



**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)**

HEADLINE ACTIONS AND INDICATORS ONLY VERSION

MAY 2005

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

CONTRACTING PARTY	
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	
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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

Implementation of the Ramsar Convention within last triennium was mainly focused on building of legal and managerial tools to support protection and wise use of wetlands, as well as on enlargement of areas of international importance.

Enlargement of areas of International Importance.

Designation of the Lower Dniester Ramsar Site (2003). The 3rd Ramsar Sheet for designation of the third Ramsar Site in Moldova "Unghuri-Holosnita" is practically prepared and will be submitted shortly to the relevant authorities (the Site complies with 2nd,3rd,4th and 5th Ramsar criteria) is situated in the middle Dniester River basin and encompasses 15,553 ha (Implementing Agency – Biotica Ecological Society))

Legislation Issues.

The Law on Wetlands was drafted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources which is supposed to be approved by the Parliament shortly. This should contribute to better wetlands protection and conservation in

Moldova.

Management Issues.

There was developed a Priority Action Plan for the Lower Prut Lakes Ramsar Site to facilitate implementation of the Management Plan compiled in 2000 (Implementing Agency – Center for Strategic Environmental Studies ECOS).

Presently preparing of the Management Plan for the core zone “Talmazza Wetland” (surface area 1,500 ha) situated in the Lower Dniester Ramsar Site is in progress (Implementing Agency – Biotica Ecological Society).

The same agency already prepared the management plans for agricultural lands and river protection zones on the territory of the Lower Dniester Ramsar site which were approved by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and published.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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.

1.- Country has a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory <i>(if inventory exists, please include the 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	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites
			12/ 2

The National Wetland Inventory was not completed.

The inventory of Wetlands of **International Importance** in Moldova was carried out in line with information to be presented in Ramsar Sheets.

The progress was made in inventory of 12 Black Sea wetlands situated in Moldova. This Inventory was carried out by Biotica Ecological Society and published in the Directory of Azov-Black Sea Coastal Wetlands. Wetlands International. Kiev, Ukraine. 2003.

Besides, there exists very detailed descriptions of several wetlands but the list of these wetlands does not cover all wetlands of the country, and these descriptions are not formatted in conformity with Wetland Inventory criteria.

Presently undertaking of national inventory of wetlands as well as creation of database are considered by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources as an issue of medium priority.

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.

1. The water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands has been assessed	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
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]		
<p>In the framework of the project “Evaluation Study to Support Implementation of Management Plan for the Lower Prut Lakes Ramsar Site” funded by the Ramsar SGF (Project Code 7500-900/SGF/03/MD/01) there were undertaken a comprehensive study of the wetland water quality and quantity.</p> <p>Water quality was studied on 30 parameters (including general physico-chemical ones and potential pollutants) during high-water and low-flow periods on 3 monthly basis, and assessed against both national and EU water quality standards. Water quantity/ availability also was studied during high-water and low-flow periods.</p> <p>Based on above study there were identify likely sources of water pollution and associated environmental</p>		

concerns, and developed a Priority Action Plan towards improvement of water quality, and prevention and/or mitigation of water pollution, and improvement of hydrological conditions in the wetland to ensure its wise use and sustainable development.

In September 2004 'Eco-TIRAS' International Environmental Association of River Keepers had organized (in partnership with MENR) international conference "Integrated Management of Natural Resources in the Transboundary Dniester River Basin" with participation of representatives from the Ramsar Bureau and Helsinki Water Convention Secretariat. Water allocation for environmental needs and ecological functions of wetlands took significant place in conference agenda. 150 conference proceedings were published (drawing - 1000 hard copies), and also are available on website: www.eco-tiras.org

Study of water quality and quantity of other wetland areas are being conducted within various scientific researches, routine monitoring and survey programs implemented by the Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Ecology through its subdivisions Institute of Ecology and State Hydrometeo Service, State Consortium "Apele Moldovei" ("Moldovan Waters") but they are fragmentary and not generalized.

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

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.

1. Wetland issues have been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development called for by WSSD	H	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
2. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies	C	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans	E	<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	H	<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.]		

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has adopted several national policies, strategies and programs aiming at environmental protection and sustainable development including Concept of Environmental Policy (2001); Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (2001), National Program on Securing of Ecological Safety (2003); Strategy for Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Moldova for medium-term period (2001), Poverty Reduction Strategy (2000), Strategy for Combating Desertification, Concept of Water Resources Management in Moldova (2003) and some others in which the necessity of rational use of natural resources (which on definition include wetlands) as well as rehabilitation and conservation of natural resources and their wise use; protection, pollution prevention, improvement of quality of water resources, re-habilitation of aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity conservation are being considered as priority issues.

Besides, at present new Strategy of Water Resources Management to be approved by the Parliament is being developed which *inter alia* focuses on basin integrated management of water resources.

However, further actions towards better incorporation of wetland issues into sectoral policies are required.

Development of the Wetland Management Strategy is considered by the Ramsar Administrative Authority as a matter of medium priority.

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.

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

F

Choose an answer for each indicator
A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
D = Partly/ in some cases;

2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work on methodologies for economic, social and environmental valuation of wetland benefits and functions

F

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 progress made and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]

This work is on initial stage.

On the whole, in Moldova STRP guidance are being used while developing management plans and planning restoration of degraded lands (mostly arable).

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

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)

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 is no peatlands in Moldova.

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.

1. The Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) have been used/applied

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 application of the Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management.]

In Moldova water resources are not managed yet on the basin level though these issues were developed in details within Tacis projects Prut River Basin Management (1999), Prut River Tributaries (2000). This is mostly linked with lack of institutional capacities (there exist no legally established River Basin Councils/ Boards) and also due to some other reasons.

At present time new Strategy of Water Resources Management is being developed (Implementing Agency State Concern "Apele Moldovei"/ Acvaproject Institute) which foresees use of basin approach in the management of water resources. The Strategy also makes provisions for incorporation of biodiversity and wetland issues into the overall water management.

The International Conference on Integrated Management of Natural Resources (refer to Section 1) also focussed on necessity to use river basin approach to achieve integrated wetland conservation and wise use. The Priority Action Plan for the Lower Prut Lakes Ramsar Site was also developed on the basis of River Basin Management planning approach.

Besides, in Moldova were conducted a series of regional seminars on Integrated Water Management in Moldova and its compliance with (or approximation to) EU Water Framework Directive with participation of key stakeholders from all administrative units of Moldova (funded by REC-Moldova and UNESCO). The seminar focussed on necessity to use the river basin approach when managing water resources. Inclusion in agenda WFD issue was same kind of response to the Program "Moldova-EU" which currently is being implemented in Moldova.

3. The Party has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative

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

4. Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the participation in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.]

International conference "Integrated Management of Natural Resources in the Transboundary Dniester River Basin" organized by 'Eco-TIRAS' in partnership with MENR (see sections 1 and 3) may be partly considered as participation in the Ramsar/ CBD River Basin Initiative.

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.

1. The Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1) have been used/applied in decision-making related to freshwater

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.]

Management of water to maintain ecological functions of wetlands is being taking into consideration in currently developing new Strategy of Water Resources Management in Moldova, and also in developing of project proposals on wetlands restoration/ rehabilitation.

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.

1. The implications of implementation of the Kyoto Protocol for wetland conservation have been assessed

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.]

Moldova has signed the Kyoto Protocol but no special measures were planned in relation to wetlands.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

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.

1. Wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects have been developed	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.]		
<p>There were complied very detailed wetland restoration/ rehabilitation projects for the sector Purcari-Crocmaş, situated in the Lower Dniester Ramsar Site (Implementing Agency – Biotica Ecological Society).</p> <p>There was also complied Management Plan for restoration/ rehabilitation of steppe-related ecosystems on the territory of Lower Dniester Ramsar Site (total surface area of spotty plots proposed for restoration encompasses 26,000ha).</p> <p>Besides, there was developed a project proposal on small-scale wetland restoration in the Yalpugh River Basin but due to some reasons international donors rejected funding of the project.</p> <p>Issues concerning restoration of wetlands, primary riverine and lacustrine, are being implied in new Strategy of Water Resources Management which is presently under preparation.</p>		

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

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.

1. The guiding principles on cultural values (Resolution VIII.19) have been used or applied	H	<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 application of the Guiding Principles on cultural values.]		
<p>Project proposals on wetland restoration which are being developed as a rule comply with principles of protection and conservation of cultural values of wetlands.</p> <p>In fact, such actions were envisaged in the Management Plan for the Lower Prut Lakes Ramsar Site, and were planned for the „Lower Dniester” National Park.</p>		
3. Resource information and case studies on cultural aspects of wetlands have been compiled	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
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the resource information compiled.]		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ¹

Action 9.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

1. Pilot projects have been developed to evaluate different approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands	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
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¹ 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.]

Significant efforts in relation to CEPA issues were made in the Lower Dniester area by means of conducting of numerous seminars, secondary scholars training and publishing of educational brochures and books.

Beside, such (or similar) activities were undertaken in the frameworks of other projects the outcome of which were management or action plans compiled for wetland areas (TACIS project Selected Actions in Ukraine in Moldova, Ramsar Small SGF, and also GEF/WB projects, in fact, Biodiversity Conservation in the Lower Dniester Delta Ecosystem which was aimed at establishment of the national park “Lower Dniester” and partly in Ramsar SGF project “Evaluation Study to Support Implementation of Management Plan for the Lower Prut Lakes”).

In conformity with ratified by Moldova Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and with the Law on Ecological Expertise and Environmental Impact Assessment (1996) all projects including ones related to community based natural resources require public involvement and feedback prior to their implementation (EIA legislation in RM imposes the requirements of EIA on all activities affecting wetlands mostly as areas supporting biodiversity).

Action 9.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.

1. A National wetland CEPA Task Force has been established	C	<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>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Remark: the necessity to establish the CEPA Task Force is fully realized by the Ramsar Administrative Authority.

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)

1. A National Action Plan for wetland CEPA has been developed	C	<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>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Remark: the necessity to develop a National Action Plan for wetland CEPA is fully realized by the Ramsar Administrative Authority

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

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).

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.]

Partly strategy and priority issues for further designation of Ramsar Sites were highlighted in the Draft Law on Wetlands, and also during the process of designation of the Lower Dniester as a Ramsar Site as well as within activities being taken in the middle Dniester.

However, development of the National Wetland Strategy which would ensure provisions for designation of new Ramsar Sites including transboundary ones is required.

In relation to this issue it should be also mentioned that at present time the Ramsar Sheet for designation of 3rd Ramsar Site in Moldova “Unghuri-Holosnita” is on the final stage of preparation. The proposed Ramsar Site encompasses 15,553 ha; it is situated in the middle Dniester within administrative boundaries of rayon Octita. Its geographical coordinates are: 48° 17' 11" North Latitude and 28° 2' 45" East Longitude. The Site holds a wide range of biotopes that support a high level of biodiversity including bird species of international significance. The main habitat types are river, pond and riverine forest.

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

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 RIS on „Lower Prut Lakes” is not updated. The RIS on „The Lower Dniester” was presented in updated version.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

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.]

These guidelines have been partly used when complying the Management Plans for the Lower Prut Lakes and areas situated in the Lower Dniester Ramsar Sites “Talmazza Wetland”.

MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES	N° Ramsar sites
3.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place	<u>2</u>
4.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place and being fully applied	<u>0</u>
5.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being prepared	<u>0</u>
6.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being revised or updated	<u>0</u>
7.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites whose management plans fall under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>	
Remark: The Management Plan for the Lower Prut Lakes is in place but needs to be either revised or updated. Besides, a number of Management Plans are developed and are being developed for certain areas situated in the Lower Dniester Ramsar Site.	

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, 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	N° Ramsar sites B - 1029 A - 1316
2.- Changes or likely changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites have been reported to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2	B		
3.- Ramsar sites were included in the Montreux Record since COP8 <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	C		N° Ramsar sites
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the changes or likely changes in ecological character, and list the sites affected.]</i>			
Ramsar Site N° 1029 – changes in ecological character have occurred and may occur in future due to oil drilling in Beleu Lake, and also have occurred because of drainage of Cahul Ponds previously considered as artificial wetland in the Ramsar Site.			
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the steps followed to include sites in the Montreux Record since COP8.]</i>			
Not available			

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)

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</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° Ramsar sites
2.- Actions taken to address issues at Montreux Record Ramsar sites have been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau	A		

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned and results of the actions taken.]

Moldovan Ramsar Sites are not included in the Montreux Protocol.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12. MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS AND WETLAND SPECIES

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).

1.- All transboundary/shared wetland systems have been identified (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/ wetland systems

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the transboundary wetlands identified and provide any other additional comments you consider relevant.]

The most important transboundary wetlands were identified on Moldovan-Romanian and Moldovan-Ukrainian borders. There exists also a great potential for the future work in this direction.

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

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.]

Refer to Sections 1 & 3 (International conference “Integrated Management of Natural Resources in the Transboundary Dniester River Basin”)

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

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.

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 Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources which is the Ramsar Administrative Authority nominates the

focal points of all bi-and multilateral environmental agreements and Conventions.

National Focal Points usually affiliated either to the Ministry of Ecology or subordinating institutions; all reports and other relevant information is submitted to the Ministry which ensures appropriate collaboration and coordination between all National Focal Points.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION

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.

1.- Networks among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training	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
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the wetland networks established and other comments you consider relevant.]		
Eco-TIRAS International Environmental Association of River Keepers was established as association of NGOs working mainly in the Dniester River Basin to combine their efforts towards promotion of sustainable development in the Dniester River basin including one related to wetlands. It includes 46 members with approximately equal membership from Moldova, including Transnistria, and Ukraine. Besides, Biotica Ecological Society works in close cooperation with its partners in the lower Dniester area. These opportunities are commonly used for knowledge sharing and training.		
3.- Twinning arrangements among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training (if applicable, please include number of sites involved)	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
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the twinning arrangement, the sites involved and other comments you consider relevant.]		
There exist no formal twinning arrangements among wetlands to share knowledge and training. However it is doing on informal basis within implementation of joint actions and activities, and also in international conferences, seminars/workshops.		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15. FINANCING THE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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).

1. (For CPs with development assistance agencies) Funding support has been mobilized from development assistance agency for wetland issues	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
2. Other forms of funding support have been mobilized for wetland issues	B	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.]		
Funding support have been mobilized from Ramsar Small Grant Funds (2 projects); Society of Wetland Scientists: Ramsar Support Grant Program (1 project); Michael Otto Foundation (1 project); partly – from Wetlands International (1 project) Other forms of funding support mobilized for wetland issues included such agencies as REC-Moldova, IAD, Frankfurt Zoological Society, MRDA/CRDF.		

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	<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>Project proposals have been submitted to such development assistance agencies as: GEF, Ramsar Small Grant Fund, Society of Wetland Scientists: Ramsar Support Grant Program; Michael Otto Foundation; Frankfurt Zoological Society, IAD; REC-Moldova etc. and were funded as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.GEF/ WB: “Biodiversity Conservation in Lower Dniester Delta Ecosystem”, 2002-2005 (Implementing Agency –World Bank.; Local Implementing Agency – Biotica Ecological Society); 2. GEF/ WB “Moldova: Ecological Network Development in Middle Prut River Catchment”, 2040-2005 (Implementing Agency – World Bank; Local Implementing Agency – Biodiversity Office in Moldova) 3. Ramsar Small Grant Fund: “Restoration, Rehabilitation and Implementation of Protective Measures in the Core Wetland Areas in the Dniester River Downstream in Moldova”, 2000-2001 (Implementing Agency – Biotica Ecological Society); 4. Ramsar Small Grant Fund: “Evaluation Study to Support Implementation of Management Plan for the Lower Prut Lakes Ramsar Site”, 2004-2005 (Implementing Agency - Center for Strategic Environmental Studies ECOS) 5. Society of Wetland Scientists: Ramsar Support Grant Program: “Identification of new Ramsar Site “Sector of the middle Dniester” in Moldova, 2003-2004 (Implementing Agency – Biotica Ecological Society (project relates to sector “Unghuri-Holosnita”). 6. Frankfurt Zoological Society: “Endangered snakes conservation and steppe habitats restoration in new national park “ Lower Dniester“ in Moldova”, 2004 (Implementing Agency – Biotica Ecological Society); 7. Michael Otto Foundation: “Elaboration of Management Plan for the Talmazza Wetland and Bats Conservation in the “Lower Dniester” national park in Moldova, 2005 (Implementing Agency – Biotica Ecological Society); <p>Other forms of funding: IAD had funded study on credit program within GEF; REC-Moldova had funded various wetland-related project on local level; MRDA/CRDF (and RITA Program, Poland) supported conduction of international conference “Integrated Management of Natural Resources in the Transboundary Dniester River Basin” (Implementing Agency - “Eco-TIRAS”)</p>		

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.

1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)	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>GEF/ WB project “Biodiversity Conservation in Lower Dniester Delta Ecosystem”, 2002 (Implementing Agency – World Bank; Local Implementing Agency – Biotica Ecological Society)</p> <p>GEF/ WB project “ Moldova: Ecological Network Development in Middle Prut River Catchment”, 2004-2005 (Implementing Agency – World Bank; Local Implementing Agency – Biodiversity Office in Moldova).</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE CONVENTION

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)

1. The National Focal Point for the work of STRP has been nominated	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 information on the STRP National Focal Point and other comments you consider relevant.]		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

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:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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
- provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, to enable these institutions to implement the Convention to full effect.

1. A review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been completed	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
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the review and other comments you consider relevant.]		
<p>The review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been partially made in the frameworks of other relevant projects and programs.</p> <p>There exists an obvious need to improve institutional infrastructure and enhance coordination between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other institutions involved in wetland issues towards better protection and conservation of wetlands.</p>		
3. A coordinating committee among focal points of environment-related conventions is in place	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
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the coordinating committee and other comments you consider relevant.]		
<p>Moldova has ratified 18 environment-related Conventions; the overall coordination of conventions' national focal points is being implemented by the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources.</p> <p>Besides, governing body of the Ministry of Ecology (Vice-minister, heads of relevant Departments and Divisions) are involved in coordination of focal points, if necessary.</p>		

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	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
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	D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
7.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant cooperation mechanisms and any other comments you consider relevant.]		
<p>There exists a permanent exchange of information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other national institutions, professional, scientific and educational societies as well as non-governmental organizations directly or indirectly involved in various wetland issues.</p> <p>When needed the joint bilateral or multi-lateral meetings are taking place to ensure comprehensive discussion on relevant issues.</p>		

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.

1. A National Ramsar / Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body) is in place	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
2. If a Ramsar Committee exists, it is cross-sectoral (relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, key stakeholders, local communities, private sector, etc.)	D	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 [Please include additional comments on the National Ramsar Committee].		
<p>In 2000 there was established the National Ramsar Committee of Moldova. It consists of 12 members including chairman (Minister of Ecology), secretary (National Focal Point), scientists, environmental experts and representative of environmental NGO. This Committee has to be served as advisory board for development/ improvement of relevant policy, improvement of legislation, if needed, as well as for issues regarding to conservation and wise use of wetlands. The effectiveness of Committee's work can be enhanced at the expense of involvement representatives of other key stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Besides, within the Parliament there exists a Committee dedicated to all environmental protection issues. This is an option to ensure a degree of integration of nature conservation issues (including wetland ones) into other sectors to avoid when possible precedence of economic interests that may take place.</p>		

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

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).

<p>1.- Support has been provided to the development of regional wetland training and research centres <i>(if applicable, please include number of centres)</i></p>	<p>I</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>N° centres</p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of centres and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i></p>			
<p>On the national level there was not provided support to the development of national wetland training and research centres; the information on local level is not available. One can suggest that partly this function is fulfilled by local environmental NGOs.</p>			

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