



**NATIONAL REPORT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
FOR THE PERIOD 2003-2005**

**to be submitted for the 9th Meeting of the Conference of  
the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

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<b>INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION</b>
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<b>SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION (OPTIONAL)</b>
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*Please, include a summary on the implementation of Ramsar Convention in your country during the last triennium*

During the reporting period, the Russian Federation has been successfully implementing the Ramsar Convention objectives related to wetland inventory and monitoring, wetland management and introduction of the wise use principles into the planning system, development of sectoral policies which take account of wetlands, environmental education and public awareness, and international cooperation, especially in the conservation of migratory water birds.

Actions on the conservation and wise use of wetlands are performed by the following institutions:

- Government bodies exercising executive functions: **ministries** which are responsible for the development and implementation of governmental policies and perform normative regulation functions in the sphere of study, reproduction and conservation of natural resources, **federal agencies**, which are responsible for managing relevant natural resources, and **federal services**,

which provide control over the observance of resource use and conservation legislation;

- Scientific and research institutions performing wetland inventory studies, research into various components of wetland ecosystems, and wetland monitoring; and
- Non-governmental organisations, in particular Wetlands International – Russia Programme, which implement various projects on wetland inventory, monitoring and restoration, sustainable management and wise use of wetland resources, reviewing conservation legislation and developing wetland policy.

**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**

[Go to next operational objective](#) - [Go to Table of Contents](#)

**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>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</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 (if inventory exists, please include the number of sites)</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;	<b>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</b> <b>336</b>
<b>2.- Methodologies recommended in the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6) were used for National Wetland Inventory</b>	<b>B</b>	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 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.]**

Wetland inventory activities have been carried out in Russia since the late 1970s. The results have been concentrated at the National Research Institute for Nature Protection. By 2001, information on 243 sites totalling 55.7 million ha had been collected and published in accordance with the Ramsar methodology for site description as Volumes 1-3 of the *Wetlands in Russia* series under the Wetlands International – Russia Programme.

In 2001, the compilation of detailed wetland inventories of major natural regions of Russia was started. The 4<sup>th</sup> volume of the *Wetlands in Russia* series contains descriptions of 37 wetlands, with a total area of c.

3.7 million ha, located in Northeastern Asia. The Russian version of this volume was published in 2001, and the English version, in 2004. The 5<sup>th</sup> volume providing information on 33 southern far-eastern wetlands totalling 6.8 million ha is being finalized. Information on wetlands located in the southern part of European Russia is being collected. In 2003-2004, descriptions of wetland sites situated in the Volgograd Administrative Region and adjacent areas of the Astrakhan, Saratov and Voronezh Regions and Kalmyk Republic (11 sites totalling 271,400 ha), as well as in the Rostov Region (5 sites, 642,500 ha) and the Orenburg Region (7 sites, 146,800 ha) were compiled. The compilation of an inventory of Caucasian wetlands has been started. This volume is to be published in Russian by the end of 2005.

The above wetland inventory projects have been implemented using the Ramsar methodologies to identify important wetland sites which need to be protected under the Ramsar Convention and national protected areas law. These projects have been primarily funded by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, and by other bilateral and multilateral donor organizations.

Information on the extent, current status, and use of wetlands in Russia is also provided by sectoral statistics and monitoring systems. The State Water Cadastre provides information on water resources, including water bodies, watercourses, underground waters etc. The Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1403 issued on 23.11.1996 defines standard procedures for reporting and collecting data for the Water Cadastre.

The State Water Cadastre consists of three chapters. The first one describes the resources of surface waters. Data for this chapter are provided by the Federal Service of Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring in accordance with Federal Law on Hydro-meteorological Service. Cadastre books (registers) contain topographical descriptions of water bodies and reserves of water contained. For those water bodies where hydrological posts have been established, hydrological regime is described. The Federal Service of Hydrometeorology is also responsible for monitoring water pollution against the established standards for maximum permissible concentrations of pollutants.

The second chapter accumulates statistical and other sectoral information on the use of water resources. This chapter is compiled by the Federal Agency of Water Resources on the basis of licences given to water users and federal and sectoral statistics. The amounts of water consumed and discharged by water users are subjected to licensing.

The third chapter of the State Water Cadastre contains information on the reserves and current status of underground waters – fresh, mineralized and geothermal. This chapter is compiled by the Federal Agency of Mineral Resources. Information is collected and stored by the Russian Geological Fund network and includes data on ground water reserves, their uses, and daily balance. A network of sampling sites including a few thousands of bore-holes has been established to monitor the status of waters.

The Land Cadastre of the Russian Federation also contains data on areas covered by surface waters, which are provided in concise form for the annual National Report on the Environment. The following data have been provided for the years 2001-2003:

	2001	2002	2003
Total area covered by water, million ha	225.8	225.9	226.0
Including:			
Rivers, lakes, reservoirs, glaciers, snow banks	71.8	71.7	72.0
Peatlands	154.0	154.2	154.0

Peatlands, which play a key part in most landscape types in Russia, are registered not only in the Land and Water Cadastres, but also as peat deposits, forested lands and agricultural lands.

Information on the coverage and current status of peatlands as peat deposits is collected by the Russian Geological Fund network and is presented in the annual State Balance of Mineral Resources in the Russian Federation. Prospecting for peat deposits is carried out constantly and the information is updated each year, with only commercially valuable sites covering over 100 ha being registered. According to the Balance data of 1 January 2003, there are 20,956 peat reserves totalling 15,709,199.4 ha (within ‘zero’-boundary of peat deposit) in the Russian Federation. 18,800 prospective peat deposits with an estimated area of 96,919,530 ha (within ‘zero’-boundary of peat deposit) have been registered.

An inventory of forested lands conducted within the framework of the *Forest Fund* of the Russian Federation

also provides data on areas covered by peatlands and waterlogged lands.

Peatland inventories are also carried out by research institutions. As an example, the Institute for Forestry of the Russian Academy of Sciences has implemented a number of projects on mapping peatlands and waterlogged lands: based on inventories of forested lands and topographical maps in 1994 (Vompersky *et. al* 1994) and more detailed mapping with use of soil maps in 2004.

As a whole, sectoral statistics give us an insight into the distribution and current status of wetlands used in national economy. The application of this information for the Ramsar Convention purpose is hampered by the difference of approach: the resource approach on the one hand, and the ecosystem approach, on the other. New methods applied recently to collect data for state cadastres give more attention to property relations than to natural features. According to the Land Cadastre of the Russian Federation, the contribution of peatlands to the total land area increased 2% from 1997 to 2000. This can be assigned to the changed method of defining borders of natural complexes.

**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.

*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:*

			<b>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</b>
<b>1. The inventory assesses and documents potential Ramsar Sites</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>	<b><u>194</u></b>
<b>2. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands of national, provincial or local importance</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i>	<b><u>48</u></b>
<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>B</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>D</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>H</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>D</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>D</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; H = Other status</i>	
<b>10. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of cultural heritage</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>(explain below); I = No answer</i>	
<b>11.- The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research</b>	<b>D</b>		
<b>12.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Comments on the information included in the wetland inventory in light of the items indicated above]</b>			

1-2). The inventory of wetlands located in Northeastern Russia (*Wetlands in Russia*, Volume 4) contains descriptions of 24 sites that meet the Ramsar Convention criteria for internationally important wetlands

*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**

and 13 sites of national and local importance. During other wetland inventory projects, wetlands that meet the Ramsar criteria have been identified. Nevertheless, it is not expected that all sites covered by regional inventories will be designated as Ramsar sites.

A Programme for Asian Wetland Inventory (AWI) was developed in Russia and Central Asian countries in 2002, under coordination of the Wetlands International - Russia Programme and with support from the Netherlands Government. Information on the AWI Programme and AWI questionnaires were translated into Russian and distributed to ministries, research institutes and other relevant organizations in all countries of the region. A consultation meeting participated by the representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, NGOs and technical experts was held in Moscow to discuss issues of the AWI implementation in Russia. The Asian Wetland Inventory is aimed at assessing the status of Asian wetlands through the development of a comprehensive and dynamic Wetland Inventory Database and capacity building to ensure sound planning, wise use, sustainable management and monitoring of wetlands. AWI is consistent to the modern river basin approach to water and wetland management. The AWI implementation in Russia will promote international cooperation and facilitate decision-making in relation to the utilization of natural resources of the trans-boundary wetlands.

Three pilot projects on wetland inventory, one in Russia and two in Central Asia, have been proposed for implementation during the next phase of the AWI Programme. A range of AWI stakeholders that can provide technical and organizational support have been identified. In Russia these organizations include the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, the Institute for Water and Environmental Problems and the Institute for Systematic and Animal Ecology under the Russian Academy of Sciences, as well as other institutions, whose involvement will depend on the scale of the project. In Central Asian countries, the following organizations/institutions have interest in the AWI activities: the Inter-governmental Commission on Sustainable Development and its national Scientific and Information Centres, the Water Commission of the International Fund for Aral Saving, governmental agencies responsible for nature protection, research institutes and universities.

An analysis of national needs in relation to inventory has been performed with the following results. All national agencies have reported that there is a need for standardized approach in wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring, and for provision of information materials, supplemented by training and awareness activities. It has been noted that the AWI Programme will serve as an effective tool for wetland management and conservation, and hence the implementation of AWI pilot projects has been recommended.

3). No inventory of disturbed wetlands for their further restoration has been carried out at national level. At the same time, programmes for wetland restoration have been implemented in several administrative regions of Russia. An example is provided by the Programme for Restoration of Lakes in the Republic of Tatarstan. Under this Programme, a register of rivers, lakes and peatlands has been compiled. A database on existing methods for restoring water bodies and water courses has been developed at the Faculty of Ecology, Kazan University. Inventories of disturbed peatlands have been compiled in the Nizhni Novgorod Oblast and Republic of Mariy-El with the aim of developing action plans for peatland restoration.

Areas covered by wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation can be estimated using statistical information available. The Statistical Yearbook of Russia issued by the Federal State Statistics Service gives data on disturbed and rehabilitated areas by industry, including the peat industry (*i.e.* on peatlands). According to the State Land Cadastre, the total areas of disturbed lands comprised 1,141,600 ha in 2000 and 1,136,600 ha in 2002, with disturbed peatlands comprising respectively 242,300 and 302,400 ha. The distinct increase in peatland area is suspect and can be assigned to the changed counting method. This important question requires further study.

4). Peatlands and floodplain wetlands, including wet meadows, are quite adequately represented in the Russian network of Ramsar sites. Peatlands are protected in 19 out of 35 Ramsar sites, covering 946,000 ha or 9% of the total area of Ramsar sites. It should be noted though that only 2 Ramsar sites were established specially to protect peatlands (Minayeva, 2004).

Peatlands are also represented in the Shadow List and on-going wetland inventory projects carried out by the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. As an example, wetland types identified at 33 sites covered by inventory in Southern Far-Eastern Russia include Types *U* (found at 11 sites), *Vt* (1 site) and *Xp* (13



*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**

sites).

5). Wetlands of special significance for reasons of water supply have not been documented. A register of these wetlands can be compiled on the base of information contained in the State Water Cadastre.

6). An inventory of wetlands, which are of special significance for the protection of coastal ecosystems, is carried out under the Marine Programme of WWF Russia. Regular monitoring of coastal ecosystems is conducted by 17 strict nature reserves (Russian *zapovedniki*). The total area of marine waters protected within the protected areas network comprises 9,100 km<sup>2</sup>, or c. 1.8% of the continental shelf area of the Russian Federation.

7). The State Water Cadastre includes information on water protected zones – protected areas, which are established, among other reasons, for flood defence.

8). Within the framework of national forest inventory (the State Forest Cadastre), an inventory of non-timber resources is carried out, including resources of mushrooms and berries at peatlands. Existing inventories of non-timber food resources and game in waterlogged forests, and fish in water bodies can be regarded as variants of an inventory of wetlands as food suppliers. Information on commercial harvesting of non-timber forest products is available at the local departments of the Federal State Statistics Service and tax inspections. The harvesting of berries has long been a major means of subsistence for rural population in Central Russia. Information on game resources is collected in accordance with the 1996 Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation on Regulations for Keeping the State Animal Cadastre and State Monitoring of Animals, and is available at the Controlling Informational and Analytic Centre for Game Animals and Their Habitats.

10). Many wetland areas covered by inventory projects are of particular importance for traditional fishing, hunting and agriculture that are part of a cultural heritage. The inventory of southern Far-eastern wetlands compiled under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme includes the following sites, which are important for traditional land use of indigenous peoples: Lake Bolon (the Nanai), Lake Chukchagirskoye (the Negidal), Lake Evoron (the Nanai), the Lower Amgun River, Lakes Orel and Chlya (the Nivkhi and Ulchi), Amur Bay (the Nivkhi), Lake Udyl (the Ilchi, Negidal, and Evenki), the Bikin-Alchan Interfluvial Area (the Nanai and Udygei), Bays and Lakes of Northwestern Sakhalin (the Uilty), Baikal and Pomr Bays (the Nivkhi), the Shmidt Peninsula (the Nivkhi), Lagoons of Northeastern Sakhalin (the Nivkhi and Uilty) and Lake Nevskoye (the Nivkhi).

There are historical monuments and archaeological excavations at many sites covered by inventory. These include: a) in Southern Far-eastern Russia: Lake Chukchagirskoye, Lake Evoron, Schastya Bay (winter settlements of the first Russian citizens), the Lower Tumannaya River (fortifications dating to the Middle Ages); b) in the Volgograd Region: Lake Bulukhta (burial mounds and gardens of the 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries – an interesting feature of traditional land use); c) in the Rostov Region: the Don Delta (archaeological excavations of the Stone and Bronze Ages, remains of the ancient town of Tanais and the Middle Ages towns of Tana and Azak) and Lake Manych-Gudilo (burial mounds).

11). No inventory of wetlands, which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research have been compiled. Information required to produce such an inventory is available at:

- Federal protected areas network;
- Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (on water body monitoring stations and peatland monitoring stations);
- Russian Academy of Sciences (on peatland, lake and river monitoring stations);
- Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (stations for monitoring drained lands and peatlands);
- Federal Forestry Agency (stations for monitoring drained forests);
- Ministry of Power Engineering (reservoirs monitoring stations);
- Federal Agency of Mineral Resources (underground water monitoring stations).

**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 published and unpublished wetland inventory information is stored in the National Wetland Database developed under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. This is a data management system built on a computerized database using Microsoft Access, which is based on standard Ramsar datasheets. This database is linked to the ArcView map database providing two levels of analysis: at 1:1,000,000 and 1:250,000 scale.

**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**

**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.]**

Information stored in the National Wetland Database will be made available online at [www.wetlands.ru](http://www.wetlands.ru) in the near future.

**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**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

**2. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among wetland managers**

**B**

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

**3. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among other wetland users**

**B**

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

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

The results of wetland inventory activities are published as the *Wetlands in Russia* series under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme (See Action 1.1.1). All Russian-language volumes of the series have been placed at the Programme's website ([www.wetlands.ru](http://www.wetlands.ru)). The books are distributed to all interested organizations and people by post and at relevant meetings and conferences. The Meeting on *Russian Ramsar Sites: Current Status and Prospects for the Future* (Moscow, 21-22 October 2003) is of particular importance in this context. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the

Russian Federation and the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. The participants of the meeting included representatives of regional administrations, nature reserves, scientific institutions and local departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources responsible for managing Ramsar sites. The subjects discussed included the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Russia, establishment of land use and conservation regimes at the Ramsar sites, existing mechanisms of site management, inter-sectoral cooperation on wetland wise use, and the prospects for further development of a protected wetlands network.

Information on the extent, current status, and use of wetlands collected by sectoral statistics, monitoring systems, and other governmental institutions with funding from the state budget is available to all citizens of the Russian Federation in accordance with the 1995 Law on Information.

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

<b>1. Wetland inventory project proposals were submitted to the Small Grants Fund and were funded</b>	<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>
<b>2. Wetland inventory project proposals were submitted to the Small Grants Fund and were not funded</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

## 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>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>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>		

## 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)

<b>1. Contribution made to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project (MA)</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; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution made to the work of the MA.]</b>		

The Russian Federation takes part in the work of the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)* project at the level of individual experts-reviewers and NGOs, such as WWF Russia contributing to the sub-global millennium ecosystem assessment in the Altai-Sayansky region and Central Asian mountains. As a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Russia participates in the MA project through the mechanisms of CBD implementation.

**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).

<b>1. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at national scale</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. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at regional (supranational) scale</b>		
<b>3. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at local scale</b>		
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the use of MA guidance and methods.]</b>		

**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.

<b>1. Repository of assessments of changes in wetland status established</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 repository of assessment of changes in wetland status, its contents and uses.]</b>		
<p>A repository of assessments of changes in wetland status has not been established at national level. At the same time, repeat inventories have been compiled for a number of internationally important wetlands under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. These wetlands include Ramsar sites: Lake Khanka, Zeya-Bureya Plains, Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland, Lake Bolon, Lake Udyl, and Lake Manych-Gudilo; sites on the Ramsar Shadow List: the Don Delta, Tumannaya Delta, Bays of Western Sea of Okhotsk, Lagoons along the NE Coast of Sakhalin Island, Lake Nevskoye and Adjacent Lowland, Lososei Bay, and Coastal Aquatic Area around Kunashir Island and the Lesser Kuril Islands. Besides, updated Ramsar datasheets (with particular emphasis on changes in wetland status occurred) were compiled for most Ramsar sites prior to the Meeting on <i>Russian Ramsar Sites: Current Status and Prospects for the Future</i> (See Action 1.1.6).</p> <p>Information to assess changes in wetland status is available in the system of State Environmental Monitoring (SEM). Certain components of wetlands are monitored within the following sub-systems of SEM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring of air pollution;</li> <li>- Monitoring of inland surface waters;</li> <li>- Monitoring of surface sea waters;</li> <li>- Monitoring of underground waters;</li> <li>- Monitoring of soils;</li> <li>- Monitoring of sources of human impact (emissions and effluents);</li> <li>- Monitoring of plants, including specialised monitoring programmes conducted on forested lands and non-forested lands, and programmes for species listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and Red Data Books of administrative regions;</li> </ul>		

- Monitoring of animals, including specialised monitoring programmes for species, for which hunting and fishing is allowed under licence; for species which are not targets of hunting/fishing utilisation; and for species listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and Red Data Books of administrative regions;
- Monitoring of wetland ecosystems within the borders of federal protected natural areas.

So far, no attempts to combine all available monitoring data for assessing wetland status have been made at national level.

Information on 11 Russian Ramsar sites, where strict nature reserves are situated, is collected under the nation-wide monitoring programme of ‘Chronicle of Nature’, with considerable funding from the Federal Budget.

The annual National Report on the Environment contains information on the use of surface and ground waters, wastewater discharges, and pollution of surface waters by industry, by federal *okrug* (cluster administrative region) and by catchment area. According to the 2003 National Report (data have been provided by the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources), the total amount of water taken from natural surface water sources comprised 85.6 km<sup>3</sup> in 2003 (83.7 km<sup>3</sup> in 2002). The structure of water uses was as follows: 59% of water was used for industrial purposes; 21% – for drinking and other municipal purposes; 13% – for irrigation; 2% – for other agricultural needs; and 5% for other purposes.

The Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring reported about 2,335 releases of polluted wastewater (over 10 MPC – accepted standards for maximum permissible concentrations of various pollutants), including 537 releases of highly polluted wastewater (over 100 MPC), in 2003, which is 7.8% less than in 2002.

The amount of ground water taken for drinking and industrial purposes in 2003 comprised 28.2 million m<sup>3</sup> per day. As a result of ground water extractions, large craters (up to 50,00 km<sup>2</sup> in area and 65 to 130 m deep in the centre) have developed around some cities (Bryansk, Kursk, Moscow, St.Petersburg).

**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 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. The assessments include impacts of climate change</b>	<b>D</b>	
<b>3. The assessments include impacts of sea-level rise</b>	<b>D</b>	

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

No nation-wide actions on the assessment of the vulnerability of wetland ecosystems have been undertaken. A number of relevant projects have been implemented under the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. Information on this subject can be also found in the report ‘Current Status of Biodiversity in Natural Ecosystems in Russia’ (V.A.Orlov & A.A.Tishkov, Ed. 2004. Moscow, *NIA-Priroda* Publishers. 116 pp.).

Assessments of the productivity, peat accumulation, and GHG and water balance of peatland ecosystems under different climatic conditions and different scenarios of climate development have been conducted by the RAS Institute for Forestry, the Institute for Biology of the RAS Karelian Scientific Centre, Tomsk State University, and the Novosibirsk Institute for Soil Science and Agro-chemistry of the RAS Siberian Division.

Unique data on the role played by mires of different types in flood regulation have been accumulated at the Laboratory of Forest Mire Science of the RAS Institute for Forestry and at the State Hydrological Institute under the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring.

The Astrakhan Biosphere Nature Reserve has been conducting regular monitoring studies of the impacts of the Caspian Sea level rise on wetland ecosystems in the Volga Delta. The results of these studies were

published in 2003 (*Structural Changes in Natural Ecosystems of the Astrakhan Biosphere Reserve Resulted from the Caspian Sea Level Rise*. 2003. G.M.Rusanov, Ed. Astrakhan. 223 pp. *In Russian*). The Caspian Sea level began to rise in 1978. Many Russian scientists associate this process with the development of a century-long cool-humid climatic phase. From 1978 to 1995, the sea level rose to 2 m, then gradually decreased by 0.56 m, and became relatively stable in 2001-2002. The sea-level rise has entailed considerable changes in the status of wetland ecosystems at the Volga Delta Ramsar Site (See also Action 11.2.4).

A serious threat is posed by frequently recurring droughts in the temperate climatic region, which entail a considerable increase in number of peatland fires. In 2002, when peatland fires occurred over extensive areas in European Russia, the Wetlands International-Russia Programme initiated a small project to assess this phenomenon. In particular, an assessment of drained peatland areas, where peat extraction used to be carried out, has been undertaken, and work on the development of methodology for restoring these peatlands has been started.

A pilot project on mapping peatland areas subjected to fires is carried out in the Moscow and Vladimir Regions under the *Globwet* Initiative. The Greenpeace Russia has implemented a project on the development of GIS to monitor forest fires in the Moscow Region.

**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>		<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 conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands.]</b>		
<b>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.]</b>		

**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).

<b>1. Information on mangrove forest cover has been compiled</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. Information on conservation status of mangroves has been compiled</b>	<b>A</b>	
<b>3. Information on levels of use of mangroves has been compiled</b>	<b>A</b>	
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information compiled related to mangroves.]</b>		

**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).

<b>1.- The impacts of dams on wetlands have been assessed (if available, please include number of sites affected)</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; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>	<b>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the impacts of dams on wetlands, sites affected, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
<p>Regular studies of the current status of reservoirs, in particular monitoring of variations in water level, is conducted by the monitoring service of the power industry.</p> <p>The long-term studies of the impacts of hydropower plants built on the Middle and Lower Volga on the deltaic wetland ecosystems are carried out in the Volga Delta. Regulation of the Volga River, for the production of hydro-electricity, has resulted in the volume and period of spring flooding being reduced as the amount of water discharged from the reservoirs during winter has increased. A large part of the sediment carried by the river is now deposited in the reservoirs instead of being carried downstream into the Volga Delta, where the load of suspended sediment has decreased considerably. The decrease in flow of nutrients resulted in declining productivity of deltaic water bodies and the Northern Caspian Sea (<i>Structural Changes in Natural Ecosystems of the Astrakhan Biosphere Reserve Resulted from the Caspian Sea Level Rise</i>. 2003. G.M.Rusanov, Ed. Astrakhan. 223 pp. <i>In Russian</i>).</p>			
<b>3.-Impacts of dams on wetlands [Please provide here a summary of impacts and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]</b>			
<p>A long list of references to Russian-language publications on the impacts of dams built on the Volga River is provided in the above-cited book, pages 206-219.</p>			

**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 (if available, please include number of sites assessed)</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; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<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>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>			

**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>		
<p>Many Russian Ramsar sites play an important role in the conservation and maintenance of resources of commercially valuable fish species. The Volga Delta is of particular significance, as it supports 58 species of fish, including sturgeons <i>Huso huso</i>, <i>Acipenser gueldenstaedti</i>, <i>A. stellatus</i> and <i>A. ruthenus</i>. After construction of dams on the Volga River in the middle 20<sup>th</sup> century, many spawning grounds became inaccessible to the fish, and a system of hatcheries was developed. Nowadays the populations of major sturgeon species are maintained by fry released from hatcheries (e.g. 50 to 60 million fry were released in 1999). Unfortunately, the populations of Caspian sturgeons are still in decline due to poaching, which has considerably increased in recent years and well aggravate the impact of other negative factors, such as the introduction of ctenophore <i>Mnemiopsis leidy</i>.</p> <p>Other Ramsar sites, which contribute to the maintenance of fisheries, are the Kuban Delta, Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland, Upper Dvubobje, Lower Dvubobje, Lake Bolon, Lake Khanka, Khingan- Arkharinskaya Lowland, and some others.</p> <p>No special assessment of the contribution of Ramsar sites to the maintenance of fisheries has been undertaken at the national level, although detailed information on individual water bodies is available at the Federal Agency of Fisheries and Federal Agency of Water Resources.</p>		
<b>3. Recommendations on sustainable management practices of fish stocks in wetlands have been transmitted to relevant authorities/stakeholders</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>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the recommendations and their transmission to relevant authorities/stakeholders.]</b>		
<p>By Resolution No. 1265-p issued on 2 September 2003, the Government of the Russian Federation approved the Concept of the Development of Fisheries in the Russian Federation by 2020 aimed at achieving sustainable development of fisheries on the basis of conservation, reproduction and wise use of fish resources, aquaculture, and the social-economic development of coastal and other areas that depend on fisheries.</p>		

**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.

<b>1. The water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands 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>		
<p>Assessments of water quality and quantity were undertaken for all Ramsar sites, for which management plans were developed. As one example, the Volga Delta management plan contains an extensive section providing an analysis of the levels and sources of water pollution in the delta wetlands and the existing network of water monitoring stations. Based on the analysis performed, a detailed plan of actions was developed to improve the monitoring network, which is vitally important for this Ramsar site.</p> <p>Data required for undertaking an assessment of water quality and quantity can be obtained from the system</p>		



of State Environmental Monitoring (See Action 1.2.2).

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

<b>1. A National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) is in place</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
<b>2. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F = Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>
<b>3. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporates WSSD targets and actions</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>

**4- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the status of the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument, its contents, and any other information you consider relevant.]**

In the last years, a number of policy documents have been developed, which have relevance to the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Russia.

The Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation was approved by Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1225-p (of 31.08.2002). This document formulates principles, aims, directions and objectives of a long-term national environmental policy. The Environmental Doctrine is based on the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws and other normative legislative acts of the Russian Federation. The following federal laws are relevant to wetland conservation:

- Federal Law on Conservation of the Environment;
- Federal Law on Specially Protected Nature Areas (many Ramsar sites include protected nature areas: strict nature reserves, national parks, sanctuaries, etc.);
- Federal Law on Conservation of Lake Baikal (this law covers Lake Baikal and adjacent areas, including the Selenga Delta Ramsar Site and other wetlands);
- Water Code which defines the basics of conservation and wise use of water resources, in particular Chapter 11, Article 119 'Specially Protected Water Bodies of International Importance' covers

internationally important wetlands.

By Resolution No. 961 issued on 28 October 2003, the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation adopted the 2003-2005 Action Plan on Implementation of the Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation. The Environmental Doctrine is to be implemented through federal target programmes. The 2002-2010 Federal Target Programme on the Environment and Natural Resources of Russia incorporates 12 sub-programmes. The Federal Budget provided 663.23 million Roubles for the Programme implementation in 2003, including 562.03 million for capital investments and 101.2 million for scientific research. Funds provided by the budgets of administrative regions of the Russian Federation comprised 1,350.42 million Roubles (planned: 2,936.63 million Roubles); from other sources, 3,869.86 million Roubles (planned: 7,791 million).

The development and implementation of a National Strategy for Wetland Conservation is regarded as a top priority. A Draft Strategy was prepared jointly by the Federal Committee on Environmental Protection and the Wetlands International-Russia Programme, and was discussed at the National Wetlands Conference in February 1999. The conference was participated by 240 wetland experts from Russia and abroad, including representatives of Russian federal and regional conservation authorities, national conservation agencies of bordering countries, scientific institutions and NGOs. The document was finalised and published by the end of 1999. The Strategy contains two major chapters: the first defines the objectives of wetland conservation at the federal level and the second provides the framework of regional programmes for wetland conservation, including both long-term and short-term plans of activities. The first chapter contains the following sections:

- Wetland Inventory and Cadastre;
- Wetland Monitoring;
- Wetland Legislation;
- Regulation of land use in wetland areas;
- Environmental education and professional training;
- Public participation in wetland management and conservation; NGOs;
- Scientific research on wetlands; and
- International co-operation.

The Strategy is subject to final discussion and agreement with the respective federal agencies and institutions.

The protection of important wetlands is ensured through the network of protected nature areas, which has a long history and sustainable basis. The federal protected areas are annually funded from the Federal Budget. There are 12 strict nature reserves (*zapovedniki*) and one national park within the borders of the 35 Ramsar sites. Information on their funding in 2003 is presented below.

**Table: Funding of federal protected nature areas located at Ramsar sites**

Ramsar site	Protected areas: SNR – strict nature reserve ( <i>zapovednik</i> ); SBNR – biosphere nature reserve; NP – national park	Funding in 2003, thousand Roubles	
		Federal Budget	Non-budgetary funds
Kama-Bakaldino Mires	Kerzhensky SBNR	2,981	1,118
Kandalaksha Bay, White Sea	Kandalakshsky SNR	7,746	2,134
Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland	Khingansky SNR and its buffer zone	3,904	652
Lake Bolon & Mouths of Selgon & Simmi Rivers	Bolonsky SNR (part)	3,617	369
Lake Khanka	Khankaisky SNR and its buffer zone	4,587	122
Lake Manych-Gudilo	Chernye Zemli SNR	2,490	2,753
Lake Manych-Gudilo	Rostovsky SNR (part)	1,228	1,061
Oka & Pra River Floodplains	Oksky SBNR	4,971	1,689
Oka & Pra River Floodplains	Meshchersky NP	3,915	1,140
Parapolsky Dol	Koryaksky SNR (Parapolsky Dol Site)	3,324	100
Svir Delta	Nizhne-Svirsky SNR	2,043	439
Torey Lakes	Daursky SNR and its buffer zone	4,087	904

Volga Delta	Astrakhansky SNR and its buffer zone	4,464	3,310
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**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.**

<b>1. Wetland issues have been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development called for by WSSD</b>	<b>D</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; 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>2. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans</b>	<b>D</b>	
<b>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>	<b>B</b>	
<b>5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the incorporation of wetland issues into other sectoral strategic or planning processes.]</b>		

The most effective policy mechanisms related to wetlands are federal laws, normative legislative acts (cross reference to Action 2.1.1), and national conservation strategies.

An example of integrated policy document is provided by the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation adopted by the National Forum on Nature Conservation (Moscow, June 2001). This Strategy defines the major directions for developing legislation and normative legislative acts, a system of institutional and financial-economic mechanisms in the sphere of biodiversity conservation and wise use. The National Strategy provides the basis for developing local strategies for the conservation of individual species and ecosystems, as well as strategies and action plans of GOs, NGOs and business firms in this field. The National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation incorporates the issues of wetland conservation, desertification, climate change, and others.

- 1). The principles of sustainable development have been incorporated into a number of policy documents: Presidential Decrees 'On Concept for Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development' (01.04.1996 No. 440) and 'On Concept for National Security of the Russian Federation' (10.12.1997 No. 1300 & 10.01.2000 No. 24), the Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation (31.08.2002 No. 1225-p).
- 2). Existing governmental programmes for social-economic development aimed at poverty eradication have not been linked to ecosystem conservation issues.
- 3). Water resources management is undertaken on a catchment scale in accordance with the Water Code of the Russian Federation, and has been assigned to the Federal Agency of Water Resources subordinated to the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. Special functions related to water management and conservation of water bodies are performed by some other ministries and agencies. The Ministry of Natural Resources, in cooperation with interested federal ministries and agencies, executive bodies of some administrative regions of the Russian Federation and individual experts, developed the National Programme of 'Water in Russia – 21'. The programme was approved by the Presidium of the State Council of the Russian Federation. In accordance with the aims and objectives of the National

Programme, all activities, which are to be implemented at regional, catchment and national levels in 2003 to 2015, have been organized into seven projects. Three of these projects: 'Protection of Water Bodies from Pollution', 'Development of a System for Monitoring and Predicting the Status of Water Resources, and Providing Information for Water Management', and 'Improving the State Management of Water Resources' encompass the issues of wetland conservation and wise use.

4). *An Action Plan for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in Russia*, which was developed cooperatively by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the Wetlands International-Russia Programme in 2002, has been integrated into other sectoral strategies, such as a Strategy for Sustainable Use of Peatlands for Agriculture.

**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**

**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 consideration of wetland tenure systems and user rights in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management.]**

The Russian land tenure system is based on the Land Code of the Russian Federation. Analyses of local wetland tenure systems were performed under the development of management plans for Ramsar sites. For example, the management plans for the Volga Delta and Kuban Delta Ramsar Sites contain detailed information on land users supported by maps and provide a breakdown of existing legislative instruments related to land use and recommendations to improve the system of land use licensing.

An analysis of the system of land use regulation at peatlands has been performed and published under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme (*Peatlands in Russia: towards an analysis of sectoral information*. A.A.Sirin & T.Yu.Minaeva, Eds. 2001. Moscow, GEOS Publ. 190 pp.).

**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**

*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 conservation and wise use of high Andean wetlands has been incorporated into relevant national strategies / processes**

**A**

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the actions taken in relation to high Andean wetlands.]**

**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.

<p><b>1. Examples of best practice related to the integration and harmonisation of policies and legislation have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau/STRP</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>  <i>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 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>	<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>		
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>		

**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.

<p><b>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></p>	<b>B</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>  <i>A = Not applicable;</i>  <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i></p>
<p><b>2. A review of legislation and institutions to promote the wise use of wetlands has been completed</b></p>	<b>B</b>	<p><i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i>  <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i></p>
<p><b>3. Legislation and institutional procedures have been modified to preclude unwise use of wetlands</b></p>	<b>D</b>	<p><i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p><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.]</b></p>		
<p>A review of wetland-related legislation has been performed under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme and a WWF Russia project. A number of contradictions in the existing natural resource use and conservation legislation have been identified. For peatlands, an analysis of sectoral normative documentation has been also realised. It has been proposed to consider the development of Law on Wetlands.</p>		

New versions of the Water and Forest Codes, which address the issues of wetland wise use, are pending in the State Duma of the Federal Council of the Russian Federation.

The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation has participated in the following activities related to wetland legislation development:

- Preparation of new amended versions of the Water and Forest Codes and the Law on Soil Conservation;
- Development of normative documentation for the conservation of Lake Baikal and the Selenga River catchment.

**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**

*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 Action 18.1.2 for National Ramsar Committee.

Inter-ministerial dialogues are undertaken at the preparatory stage of legislative and normative documents development.

In the framework of the Wetlands International – Russia Programme, a consultation meeting was organized in Moscow in July 2002 to promote and implement the Asian Wetland Inventory Programme in Russia. The meeting gathered representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, technical experts and officers from relevant NGOs. The issues of intra- and intersectoral coordination and collaboration were discussed to promote integration of wetland research and conservation into the water management policy. It was emphasised that there is an acute need to develop and implement coordinated actions on improving water conservation legislation and controlling the oil- and gas-extracting activities in West Siberia, which cause a considerable damage to wetlands. As one of the outcomes of this discussion, relevant additions and comments were developed and brought into the Water Code of the Russian Federation.

**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**

*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 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)

<i>See action r3.1.i</i>		
<b>1. The conservation status of mountain wetlands has been assessed</b>	<b>F</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
<b>2. A review of legislation, policies and practices that may be impacting negatively on mountain wetlands has been completed</b>		D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
<b>3. Actions have been taken for stopping and reversing impacts on mountain wetlands</b>		H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on assessment, reviews and other actions taken in relation to mountain wetlands.]</b>		
Under the Wetlands International-Russia project on Caucasian wetlands inventory, it is planned to collect and review existing information on wetlands and wetland uses in the Russian Caucasus region.		

**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)

<b>1. The Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment annexed to Resolution VIII.9 are being applied</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 Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (annex to Resolution VIII.9).]</b>		
<b>3. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in impact assessment processes</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 involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in impact assessment processes.]</b>		

**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.

<b>1. The Party has been identified by the Ramsar Bureau as one having in place Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to wetlands</b>		<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;
<b>2. A review of policies, programmes, and plans that may impact upon wetlands has been completed</b>		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 review of policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands.]</b>		

<b>4. Strategic Environmental Assessment practices have been applied while reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands</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>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.]</b>		

**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 (IAIA)*. 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.

<b>1.- Legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applicable to wetlands is in place</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i>	
<b>2.- EIA is carried out for projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands (if available, please include number of sites)</b>	<b>D</b>	<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° wetlands /Ramsar sites</b>
<b>3.- EIAs have included full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts</b>	<b>C</b>		
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include comments on Environmental Impact Assessment implementation at national level.]</b>			
<p>The Federal Law on Environmental Impact Assessment defines the legislative mechanism to undertake an EIA. However there is lack of methodological and normative instruments to carry out EIAs in wetlands. The existing methods for evaluating the status of a water body by taking water samples at several established points and measuring concentrations of various pollutants according to the MPC scale (accepted standards for maximum permissible concentrations) do not meet the requirements of ecosystem approach applied by the Ramsar Convention.</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)

<b>1. Experts from the International Association for Impact assessment have been involved in EIA processes in the country</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>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the involvement of IAIA 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**

**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 EIA materials.]**

**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**

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

**C**

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 [Please include additional comments on progress made and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]**

A study on economic mechanisms of wetland conservation and valuation of wetland benefits has been undertaken under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme (Bobilev, S.N., V.N.Sidorenko & N.V.Luzhetskaya. Economic Aspects of Wetland Conservation. 2001. Moscow, 56 pp. *In Russian*). The following conceptual approaches to wetland valuation have been considered: a concept of the total economic value that allows to summarize both a value of wildlife use and that of 'non-use', i.e. a mere existence of natural phenomena; variations of cost approaches, particularly restoration costs; an alternative cost, etc. Based on the above tools, an economic valuation of the Dubna Mire System ('Cranes' Homeland') located in the Moscow Region has been performed. An integral approach to wetland conservation combining the economic and legal opportunities (considering specific regimes of nature uses in protected areas of various types) has been applied. Recommendations on economic and legal measures to improve management of the Dubna Mire System have been made. Additionally, the published report includes information on international experience in the field of economic valuation of wetlands.

A project on the development of methodology for economic valuation of peatlands is being implemented.

## **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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<b>PLANNING TOOL SECTION</b>		
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<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>		
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>		

<b>COP9 REPORT SECTION</b>
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**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.

<b>1. Work has been done to review the wise use concept, its applicability and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development</b>	<b>D</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. The Party has contributed to the STRP work to review and update the guidance on the wise use concept, including the ecosystem approach</b>	<b>C</b>	

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the revision of the wise use concept and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]**

The wise use concept, as a basis for conserving natural resources, is an important constituent of the concept of sustainable development, which was adopted in Russia in 1996. A specific document aimed at formulating methodology for applying this concept to wetland use has not been developed yet. A number of internationally important wetlands are located at biosphere reserves, where the alternative and sustainable use practices have been successfully applied. The Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in Russia also notes that large protected nature areas are needed to maintain natural functions of wetland ecosystems. The prohibition of all human activities does not often meet the requirements of social-economic development of extensive wetland areas. In this case, partial limitations on land use are introduced on part of the area, and zoning measures are applied.

**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

<b>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>	<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 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.

<b>1. Ramsar's new management planning guidelines (Resolution VIII.14) have been adapted and incorporated into national practice</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
The former Convention's management planning guidelines have been translated into Russian and published. At present, a number of management plans have been developed for Russian Ramsar sites (cross reference to Action 11), and some experience in planning has been accumulated. This experience is disseminated through <a href="http://www.wetlands.ru">www.wetlands.ru</a> and <a href="http://www.peatlands.ru">www.peatlands.ru</a> , and national and international conferences. The Russian Federation also participates in work on new management planning guidelines under the STRP Working Group 5.		

**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.

<b>1. Ramsar guidance on the wise use concept and its application has been made available to appropriate decision-makers, institutions and processes</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 implementation of this action.]</b>		
The Convention's guidance on the wise use concept has not been published in Russian. Under the on-going Wetlands International-Russia's project, implemented with financial support of the Dutch Government through the PIN/MATRA Funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a series of manuals on peatland wise use is being prepared, including guidelines on economic valuation of peatlands, their restoration and integration into social development (See also Action 3.1.3).		

**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)

<i>See action r2.2.iii</i>		
<b>1. Actions have been taken to improve the awareness and understanding of values and functions of mountain and high altitude wetlands</b>	<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;
<b>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</b>	<b>B</b>	F = Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>3. National, regional or local strategies and plans for the conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been developed</b>	<b>B</b>	
<b>4. Ramsar work on mountain wetlands has been coordinated with other environment-related and mountain-related agreements and institutions</b>	<b>D</b>	
<b>5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on information available and strategies developed concerning mountain and high altitude wetlands.]</b>		
The Russian Federation has initiated programmes on freshwater ecosystem management in the Caucasus and Altai-Sayan regions, and is confident that the high altitude wetlands are vitally important for watershed functioning. Russia has taken responsibility for designing a project proposal on freshwater ecosystem management in the Caucasus under the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund. A project on undertaking an inventory of the Sayan mountain wetlands is being implemented with support from the John D. and Catherine T. McArthurs Foundation. Through the Russian-Mongolian Expedition, Russia has initiated a Global Wetland Initiative project aimed at producing an inventory and wise use scheme for mountain wetlands in Mongolia, from which the Selenga and Yenisei Rivers originate. Under this project, recommendations on the wise use of peatlands in the <i>Huder Somon</i> have been developed. The project's results have been disseminated in China and Kyrgyzstan, and presented at the international meeting of <i>Conserving Biodiversity of Asian Wetlands</i> held in Ulan-Bator, Mongolia in September 2004.		

**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)

<b>1. Specific work programmes for the wise use of high Andean wetlands and the basins fed by them have been established</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 r3.1.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)

<b>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</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>		

## 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>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>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</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**

**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 Russian Federation has actively participated in the process to establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands, with a Russian representative being included into the Committee membership. There is also a Russian representative in the Global Peatland Initiative's Steering Committee: Tatiana Minaeva who also acts as a representative of the International Mire Conservation Group. This helps to provide the Party's representation and articulation of peatland conservation objectives at parallel workshops held under the meetings of the Conferences of Contracting Parties to the Ramsar and Biodiversity Conventions, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**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**

*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.]**

To implement Resolution VIII.17 at national level, *An Action Plan for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in Russia* has been developed under the Wetlands International-Russia's project on peatland conservation. This document was approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, and is used for developing conservation programmes and R&D plans. To provide the Action Plan's implementation, a project portfolio was developed, with over 60 project proposals to be implemented throughout Russia.

**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**

**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.]**

At present, the major contribution to peatland conservation is provided by the network of protected nature areas, which is supported by the Federal Budget. A study of inventory information accumulated at the Russian Geological Fund, undertaken under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme, has shown that 1,161 peat deposits totalling 771,730 ha are protected in strict nature reserves and national parks in European Russia. The data available for the Asian part of the country are less precise. Nevertheless, 450 peat deposits totalling 3,220,850 ha are known within the borders of nature reserves and national parks (Minayeva 2004). It must be noted though that peatlands are the predominant feature of most landscape types found in Russia, and it is the reason for their inclusion into protected nature areas set aside for various purposes. Only two strict nature reserves (*zapovedniki*) have been established specially to protect peatland ecosystems: the Rdeisky and Polistovsky State Nature Reserves located within the Polistovo-Lovatskaya Peatland System in the Novgorod and Pskov Administrative Regions. At the same time, a large number of nature reserves have been established for peatland protection at local level: in the Karelian Republic, Leningrad Oblast, Tver Oblast, and other administrative regions.

After the extensive peatland fires occurred in European Russia in 2002, a number of regional administrations (the Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod and Kostroma Regions) began to fund actions on peatland studies, inventories, and restoration of drained peatlands where peat extractions had been carried out. As a result, over 10,000 ha of drained peatlands have been flooded. However the integrated nature of peatlands requires the consistent inter-sectoral coordination of wise use planning activities. Considering the apparent lack of such coordination at present, a long-term project on peatland conservation was launched under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. This project is carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, national conservation NGOs and scientific institutions, and is supported by the Netherlands Government, Global Peatland Initiative, bilateral and multilateral funding organisations. The project is built on a long-term strategy and involves the following subject areas: national policy and legislation, international cooperation, methodological and informational support to the conservation and wise use of peatlands, information exchange among peatland experts, education and training, ecotourism, pilot projects for introducing innovative techniques, and emergency actions. Information about these actions is placed at the project's web-site ([www.peatlands.ru](http://www.peatlands.ru)), which also covers many other peatland-related issues. The project staff maintain contacts with many local conservationists, conduct an active search for information on peatlands, prepare and submit reviews to governmental bodies promoting legislative and management planning processes, and raise funds in Russia and abroad to realise pilot projects and immediate actions on peatland conservation. Two workshops on peatland restoration and rehabilitation were organized in 2003-2004, including an excursion to four restored peatland complexes in Belarus in October 2004. A guidance on peatland restoration and a review of international and national experience accumulated in this field are under preparation. The project promotes the introduction of innovative approaches to peatland use. Thus a unique technique for evaluating the peatlands' social role has been applied in a few localities. Methods for economic valuation of peatlands are worked out and will be tested in the Moscow and Vladimir Regions. Procedures to assess the damage onto peatland biodiversity caused by human activities are developed for their further introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment legislation. The project is actively pursuing investigations into the contribution of peatlands to carbon cycle, the mitigation of climatic changes and adaptation of organisms and ecosystems to various scenarios of climate change. Active cooperation with official structures has been established to implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The peatland project is intended to serve as an impetus for the local experts, NGOs and other partners to further develop the project's initiatives at local level, thus contributing to national and international action on peatland conservation. An important objective of the project is to develop a long-term peatland conservation programme with sustainable

funding from national and international donors. To meet this objective, an *Action Plan for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in Russia* has been developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. This framework document provides the basis for effective allocation of resources to peatland wise use and conservation. Some of the proposed activities have been included into sectoral and local development programmes.

**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.]**

Work on peatland conservation under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme was started with a breakdown of information on peatland resources accumulated in sectoral informational systems by 2000. The resulting report summarises the inventories of peatlands as peat deposits, hydrological features, habitats of plants and animals, agricultural and forested lands. The report also provides a review of peatland-related legislation and management structures. Since then, information on the status of peatland resources has been updated each year, on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of statistical and sectoral data. This information is provided, *inter alia*, for a national report on the implementation of the *Revised 1966 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gases Inventories* adopted by UNFCCC.

### 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>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>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>		

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**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.

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>		
<b>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</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 implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>The Water Code of the Russian Federation provides for the establishment of protected water bodies and water protection zones. Protected water bodies are natural water ecosystems of high conservational, scientific, cultural, and curative value, which are withdrawn, completely or partially, from economic use. Water protection zones are areas adjoining to rivers, lakes, reservoirs, or other surface water bodies established to prevent pollution, littering, silting, and exhaustion of water bodies as well as to protect habitats of plants and animals. Particular attention is paid to those water bodies, which are important for drinking water supply, spawning of commercially valuable fish and other reasons. For these zones, a special regime of land use and nature conservation is introduced, with ploughing fields, felling timber, locating stock-raising farms and many other activities being prohibited. Water protection zones established along rivers are from 100 to 500 m in width, those around lakes and reservoirs are 300 to 500 m wide. Protecting zones of 300 to 500 m wide are also established around mires originating runoff of permanent streams.</p> <p>Wetland inventories undertaken at national and local levels provide information on the importance of wetland sites for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, traditional land use etc. in accordance with the structure of the Ramsar Information Sheet. No specialised registers of wetlands of special significance have been compiled.</p>		

**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.

<i>See actions r2.2.ii, 6.1.6</i>		
<b>1. Actions have been taken to promote the recognition of the social and cultural heritage of wetlands</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
<b>2. The social and cultural heritage of wetlands is being taken into account in their wise use and management</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>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 the on recognition of social and cultural heritage of wetlands.]</b>		
<p>A book on wetland benefits has been published under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. Evaluation of social and economic benefits provided by peatlands has been undertaken in several pilot regions; appropriate guidelines are being prepared. A PowerPoint presentation on wetland features and functions has been produced and distributed to the information centres of nature reserves where wetlands cover extensive areas.</p>		

**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)



<b>1. Actions have been taken to ensure that public institutions place emphasis on the hydrogeological, social, economic and environmental aspects of groundwater</b>	<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
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**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)

<b>1. Compilation(s) and assessment(s) of both material and non-material cultural elements related to wetlands and water have been undertaken</b>	<b>I</b>	<u>Choose an answer for each indicator</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes;
<b>2. Actions have been taken to promote the appreciation and revitalization of cultural values related to wetlands and water</b>	<b>D</b>	C = No;
<b>3. All relevant aspects of cultural heritage have been incorporated in the design and implementation of wetland management</b>	<b>D</b>	D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;
<b>4. Cultural values of wetlands have been used as a tool to strengthen involvement of local stakeholders, particularly in wetland planning and management</b>	<b>D</b>	F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the actions made to take into consideration cultural heritage and values of wetlands.]</b>		

**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.

<b>1. Wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and food and water security plans have been developed</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 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>		
<b>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>	<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>		
As pointed out above (Action 1.2), a number of institutions under the Russian Academy of Sciences carry out research on the role of wetlands in water supply, flood defence etc.		

**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)

<b>1. Actions have been taken to secure the wise use of temporary pools</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 implementation of this action.]</b>		

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

## 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.

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

This action is partially realised at the level of basin management. At present, wetlands have been integrated into the development plans for protected nature areas and regional econet networks. As a whole, this objective has received inadequate attention and requires special planning.

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

**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 participation in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.]**

**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**

**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.]**

**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**

**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.]**

**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)

<b>1. Steps have been taken to ensure that dams are not impeding the migration of indigenous fish and other species</b>	<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
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**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)

<b>1. Assessments of environmental flow have been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams</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 assessments of environmental flow undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams.]</b>			
<b>3.- Centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation have been encouraged (if available, please include number of centres)</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>N° centres</b>
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [If applicable, please include information on the centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation that have been encouraged.]</b>			

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

<b>1. The Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management (Resolution VIII.4) have been used/applied</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 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)

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

**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 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**

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.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)

**See action 18.1.2**

**1. Representatives of national water management ministries and/or agencies are included in National Ramsar/Wetland Committee**

**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 Action 18.1.2 for National Ramsar Committee.

**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 VIII.1)

**1. Projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands have been developed**

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 relevant projects.]**

**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.]*

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

**1. Mechanisms to better plan and manage the wise use of water in the Andean Region have been developed**

**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 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**

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.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**

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.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**

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 3.4.9.-** 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).

*See action 4.1.4*

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

**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 Russian Federation acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in 2004. In accordance with the national policy on the Protocol implementation, the participants of the peatland conservation project under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme take part in the development of *Revised 1966 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gases Inventories* adopted by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and in the compilation of a technical document and an analytical report on the role of peatlands in carbon balance and biodiversity conservation under the GEF Project on Integrated Management of Peatlands for Biodiversity and Climate Change: The Potential of Managing Peatlands for Carbon Accumulation while Protecting Biodiversity.

**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**

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.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**

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.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**

*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.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.]**

**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**

*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**

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

### 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.**

**Action 4.1.2.-** Établir, lorsque c'est possible, des programmes de restauration/remise en état des zones humides détruites ou dégradées, en particulier dans les grands bassins hydrographiques ou les régions très importantes pour la conservation de la nature, conformément à la Recommandation 4.1 et aux Résolutions VII.17 et VII.20.

<b>1. Wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects have been developed</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>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>The Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation emphasises the need to develop a restoration programme for the steppe wetlands. At national level, restoration of wetlands is realised through the landuse regulatory system providing the rehabilitation of disturbed natural complexes. As noted above, restoration of drained peatlands became the topical problem in central Russia after the extensive peatland fires occurred in 1999 and 2002. A programme on lake restoration has been implemented in the Republic of Tatarstan. Local conservation NGOs carry out a few pilot projects on peatland restoration. The peatland conservation project of the Wetlands International-Russia Programme regularly provides guiding materials on peatland restoration. Two workshops on peatland restoration have been held under this project: in Nizhni Novgorod in 2003 and in Belarus in 2004.</p>		

**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>		<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><u>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</u></b>

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

**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).

**1. The *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* (Resolution VIII.16) have been integrated into the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument(s)**

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.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).

**1. The role of wetland restoration has been taken into account in river basin management**

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 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**

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 on new research and methodologies for wetland restoration/rehabilitation has been compiled and disseminated**

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information on restoration/rehabilitation of wetlands and its dissemination.]**

**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.

<i>See action 3.4.9</i>		
<b>1. The Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration (Resolution VIII.16) have been used in the assessment of the implications of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol for wetland conservation</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 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)

<b>1. The Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration (Resolution VIII.16) have been applied in relation to the provision of compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention</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 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).

<i>See action r3.3.iii</i>		
<b>1. Cultural and archaeological heritage significance of wetlands has been considered in restoration actions</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 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)

<i>See action 20.1.5</i>		
<b>1. Training needs in relation to wetland restoration have been assessed</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. Training opportunities and expertise in relation to wetland restoration have been identified</b>		
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on training needs and opportunities in relation to wetland restoration.]</b>		

**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).

<b>1. Restoration projects linked to poverty relief have been developed and implemented</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 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).

<b>1. The Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration have been disseminated to community stakeholders</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. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in wetland restoration activities</b>		
<b>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.]</b>		

**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)

<b>1. The Ramsar Web site on wetland restoration has been used and materials have been provided to it</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 use of Ramsar web site on wetland restoration and the materials provided to it, if applicable.]</b>		

**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)

<b>1. Contribution has been made to preparation of guidance on compensation for wetland losses, in response to Resolution VII.24</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>		

## 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

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

## COP9 REPORT SECTION

**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>F</b>	<u>Choose an answer for each indicator</u> 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;
<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>	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 incorporation of invasive species matters in national legislation and policies, actions taken, and cooperation in this field.]</b>		
In the course of the implementation of National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation, the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation has developed the conceptual framework of the national policy on invasive alien species. This concept involves wetlands, although no specialised strategy addressing alien species in wetlands has been developed.		

**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>		<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.]**

**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)

<b>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)</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><u>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</u></b>
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**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.]**

Among the invasive alien species, the Mnemiopsis (*Mnemiopsis leidyi*, *Ctenopoda*) is of particular importance for the marine and coastal ecosystems of the Black, Azov and Caspian Seas. This North American species appeared in the Black Sea in the early 1980s and reached the total biomass of over 18 million tonnes in the Azov Sea and 1 billion tonnes in the Black Sea by 1989. It was brought to the Caspian Sea apparently with ballast waters from the Azov-Black Sea Basin in 1998-1999 and distributed throughout the whole water body already in 2001. Mnemiopsis destroys huge number of zooplankton, thus competing for food with plankton eating fishes. This species can propagate in huge numbers and undermine the plankton eating fish populations, primarily the sprat population. By indirect way this intruder poses a threat for Caspian seals as well, because they also feed on sprats. Currently the mechanical, chemical, biological and quarantine methods of fight with Mnemiopsis are being discussed, including artificial breeding of its natural enemies. It is also necessary to provide the legislative base for protection of the Caspian Sea against alien animals and plants (Zonn & Zhiltsov 2004, Svininykh 2004). Due to lack of relevant information, it is difficult to evaluate the impact of other alien organisms, such as water plants and invertebrates, fishes and mammals on Russian wetlands.

**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)

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

<p><b>1. Practical guidance for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species has been developed and disseminated</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;</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>		

**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)

<p><b>1. The impact on wetlands of terrestrial invasions by alien species has been assessed</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 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**

<p><b>PRIORITY:</b></p>		<p><i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i></p>
<p><b>RESOURCING:</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>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b></p>		

**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.

<b>1. The guidance for the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management has been applied</b>	<b>H</b>	<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>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>The Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation contains a section developed in conformity with the Ramsar guidelines: ‘Public participation in wetland management and conservation. Non-governmental organisations’, with a sub-sections on <i>Communities of indigenous peoples and other ethnic groups leading traditional life.</i></p>		

**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.

<b>1. Traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands has been documented and its application encouraged</b>	<b>H</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;</i>  <i>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>		
<p>The Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation is responsible for implementing a national policy on promoting traditional knowledge and management practices. The on-going Federal Programme ‘Economic and Social Development of Indigenous Peoples of the North by 2010’ addresses traditional land use practices and crafts. Non-governmental organisations, such as the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia, and Far East of the Russian Federation and the Centre for Support to Indigenous Peoples of the North, show great activity in this field. The second phase of the Russian-Canadian Project on Institution Building for Indigenous Northern Peoples is underway. One of the activities under this project is the mapping of traditionally managed areas. The GEF Project of <i>Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic</i> (ECORA) is being implemented. This project includes the development of a traditional land use scheme for wetlands in the Russian Arctic.</p>		

**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.

<b>1.- Public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands has been promoted</b>		<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>	
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the promotion of public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands.]</b>			
<b>3.- Local stakeholders have been involved in the selection of new Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites)</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>	<b><u>N°</u></b> <b><u>Ramsar sites</u></b>



**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.]**

**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**

*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 6.1.5.-** 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.**

**1. Resource information on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management has been compiled**

*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 resources compiled about local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management.]**

**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**

*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 contribution to the elaboration of the guidance indicated above.]**

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

**1. Participatory Environmental Management strategies have been applied**

*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.- 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.]**

**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.

*See action r3.3.iii*

**1. The guiding principles on cultural values (Resolution VIII.19) have been used or applied**

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 Guiding Principles on cultural values.]**

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

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.]**

**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**

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**

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.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**

*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.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**

*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)**

*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.]**

## 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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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</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>		

<b>COP9 REPORT SECTION</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**

**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 private sector presently involved in the implementation of projects addressing the wise use of wetlands includes the tourism firms, peat industry, and oil and gas extracting companies. For the most part, the projects concerned are small-scaled and are carried out together with NGOs. This is a very promising direction deserving more attention.

**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**

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 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**

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 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**

Choose an answer for each indicator

**2. Legal, institutional and administrative measures are being implemented to ensure sustainable harvesting of wetland products**

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 [Please include additional comments on the measures taken to ensure sustainable harvesting and trade of wetland products.]**

## 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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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**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</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
<b>2. Actions have been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands</b>	<b>F</b>	D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;
<b>3. Actions have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands</b>	<b>C</b>	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 promotion and implementation of incentive measures and removal of perverse ones.]**

A review of economic mechanisms related to the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been developed and published under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme (Bobilev, S.N., V.N.Sidorenko & N.V.Luzhetskaya. Economic Aspects of Wetland Conservation. 2001. Moscow, 56 pp. *In Russian*). Major causes of wetland degradation are explained on the analysis of current national macroeconomic and sectoral policies and their impact on wetlands. The impact being evaluated, its possible growth in the near future is pointed out. The most important cause for wetland degradation is a nature-consuming structure of national economy that is based on the development of extracting industries. As for actions targeted on wetland conservation, the following two approaches are important: direct regulation by the government; and a system of economic incentives and disincentives in the field of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands (taxes, payments, financial and credit mechanisms, various environmental funds etc.).

The introduction of incentive measures into the nature resource management is called for by a number of federal and regional laws, in particular by the Water Code of the Russian Federation. The mechanisms and action plans for actual introduction of these measures are under development.

**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>		<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
<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>		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 agriculture subsidies and incentives and their impacts on water resources and wetlands.]</b>		

**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>		<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>		

**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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**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>		
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (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).

## COP9 REPORT SECTION

**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 has been incorporated into all sections of the Draft National Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation (1999). Section 5 on *Regulation of land use in important wetland areas*, Section 6 on *Education and public awareness* and Section 7 on *Participation of local communities, indigenous peoples and NGOs in wetland conservation and wise use* are of particular importance in this context.

The integration of peatland conservation and wise use into sectoral plans and programmes was the major objective of the Workshop on *Strategic Action Plan for Conservation and Wise Use of Peatlands in the Russian Federation* (Moscow, 23-25 January 2001) organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation in co-operation with the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. The Workshop participants represented all major peatland-related agencies. An inter-sectoral working group established at the Workshop has developed *Action Plan for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in Russia* published in 2003 and a project portfolio, which includes project proposals on education and public awareness issues.

A section on wetlands has been included into the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation approved by the National Forum on Nature Conservation in June 2001. This Strategy is regarded a basis for developing provincial/local strategies and sectoral plans and programmes for biodiversity conservation.

The management plans developed for Russian Ramsar sites (See Operational Objective 11.1) serve as a basis for planning all economic and other human activities at extensive areas covered by these sites. All management plans developed so far have been compiled with interests of local communities taken into consideration. As one example, the Management Plan for Pskovskoye-Chudskoye Lowland Ramsar Site contains three development programmes: Programme for Biodiversity Conservation (including a Section on Promotion of Public Awareness Activities to Conserve Natural Heritage), Programme for Research and Environmental Monitoring, and Programme for Environmental Education and Public Awareness. Opinion polls were conducted at the initial stage of Plan development.

To the extent that Wetland CEPA objectives coincide with general objectives of nature conservation, they have been broadly incorporated into sectoral planning documents, in particular into plans and programmes of conservation NGOs. Yet, no special attention to integrating the Wetland CEPA Programme into sectoral plans has been paid.

### 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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<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).

### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

### COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

A pilot project including the application of different approaches for promoting the wise use of wetlands is being implemented at the Dubna Wetland Complex (shadow-listed site) under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. This project includes the circulation of questionnaires to a large number of people.

**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>	<p><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</p>
<b>2. Lessons learnt in implementing CEPA programmes have been documented</b>	<b>C</b>	

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on implementation of CEPA programmes and information available.]**

### 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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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

<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>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b> (text answer):	
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### COP9 REPORT SECTION

**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.

<b>1. A National Government Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed</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;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>2. A National NGO Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed</b>	<b>B</b>	
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information about Government CEPA and NGO CEPA Focal Points].</b>		
See Section on <i>Institutional Information</i>		

**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>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> <i>I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
Issues related to Wetland CEPA are the responsibility of the inter-sectoral Working Group on the Ramsar Convention (See <i>Action 18.1.2</i> for information on the Working Group).		

**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>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> <i>I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
A National Action Plan for CEPA has not been specially developed. Sections on strategic directions and required actions to implement the Wetland CEPA objectives have been included into the 1999 Draft Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation (See <i>Action r9.i.ii</i> ).		

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

**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.

<b>1. Actions have been taken in relation to communication and information-sharing on wetland issues between relevant ministries, departments and agencies</b>	<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;</i>  <i>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>		
<p>Efforts are being constantly made to improve the efficiency of existing communication and information systems. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation has a web-site (<a href="http://www.mnr.gov.ru">www.mnr.gov.ru</a>) providing links with other federal agencies. The National Information Agency of Natural Resources (NIA-<i>Priroda</i>) was established by Resolution of Minister of Natural Resources No. 170 (23 October 1997), with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide informational support to MNR to improve communication and co-ordination of activities between agencies related to natural resource uses;</li> <li>- Facilitate dissemination of official information and normative documentation of MNR and other agencies related to natural resource uses;</li> <li>- Develop an inter-ministerial system of information exchange in the natural resource sector;</li> <li>- Develop, publish and disseminate periodicals on natural resources;</li> <li>- Communicate with the mass media and press departments of governmental agencies;</li> <li>- Develop and introduce up-to-date methods for collecting, recording, storing, analyzing, and sending out information on natural resources and related issues;</li> <li>- Disseminate important and reliable information on the status of natural resources and the environment, and educational materials; monitor the public opinion;</li> <li>- Organize inter-governmental exchange of information between governmental agencies related to natural resource uses; support international cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.</li> </ul> <p>An important contribution towards information sharing on wetland issues is provided by some other web sites, such as <a href="http://www.biodat.ru">www.biodat.ru</a>; <a href="http://www.biodiversity.ru">www.biodiversity.ru</a>, <a href="http://www.wetlands.ru">www.wetlands.ru</a>, and <a href="http://www.peatlands.ru">www.peatlands.ru</a>.</p>		

**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*.

<b>1. Actions have been taken to encourage synergies on CEPA activities among international conventions and programmes</b>	<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;</i>  <i>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>		

Co-ordination of activities carried out under various international conventions and agreements is taking place. As mentioned above, the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation contains a section on wetlands (See r9.i.ii). A number of wetland CEPA activities have been taken in Russia under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**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**

**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.]**

A Database on Wetland Experts has been developed under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. The information contained in the Database was published in 1999 (Who is Who in Wetland Conservation in Russia. 1999. Moscow: Wetlands International Publication. 144 pp.), and was constantly updated during the ensuing years. Now the Database is available at [www.wetlands.ru](http://www.wetlands.ru), new data can be entered on-line. This database contains information on a wide range of expertise in wetland-related subjects, the experts in CEPA can be selected through search facilities.

A database on Russian peatland experts is available at [www.peatlands.ru](http://www.peatlands.ru).

The website of [www.biodat.ru](http://www.biodat.ru) provides extensive information on people engaged in biodiversity conservation, and on particular projects implemented in this field.

## 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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## PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>		<i>A = High; B = Medium; C = Low; D = Not relevant; E = No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</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 r9.iv.iii.-** Continue to produce, distribute and share resource materials to support wetland CEPA actions

**1. Materials to support wetland CEPA have been produced and distributed**

**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.]**

<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).

No special publications supporting wetland CEPA actions have been produced since COP8. The annotated translation of *Wetland Benefits* by Davis & Claridge was published in 2000.

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

An e-mail list to send out information on wetland conservation actions was compiled under the Wetlands International Russia Programme in January 2005. The list includes representatives of a large number of GOs and NGOs, including local departments of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources responsible for the management of Ramsar sites. A letter on the 2005 World Wetlands Day was circulated first. It is planned to verify this list (which currently includes 224 e-mail addresses) and send out news from [www.wetlands.ru](http://www.wetlands.ru) and [www.peatlands.ru](http://www.peatlands.ru).

**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.

<b>1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are part of the Wetland Link International Programme of the Wildfowl &amp; Wetland Trust, UK (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)</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° centres</b>
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**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.]**

A project on the establishment of a wetland centre in Moscow was created under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme in 1998-1999 but was not realized through the lack of funding.

**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.

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

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

### 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**

**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 the course of the preparation of the Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation, a review of the current status and needs in the areas of CEPA was done.

**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**

**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.]**

See Action r9.iii.vii for sources of information on national wetland experts.

The WI-Russia's interactive workshop on wetland management and conservation held in Moscow in May 2001 played an important role for the identification of training needs and opportunities at the national level.

**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.

<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).

<b>1. Resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA have been sought</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;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
<b>2. Progress in obtaining resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA has been made</b>		
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the activities for resourcing capacity building in wetland CEPA.]</b>		

**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.

<b>1. A review of formal educational curricula in relation to wetland services and wise use has been carried out</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;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>2. Changes in the formal educational curricula to incorporate wetland-related issues have been effected</b>		
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland services and wise use in the formal educational curricula.]</b>		

**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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<b>PRIORITY:</b>		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</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 r9.vi.i.-** Undertake national campaigns, programmes or projects to raise awareness, build community support, and promote stewardship approaches and attitudes towards wetlands.

<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).

<b>1. National campaigns, programmes or projects to increase awareness on wetland issues have been launched</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>		
A national programme of activities on education and public awareness, and public participation in wetland conservation and wise use is planned in the framework of the Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation.		

**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

<b>1. World Wetlands Day activities have been carried out</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the WWD activities that have taken place, if any, at national and local levels.]</b>		
World Wetlands Day activities have been carried out in Russia since 1998. Press conferences given by governmental (MNR) officials and representatives of conservation NGOs were held on this day during several years. The Wetlands International-Russia Programme organized a peatland workshop on 2 February 1999, and a children's drawing contest in 2000, with the opening of the winners' drawing exhibition on 2 February. In the ensuing years, celebration meetings were held at the WI-Russia Programme office. Video films on wetlands and on the Ramsar Convention were shown. In 2005, an article about the Ramsar Convention and WWD was placed at the MNR's web-site; an information letter on WWD was developed and distributed through the national wetlands e-mail network (See r9.iv.iv). The exhibition of <i>Moscow's Peatlands – Relics of the Past</i> was held at the Darwin Museum in Moscow in February 2005.		

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

<b>1. Collaboration with the media has been systematically used to convey the wetland message</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 implementation of this action.]</b>		
Information on wetlands does not appear regularly in the press and on television. At the same time, the local media often show great interest towards wetland complexes. Unfortunately, no monitoring of the mass media for wetland issues has been conducted. In 2004, the First Federal Television Channel showed items on the Manych-Gudilo and Kama-Bakaldino Mires Ramsar Sites in the evening news.		

**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.

<b>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>	<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>
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**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.]**

A number of Ramsar sites (the Volga Delta, Pskovskoye-Chudskoye Lowland, Selenga Delta etc.), where detailed management plans have been developed and various international projects are carried out, serve as demonstration sites for the wise use principle.

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

### 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**

*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)**

**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  
10**

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

See *Operational Objective 11.1* for management plans of Ramsar sites

<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).



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

#### 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>H</b></p>	<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>	<p><b><u>N° centres</u></b>   <b><u>N° wetlands/Ramsar sites</u></b>  <b>12+</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>Environmental education activities are mainly carried out by the nature reserves located at the Ramsar sites (there are 12 strict nature reserves (“zapovedniki”) and one national park within 35 Ramsar sites). The Federal Law on Protected Nature Areas (1995) regards environmental education as one of the priority objectives of state nature reserves. Below are a few examples of activities carried out by the staff of environmental education departments of nature reserves.</p> <p>The Kerzhensky State Biosphere Nature Reserve is responsible for education actions at the <b>Kama-Bakaldino Mires Ramsar Site</b>. The reserve has produced over 100 issues of the <i>Russkaya Taiga</i> newspaper, 3 video films, 4 computer presentations, several photo exhibitions, leaflets and calendars. Many activities are carried out in cooperation with the Rustai school, which has an advanced course in ecology on its curricular. Camps for training school children in environmental issues are organized at the reserve each summer (e.g. 10 camps were held in 2002). There are 6 ecological trails at the reserve, which total 36.5 km. The <i>Dront</i> ecocenter based in the city of Nizhni Novgorod published a booklet on <i>Kama-Bakaldino Mires: Conservation and Restoration of Mires in the Nizhni Novgorod Region</i> in 2003. A series of workshops and training courses for rangers and hunting managers has been organised by the Nizhni Novgorod Division of the Russian Bird Conservation Union.</p> <p>Actions in education and public awareness for the conservation of the <b>Volga Delta</b> wetlands are taken primarily by the Astrakhansky State Biosphere Reserve. These actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation in the international initiative of <i>March for Parks</i>;</li> <li>- Organization of annual olympiads and quizzes about local flora and fauna for school children;</li> </ul>			

<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).

- Drawing contests and exhibitions;
- Summer camps and field work for students of biological schools;
- Seminars for teachers in biology and geography were held in 2001-2002;
- Children’s contest for designing a ‘*Stop Fires in the Delta!*’ leaflet was held in 2002;
- Children’s contest for ‘*Junior Journalist-Naturalist*’ was organized in cooperation with journalists from the local mass media in 2002;
- First Conference on Protected Nature Areas was organized for school children in 2003;
- Action of *Clean up the Delta* was held in 2003.

In 2002, the Astrakhansky Nature Reserve started the publication of a quarterly bulletin, which is circulated free of charge to local schools, conservation NGOs and protected areas. There is a museum of nature and 13 routes for ecotourists in the reserve.

The Pskov Regional Department of Natural Resources produced a series of leaflets, booklets, and a video film about the **Pskovskoye-Chudskoye Lowland Ramsar Site** in 2002-2003. Exhibitions were established in all schools located at the site. The Pskov State Pedagogical Institute developed a programme for environmental education targeted at school children and other groups of local population of the Ramsar site.

The Daursky State Nature Reserve carries out actions in education and public awareness for the **Torey Lakes Ramsar Site**. Particular attention is paid to educating local school children. Summer training camps including excursions, lectures, educational games and contests are organized every year.

The education centre of *Zhuravushka* with a children’s art studio was established at the **Lake Khanka Ramsar Site** by the Khankaisky State Nature Reserve and the Spassky District library system in 1999. The reserve’s staff in cooperation with local school teachers has launched the educational programme of *Earth is Our Common House*. Under this programme, children’s study groups and conservation organizations have been established. Clean-up activities are carried out regularly on the shore of Lake Khanka. The education centre provides support to students from many higher educational institutions. As an example, 7 diploma studies on Khanka natural features were done in 2002. Ecotourism is promoted, with regular excursions guided by the reserve staff. The reserve has columns in the local newspapers of *Spassk* and *Vestnik Spasska*.

The Khingansky Nature Reserve (**Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland Ramsar Site**) regularly organizes excursions, lectures, training camps and children’s conferences. Two information centres have been established at the reserve’s administration office and on the route of *Lake of White Birds*. These centres were visited by 486 people in 1996, and by 2,400 people in 2002. Calendars and booklets on protected bird species have been published.

The education department of the Bolonsky Nature Reserve carries out educational activities for the **Lake Bolon Ramsar Site**, including lectures, excursions, summer training camps and exhibitions, and takes part in conservation actions organized at regional level.

(Based on reports provided for the Workshop on *Russian Ramsar Sites: Current Status and Prospects for the Future*, Moscow 21-22 October 2003)

<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>B</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><u>N° centres</u></b></p> <p><b><u>N° wetlands/Ramsar sites</u></b></p>
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**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.]**

Education centres are planned to be established at Ramsar sites and other areas, but there is no complete information on this subject. An example is provided by a project for establishing a wetlands visiting centre at the Pskovskoye-Chudskoye Ramsar Site developed under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. It is proposed to make a travelling exhibition covering 50 m<sup>2</sup>, which can be easily arranged in a local school, in the hall of a district administration office or in the Izborsk Museum. The exhibition will contain stands with information on the Lake Pskovskoye-Chudskoye wetland complex, a section on

environmental education, and containers for transporting the exhibits.

**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

**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**

*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.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).

**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)**

*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°  
facilities**

**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.]**

## 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>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>Provide adequate protection to the most important wetlands by developing a representative network of wetland sites having a legal status of wetlands of international, federal (national), and regional importance.</b>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	<b>Designation of wetland sites on the updated Shadow List under the Ramsar Convention</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.]**

A programme and action plan for further development of the national network of Ramsar sites in Russia were designed in 1999-2000, including the following actions:

- Regionalisation of the country for the purpose of wetland inventory and conservation;
- Assessment of the current status of wetland ecosystems and identification of priorities for their conservation and wise use;
- Compilation of the Shadow List of internationally important wetlands to be designated under the Ramsar Convention;
- Publication of the List for open discussion;
- Implementation of requisite measures aimed at expanding the existing network of wetlands protected under the Ramsar Convention.

**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.**

**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 results of implementation of the first phase of the programme (methodology, regionalisation and assessment), the Shadow List consisting of 166 sites, and descriptions of 157 shadow-listed sites were published in 2000 (Krivenko, V.G., ed. 2000. Wetlands in Russia, Volume 3: Wetlands on the Ramsar Shadow List. Wetlands International Global Series No. 6, 409 pp.).

A shortened list of 41 sites regarded as major priorities for immediate action was formed within the Shadow List, taking two factors into account:

- Importance of a given wetland site in the context of the Ramsar Convention criteria and
- Existing threats to the site that indicate the need for emergency conservation measures to prevent

its deterioration.

Moreover, the wetlands selected for the next phase of designation procedure were identified by considering two further factors:

- Presence of the wetland type in question in the existing network of Ramsar sites in Russia, and
- Absence of protected nature areas within the boundaries of the site.

This list was proposed for commenting from and amending by all interested state agencies, NGOs, and experts.

Due to the recent re-organization of the structure of federal executive bodies (ministries and agencies), the endorsement of the list by the Government was postponed. It is a distinct possibility that information on some of the listed sites needs to be updated before designation. For a number of sites, updated datasheets have been compiled (See Action 1.1.1).

It should be noted that the inventory of wetlands in Russia is far from completed, and the Shadow List will obviously be amended and supplemented.

**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)**

**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

**N° Ramsar sites**  
**5 Ramsar sites;**  
**31 sites on the Shadow List**

**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.]**

Since 2002, when *Waterbird Population Estimates 3rd Edition* was published, no Ramsar sites have been designated in Russia. Earlier, Criterion 6 was used for identifying internationally important wetlands: 5 out of 35 Ramsar sites were designated (in 1994) under this criterion (among others). Criterion 6 was used in identifying 31 out of 157 wetlands for the Shadow List (2000).

**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**

**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° Ramsar sites**  
**35 Ramsar sites;**  
**145 Shadow-listed sites**

**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 35 Ramsar sites designated in 1994 contain representative, rare or unique wetland types, as well as

145 sites identified for the Shadow List.				
<b>3.- Designation of wetland types currently under-represented in the Ramsar List has been done (<u>if applicable, please include number of sites designated</u>).</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Wetland Types</b>	<b>Ramsar List (B)</b>	<b>Shadow List (F)</b>
	<b>F</b>	Seagrass beds	1	12
	Salt marshes	1	17	
	Tidal flats	4	14	
	Peatlands	19	79	
	Wet grasslands	17	21	
	Geothermal wetlands	-	1	
<b>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.]</b>				
<p>Peatlands are quite adequately represented in the Russian network of Ramsar sites. Peatlands are protected in 19 out of 35 Ramsar sites, covering 946,000 ha or 9% of the total area of Ramsar sites, although it should be noted that only 2 sites have been specially designated to protect peatland ecosystems. Only at these two sites, peatland management and restoration actions are taken.</p> <p>The presence of under-represented wetland types in the Ramsar Shadow List of the Russian Federation (compiled in 2000) is shown in the above table. Twelve small sites representing the last remaining unique steppe peatlands are considered the most important for designation. These are Endovische Mire (Orel Region), Razreznoye and Popovo Mires, Karasevka and Sosnovka Mires, Klyukvennoye Mire, Osinskoye Mire (Lipetsk Region), Bolshoye Klyukvennoye Mire, Koshelyaevskoye Mire (Tambov Region), Zorinskiye Mires (Kursk Region), Mokhovoye Mire (Belgorod Region), Klyukvennoye Mire, Deryuzhkino Mire (Voronezh Region) and Mokhovoye Mire (Saratov Region). Threats to these sites include the projected conversion of mire complexes into agricultural land, ploughing in catchment areas, and, locally, inadequate control of the hydrological regime.</p> <p>One site on the Shadow List – Thermo-mineral Springs in the Kirevna River Valley – presents a rare wetland type for Russia: geothermal wetlands (Zg). The site is the largest geothermal area on Central Kamchka that, because of its remoteness, still remains intact. It comprises a wide range of thermal habitats, from dry heated spots to thermal mires.</p> <p>Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems is the wetland type, which has not been represented either in the existing Ramsar network or in the Shadow List. A number of karst systems are protected within the Russian network of protected nature areas. The 51,500 ha Pinezhsky State Nature Reserve (<i>Zapovednik</i>) established in 1974 in the Arkhangelsk Region is of particular importance in this context. The reserve has a 150,000 ha buffer zone, including the 1,204 ha Golubinsky Sanctuary (<i>Zakaznik</i>). Monitoring of karst features and caves has been conducted in the reserve and sanctuary since 1983. There are 52 karst caves in the reserve, 21 in the sanctuary, and 15 in the buffer zone, with a total length of 45 km. Permanent rivers and creeks, and temporal watercourses are found in many large caves. In some caves, there are also waterfalls and subterranean lakes. Icing fields, stalactites, stalagmites and stalagnates occur often.</p>				

**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>

<b>See action 1.1.2</b>			
<b>1.- Designation of coastal and marine Ramsar sites has been done (<u>if applicable, please include number of sites designated</u>).</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>6 Ramsar sites;</b> <b>51 Shadow-listed sites</b>
	<b>F</b>		

<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.”

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

There are six coastal and marine Ramsar sites (designated in 1994), and 51 sites are on the Shadow List (2000).

**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.

**See action 1.1.2**

**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  
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° Ramsar sites**  
**20 Ramsar sites;**  
**51 Shadow-listed sites**

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

**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)

**See action 12.2.2**

**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  
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° Ramsar sites**  
**35 Ramsar sites;**  
**127 Shadow-listed sites**

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

The importance of wetlands for the conservation of migratory water birds at all stages of their life cycle has traditionally been the major criterion for identifying wetland sites to be listed under the Ramsar Convention. For this reason, all existing Ramsar sites and the majority of the Shadow-listed sites are important breeding, moulting, staging, or wintering areas of water birds.

**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>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	<u>N° Ramsar sites</u> <b>5 Ramsar sites;</b> <b>62 Shadow-listed sites</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
<p>The majority of Russian Ramsar sites contain protected nature areas of different status. Protected areas cover 60% of the total area of Ramsar sites, with strict nature reserves (<i>zapovedniki</i>, IUCN category I) covering 19.6%. In 1994, when the 35 Ramsar sites were designated, 5 sites were not under any form of protective regime. At present, 2 sites located in remote regions have no protected areas within their borders. These are the Gorbitya Delta and Wetlands in the Lower Bagan Area.</p> <p>On the Shadow List, there are 62 sites that have no protection status.</p>			

**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.

<b>1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of the national area of transboundary wetlands has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).</b>	<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	<u>N° Ramsar sites</u> <b>6 Ramsar sites;</b> <b>6 Shadow-listed sites</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
See Action 12.1.1.			

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

<b>1.- High Andean wetlands have been designated as Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).</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	<u>N° Ramsar sites</u>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			



**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**

**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 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**

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 contributions made.]**

**3. Populations information for wetland-dependent taxa other than waterbirds have been provided to Wetlands International**

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 information provided.]**

**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)

<b>1. Population data on waterbirds is collected regularly</b>	<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>2. The population data on waterbirds collected has been regularly provided to Wetlands International</b>	<b>B</b>	
<b>3. The population data on waterbirds collected and supplied to WI included information on globally threatened species and species with deficient data</b>	<b>B</b>	

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information available about population data on waterbirds.]**

Continued collection of waterbird population data is provided through the International Waterbird Census (IWC). Activities taken under IWC in Russia, Central Asia and South Caucasus are coordinated by the Wetlands International-Russia Programme with support from the Netherlands Government. These activities include field surveys conducted during January to count all wintering waterbirds and to collect information on their wetland habitats. In 2003-2005, from 30 to 50 waterbird experts and amateurs participated in the IWC throughout the region, and up to 3.5 million waterbirds representing nearly 100 species were counted annually. Within Russia, the mid-winter counts covered rivers, lakes, reservoirs and sea coastal zones in the Dagestan and Kalmyk Republics, and the Astrakhan, Irkutsk and Krasnodar Regions. Nearly 350,000 waterbirds were recorded in January 2004. Important data on globally threatened species were collected, including Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*), Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*).

After preliminary processing by national/sub-national IWC coordinators, the data have been sent to Wetlands International for further analysis. The results of these counts have been presented at a range of regional and international meetings and partly published. The Wetlands International-Russia Programme is preparing a regional report on the numbers and distribution of wintering waterbirds, which is to be finalized by the end of 2005.

However the waterbird wintering areas located in Russia along the coastal zones of the Baltic and Barents Seas, Sea of Okhotsk and Sea of Japan are still not covered by the regular counts.

Coordinated mainly by both Wetlands International and BirdLife International, many research projects on rare and endangered waterbird species are carried out in Russia. For instance, the Working Group on Geese and Swans of Northern Eurasia (an NGO combining ornithologists and representatives of the Hunters Association) implements the projects on Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*), Lesser White-fronted Goose, Red-breasted Goose and Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*). This contributes to the assessment of the species ranges and numbers, limiting factors and threats, and brings progress into the development of the species conservation action plans.

In collaboration with a number of organizations and experts, Wetlands International produced the "Status Overview and Recommendations for Conservation of the White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* in Central Asia" (by David Li Zuo Wei and Taej Mindkur) in 2003. This publication provides the scientific base for the development of an international action plan to conserve this endangered species.

The Russian Bird Conservation Union (RBCU, an associated partner of BirdLife), in the framework of development and further implementation of the International Action Plan for Conservation of the Corncrake *Crex crex* (Heredia B., Rose L., Painter M., Eds. 1996), has been involved into the projects on research and wise use of the species in European Russia since 1994. These projects started with large-scale counts of the Corncrake numbers, then shifted to the studies of agricultural impacts on breeding conditions, and since 2002, have been focused on monitoring the corncrake populations at the model sites with primarily involvement of birdwatchers. RBCU also conducted a project on searching for the Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*), with a negative result.

The International Crane Foundation, the Eurasian Crane Working Group and other international organizations coordinate the collection of information on the population status of Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) and other endangered crane species, such as Red-crowned Crane (*G. japonensis*), White-naped Crane (*G. vipio*), and Hooded Crane (*Grus monacha*). A number of Russian scientific and research organizations are involved in this activity, including the All-Russian Research Institute of Nature Protection, Institute of Biological Problems of Crilotozone, nature reserves in Siberia and Far-eastern Russia, and others.

Russian and international experts continue the studies of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), which breeds only in Northeastern Russia.

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

### 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**

**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 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**

**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 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.

<b>1. All required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau</b>	<b>C</b>	<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>
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Since COP8, no new *RIS* have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau. The complete data sheets and maps of the 35 existing Ramsar sites were submitted in 1997. For most Ramsar sites, revised datasheets were compiled prior to the Meeting on *Russian Ramsar Sites: Current Status and Prospects for the Future* held in October 2003 (See Action 1.1.6). The required updates need to be finalized and submitted to the Ramsar Bureau.

**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>	<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>		

**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*.

<b>1.- The measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been defined and applied (if available, please include number of sites where measures have been applied).</b>	<b>D</b>	<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;</i>  <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p><b>N°</b>  <u><b>Ramsar sites</b></u>  <b>30</b></p>
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**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.]**

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

Russian Federation.

**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 *New Guidelines for management planning* have been used for developing a management plan for the Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland Ramsar Site. The Guidelines are assumed to serve as a basis for developing management plans for 5 Ramsar sites located in the Leningrad Region (the Svir Delta, Berezovye Islands, Kurgalsky Peninsula, Southern Coast of the Gulf of Finland, Baltic Sea, and the Mshinskaya Wetland System).

**MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES**

**N° Ramsar sites**

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

10

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

6

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

5

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

**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.]**

The majority of Ramsar sites have no management plans. A few nature reserves located at the Ramsar sites have management plans developed under other processes (See r11.1.i). Information on the existing management plans developed specifically for Ramsar sites is presented below.

A 2004-2006 management plan for the Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland has been developed under a special project funded by DANCEE (Danish Cooperation for Environment in Eastern Europe) and implemented by the Pskov Regional Department of the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources. The following major subject areas have been identified based on the analysis of the current status of the wetland: an inventory of wetland biodiversity, a programme for environmental monitoring, functional zoning of the area, the involvement of land users and local communities into wetland management, education and public awareness, and the development of a plan for Russian-Estonian cooperation on the transboundary lake of Chudskoye (Peipsi). The management plan contains two major sections: a land use management plan and a plan for future development of the Ramsar Site. The Land Use Management Plan includes actions aimed at refining the borders of the Ramsar site; establishing zones for conservation, traditional land use and recreation; introducing a land use regime which will provide the sustainable use of resources; and introducing seasonal limitations on land uses to ensure conservation of important components of natural complexes. The Development Plan consists of three programmes: Programme for Biodiversity Conservation, Programme for Research and Monitoring, and Programme for Environmental Education and Public Awareness.

A number of planned actions have already been realized, including measures on improving the regime of land use, development of an environmental monitoring system, and conservation of five species of birds of prey. Professional contacts have been established between the managers of Russian and Estonian Ramsar sites located in this transborder wetland area. The implementation of the management plan is currently carried out with support from a TACIS Project on Management Plan for the Catchment Area of Lake Pskovskoye-Chudskoye, and some other projects.

A management plan for the Kurgalsky Peninsula was developed in 2000 under the Project on Conservation of Coastal Areas and Local Agenda-21, with financial support from the EU LIFE Programme, Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, EUCC – The Coastal Union, and the Environmental Fund of Leningrad Region. The concept of integrated

MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES	N° Ramsar sites
<p>management of coastal areas was at the core of the plan development. The management plan includes a description of natural and cultural features of the area, an analysis of ecosystem vulnerability, the role of Kurgalsky Reserve (<i>Zakaznik</i>) in the Baltic network of protected nature areas, and social-economic characteristics. The proposed zoning measures and changes in land use regime have been agreed with local authorities, land users, and local communities. The management plan has been approved by the Head of Kingiseppsky Municipality, but has not yet been adopted by Governor of Leningrad Region.</p> <p>Management plans for the Ramsar sites of the Volga Delta, Kuban Delta: Akhtaro-Grivenskaya Group of Limans and Kuban Delta: Group of Limans between the Kuban and Protoka Rivers were developed in 1997 under a project funded from the Ramsar Small Grants Fund. The development of draft management plans for 4 Ramsar sites located on the Kamchatsky Peninsula (Parapolsky Dol, Karaginsky Island, Moroshechnaya River and Utkholok Cape) was also supported by the Small Grants Fund in 1998.</p> <p>A management plan for the Selenga Delta Ramsar Site was prepared under the Small Grants Scheme of the Wetlands International-Russia Programme in 2004.</p> <p>The development of management plans for the Ramsar sites located in the Leningrad Region (the Svir Delta, Berezovye Islands, Southern Coast of the Gulf of Finland, Baltic Sea, and the Mshinskaya Wetland System) was started by the regional departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation in 2004, with funding from the Federal Budget.</p>	

**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
<p><b>1.- Ramsar sites in which management plans developed under other processes (e.g., Biosphere Reserves) are being applied</b></p>	<u>4</u>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites under this category, and any other comments you consider relevant.]</b></p>	
<p>Management plans have been developed for the following strict nature reserves (<i>zapovedniki</i>) located at the Ramsar sites: Kerzhensky State Biosphere Reserve (Kama-Bakaldino Mires Ramsar Site), Oksky State Biosphere Reserve (Oka and Pra River Floodplains Ramsar Site), Nizhne-Svirsky State Nature Reserve (Svir Delta Ramsar Site), and Daursky State Nature Reserve (Torey Lakes Ramsar Site).</p> <p>The Kerzhensky State Biosphere Reserve is currently developing a management plan for the Biosphere Reserve of Nizhegorodskoye Zavolzhye. It is planned to include the whole area of the Kama-Bakaldino Mires Ramsar Site into the buffer zone of this biosphere reserve.</p> <p>The development of a management plan for the Khankaisky State Nature Reserve (Lake Khanka Ramsar Site) has been started under the first phase of a GEF Project on Transboundary Cooperation for Conservation of Lake Khanka between China and Russia.</p>	

**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)

<p><b>1. The full array of Ramsar tools and guidance have been used in the development or updating of management plans for wetland sites</b></p>		<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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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**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**

*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.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**

*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.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 (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  
10**

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

**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)

<b>1. The need to increase wetland resilience to climate change and extreme climatic events has been taken into account in management planning</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 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)

<b>1. Waterbird data and analysis derived from them have been used in management planning</b>	<b>B</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 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)

<b>1. Assistance has been provided to the Ramsar Bureau in the identification of agriculture-related management practices developed for areas that include Ramsar sites</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 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)

<b>1.- Best-practice examples of effective management of Ramsar sites have been identified for possible nomination to the San José Record (if applicable, please include number of sites)</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>N° Ramsar sites</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites identified and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>			

**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 ( <u>if available, please include number of sites</u> )	<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>21</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with zoning measures, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
For the most part, Russian Ramsar sites are quite large areas divided into zones where different regimes of nature protection and limited land use have been applied. The forms of protective and sustainable use management regimes have been defined in individual regulations prepared for each site. The majority of Ramsar sites have protected natural areas of different status within their borders. The 35 Ramsar sites include, in whole or in part, 12 strict nature reserves ( <i>zapovedniki</i> , IUCN Category I) and their buffer zones, 1 national park (IUCN Category II), 10 nature reserves/sanctuaries/wildlife refuges ( <i>zakazniki</i> , IUCN Categories IV to VI) managed at federal level, 18 reserves/sanctuaries/wildlife refuges ( <i>zakazniki</i> ) managed at local level, and over 30 nature monuments (IUCN Category III). Protected natural areas cover 60% of the total area of Ramsar sites, with strict nature reserves covering 19.6%.			
3.- Strict protection measures have been established for Ramsar sites of small size and/or particular sensitivity ( <u>if available, please include number of sites</u> )	<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>14</b>
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with strict protection measures, and any additional comments you may consider relevant.]</b>			
The borders of 14 Russian Ramsar sites coincide with the borders of protected nature areas, 13 of these are <i>zakazniki</i> (IUCN Categories IV to VI). Only one Ramsar site – the 1,890,000 ha Parapolsky Dol Ramsar Site – is located within the borders of the strict nature reserve of Koryaksky Zapovednik. The protection regimes introduced in <i>zakazniki</i> s usually do not provide strict protection of the whole area of the reserve. For some <i>zakazniki</i> s, zoning measures have been established. As an example, the Kurgalsky Zakaznik has been divided into zones of strict protection, limited land use, and a buffer zone.  Strict protection measures have been established for <i>zapovedniki</i> (IUCN Category I). As noted above, the Ramsar sites network includes 12 strict nature reserves totalling over 2 million ha.  Therefore, the separation of the Russian Ramsar sites into two categories following the definitions given in paragraphs 1 and 3 is quite arbitrary.			

**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.

<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>			
1.- Site management committees have been established at Ramsar sites ( <u>if available, please include number of sites</u> )	<b>H</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;	
2.- Cross-sectoral site management committees established at Ramsar sites ( <u>if available, please include number of sites</u> )	<b>D</b>	H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
<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>			
The Ramsar sites, as a rule, are managed cooperatively by local departments of the system of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, regional and local administrations, and state nature reserves. Land users, in particular forestry and hunting management offices, are often involved in the land use management at the Ramsar sites.  The establishment of a coordinating committee for managing the Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland Ramsar			

<b><u>N° Ramsar sites</u></b>
site is planned under the site’s management plan. This committee will include representatives of governmental bodies (responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and providing control over the adopted regime of nature protection and land use), land users, local authorities, NGOs, research organizations and local communities.

**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)

<b>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>	<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 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.

<b>1. Project proposals to support management planning of Ramsar sites have been submitted to the Small Grants Fund</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>		
Since COP8, the Russian Federation has not submitted proposals on management planning to the Small Grants Fund. Earlier, in 1997 and 1998, the Fund supported two projects on the development of management plans for Russian Ramsar sites (See Action 11.1.2).		

**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)

<b>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)</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><u>N° Ramsar sites</u></b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>			

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

### 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).

		<b>N°Ramsar sites</b>
<b>1.- Monitoring programmes have been established at Ramsar sites <u>(if available, please include number of sites)</u></b>	<b>B</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2.- Monitoring programmes are part of the site management plan <u>(if available, please include number of sites)</u></b>	<b>B</b>	<b>10</b>
<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>		
Twelve strict nature reserves ( <i>zapovedniki</i> ) and some sanctuaries/wildlife refuges ( <i>zakazniki</i> ) located within Ramsar sites' borders, such as the Yelizarovsky Zakaznik (Upper Dvuobje Ramsar Site) and the Kabansky Zakaznik (Selenga Delta Ramsar Site), carry out long-term monitoring studies according to the universal programme 'Chronicle of Nature'. The results (information on flora, fauna, hydro-meteorological characteristics <i>etc.</i> collected according to standard methods) are presented in annual reports and stored in computer databases. All existing management plans for Ramsar sites include monitoring programmes.		

**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.

<b>1.- Ramsar sites are used as baseline and reference areas for national environmental monitoring <u>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</u></b>	<b>C</b>	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and any additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**3.- Status and trends on the loss of biological diversity, climate change and the process of desertification [Please include a summary of the cited issues and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]**

**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**

**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 r11.2.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**

**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 reports on current status of Ramsar sites prepared for the Meeting on *Russian Ramsar sites: Current Status and Prospects for the Future* (See action 1.1.6) contain concise information on threats and ecosystem changes occurred during the last years.

**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) (if applicable, please include number of sites)**

**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*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites  
I**

**2.- Changes or likely changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites have been reported to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2**

**C**

**3.- Ramsar sites were included in the Montreux Record since COP8 (if applicable, please include number of sites)**

**C**

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the changes or likely changes in ecological character, and list the sites affected.]**

The Caspian Sea level rise and the increasing runoff of the Volga River have entailed noticeable changes in the Volga Delta natural complex, with major ecological processes, habitats of plants and animals, and ecosystem functioning being affected (See also Action 1.2.5). The sea level rise has led to the alteration of waterbird habitats, including a contraction of feeding areas in the fore-delta; a reduction in areas occupied by *Phragmites*, *Typha*, and *Sparganium spp.*, and *Trapa natans* in the lower portion of the delta that provide important breeding and feeding habitats for waterfowl and shore birds; and a decrease in numbers of breeding, moulting and staging water birds. Despite these changes, the Volga Delta retains its international importance for many waterbird species.

**5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the steps followed to include sites in the Montreux Record since COP8.]**

**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**

*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 actions taken.]**

**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 (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 you consider relevant.]**

No Russian Ramsar sites have been included in the Montreux Record.

**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>			<b>N°Ramsar sites</b>
<b>1.- Actions have been taken to implement the recommendations of Ramsar Advisory Missions <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</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; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;	
<b>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></b>	<b>A</b>	<i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>	
<b>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></b>			

**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)

			<b>N°Ramsar sites</b>
<b>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></b>	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;	
<b>2.- Actions taken to address issues at Montreux Record Ramsar sites have been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau</b>	<b>A</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 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned and results of the actions taken.]</i></b>			

## 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>	<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>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.

<p><b>1.- All transboundary/shared wetland systems have been identified (<u>if applicable, please include number of sites</u>)</b></p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><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></p>	<p><b>N° wetlands/wetland systems</b> <b>12</b></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the transboundary wetlands identified and provide any other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b></p>			
<p>There are 6 transboundary Ramsar sites in Russia: Kurgalsky Peninsula, Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland, Torey Lakes, Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland, Zeya-Bureya Plains, and Lake Khanka. Six transboundary wetlands are on the Ramsar Shadow List: Fjarvann, Ainovy Islands, Sebez Lake Complex, Nerussa-Desna Woodland, Lake Khasan and Tumannaya Delta, and Coastal Aquatic Area around Kunashir Island and the Lesser Kuril Islands.</p> <p>There is a good probability that the number of transboundary wetland sites that need protection will increase, as a result of future wetland inventory studies. An example is provided by a project on inventory of important transboundary wetlands in Lithuania, Belarus and Russia supported by the Ramsar Small Grants Fund in 2001. Three sites located on the border between Lithuania and Russia (the Kaliningrad Region) have been identified.</p> <p>During the compilation of an inventory of wetlands in the Orenburg Region under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme, an important wetland area located on the border with Kazakhstan (Urals Urema) has been identified.</p>			

**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.

<p><b>1. Cooperative management of shared wetland systems has progressed</b></p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><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></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b></p>		
<p>The Russian Federation borders 14 countries and, for the total frontier length of 60,993 km, 7,141 km extend on rivers, 475 km on lakes and 38,887 km on seas. There are over 1,000 trans-boundary watercourses and water bodies. In total, 70 large and middle-sized river basins are trans-boundary, such as the Vuoxa River (with Finland), the Narva River and Pskovsko-Chudskoye Lake (with Estonia), the Neman (with Lithuania), the Dnepr (with Belarus and Ukraine), the Western Dvina (with Belarus and Latvia), the Samur (with Azerbaijan), the Volga, Ural, and Irtysh (with Kazajhstan), the Yenisey and Selenga (with Mongolia), the Amur (with China and Mongolia), and the Tumannaya (with China and North Korea). Realizing the critical importance of these issues, the Russian Federation actively participates in the implementation of the Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (signed by the Russian Government on 13 August 1993). Russia has signed the correspondent agreements with seven bordering countries and established the joint commissions with some</p>		

of them. Guided by these agreements within the activity of the Intergovernmental Commissions, Russia increases cooperation with Mongolia, Ukraine, Finland, Kazakhstan and Estonia to provide the wise use and conservation of transboundary watercourses and water bodies. Relevant meetings of the national representatives are regularly held. Resulting from the above, the programmes are being developed to monitor conditions of the transboundary watercourses and water bodies. The Russian Federation, Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania are engaged in preparation of agreements for conservation and wise use of transboundary watercourses and water bodies in the basins of the West Dvina/Daugava and Neman Rivers. Both the Federal Agency of Water Resources and the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources represent the Russian Federation at these meetings.

There is a progress towards developing the cooperation within the Amur River basin. Covering more than 1,8 million square kilometers, the Amur River basin is divided between Russia, China and Mongolia. The Amur's tributaries and surrounding wetlands are extremely valuable natural complexes. Rapidly worsening environmental conditions in the Amur basin call for urgent development of wider national and international activities. Russia and China, as well as Mongolia, seek to cooperate in the management of transboundary wetlands, and their cooperation has led to the following initiatives:

- The Khabarovsk Province, Evreiskaya Autonomous Region and Chita Region of Russia signed agreements with the Heilongjiang Province and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China on joint monitoring of transboundary pollutions in the Amur and Argun Rivers in 200-2003;
- The World Wide Fund for Nature in cooperation with regional NGOs developed and adopted the Conservation Action Plan for Amur Freshwater Ecoregion in 2002, and formed the joint Amur Coalition to promote implementation of this plan in January 2003;
- UNEP proposed the development of Amur Framework GEF Project to prepare solid technical grounds for effective international collaboration in 2002; and
- The international ecological network of "Green Corridor of the Amur" was developed, with actions on conservation and management of wetlands and their biodiversity on the agenda.

In recent years, many stakeholders have been involved into discussion around the ecological status of the Caspian Sea. The Caspian Sea is shared by five countries, with two of them, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, bordering Russia on the land and sea. The Caspian lagoons, coastal shallow waters and islands present very important wetland complexes. To protect the Caspian Sea from pollution and to conserve its natural resources, the Framework Convention on Environmental Protection of the Caspian Sea (Teheran Convention) was signed on 4 November 2003 in Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The Teheran Convention provides a basis for the development of cooperation among the Caspian Sea countries to ensure the environmental safety of the Caspian Sea, including the conservation and wise use of transboundary coastal wetlands. The Russian Federation joined the Teheran Convention in October 2004.

**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**

*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 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.



<i>See action 2.2.3</i>		
<b>1. Joint impact assessment processes with neighbouring countries have been applied in shared wetland systems</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 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.**

<b>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</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>		

## 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>		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<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)

<b>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)</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>N° Ramsar sites</b>
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**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]**

All 35 Russian Ramsar sites, designated in 1994, and the vast majority of sites on the Ramsar Shadow List are important breeding, moulting, staging and wintering areas of migratory water birds.

**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**

**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 Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (MNR) supports the development of Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (APMWCS) and communicates with the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee, its executive body. MNR is interested in establishing cooperation in the framework of APMWCS and further expansion of the network of sites, which are of international importance for migratory Anatidae, cranes and shorebirds. It is suggested, in particular, to nominate the Bolon wetland (Khabarovsk Province) into the Northeast Asian Site Network for Cranes to promote strengthening of regional cooperation, establishing of waterbird monitoring and improving of ecological education. Representatives of the Russian scientific society have been included in the Anatidae, Crane and Shorebird working groups and take part in the development of action plans for threatened species. In 2004, the Wetlands International – Russia Programme published the APMWCS 2001-2005 Action Plan in the Russian language and distributed it throughout Russia and Central Asian countries.

**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.]**

Hunting activities are regulated by the 1995 Federal Law on Wildlife and by the Hunting Regulations of the Russian Federation. The latter is a basic document used for developing hunting regulations for all administrative regions of the country.

**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>		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<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**

**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 Russian Federation participated in the implementation of the Wetlands International Project on the Importance of Black Sea Coastal Wetlands in particular for Migratory Waterbirds in 2000-2001.

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

<i>See action 18.1.1</i>		
<b>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>	<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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the MEAs involved and additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>		
All activities aimed at the implementation of international conventions related to environmental conservation and natural resource uses are coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. A report on the implementation of the CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan has been submitted to the CBD Secretariat.		

**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)

<i>See action 18.1.2</i>		
<b>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</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>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.]</b>		

**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.

<b>1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the National Committees and contacts of UNESCO MAB Programme</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the relevant mechanisms.]</b>		
The designated national focal point for matters relating to STRP regularly holds consultations with the MAB National Committee and submits information on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the country. Representatives of the MAB Committee participate in all major wetland meetings, including the development of recommendations. This collaboration has resulted in a number of actions realised at local level. For example, the management plan for the Kama-Bakaldino Mires Ramsar Site is prepared as part of the management plan for the Biosphere Reserve of Nizhegorodskoye Zavolzhye. A transboundary biosphere reserve and been established in the Nerussa-Desna Woodland area on the basis of the Bryansky Les Strict Nature Reserve and the Starogudskiye Lesa National Park. It is being considered to endow this reserve with a status of Ramsar site.		

**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**

**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 information on the relevant mechanisms.]**

Cross reference to Action 13.1.1.

**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**

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 mechanisms in place.]**

From the outset, the Russian Federation actively participates the Nordic-Baltic Wetland Initiative launched by Norway and the Nordic Council.

**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**

**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 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.**

<p><b>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></p>	<p><b>A</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>  <i>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 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)*

<p><b>1. The Party has participated in the implementation of the Ramsar/SPREP Joint Work Plan</b></p>	<p><b>A</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>		

**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)

<p><b>1. The Party has made use of the UNEP guidelines in relation to Ramsar</b></p>	<p><b>A</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 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION**

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14.1. Promote the sharing of expertise and information**

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**PLANNING TOOL SECTION**

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

<b>COP9 REPORT SECTION</b>
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**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**

**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 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.]**

The Workshop on *Study and Protection of Migratory Waterbirds in Central Asia: Issues of Coordination and Cooperation* was held in Kyrgyzstan (Chok-Pak, Issyk Kul Region) from 17-20 November 2003. It was organized by Wetlands International in cooperation with the Presidential Forest Service of Kyrgyz Republic and supported by the Netherlands Government under the Central Asian Flyway Project. The meeting was aimed at reviewing the regional research activity, promoting further coordination of IWC and increasing professional skills of local experts. The meeting brought together 28 waterbird specialists and wetland managers from Russia and Central Asian countries, as well as 15 officers and rangers of the Issyk Kul Nature Reserve. The program included a plenary meeting and training in aquatic ecology and waterbird identification and counting for participants and rangers of the Issyk Kul Nature Reserve. Finally, a field excursion was carried out around Issyk Kul Lake to make observations of migratory waterbirds at staging places.

The meeting has strongly contributed to the development of international cooperation in the region towards a comprehensive wetland inventory and the expansion of monitoring programmes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Within the two-month Asian Wetland Inventory project, Wetlands International-Russia Programme has conducted an assessment of training needs for undertaking the inventory in Russia and Central Asian countries. Based on responses to the circulated questionnaires, an analysis of training needs for Russia and Turkmenistan has been performed. The analysis has shown that it is required to raise capacity building of involved organizations, including government agencies, NGOs, research institutes, and management units to provide their participation in the AWI activities. Depending on target groups, the training courses should include the following wetland issues: classification, biophysical features, economic use and up-to-date methods of data collection and processing.

In the reporting period, Russian wetland managers participated in the International Courses on Wetland Management and on Wetland Restoration held in Lelystad, The Netherlands (2 persons in 2002, 3 – in 2003, and 4 in 2004).

The Wetlands International-Russia Programme has developed and published materials for training in wetland management, has collected a series of lectures, posters and booklets on wetland benefits and

peatland uses. These materials were extensively used at a number of wetland courses in adjacent countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine).

**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.

<b>1.- Networks among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training</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 wetland networks established and other comments you consider relevant.]</b>		
<p>From 2003, a GEF-UNDP project on the Development and Implementation of the Programme for Pskovskoye-Chudskoye (Peipsi) Lake Basin Management is carried out. In the course of the project implementation, efforts are made to develop a joint management plan for the Estonian and Russian Ramsar sites located in the lake area.</p> <p>A programme of cooperation between the Daursky State Nature Reserve (the Torey Lakes Ramsar Site) and the Mongolian Daursky Nature Reserve, including training and staff exchange, is underway.</p>		
<b>3.- Twinning arrangements among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training (if applicable, please include number of sites involved)</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 information on the twinning arrangement, the sites involved and other comments you consider relevant.]</b>		

**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.

<b>1. Internet-based resource kits for knowledge and information sharing on wetland issues have been developed</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>The web sites of the Wetlands International-Russia Programme (<a href="http://www.wetlands.ru">www.wetlands.ru</a>) and its Project on Peatland Conservation (<a href="http://www.peatlands.ru">www.peatlands.ru</a>) provide access to a wide range of wetland-related information.</p> <p>Cross reference to Operational Objective 9.</p>		

**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)

<b>1. Actions have been taken to share information and experiences on wetlands in mountain ecosystems</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.]**

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

**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.

<b>1. (For CPs with development assistance agencies) Funding support has been mobilized from development assistance agency for wetland issues</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. Other forms of funding support have been mobilized for wetland issues</b>		
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**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)

<b>1. The Party has worked with bilateral and multilateral donors to mobilize funding support for wetland inventories</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 implementation of this action.]</b>		

**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)

<b>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>	<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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the sites involved and include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>			
Management plan for Psovsko-Chudskoye Ramsar site was elaborated.			

**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)

<b>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>	<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 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)

<b>1. The Party has worked with donors to ensure that the ecological functions of wetlands are conserved when designing and implementing water projects</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 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)

<b>1. Financial support provided for wetland-related projects in the Oceania region</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 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.

*(For CPs with development assistance agencies)*

**1. Work has been done with the development assistance agency in relation to Ramsar's Guidelines for international cooperation (Res. VII.19)**

**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 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)*

**1. The performance of the development assistance agency in relation to wetland issues has been assessed**

**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 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.**

**1. The Party has worked with multilateral agencies to ensure that wetland issues receive due attention**

**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 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)

<b>1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to development assistance agencies</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 15.1.9.-** 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*.

<b>1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)</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
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

**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**

**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 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**

**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.]**

## **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>		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</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 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.)

<b>1. Actions have been taken to work with investors on possible impacts of their projects on wetlands</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 implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>The implementation of this objective is provided by the Federal Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and other conservation and natural resource use legislation.</p> <p>An analysis and evaluation of potential threats to wetland ecosystems (in particular marine, freshwater, and peatland ecosystems) is provided for each biogeographical region of Russia by the report ‘Current Status of Biodiversity in Natural Ecosystems in Russia’ (V.A.Orlov &amp; A.A.Tishkov, Ed. 2004. Moscow, NIA-Priroda Publishers. 116 pp.).</p>		

**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.)

<b>1. Work has been done to introduce mechanisms to direct resources derived from wetlands back to wetland management</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>		

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

<b>1. Ramsar dues have been paid in full and in a timely manner</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

By Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 166-p enacted on 11 February 2002, the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation was assigned to coordinate all activities related to the Russian Federation's membership in international conservation organizations and to the implementation of environmental conventions, including the Ramsar Convention. This Resolution also instructs to provide for contributions to the Convention's budget at the planning stage of developing an annual state budget.

The Ramsar dues of US\$ 32,950 were paid in early 2004.

**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.

***In addition to any contributions listed under Action 15.1.6 above, voluntary contributions have been made:***

<b>1. to the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International</b>	<b>C</b>	<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>
<b>2. to support regional initiatives under the Convention</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>3. for Ramsar Advisory Missions related to Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>4. towards the development and maintenance of logistics of the San José Record</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>5. to support the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>6. to expand the internship programme at the Ramsar Bureau</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>7. in relation to COP9</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>8.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contributions made to support the services indicated above.]</b>		

## 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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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</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**

*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 STRP National Focal Point and other comments you consider relevant.]**

See Section on *Institutional Information*

### 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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### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>		<i>A = High; B = Medium; C = Low; D = Not relevant; E = No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</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.

**1. A review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been completed**

**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*



<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the review and other comments you consider relevant.]</b>		
<p>Information on sectoral, scientific and other institutions accumulating information on peatlands is provided in the following publication: <i>Peatlands in Russia: towards an analysis of sectoral information</i>. A.A.Sirin &amp; T.Yu.Minaeva, Eds. 2001. Moscow, GEOS Publ. 190 pp. (In Russian).</p> <p>A database on organizations responsible for scientific studies and conservation of nature has been compiled under the GEF Project on Biodiversity Conservation in Russia.</p> <p>The NIA-Priroda electronic library (<a href="http://lib.priroda.ru">http://lib.priroda.ru</a>) contains a reference book: A.V.Fedorov. <i>Russian non-governmental organizations on nature management and environmental conservation</i>. 2004. Moscow. (In Russian).</p>		
<i>See action 13.1.1</i>		
<b>3. A coordinating committee among focal points of environment-related conventions is in place</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>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the coordinating committee and other comments you consider relevant.]</b>		
<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>	<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>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>	<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>7.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant cooperation mechanisms and any other comments you consider relevant.]</b>		

**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)

<b>1. Work has been done to address the linkages between climate change and wetlands</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
See Action 3.4.9.		

**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.

*See actions r3.4.iii, r13.1.iii*

**1. A National Ramsar / Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body) is in place**

**F**

*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. If a Ramsar Committee exists, it is cross-sectoral (relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, key stakeholders, local communities, private sector, etc.)**

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the National Ramsar Committee].**

Until 2004, the duties of National Ramsar Committee were performed by the Inter-sectoral Working Group on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Group was established under the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection by Chairman Resolution No. 9 issued on 15 January 1997. The members of the Working Group belonged to 16 bodies, including federal ministries, state committees, scientific institutions, and non-governmental organizations. At the present time, due to the reorganization of federal executive bodies (ministries and agencies) in conformity with Decree of President of the Russian Federation *On System and Structure of Federal Executive Bodies*, No. 314 of 9.03.2004, the Working Group's membership is being reconsidered.

**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**

*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 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**

**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.]**

In 1999, the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the Wetlands International-Russia Programme, and with broad participation of GOs, NGOs and individual experts developed the Draft Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Conservation of the Russian Federation (See Action 2.1.1). This Draft Strategy currently serves as a baseline document for planning wetland conservation actions.

**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**

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

**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.**

<b>1. The Party has participated in the development and use of the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International</b>	<b>F</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 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.**

<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>	<b>E</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 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)).

**1. The wetland-related training opportunities that exist in the country have been identified**

**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 training programme on wetland management and conservation has been developed and realised under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme, in cooperation with governmental conservation bodies (See also Action 14.1.2).

**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.

**1. Training modules and materials on wetland-related 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 information on the development of training modules and materials for the issues listed above, and additional comments you consider relevant.]**

The Guidelines on Wetland Inventory were developed by V.G.Krivenko and V.G.Vinogradov in 1995, and were distributed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation to regional conservation authorities.

For materials on economic valuation of wetlands, see Action 2.2.4.

Lectures for the staff of environmental education departments of nature reserves and national parks, and for school teachers are delivered under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme. Materials on wetland features and functions for biology teachers are being developed in cooperation with Moscow School No. 57.

**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.

<b>1. Opportunities for manager training in the country have been provided</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 implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>There is a strong need for training the staff of conservation organizations to provide qualified management to wetlands. One training course on wetland management was held under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme in 2001. The Programme staff regularly provides consultations on management planning.</p> <p>A field workshop on peatland restoration was organised cooperatively by the Wetlands International-Russia Programme and the Belarus Bird Conservation NGO in 2004. Wetland management problems and experience accumulated were discussed.</p> <p>A number of manuals on the wise use and conservation of peatlands are being developed for wetland managers under the Project ‘<i>Conserving Peatlands of Central Russia: the wise use approach to peatlands ecosystem management</i>’ funded by the Netherlands Government through the PIN/MATRA Funds.</p>		

**Action 20.1.7.-** Continue to encourage the development of projects for submission to the *Small Grants Fund* for support for training activities.

<b>1. Training-related projects have been submitted to the Small Grants Fund</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>A project on <i>Building Up a Framework for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Russia</i> was submitted in 2003. Activities proposed under this project included the development of methodology and recommendations required for the Convention implementation in the areas of wetland legislation, management, and education and public awareness. The proposal was not funded.</p>		

**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).

<b>1.- Support has been provided to the development of regional wetland training and research centres (if applicable, please include number of centres)</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>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of centres and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			

**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.

<b>1. The Party has participated in exchanges of information and expertise related to wetland training issues</b>	<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>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21.1. Secure the universal membership of the Convention

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## PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</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 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>D</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>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
e). An inventory of important wetlands in Northern Kazakhstan compiled in conformity with the Ramsar Convention methodology has been published by WWF Russia ( <i>The Most Important Wetlands of North Kazakhstan</i> . T.M.Bragina & E.A.Bragin, Eds. 2001. Moscow. 156 pp.). This publication includes information on the Ramsar Convention.		

## FEEDBACK ON COP9 NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

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<p><b><i>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)</i></b></p>		
<p>The compilers of this report have come to the conclusion that the report format is rather cumbersome and makes it difficult to properly present all diverse activities on wetland conservation and wise use, which have been undertaken in the Russian Federation. The formulation of some questions is inadequate to the political and social-economic peculiarities of the country and does not keep up with the traditional approach to nature conservation in Russia where the strict nature reserves and other protected natural areas still assume a leading role.</p>		
<p><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></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>