Specially protected wetland habitats and wetlands in specially protected nature territories and in particular in <i>Natura 2000</i> sites are protected by national legislation (on EIA, on Strategic Impact Assessment, on Specially Protected Nature Territories etc.).</p> <p>The Daugava river basin district management plan (elaborated as a pilot project) contains the description of habitats and specially protected nature territories. It is highlighted in the plan that maintenance of water quality in wetland habitats and particularly in wetland habitats included in the specially protected nature territories should be considered as a priority when implementing river basin management principle.</p>		

**Action r15.1.iv.-** Continue support, and, as appropriate, increase this support, for wetland-related projects in the Oceania region and extend it to include capacity building activities. (Resolution VIII.42)

1. Financial support provided for wetland-related projects in the Oceania region	<b>A</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
-		

**Action 15.1.3.-** For those Parties with bilateral development assistance agencies, respond to sections E1, E2, E5, E7, E10, E11, E14 and E15 of the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands* (Ramsar Handbook 9), and especially consider issues such as long-term fund generation mechanisms, appropriate monitoring of projects, training of development assistance agency staff, priority for institutional capacity building, the need for cooperation between development assistance agencies, and the importance of coordination between bilateral development assistance agencies and the Ramsar Administrative Authorities in the donor and recipient countries.

<i>(For CPs with development assistance agencies)</i>		
1. Work has been done with the development assistance agency in relation to Ramsar's <i>Guidelines for international cooperation</i> (Res. VII.19)	<b>A</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

**Action 15.1.4.-** Pursuant to 15.1.3, urge all Parties with bilateral development assistance agencies to report on their performance with regard to wetland-related activities at each COP. (Based on Section E5 of the Guidelines)

*(For CPs with development assistance agencies)*

<b>1. The performance of the development assistance agency in relation to wetland issues has been assessed</b>	<b>A</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
-		

**Action 15.1.5.-** For those Parties involved in the priority-setting for, and the determining of, the *modus operandi* of the multilateral development and environment-related assistance agencies, seek to ensure that wetland conservation and wise use is afforded due attention and priority.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Relevant CPs to report to COP9 on ensuring that multilateral donor agencies afford priority to wetlands within poverty alleviation schemes.**

<b>1. The Party has worked with multilateral agencies to ensure that wetland issues receive due attention</b>	<b>A</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
-		

**Action 15.1.6.-** Provide financial support, preferably on a medium and/or long-term basis, to the operations of the *Ramsar Small Grants Fund* and its *Endowment Fund*, and the *Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, seeking to have available a minimum of one million US dollars annually for the former and half a million US dollars for the latter. (Based on Sections E4 and E9 of the Guidelines.)

<i>See action 16.1.2</i>		
<b>1. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund</b>	<b>C</b>	<u>Choose an answer for each indicator</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Endowment Fund</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>3. Contributions have been made to the Ramsar Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on contributions made to support the funds and services indicated above.]</b>		
-		

**Action 15.1.7.-** Mobilize resources to support the development of wetland training and education centres at Ramsar sites and the training of wetland educators in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

<b>1. Actions have been taken to mobilize resources to support wetland training and education centres at Ramsar sites in developing countries and countries with economies in transition</b>	<b>C</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
-		



**Action 15.1.8.-** For those Parties eligible for development assistance, include projects for conservation and wise use of wetlands in national portfolios and plans for consideration by development assistance agencies, and give priority among these for projects to build institutional capacity. (Based on Sections E8 and E12 of the Guidelines)

**1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to development assistance agencies**

**B**

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

1 project related to wetlands was submitted to PIN MATRA programme and granted: Integrated Wetland Management in the Transboundary Territory of North-Livonia; Estonia-Latvia, operating from 2002-2005.

**Action 15.1.9.-** For eligible Contracting Parties of both the *Ramsar Convention* and the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, develop wetland conservation and wise use projects suitable for consideration by the *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*, as part of the implementation of the Joint Work Plan with the CBD and in accordance with paragraphs 6 and 7 of Decision IV/4 of CBD's COP4 relating to inland water ecosystems.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Assistance provided to at least 15 countries in preparing projects for submission to the *Global Environment Facility*.**

**1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

**B**

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  
H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

The project "Biodiversity Protection in the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve" was submitted to the GEF and approved (started in 2004). The project activities related to wetlands are: Reduction of aquatic pollution through the preparation and implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for the Salaca River under the Water Framework Directive; Restoration of Lake Burtnieki water quality (weed overgrowth, algal blooms, run off control); Removal of obstruction to migrating salmon on the Salaca River. Removal of the remnants of the dam at Staicele to restore the migration of salmon, lamprey and sea trout to upper reaches of the Salaca River; also several activities related to information and education.

**Action 15.1.12.-** Pursue involvement of the private sector (including corporations and foundations) in wetland conservation and seek opportunities for private sector funding of wetland projects under Ramsar.

**1. Steps have been taken to involve the private sector and private-sector funding in wetland projects**

**B**

Choose an answer

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  
E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status  
(explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

The private sector and local inhabitants in particular have been involved in the management activities within several Life Nature and other projects related to wetland conservation and management. For instance, local inhabitants were involved in the wetland restoration activities – cutting of shrubs, hay mowing (projects "Management of Lubana Wetland Complex", "Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management in Teici Area" etc.), keeping of cattle for grazing (projects implemented by WWF-Latvia) etc. There are also a few examples when private companies are involved in large scale projects as co-financers and/or partners. For instance, the private company "Sveaskog Ltd." sponsored tourism infrastructure in the project "Measures to Ensure the Nature Conservation Management in Teici Area" etc.

According to the EU prescriptions for Life projects NGOs are also considered as private organisations. A few Life Nature projects related to wetlands are co-financed and managed by NGOs, e.g. Latvian Fund for

Nature implements and co-finances several Life Nature projects (“Implementation of Mire Habitat Management Plan for Latvia”, “Restoration of Latvian Floodplains for EU Priority Species and Habitats” and “Protection and Management of Northern Gauja River Valley”).

**Action 15.1.13.-** Promote establishment of effective mechanisms to encourage environmentally sound trade in wetland products, in particular from Ramsar sites, compatible with international trade agreements.

1. Mechanisms have been established to encourage environmentally sound trade of wetland products, in particular from Ramsar sites

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

-

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15. FINANCING THE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15.2.** Ensure that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Ensure the implementation of the national legislation on strategic environmental assessment (SEA), environmental impact assessment (EIA) for specially protected nature territories and wetlands of international importance.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Translation of handbook on EIA and SEA ;</li> <li>2. Organize seminars for stakeholders</li> </ol>	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 15.2.1.-** Work with international development agencies, including banks, financial institutions and private investors and developers, to ensure that proposed grants, loans, and development projects include environmental safeguards and environmental assessments of possible impacts upon wetlands. (Based on Section G1 of the Guidelines.)

1. Actions have been taken to work with investors on possible impacts of their projects on wetlands

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

According to the national legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment and Specially Protected Nature Territories, the Impact Assessment has to be carried out for all plans (except nature conservation plans for specially protected nature territories) and activities which may have a negative impact on environment and particularly *Natura 2000* sites.

**Action 15.2.3.-** Review wetland-related project development approval and consider the introduction of mechanisms to direct resources derived from these activities back to hands-on wetland management in the country. (Based on Section G3 of the Guidelines.)

**1. Work has been done to introduce mechanisms to direct resources derived from wetlands back to wetland management**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 16. FINANCING OF THE CONVENTION

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 16.1. Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties**

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Provide that the Convention's membership payments are made regularly.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	-	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 16.1.1.-** Pay annual contributions to the Convention's core budget in full and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year.

**1. Ramsar dues have been paid in full and in a timely manner**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Ramsar dues have been paid in a full and timely manner according to the bills sent from the Convention's Bureau.

**Action 16.1.2.-** Consider providing additional voluntary contributions to the Convention to support the *Small Grants Fund* and its *Endowment Fund*, the *Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, and the *Training Service*, regionally-based initiatives such as *MedWet*, the undertaking of *Ramsar Advisory Missions* for sites included in the *Montreux Record* and other Ramsar sites, and other priority activities as determined by the Strategic Plan.

<i>In addition to any contributions listed under Action 15.1.6 above, voluntary contributions have been made:</i>		
1. to the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status</i> <i>(explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2. to support regional initiatives under the Convention	<b>C</b>	
3. for Ramsar Advisory Missions related to Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record	<b>C</b>	
4. towards the development and maintenance of logistics of the San José Record	<b>C</b>	
5. to support the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)	<b>C</b>	
6. to expand the internship programme at the Ramsar Bureau	<b>C</b>	
7. in relation to COP9	<b>C</b>	
8.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the contributions made to support the services indicated above.]</i>		
-		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE CONVENTION

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17.1. Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Bureau are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Strategic Plan**

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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	-	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	-	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 17.1.6.-** Ensure that each Contracting Party has nominated a national focal point for the work of the STRP (as called for by Resolutions VII.2 and VIII.28) and two focal points (one government, one non-government) for the *Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme* (as called for by Resolutions VII.9 and VIII.31)

*See also Action r9.iii.i. concerning CEPA national focal points.*

1. The National Focal Point for the work of STRP has been nominated	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the STRP National Focal Point and other comments you consider relevant.]</i>		
The National Focal Point for the work of STRP in Latvia is the Latvian Environment, Geology and Hydro meteorological Agency (the former Latvian Environment Agency)		

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CONTRACTING PARTIES**

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18.1. Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands**

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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	-	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	-	

**COP9 REPORT SECTION**

**Action 18.1.1.-** Encourage the review of existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and on the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:

- a) increase cooperation and synergy among institutions with direct or indirect responsibility for wetland issues, especially those responsible for the management of water resources and for biodiversity and wetland conservation and management;
- b) promote enhanced cooperation, and where appropriate integrated approaches, among the national focal points of environment-related conventions, and consider establishing a coordinating committee to ensure that integrated approaches are taken;
- c) promote enhanced contact, and where appropriate close coordination, between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and national professional, technical, scientific and educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including those involved in social and cultural heritage issues; and
- d) provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, to enable these institutions to implement the Convention to full effect.

<b>1. A review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been completed</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the review and other comments you consider relevant.]</b>		
National institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands are subordinated to the Ministry of Environment; Department of Nature Protection has close cooperation with all these institutions.		
<i>See action 13.1.1</i>		
<b>3. A coordinating committee among focal points of environment-related conventions is in place</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the coordinating committee and other comments you consider relevant.]</b>		
-		



5. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other national institutions directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues, in particular water and biodiversity	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
6. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and relevant professional, scientific or educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including social and cultural heritage issues	<b>C</b>	E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
7.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the relevant cooperation mechanisms and any other comments you consider relevant.]</i>		

**Action r18.1.i.-** Build and strengthen institutional capacity and synergies between related instruments at the national level in order to address the linkages between climate change and wetlands and report to COP9 on progress on this matter, including achievements and the identification of difficulties encountered (Resolution VIII.3)

1. Work has been done to address the linkages between climate change and wetlands	<b>F</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
The National Environmental Policy Plan prescribes that issues on protection of biological diversity have to be included in all the sectoral plans and programmes. In future a closer cooperation between structural units of the Ministry of Environment responsible for elaboration of national policies regarding climate changes and biodiversity protection should be established.		

**Action 18.1.2.-** Establish National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, relevant government agencies, including national water management ministries and/or agencies, where appropriate, and non-governmental organizations, STRP and CEPA National Focal Points, key stakeholders, indigenous people and local communities, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). When in place, ensure the proper functioning of these Committees.

<i>See actions r3.4.iii, r13.1.iii</i>		
1. A National Ramsar / Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body) is in place	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
2. If a Ramsar Committee exists, it is cross-sectoral (relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, key stakeholders, local communities, private sector, etc.)	<b>I</b>	E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the National Ramsar Committee].</i>		
-		

**Action 18.1.3.-** Review the designated Ramsar national Administrative Authority (and provincial (sub-national) focal points where appropriate) and STRP and CEPA national focal points in each Contracting Party, with a view to ensuring that these positions are being effective in increasing involvement in the work of the Convention of all relevant agencies and organizations concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

1. The institutional capacity for the effective implementation of the Convention – including the Ramsar Administrative Authority, National Wetland Committee (or equivalent body) and STRP and CEPA focal points– has been assessed	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
-		

**Action 18.1.4.-** Assist in achieving a cohesive and coordinated national effort towards the implementation of the Convention, using Ramsar’s national planning tool (based on the National Report Format) as an ongoing planning and monitoring mechanism. Ideally, this tool should be used by all relevant government departments/agencies and include input from National Ramsar/Wetland Committee members and other stakeholders as appropriate.

1. The National Report Format has been used as a national planning tool for the implementation of the Convention	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
-		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20. TRAINING

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20.1.** Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses

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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	<b>D</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	<b>E</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	-	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	-	

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**Action 20.1.1.-** Implement, and further develop and publicize, the *Convention’s Wetland Training Service*.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** *Ramsar Wetland Training Service* in place and fully implemented.

1. The Party has participated in the development and use of the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
-		

**Action 20.1.2.-** Identify at national, provincial, and local levels the needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the Convention and, in particular, use of the *Wise Use Guidelines and Ramsar Handbooks*.  
**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: At least half of CPs to have assessed national and local training needs.**

<p><b>1. An assessment has been completed of national and local training needs in the implementation of the Convention and use of the Wise Use Handbooks</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p>		

**Action 20.1.3.-** Identify and disseminate, nationally, regionally and globally, information describing the current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the further development of the *Bureau's Ramsar Wise Use Resource Centre* ([http://ramsar.org/wurc\\_index.htm](http://ramsar.org/wurc_index.htm)) and the *Directory of Wetland Management Training Opportunities* ([http://ramsar.org/wurc\\_training\\_directory.htm](http://ramsar.org/wurc_training_directory.htm)).

<p><b>1. The wetland-related training opportunities that exist in the country have been identified</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p>		

**Action 20.1.5.-** Assemble and make available, or develop, new training activities and general training modules as necessary, for the use of the Ramsar Handbooks, with specialized modules including coverage of the following fields:

- a) wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring;
- b) national wetland policies and plans;
- c) integrated catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning and management;
- d) integrated site management planning at the local, provincial or catchment/river basin level;
- e) wetland restoration and rehabilitation;
- f) invasive alien species;
- g) agricultural impacts on wetlands and water resources;
- h) impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment;
- i) impacts of climate change, and adaptive management and mitigation of such impacts
- j) economic valuation of wetlands;
- k) communication, education and public awareness techniques.

<p><b>1. Training modules and materials on wetland-related issues have been developed</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the development of training modules and materials for the issues listed above, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p>		

**Action 20.1.6.-** Provide opportunities for manager training by:

- a) encouraging personnel exchanges for on-the-job training, possibly between twinned sites;
- b) holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites;
- c) siting wetland manager and wetland educator training facilities at Ramsar sites;
- d) obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers around the world;
- e) establishing further regional training initiatives such as the *Wetlands for the Future Initiative* funded by the Government of the USA for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

1. Opportunities for manager training in the country have been provided	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action 20.1.7.-** Continue to encourage the development of projects for submission to the *Small Grants Fund* for support for training activities.

1. Training-related projects have been submitted to the Small Grants Fund	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action 20.1.8.-** Encourage further development and use of regional wetland training and research centres, including a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (Resolution VII.26) and a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia (Resolution VIII.41).

1.- Support has been provided to the development of regional wetland training and research centres <i>(if applicable, please include number of centres)</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° centres</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of centres and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			

**Action 20.1.9.-** Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about training for the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the *Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, the Bureau, *MedWet* and the IOPs of the Convention.

1. The Party has participated in exchanges of information and expertise related to wetland training issues	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21.1. Secure the universal membership of the Convention

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to Feedback on Report Format](#) - [Go to Table of Contents](#)

#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>E</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>E</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	-	

<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b> (text answer):	-
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**COP9 REPORT SECTION**

**Action 21.1.1.-** Recruit new Contracting Parties through:

a) seeking direct contact with non-Contracting Parties to provide information on the benefits of membership and advice or assistance in overcoming obstacles;

b) intensifying contacts with the diplomatic representatives of non-Contracting Parties;

c) seeking assistance from the secretariats of other conventions, including the Regional Seas Conventions, and in-country offices of the *United Nations Development Programme*, the *World Bank* and others;

d) organizing subregional workshops involving Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties;

e) providing assistance for the identification of *Wetlands of International Importance* that could be listed as Ramsar sites upon accession;

f) encouraging attendance by observers from non-Contracting Parties at regional meetings and meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and

g) publishing and disseminating an accession kit to assist countries in the Oceania region (and Small Island Developing States more generally) through the accession process. (Resolution VIII.42)

<b>1. Actions have been taken to encourage the adherence to the Convention of new Contracting Parties</b>	<b>C</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**FEEDBACK ON COP9 NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT**

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***Please include additional comments on the COP9 National Planning Tool, National Report Format. (For instance, adequacy of the questions, the difficulties in completing them, and any further recommendations on how these reporting guidelines could be improved)***

1. It is difficult to perceive a lot of actions due to references to different resolutions, handbooks etc. included.
2. Few indicators consist of two parts, which would require 2 separate answers, but only one answer is possible (e.g. Problems of invasion by alien species in Ramsar sites have been assessed (1<sup>st</sup> answer) and communicated to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant Article 3.2 of the Convention (2<sup>nd</sup> answer)).

<b>In case a specific working group would be created, will you be interested in participating in the preparation of the COP10 National Report Format?</b>	<b>C</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
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