



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

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

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> (see footnote 1)
---

<b>INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION (OPTIONAL)</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<i>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 ..</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>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.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION, INCLUDING IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND VALUATION</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<i>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2.1. Specify the most appropriate policy instrument(s) to be used in each country to ensure the wise use of wetlands.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>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.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<i>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.1. Develop and disseminate methodologies to achieve the conservation and wise use of wetlands .....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.2. Ensure the conservation and wise use of peatlands as a demonstration of the ecosystem-based approach under the Convention .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>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 .....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>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 .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<i>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.....</i>	<i>33</i>
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<i>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5.1. Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems.....</i>	<i>38</i>
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 6. LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND CULTURAL VALUES</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<i>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 .....</i>	<i>41</i>
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT</b> .....	<b>45</b>
<i>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7.1. Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.....</i>	<i>45</i>
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8. INCENTIVES</b> .....	<b>48</b>
<i>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8.1. Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use principle, and the removal of perverse incentives.....</i>	<i>48</i>
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)</b> .....	<b>49</b>
<i>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.I. Integrate CEPA processes into all levels of policy development, planning and implementation of the Convention.....</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>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.....</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.III. Provide national leadership, networks and cohesive frameworks to support and catalyse CEPA for the wise use of wetlands.....</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.IV. Transfer, exchange and share CEPA information and expertise that promotes and results in the wise use of wetlands.....</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>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 .....</i>	<i>54</i>

<sup>1</sup> **Important:** before printing the document, the Menu option TOOLS/OPTIONS/PRINT/UPDATE FIELDS has to be activated in order to update page numbers in the Table of Contents.

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.....	56
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE R9.VII. Support and develop mechanisms to ensure that CEPA processes are incorporated into participatory, multi-stakeholder wetland management.....	57
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.....	58
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES.....</b>	<b>60</b>
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).....	60
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.....	64
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES .....</b>	<b>65</b>
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11.1. Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites.....	65
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.....	71
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12. MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS AND WETLAND SPECIES.....</b>	<b>74</b>
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.1. Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins.....	74
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.2. Promote cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.....	76
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.3. Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.....	77
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS.....</b>	<b>77</b>
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13.1. Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies.....	77
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>80</b>
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14.1. Promote the sharing of expertise and information.....	80
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15. FINANCING THE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS .....</b>	<b>82</b>
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15.1. Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands.....	82
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.....	86
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 16. FINANCING OF THE CONVENTION .....</b>	<b>87</b>
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.....	87
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE CONVENTION .....</b>	<b>88</b>
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.....	88
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CONTRACTING PARTIES.....</b>	<b>89</b>
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18.1. Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.....	89
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20. TRAINING .....</b>	<b>91</b>
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.....	91
<b>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION .....</b>	<b>94</b>
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21.1. Secure the universal membership of the Convention.....	94
<b>FEEDBACK ON COP9 NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT .....</b>	<b>95</b>

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**SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION (OPTIONAL)**

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

**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](#)

<b>PLANNING TOOL SECTION</b>
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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	To have a comprehensive inventory of all wetlands by 2006	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	To map the extent, distribution and diversity of South Africa's wetlands, and identify the functions and values of individual wetlands, including ecological, social and cultural values	

<b>COP9 REPORT SECTION</b>
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**Action 1.1.1.-** Promote and encourage the use of standard wetland inventory methodologies following the *Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6)*, to undertake, update and disseminate national (or, where appropriate, provincial) scientific inventories of wetlands.

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

<b>1.- Country has a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory (<i>if inventory exists, please include the number of sites</i>)</b>	<b>E</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>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</b>
<b>2.- Methodologies recommended in the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6) were used for National Wetland Inventory</b>	<b>B</b>		

**3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the application of inventory methodologies, the status of the inventory - end date or expected timeframe, contents of the inventory - and other additional comments you consider relevant.]**

In 2001, a pilot study on the most suitable and cost effective methods for undertaking the wetland inventory was undertaken. The final report for the pilot study was produced in April 2002. In its recommendations, the project team identified an opportunity to integrate the first phase of the inventory into the National Land Cover 2000 (NLC) project. The team further recommended that the techniques for mapping wetlands from satellite imagery, which were developed during the pilot project, be incorporated into the methodology of NLC. The NLC project is using satellite imagery to produce a detailed 1:50 000 scale baseline inventory of current land cover and land use for the entire country. The wetland inventory being undertaken through this project will generate the first systematic national overview of the country's wetland resources, at an approximate mapping scale of 1:50 000. This information will be stored in a web-accessible database containing the attributes, functions and values of individual wetlands, and linked to spatial data by a geographical information system (GIS). Upon completion, the national inventory will permit a diverse range of analyses to be done on the data at national, provincial and catchment level.

Wetland habitats will be mapped and classified using remote sensing, with the initial national overview being generated through the NLC 2000 project. Subsequent phases of the inventory will concentrate on more detailed mapping and assessment of wetlands in priority catchments, with particular emphasis on planning for catchment-scale wetland rehabilitation interventions. The methodology for mapping wetlands, as well as the kind of remote sensing to be used, was determined in the pilot study.

The national wetland coverage generated by the inventory will have numerous applications, including the establishment of a baseline for measuring future change in wetland area, function and values. Status and trends analyses will be possible, in order to assess the need for, or effectiveness of, specific wetland conservation policies and strategies. These analyses will be incorporated into State of the Environment reports. The recommendations of the project team on the use the opportunity presented by the NLC were unanimously adopted.

The key performance indicators for the inventory include:

- Catchments prioritised for more detailed mapping and assessment (May 2004)
- Database and web serving architecture in place (November 2004)
- Inventory data accessible via internet (February 2005)
- Wetland mapping completed through National Land Cover 2000 (June 2005)
- Detailed mapping and assessment complete for priority catchments (April 2006)
- All data accessible via internet (June 2006)
  
- The first wetland data was released in September 2003 for the provinces of Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal, and is in the process of being evaluated by a range of users. Data for phase II of the project, which covers North-West, Free State and Eastern Cape provinces will be released in mid-2005.

Activities to be undertaken include:

- Development of a GIS-linked, web-enabled database for storage and dissemination of wetland inventory information
- Finalisation of classification systems that can be used to add value to NLC data
- Development of standards for wetland mapping undertaken through other initiatives, in order to ensure compatibility with the national inventory
- Approval by key stakeholders of priority catchments for further inventory work and systematic wetland rehabilitation planning
- Ground truthing of phase II NLC data for the provinces of North-West, Free State, and Eastern Cape)
- Publicity around the existence of the inventory data and its potential applications

**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*

<i>Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:</i>			<b>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</b>
<b>1. The inventory assesses and documents potential Ramsar Sites</b>	<b>F</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>	
<b>2. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands of national, provincial or local importance</b>	<b>F</b>	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some</i>	
<b>3. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation</b>	<b>F</b>	<i>cases; E = In progress;</i>	
<b>4. The inventory assesses and documents wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List</b>	<b>F</b>	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>	
<b>5. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply</b>	<b>F</b>	<i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	



<i>See actions 3.2.1, 3.3.1, r4.1.1, and Operational Objective 10.1</i>		
<i>Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:</i>		<b>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</b>
6. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of coastal protection	<b>F</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
7. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of flood defense	<b>F</b>	
8. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of food security	<b>F</b>	
9. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of poverty alleviation	<b>F</b>	
10. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of cultural heritage	<b>F</b>	
11.- The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research	<b>F</b>	
12.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Comments on the information included in the wetland inventory in light of the items indicated above]</i>		
Refer to Action 1.1.1		

**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>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Refer to Action 1.1.1		

**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	<b>E</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>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Refer to Action 1.1.1		

**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	F	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among wetland managers	F	
3. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among other wetland users	F	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
While the inventory data that have been generated to date are being made available for purposes of validation by wetland managers, the data are not yet in a format that facilitates the use of the inventory by decision makers and wetland managers and users. As a result, there has not yet been a concerted effort to promote the application of the inventory among these groups. Such activities will take place once the first data has been converted into GIS compatible format and is readily accessible via internet and other means.		

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

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

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

### 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; analyse the MA's methodologies, results and findings at Ramsar COP9, and review the necessary actions, if any, to update and make comprehensive the global assessment of wetland resources and their condition. (Refer also to Action 1.1.5)

1. Contribution made to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project (MA)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the contribution made to the work of the MA.]</i>		



South Africa has participated in and edited the Ecosystem Services in Southern Africa: A Regional Assessment chapter of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

**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>	<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; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at regional (supranational) scale</b>	<b>H</b>	
<b>3. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at local scale</b>	<b>H</b>	

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

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act calls for listing of national ecosystems that are threatened or in need of protection to ensure the maintenance of their ecological integrity. If appropriate, some of the MA guidance and methods could be applied in this exercise.

**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>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the repository of assessment of changes in wetland status, its contents and uses.]**

Assessments of changes in the status of wetland resources, pressures on these resources and policy responses are summarised in both national, provincial and municipal state of environment reports, as well as state of rivers reports. These reports are updated every five years at national level and have been completed for all nine provinces, ten municipalities and several river systems.

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

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

Wetlands were included implicitly in a review undertaken by the South African National Biodiversity Institute on the response of South Africa's biomes to climate change. The assessment was carried out at a coarse national scale and did not extend to individual ecosystems.

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

<b>1. Past losses and current status and trends of coastal wetlands documented</b>	<b>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 conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands.]</b>		
There has to date been no systematic national-scale survey of the conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands. Mapping of these ecosystems is being undertaken as part of the national wetland inventory (see action 1.1.1). However, approximately 50% of South Africa's coastal wetlands on the Mozambique Coastal plain are in formal conservation areas. In other parts of South Africa, some are in the coastal national parks, e.g. Tsitsikama, Wilderness Lakes, Aggullas, Cape Peninsula, Saldanha and the Verloren Vlei Ramsar site.		
<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>		
Refer to 2 above.		

**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>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. Information on conservation status of mangroves has been compiled</b>	<b>B</b>	
<b>3. Information on levels of use of mangroves has been compiled</b>	<b>B</b>	
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information compiled related to mangroves.]</b>		
Ongoing monitoring		

**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> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the impacts of dams on wetlands, sites affected, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			
The National Water Act and Environment Conservation Act consider dam construction to be an activity for which prior authorisation is required. Assessments of the environmental impacts of proposed dam projects must be undertaken in order to provide the regulatory authorities with sufficient information for decision making. These assessments take into account impacts to dam sites and on downstream ecosystems. Recent impact studies have seen wetlands being increasingly taken into account in assessment of on-site and downstream impacts. In the case of the Springgrove dam, for example, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry included in the authorisation for construction of the dam a requirement for offsite mitigation, in order to offset the loss of wetlands inundated by the new dam.			
<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>			
Impacts identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• alteration of the quality, quantity and timing of water received by downstream wetlands;</li> <li>• barriers to movement of aquatic species</li> <li>• loss of wetlands through inundation</li> <li>• alteration of sediment supply dynamics to downstream ecosystems and increased soil erosion</li> </ul>			

downstream of the dam to compensate for lost sediment (Lane coefficient)

- loss or reduction of benefits derived from wetlands which are impacted through the above factors

**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).

1.- Impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands have been assessed <i>(if available, please include number of sites assessed)</i>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;	<b>N° wetlands /Ramsar sites</b> <u>1</u>
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>D</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 the impacts of drought and other natural disasters on wetlands and people dependent on them, with any other information you consider relevant.]</b>			
The St Lucia estuarine system, a Ramsar and World Heritage Site, was significantly affected by drought in 2002-2003. The impact of the drought on the ecosystem was closely monitored by the managing authority, Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife.			

**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>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 assessment undertaken.]</b>		
Many activities undertaken in South Africa's estuaries support actions required for sustainable utilisation of fish, both in Ramsar sites and other wetlands. For instance, all fishing by means of gillnets in the Berg River Estuary, which is one of the wetlands identified for potential Ramsar designation, has been stopped since 2004, consistent with possible improvements in its protected status. This led to the recovery in the nursery function of the estuary, which supports species exploited in the coastal areas of South Africa's west coast. Similarly, in Kosi Bay and Lake St Lucia (also a World Heritage Site) and all other estuaries in the South Africa's East Coast Province of KwaZulu-Natal, gill netting is being phased out over five years with 20% reduction already effected in the number of legal gill nets in 2004. This fishery, which does not support some subsistence fishers as well as those acting informally on a more commercial basis, is being phased out (not just stopped) in order to allow the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to proceed with alternative opportunities for those affected. These opportunities involve fishing with other less damaging gear types (e.g. traditional traps and line fishing), as well as opportunities not relying on fishing during the phase-out period. The effects of this change should significantly rebuild stocks and improve the sustainability of coastal fisheries.		
<b>3. Recommendations on sustainable management practices of fish stocks in wetlands have been transmitted to relevant authorities/stakeholders</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

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

Ongoing monitoring is used to assess the need for adjustments to regulations, quotas and other fishing constraints.

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

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

**1. The water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands has been assessed**

**E**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

The National Water Act (1998) makes provision for determinations of water allocations for wetlands (the Ecological Reserve) as part of the National Water Act Resource Protection and Assessment Policy Implementation Process. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has compiled a priority list of wetlands for which reserve determinations should still be undertaken. The intention behind determining the Ecological Reserve for individual wetlands is to allocate sufficient water to maintain ecosystem functioning.

Currently, for all water development initiatives, Reserve requirements are considered before any water use licences can be issued. If the Reserve requirements cannot be met during the low flow season, or the catchment is stressed, the application is not recommended until a further more comprehensive Reserve determination is completed.

**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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

**PLANNING TOOL SECTION**

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<p><b>1. The Department is currently in the process of drafting new Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations under the National Environmental Management Act. The regulations are intended at regulating and identifying activities and geographical areas under relevant sections in the Act mentioned. Activities with adverse impacts on the environment in general, and wetlands in particular, form an integral part of this exercise. It is envisaged that the regulations will be effected before the end of 2005.</b></p> <p><b>2. To have by 2006, a comprehensive list of ecosystems that are endangered, threatened and in need of protection, as required by the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act. Wetlands form an integral part of this exercise.</b></p>	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b>	See targets above.	

(text answer):	
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### COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. A National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) is in place	<b>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
2. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible	<b>D</b>	
3. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporates WSSD targets and actions	<b>D</b>	

**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.]**

South Africa does not have a stand-alone wetland policy, but wetland issues are explicitly addressed in a range of water, biodiversity and environment policy instruments. Since COP8 wetlands have been further entrenched in policy through the enactment of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (2004), National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (2003) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which is nearing completion and which will be given legal recognition through the Biodiversity Act. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will have clear targets, timeframes and role players with regard to biodiversity.

A White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity has been in place since 1997. It addresses wetlands specifically, with 11 policy and strategy measures in place to protect wetlands.

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

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

1. Wetland issues have been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development called for by WSSD	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies	<b>B</b>	
3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans	<b>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>D</b>	



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

Wetlands feature in the Framework of an Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in programme area 2 (p 9) with 9 activities to ensure the conservation of Africa's wetlands. The National Water Resource Strategy, published by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in 2004, incorporates wetland issues, in keeping with the scope of the National Water Act. The Expanded Public Works Programme, launched in 2003, includes a programme, Working for Wetlands, which explicitly marries wetland restoration with employment creation, poverty alleviation and skills transfer. Working for Wetlands is currently developing a multi-faceted strategy for broader wetland conservation and wise use, using restoration as the hub.

**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 land restitution and reform process currently underway takes account of historical and current land tenure systems, including those for wetlands in some cases. There are several instances of land restitution claims culminating in the return of wetlands to communal ownership, through Communal Property Associations (e.g. a portion of "The Swamp" near Underberg, KwaZulu-Natal). Individual wetland tenure systems, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo provinces, have been intensively studied and employed in order to promote equitable and sustainable management. Communities' rights of access to wetland resources, even in protected areas, are receiving increased attention as the conservation paradigm shifts to become more inclusive and people-centred. However, much work remains to be done in this respect. A key challenge that needs to be addressed is that traditional and local controls over resource use have been severely eroded in many communally used wetlands.

**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.

**1. Examples of best practice related to the integration and harmonisation of policies and legislation have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau/STRP**

**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 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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

<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>	<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. A review of legislation and institutions to promote the wise use of wetlands has been completed</b>	<b>E</b>	
<b>3. Legislation and institutional procedures have been modified to preclude unwise use of wetlands</b>	<b>C</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.]***

A review of legislation and institutions is being undertaken as part of a wetlands research programme initiated jointly by the Water Research Commission and the Working for Wetlands Programme. To date this has not resulted in legislation or institutional procedures being modified to preclude unwise use of wetlands.

**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)

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

A de facto national wetlands committee exists, in the form of the current steering committee for Working for Wetlands. The three parent departments of the programme, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Water Affairs and Forestry, and Agriculture, participate in the committee, together with other governmental and non-governmental partners. The committee has been meeting quarterly since 2003 and, although its composition is relatively narrow, it contains the key actors concerned with wetland conservation and wise use at national level. The scope of the committee is rapidly expanding beyond oversight of Working for Wetlands, to the point where the agenda is dominated by broader wetland issues of mutual interest to the three departments. Upon the completion of the strategy development process outlined under action 2.1.2, memoranda of agreement will be concluded between the three departments, which give a formal mandate to Working for Wetlands and recognise the steering committee as the formal national structure for cooperative governance relating to wetlands.

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

*See action r3.3.iii*

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

**D**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

Although within the South African Heritage Resources Act there is no mention of wetlands, efforts that are directed at protecting cultural and heritage resources also take into account all ecosystems to which these values are attached, including wetlands.

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

*See action r3.1.i*

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

**D**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

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

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

**C**

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

**D**

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

Assessments of the conservation status of mountain wetlands in some areas, particularly the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park, have been completed.

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

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

**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*

<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>		
Existing legislation regulating activities with potential to impact detrimentally on the environment is in the process of being replaced by regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (See also targets under Operational Objective 2.1). These regulations legislate Integrated Environmental Management procedures. Input to the development of the regulations, which list activities specific to wetlands, such as peat mining, took account of the guidelines for environmental impact assessment adopted at COP8. The regulations are expected to come into effect in the first half of 2005.		
<b>3. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in impact assessment processes</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 additional comments on the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in impact assessment processes.]</b>		
The current legislated procedures for evaluating and authorising activities with a potential substantial detrimental effect on the environment require that impact assessments include a thorough public participation component that takes account of all interested and affected parties.		

**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>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2. A review of policies, programmes, and plans that may impact upon wetlands has been completed</b>	<b>E</b>	
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the review of policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands.]</b>		
A review of policies, programmes and plan that may impact upon wetlands is underway as part of the research programme described under action 2.2.1		
<b>4. Strategic Environmental Assessment practices have been applied while reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands</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>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.**

1.- Legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applicable to wetlands is in place	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>	<b>N° wetlands /Ramsar sites</b> <b><u>Not available</u></b>
2.- EIA is carried out for projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands ( <i>if available, please include number of sites</i> )	<b>D</b>		
3.- EIAs have included full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts	<b>D</b>		
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include comments on Environmental Impact Assessment implementation at national level.]</b>			
Refer to action r2.2.iv. Legislation relating to EIAs in South Africa is structured in such a way that it regulates activities that may have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment, rather than regulating impacts of any activity on particular areas such as wetlands. This has resulted in certain unlisted activities, which may take place in wetlands, falling outside the scope of the EIA legislation. However, experience has shown that the majority of activities that have the potential to significantly impact upon wetlands are covered by this legislation.			

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

## PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

## COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

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

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

1. Advice, methods and best practice studies on the wise use of wetlands, including the application of the ecosystem approach, have been compiled and distributed to wetland managers	<b>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
A number of initiatives are underway, within South Africa and the sub-region, to develop tools and guidelines		



for the wise use of wetlands. These include work being done by the Mondri Wetlands Project on small-scale cultivation of wetlands, and engagement with the sugar industry: an IWMI GEF-funded project to examine agricultural use of wetlands in southern Africa and a range of other initiatives at local levels.

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

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

**1. Ramsar's new management planning guidelines (Resolution VIII.14) have been adapted and incorporated into national practice**

**E**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

These guidelines are being incorporated, where appropriate, into work being done through the Water Research Commission's wetland research programme and other initiatives.

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

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

**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.]**

Progress has not been assessed since COP8.

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

*See action r2.2.iii*

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

**D**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable;*

*B = Yes;*

*C = No;*

*D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned;*

*G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below);*

*I = No answer*

**2. 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**

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

**C**

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

**C**



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

Some localised actions have been taken within broader initiatives, such as the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park, to improve awareness and understanding of mountain and high altitude wetlands. Information and expertise has been shared with Lesotho, partly through the IMCG General Assembly, which involved visits to high altitude wetlands in Lesotho in 2004. South Africa has been approached informally to collaborate with the newly formed wetlands unit within the Lesotho Department of Water Affairs.

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

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

**A**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

**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 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>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>		
<p>The party represents Africa on the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands. The party attended two of the three Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands meetings. It contributed information on the status of peatlands in southern Africa and initiatives such as Working for Wetlands (peatland restoration and poverty alleviation), the International Mire Conservation Group Wise use project in Maputaland and Identification and Mapping of Peatlands in Southern Africa. The party also expanded the representation of Africa on the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands by nominating representatives from the IUCNROSA SADC Wetlands Project to join the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands.</p> <p>The party participated in identifying global research needs and projects for implementation and in the drafting of a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands resolution for COP9 in Uganda.</p> <p>The Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands started to collect information on actions underway, outputs available and further actions needed, according to the priority themes outlined in the Ramsar guidelines for global action on peatlands (annexed to Resolution VIII.17). Since COP8, over USD100 million have been invested in wise use of peatlands, including conservation, restoration and sustainable development, addressing poverty-environment, water resources management and climate change issues.</p>		

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

1. Action has been taken to implement at national level the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <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>		
<p>The party is supporting through the Peat Working Group and related departments (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Department of Agriculture and Department of Water Affairs and Forestry) the wise use principles of Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands. The Peat Working Group and related national departments as well as provincial departments and conservation bodies has supported initiatives such as The International Mires Conservation Group Wise use project in Maputaland and Identification and Mapping of Peatlands in Southern Africa (inventory and awareness raising). The South African National Biodiversity Institute-Working for Wetlands programme sets the trend in terms of peatland restoration, poverty alleviation, skills transfer and awareness raising.</p>		

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

1. Funds have been made available at national level for the implementation of the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <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>		
<p>The South African National Biodiversity Institute-Working for Wetlands programme allocates 20 - 25% (US\$ 1.3 - 1.7 mil) of its annual budget to peatland and mire restoration, poverty alleviation, skills transfer and</p>		

awareness raising. It also partly sponsored the International Mires Conservation Group Congress to southern Africa in 2004 and provide technical advice to departments on peatland and mire matters.

**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**

**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.- 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.]**

Approximately 60 - 80% of South Africa's peatlands and mires are hosted on the Mozambique Coastal plain. About 50% of these peatlands (Grundling, Baartman and Mazus, 1998) on the Mozambique Coastal plain in the greater park are in formal conservation areas. The peatlands are nearly pristine except for the encroachment of afforestation and desiccation of Tropical Peat Swamp Forests for subsistence and commercial purposes. Peatlands and mires in the interior of South Africa are not well conserved and are under threat from climate change, water abstraction, draining and peat mining as well as peat mining (Grundling and Marneweck, 2000).

### 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

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

*See action 1.1.2*

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

**D**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

*I = No answer*

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

Little progress has been made since COP8 in systematically protecting wetlands that have been identified as having particularly significant functions. However, restoration interventions through Working for Wetlands

have targeted wetlands where particularly important benefits have either been diminished or are under threat as a result of changes in ecological character. One example is the Bushbuckridge area of Limpopo province, where a large wetland containing numerous small-scale food gardens was under threat of destruction from headward erosion, which had already destroyed several people's livelihoods. In response to the threat posed to local food security by the loss of the entire wetland, Working for Wetlands intervened and stabilised the gully erosion, thereby safeguarding the remaining gardens.

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

*See actions r2.2.ii, 6.1.6*

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

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

**D**

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

In 2003, Working for Wetlands commissioned research into the social and cultural values of wetlands in South Africa, which culminated in a research report and a summarised brochure aimed at raising awareness of cultural values as a tool for wetland conservation and wise use. A large-scale restoration project has been underway at Lake Fundudzi in Limpopo province since 2003, in recognition of the lake's sacred status among local communities and the threats to its ecological character. Several local scale initiatives, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal province, focus on cultural and social values as rallying points for broader wetland conservation. One of the key cultural values recognized in several of these initiatives is the importance of wetlands as a source of materials for weaving traditional crafts, which are being afforded new value through local business development and exploration of new market opportunities.

South Africa will continue to work towards adoption by the COP of criteria through which to give formal recognition to social and cultural values of wetlands in identifying and designating Ramsar sites. World Wetlands Day 2005 celebrations across the country reinforced the connections between cultural heritage and wetlands in South Africa. For instance, the national event was held at The Swamp wetlands in KwaZulu-Natal Province. These wetlands provided an excellent venue for highlighting the biological and cultural diversity of wetlands in general. They are under diverse ownership, including portions owned by the Enhlanhleni community with its 800 plus residents through a Community Property Association, the Swamp Nature Reserve managed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the Reichenau Mission of the Diocese of Mariannhill that was established in 1886. The Women's Leadership and Training Programme, an NGO based at the Mission, works very closely with the Enhlanhleni community and other nearby communities, and some of the initiatives that this NGO is supporting that are linked in some way with the wetland include:

- Ikhwezi Crafts, a co-operative of crafters whose work includes weaving of incema and ukhasi from The Swamp
- Reichenau Cultural and Eco-tourism through which local youth have been trained as guides, links have been forged with broader tourism initiatives in the Underberg area and a trail along the Pholela is being developed. The trail cooperative has removed invasive species in the wetlands and verges of the Pholela River, and thatch has been harvested.
- The establishment of Environmental Clubs in historically disadvantaged communities located in the Southern Drakensberg. Awareness about wetlands and cranes has been raised and the Swamp has been used as an outdoor classroom.
- The Reichenau Catering and Hospitality Group, who are very well positioned to cater for a World

Wetlands Day Event at Reichenau.

Masidle Phansi, a permaculture training project to encourage communities to establish home and market gardens using organic methods of agriculture and conservation principles.

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

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

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

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

**B**

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

**D**

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

**D**

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

See action 3.3.3

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

**1. Wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and food and water security plans have been developed**

**B**

*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.]**

WWF's Mondi Wetlands Project has a community programme that works in Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal provinces promoting the wise use of communally-owned wetlands for subsistence agriculture, as well as the use of wetland vegetation for grazing and weaving tourist and traditional crafts. This is aimed at promoting the wise use of wetlands for food security, and the generation of income from weaving products in between annual crop harvests. Wise use guidelines on the wise use of wetlands for subsistence agriculture have been



developed for use by agricultural extension officers. Training courses for government extension staff on how to use the guidelines has also begun. Best practice guidelines for participatory management of communal wetlands are also currently being developed.

Working for Wetlands is rooted in the twin objectives of restoring ecological integrity of wetlands, while relieving poverty through employment creation and skills transfer. In 2004, 1250 people from marginalised groups were employed for a total of 200 000 person days to carry out restoration interventions across 32 projects. Part of the skills transfer process includes raising awareness among workers of the value of the work they are doing and the link between wetlands and human well-being, with the ultimate aim of turning every worker into a “wetland ambassador”.

Significant progress has been in the Eastern Cape Estuaries Management Programme in enhancing the wise use of selected estuaries through strengthened controls over utilization and promotion of community based tourism initiatives utilizing the estuary. The Water Research Commission is funding the Programme. The Programme aims to define effective management needs and sustainable utilisation of Eastern Cape estuaries since they will be increasingly subjected to pressure over the coming years. There is also increased government and donor investment in historically undeveloped areas, as well as increased demands on estuaries to provide economic benefits to surrounding communities.

In some instances, wetlands have however not been effectively incorporated into food and water security plans developed by the departments responsible for water and agriculture. The International Mires Conservation Group project in Maputaland focus on the wise use of peat swamp forests to support the sustainable use of peatlands for subsistence agriculture. The International Water Management Institute-GEF funded project is also looking at this aspect of wetlands in general.

**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.

*See action 20.1.8*

**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**

*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.]**

Research, supported jointly by the non-governmental Mondi Wetlands Project and the Water Research Commission/Working for Wetlands research partnership, has produced WETLAND-ASSESS, a tool for evaluating the functional values of wetlands, including those listed above. Research has also been undertaken on the importance of selected wetlands in KwaZulu-Natal and in the Sand River Catchment, Limpopo for food security and livelihood support.

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

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



1. Actions have been taken to secure the wise use of temporary pools	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Little targeted and systematic action has been taken on a national or provincial scale for the wise use of temporary pools, or pans, as they are known in South Africa.		

### 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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>		
<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 <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) have been used/applied	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on application of the Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management.]</i>		
Although the Ramsar guidelines have not yet been applied directly in South Africa, the principles from them have been incorporated into a more detailed set of guidelines developed by WWF, Water Research Commission, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The guidelines provide guidance and support to river basin management authorities in integrating the development and implementation of effective strategies, objectives, plans guidelines and procedures for the protection, conservation and management of freshwater wetlands into catchment management planning. Generic Terms of Reference for the technical work needed to support development of the content of a River Basin Management Strategy, related to the protection, conservation and management of wetlands in a catchment have been developed. The primary focus of the guidelines is on palustrine wetlands. These more detailed guidelines are required under the South African National Water Act, so that as the river basin management authorities are progressively set up in 2006, the guidelines will be implemented.		

3. The Party has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative	<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>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the participation in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.]</i>		

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

1. Due attention has been promoted / given to the role of mountain and high altitude wetlands in the preparation and implementation of river basin management plans	<b>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>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Some areas, like the Blyde river catchment, has been proclaimed as mountain catchment areas and protected under the Mountain Catchment Areas Act, but this is not always taken seriously and used to its full potential. There is also the WRC report on integrating wetland protection in catchment management, but this has not been rolled out properly. In practise, we have found (specifically DWAF personnel) very reluctant to get involved in wetland conservation.		

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

1. Wetland values and functions have been taken into account in decision-making on large dams	<b>B</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>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Construction of dams is a listed activity under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. R. 1182 of 5 September 1997). This means that whenever such developments are being planned, all the necessary measures should be taken to ensure the least impact on the environment and biological diversity.		

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

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

**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>	<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 assessments of environmental flow undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams.]</b>			
Refer to actions r1.2.vi. and 1.2.7			
<b>3.- Centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation have been encouraged (if available, please include number of centres)</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>
<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 <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management</i> (Resolution VIII.4) have been used/applied</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
<b>2.- 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>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>			
Prince Edward Islands Management Committee has been brought the possibility of designating Prince Edward Islands as a RAMSAR site, to the attention of the RAMSAR Convention.			

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

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

1. The <i>Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1)</i> have been used/applied in decision-making related to freshwater	<b>B</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.</i> ]		
<p>These guidelines are, to some extent, derived from South Africa's National Water Act and the scientific methods that have been developed to determine water allocations for wetlands, which is a requirement in terms of the act (the "Ecological Reserve"). Refer to action 1.2.7. Reserve determinations for wetlands are not yet being undertaken on a large scale, and preliminary methods for wetland reserve determinations developed in 1999 have not been refined further yet to a point where they are ready for implementation.</p>		

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

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

**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. <b>Projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands have been developed</b>	<b>C</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please include information on the relevant projects.</i> ]		
3.- <b>Summary on successes achieved and lessons learned in developing this type of projects [<i>Please provide a summary on the relevant projects, successes achieved, and lessons learned in their development.</i>]</b>		

**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. <b>Mechanisms to better plan and manage the wise use of water in the Andean Region have been developed</b>	<b>A</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>
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**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**

**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.]**

Various wetlands, including mires and peatlands, have been desiccated in the karst regions of South Africa due to over exploitation of groundwater. Various attempts were made to regulate ground water extraction (Rietvlei catchment) or to lift groundwater levels (Bodibe) or spread water over desiccated areas (Molopo).

**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**

**E**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

Water Research Commission projects looking at the impact on aquifer-dependent ecosystems. No other studies undertaken at this stage to address this topic specifically, but quite a few recent projects have incorporated this important link into the study. Examples include studies in the North West Province on the dolomites (wetland interaction as well as springflow), in the Sandveld in the Western Cape where groundwater abstraction by potato farmers have led to the destruction of wetlands and in the Kammanassie mountains where the impact was also evident on spring flows. At this stage the studies are mostly reactive and only monitor the impact once it has already occurred. A more pro-active approach is surely needed and a methodology to establish the interaction between wetlands and groundwater is long overdue. This is most likely to be taken up by the Resource Directed Measures Directorate in DWAF in conjunction with the groundwater scientists.

**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**

**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.]**

Past processes to involve civil society in groundwater management were compulsory – irrigation boards being transformed to Water User Associations, etc. The challenge to educate and empower civil society in groundwater issues has not really been dealt with and has reached a critical point where the sustainability of our groundwater resources are at risk due to mismanagement. Sporadic, individual efforts are however taking place around the country (e.g. around the Kathu bush) to engage groundwater users to achieve integrated water resource management. These efforts should be supported and expanded.



**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**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

**Action r3.4.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**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

**1. Actions have been taken to minimize degradation, restore and improve management of peatlands and other wetland types that are significant carbon stores, or have the ability to sequester carbon**

**B**

*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 total of eighteen peatlands are being restored as part of wetlands rehabilitation work by Working for

Wetlands programme.

**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**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4.1. Identify priority wetlands where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

## PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

<b>COP9 REPORT SECTION</b>
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**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>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>
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Since COP8, a national initiative for wetland rehabilitation, Working for Wetlands, has been established as a discrete programme, housed within the South African National Biodiversity Institute. Since COP8 the programme has implemented 37 rehabilitation projects, covering in excess of 90 wetlands across the country. The programme simultaneously contributes to the objectives of the Expanded Public Works Programme, through a labour intensive focus that resulted in over 4000 people being employed and equipped with vocational and life skills over the preceding triennium.

**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).

*See action 1.1.2*

<b>1.- Actions have been taken to restore / rehabilitate those wetlands defined as priority for restoration (if available, please include number of sites)</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F=</i> <i>Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other</i> <i>status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<b>N° wetlands /</b> <b>Ramsar sites</b> <b>90 wetlands</b>
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Wetlands have been identified as priority for restoration through the development of criteria that include ecological, hydrological and social elements. In December 2004 a GIS-based tool for systematic prioritisation of tertiary catchments within which to concentrate restoration interventions was completed. This model utilises 13 criteria, which can be switched on or off and weighted according to their relative importance, in order to arrive at a spatial prioritisation of catchments. The criteria are based on the following spatial datasets:

1. areas identified through the National Biodiversity Spatial Assessment as being priorities for biodiversity conservation
2. protected areas
3. peatland ecoregions
4. Ramsar sites
5. water stressed catchments, in terms of supply relative to demand
6. catchment scale water quality indicators
7. Spatial Development Initiatives
8. catchments with Catchment Management Agencies in place
9. index of conservation status
10. soil erodibility index
11. priority areas for the invasive alien plant control activities of the Working for Water programme

12. poverty gap index
13. nodes identified under the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development and Urban Renewal programmes

Development of a final list of priority tertiary catchments within which Working for Wetlands will concentrate its interventions will take place between February and June 2005, as part of the consultative strategy development process being undertaken by the programme.

**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)**

**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.]**

No substantive instruments have been developed since COP8. However, the theme of restoration runs strongly through existing policy instruments in the environment, biodiversity, water and agriculture sectors. The content of Resolution VIII.16 is being used in the implementation of these policy instruments, and will contribute to the development of a strategic framework for wetland restoration, currently being developed by Working for Wetlands.

**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**

**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.]**

Refer to the catchment prioritisation tool described under Action r4.1.i. The detailed guidelines referred to in 3.4.2 have highlighted the need for wetland restoration to take place if it is required. Although the guidelines will only be implemented when the first River Basin Management Authority is set up in 2006, the framework for wetland restoration to be integrated into river basin management has been completed.

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

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

**1. Information and/or case studies on wetland restoration and rehabilitation is available**

**B**

*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**

**E**

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

A multi-disciplinary wetland research programme was launched by the Water Research Commission in 2003. The first three-year phase of this programme, active from 2004-2007, is co-funded by Working for Wetlands

and the Commission and focuses on wetland restoration. The first draft products of the programme were released late in 2004. The restoration sub-programme has six key focus areas:

1. planning and prioritisation of catchments and wetlands for rehabilitation
2. system rehabilitation
3. methodologies for rehabilitation
4. synergies with other programmes
5. institutional arrangements
6. performance auditing

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

*See action 3.4.9*

**1. The *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**

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

**1. The *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**

**A**

Choose an answer

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

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

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

*See action r3.3.iii*

**1. Cultural and archaeological heritage significance of wetlands has been considered in restoration actions**

**B**

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.]**

Criteria used by Working for Wetlands for identification of wetlands for restoration take cultural values into account. A restoration project at Lake Fundudzi, launched in 2003, was initiated primarily in recognition of the site's sacred status to surrounding communities. The Bodibe wetland restoration is a current partnership between the community, local/ district government, provincial departments and Working for Wetlands whom are trying to arrest the spreading of a peat fire in the peatland.



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

*See action 20.1.5*

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

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

**B**

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

WWF's Mondi Wetlands Project, in collaboration with the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Working for Wetlands, has been running wetland rehabilitation courses since 2001. These courses continue to be well attended by individuals from all spheres of government, civil society and the private sector. The outcomes of the wetland restoration research sub-programme (see 4.1.3) will be translated into more formalised and comprehensive curricula for future courses.

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

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

**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 also 4.1.2. Working for Wetlands uses a poverty relief-driven approach to its core business, the implementation of large-scale wetland rehabilitation projects. Working for Wetlands forms part of government's nationwide Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), which seeks to draw significant numbers of unemployed into the productive sector of the economy, gaining skills while they work and increasing their capacity to earn income. Nested within the Environment and Culture sector of the EPWP, the programme is part of a coherent strategy for realising the sector's objectives around securing South Africa's natural and cultural heritage, while utilising this heritage to create both immediate and long-term jobs and social benefits. This implies particular ways of working with communities, building on their historical custodianship of these resources and locating projects within a broader sustainable development context. In this way, Working for Wetlands is designed to contribute explicitly to broader governmental objectives of poverty reduction, black economic empowerment, urban and rural development, job creation and skills transfer. Between the start of the programme in July 2000 and April 2004, a total of R89 million (\$15 million) has been invested in 1820 separate interventions, resulting in the provision of 6000 person years of employment (1 person year = 230 days of work for 1 person). The programme's budget has been increased for the period 2004-2007, and now amounts to R130 million (\$22 million). Interventions are designed to maximise the social objectives of the projects, including employment provision, use and creation of small business enterprises and skills development. Programme policy is to employ, at all levels, 60% women, 20% youth and 1% people with disabilities. By maximising the use of labour intensive forms of work, not only are employment benefits capitalised, but the environmental impacts associated with using heavy equipment in sensitive wetland environments are avoided.

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

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> have been disseminated to community stakeholders	<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
2. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in wetland restoration activities	<b>B</b>	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>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.</i> ]		
All Working for Wetlands restoration projects are required to have project advisory committees, which must include representatives from adjacent communities and from all communities from which workers are sourced.		

**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)

1. The Ramsar Web site on wetland restoration has been used and materials have been provided to it	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please include additional comments on the use of Ramsar web site on wetland restoration and the materials provided to it, if applicable.</i> ]		
The first batch of products from the wetland rehabilitation research programme (see 4.1.3) will be provided to the Ramsar Secretariat, once the review process has been completed.		

**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)

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

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

### 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>		

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

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

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

The recently developed National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) has as one of its outcomes the following: *Biodiversity, and pressures and threats to biodiversity at all levels, including landscapes, ecosystems, habitats, species and genes, is catalogued, assessed, planned for and monitored to inform policy, strategy and action.* This implies certain activities to be undertaken such as the cataloguing and maintenance of databases and collections of invasive species posing existing and potential threats to, inter alia, ecosystems, as well as the development and registering of integrated bioregional plans and/or biodiversity management plans for threatened ecosystems as required in the Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004). The implementation of the NBSAP will commence as soon as the NBSAP has been approved by various institutional bodies.

The Working for Water Programme aimed at the eradication of invasive species has representation on various structures related to the management of biodiversity where interaction with focal points of other Conventions takes place.

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

<b>1. Risk assessments of alien species that pose a threat to wetlands have been undertaken</b>	<b>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
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**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Section 65 of the Biodiversity Act (2004) makes provision for a permit to be issued for a person carrying out a restricted activity involving a specimen of an alien species, however, only after a prescribed assessment of risks and potential impacts on biodiversity is carried out. This will only be implemented after a list of those alien species in respect of which a permit may not be issued, has been drawn up. The listing of those species is currently underway.

**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 (<u>if applicable, please include number of sites</u>)</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><u>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</u></b>
<b>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.]</b>			

**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>	<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 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.**

<b>1. Practical guidance for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species has been developed and disseminated</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 r5.1.ix.-** In the development and implementation of national strategies and responses to invasive alien species, recognize that terrestrial invasions by alien species can threaten and affect the ecological character of wetlands, including through the lowering of water tables and alteration of water flow patterns, and ensure that appropriate measures to prevent or control such invasions are in place. (Resolution VIII.18)

1. The impact on wetlands of terrestrial invasions by alien species has been assessed		<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>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

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

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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

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

1. The guidance for the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management has been applied	<b>D</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>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>WWF's Mondri Wetlands has begun to develop best practice guidelines for participatory management of communal wetlands. These will be completed in 2006.</p> <p>In 2001 Mondri Wetlands Project launched a community wetland management programme to help manage communal (tribal) wetlands. One of the objectives of this programme is to promote and facilitate the effective management and sustainable use of wetlands in rural tribal communities for water and food security, maintenance of cultural and spiritual beliefs and protection of natural resources.</p> <p>Mondri Wetlands Project is undertaking research on the participation and interest of stakeholders in the sustainable use of communal wetlands using Lake Fundudzi as an example. The study is meant to provide an understanding of the participatory process in the context of communal (tribal) wetlands.</p> <p>The strengthening of local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of selected estuaries has been effectively promoted through the Eastern Cape Estuaries Programme. Some of the provincial nature conservation organizations have also successfully increased the level of participation of local</p>		



communities in the management of conserved areas with important wetlands, such as the Ntsikeni Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape. Programmes such as the DEAT Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Programme and LandCare, South Africa, have promoted community participation at individual wetlands (e.g. Mbongolwane Wetland in KwaZulu-Natal) particularly through incentive measures relating to tourism and crafts. However, much more work in this area is still required.

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

**1. Traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands has been documented and its application encouraged**

**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 2003 the Working for Wetlands programme commissioned research into the cultural values of wetlands and traditional knowledge and management practices relating to wetlands. Elements of the report were later converted into educational materials (Water, Life, Culture pamphlets) that continue to be widely distributed. Traditional knowledge in relation to the harvesting of wetland natural resources and small-scale cultivation in wetlands has been documented for selected wetlands in the KwaZulu-Natal province and the Sand River Catchment in the Limpopo province. The findings of these studies are in the process of being incorporated into Best Management Practice guidelines, which will be used by organizations such as Mondi Wetlands Project and AWARD to promote the sustainable use of wetlands. However, much more remains to be done in encouraging the application of traditional knowledge as a tool for conservation and wise use of wetlands.

In 2001 National Research Foundation funded Rhodes University to document the use of indigenous beliefs in protecting wetlands pools and rivers. Penny Bernard undertook and supervised the following studies: the ecological implications of the water spirits beliefs in southern Africa, the need to protect knowledge, ecological significance of cultural landscape in the Cat and Tyumi valleys, investigation into the living heritage of Lake Fundudzi and massages from the deep dream water spirits and divines in South Africa, and Community-based natural resource management, traditional governance and spiritual ecology in southern Africa: the case of chiefs, diviners and spirit mediums.

In 2003 Water Research Commission commissioned research on the “ Integration of indigenous knowledge systems in the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in communal areas of South Africa”.

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

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

**D**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

The procedure for environmental impact assessment, legislated under the Environment Conservation Act, requires the involvement of all interested and affected parties in the process to be demonstrated prior to the issuing of a record of decision. However, although this mechanism promotes the involvement of many stakeholders in Environmental Impact Assessment processes, it tends to overlook marginalised sectors that have less voice. Little work has been done generally to promote public participation in decision-making around wetlands outside of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

3.- Local stakeholders have been involved in the selection of new Ramsar sites <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites 1</b>
<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.]</b>			
Makuleke Wetlands, which are being proposed for Ramsar designation, are in an area/land owned by the Makuleke community in Kruger National Park. The land was given back to the community through the land restitution process in South Africa.			

**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)

<b>1. Local stakeholders have been involved in wider issues related to water resources management at basin level</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 6.1.5.-** Elaborate for consideration by COP9 further guidance on the application of the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 5), based on experiences gained at the field level, and in particular the experience of Pacific Island States and other Small Island Developing States, and working with the CBD and others in line with the *CBD-Ramsar 3rd Joint Work Plan*.

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

<b>1. Resource information on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management has been compiled</b>	<b>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 information on the resources compiled about local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management.]</b>		
University of Natal has done studies on the local communities managing wetlands using Mbongolwane wetland as a case study for example “ A system for supporting wetland decision” by Dr D Kotze, Wetland cultivation: Reconciling the conflicting needs of the rural poor and society at large through wise wetland use By Dr D Kotze and V Silima, and “Sustainable use of natural products- crafts from wetland plants” by D Kotze. The Mondi Wetlands Project is compiling a document on the Best Management Practices for subsistence wetland farmers. Also refer to Action 6.1.1 no 2.		
<b>3. The Party has contributed with case studies and other materials to the elaboration of further guidance on the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution to the elaboration of the guidance indicated above.]</b>		

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

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

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

<i>See action r3.3.iii</i>		
<b>1. The guiding principles on cultural values (Resolution VIII.19) have been used or applied</b>	<b>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 application of the Guiding Principles on cultural values.]</b>		
<b>3. Resource information and case studies on cultural aspects of wetlands have been compiled</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 additional comments on the resource information compiled.]</b>		
See action 6.1.2		

**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)

<b>1. Consultation mechanisms on the application of the guiding principles on cultural values have been established</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 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)

<b>1. Cultural values of wetlands are being used to improve local stakeholders' involvement in wetland planning and management</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>		
Individual projects, such as the Working for Wetlands Lake Fundudzi restoration project, use cultural values as the focal point of the project. In the case of Lake Fundudzi, the lake, which has sacred status among		

surrounding communities, is under threat from land use activities in its catchment. The primary reason for intervention was to safeguard the cultural values that will be lost if the lake's ecological character continues to decline.

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

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

**D**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

Educational material, in the form of an eight-page brochure, was produced by Working for Wetlands in 2003 and is highly popular among educators and the general public. Additional copies have been reprinted every year since the publication of the brochure, with over 30 000 copies being circulated to date.

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

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

**A**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**D**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

**N° wetlands /  
Ramsar sites**

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

Several cultural features linked with the status of the Greater St Lucia wetland Park as a World Heritage Site are integral to the management planning of the Park. *Juncus kraussii* (incema) which is of tremendous cultural significance as a source of material for traditional crafts continues to be sustainably harvested within the Greater St Lucia wetland Park as part of the overall management of the wetland.

## 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

**PLANNING TOOL SECTION**

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

**COP9 REPORT SECTION**

**Action 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.

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

Guidelines have been developed by WWF’s Mondi Wetlands Project specifically for the forestry plantation industry promoting the wise use of wetlands. Forestry South Africa has set an industry standard (not a legal requirement) and has committed their members to remove all plantations and invaders from wetlands (including a buffer of 20m) by the year 2010. Mondi, a forestry and paper company, are currently developing management plans for all the key wetlands on the 500 000 hectares they own/manage. This will be completed by 2007. Sappi Forestry Company, who also owns/manages approximately 500 000 hectares are doing similar work. Guidelines have been completed by the government departments, forestry industry, Mondi Wetlands Project and other key nongovernmental organisation wetlands projects on delineating the boundary of wetlands. This has resulted in the plantation industry removing incorrectly planted trees from thousands of hectares of wetlands, costing industry an estimated R800 million a year.

The sugar industry has an enormous impact on freshwater ecosystems, particularly wetlands, and WWF’s Mondi Wetlands Project has been working with the industry to reduce this impact. Over the past three years, the Project has been working with the industry to introduce Better Management Practices (BMPs), appropriate national policies, and at the international level working to create an enabling environment for sustainable sugar production. It does this by demonstrating BMPs at a firm level through a partnership with the Noodsberg Canegrowers – a group of 200 innovative farmers in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, working with the industry and government on improving water allocation for irrigated cane to reduce water usage, assisting Noodberg Canegrowers in designing and applying an environmental management system for sugar – a world first, creating awareness within the industry on the value of better management practices in protecting wetlands, and promoting the Ogugquma farmer model – an innovative cooperative approach for small scale farmers developed by the industry into which environmental management has been included.

Similarly, there has been a policy decision to not allow further peat mining and to phase out the current mines as soon as possible. The mining of peat is being optimised and less new applications are thus received. Industry has also put measures in for self-regulation. The use of bark products has been promoted by the peat industry and might replace as much as 35 - 55 % of peat products.

Coal mining:  
Olifants river committee to identify wetlands of importance which should not be mined, as well as possible sites for off-site mitigation for the ones that must be mined.



**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.

<p><b>1. The private sector, academia and specialized institutions have been brought into decision-making related to wetlands</b></p>	<p><b>E</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 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.

<p><b>1. A private-sector “Friends of Wetlands” forum or equivalent mechanism has been established</b></p>	<p><b>D</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>		
<p>South Africa has a Wetland Action Group, called South African Wetland Action Group (SAWAG), which is a loose group of individuals from government, academia, civil society and the private sector. The purpose of the group is for personnel competent in the fields of wetland research, management and wardening to exchange ideas and experiences and to co-operate on initiatives of common interest. This group meets once every year.</p> <p>A key emphasis of the group is actions in the field, rather than merely serving as a talk-shop. A further strength of the group is that researchers, local fieldworkers and individuals from national organisations, notably Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, are represented. Thus far the group has provided valuable comment in the refinement of WETLAND-USE, a system for promoting the sustainable use of wetlands; increased the capacity of extension workers in promoting the sustainable use of wetlands;</p> <p>In addition, there are Provincial Wetland Forums in at least six of the nine provinces in South Africa. These forums mainly coordinate efforts for wetlands conservation in provinces. Their composition is relatively similar to that of SAWAG, but may differ from province to province.</p>		

**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)*.

<p><b>1. A review of domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products has been carried out</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><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</i></p>
<p><b>2. Legal, institutional and administrative measures are being implemented to ensure sustainable harvesting of wetland products</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p><b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the measures taken to ensure sustainable harvesting and trade of wetland products.]</b></p>		

## 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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

#### 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 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>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
<b>2. Actions have been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands</b>	<b>F</b>	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>
<b>3. Actions have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the promotion and implementation of incentive measures and removal of perverse ones.]</b>		
No progress on these matters since COP8.		

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

<b>1. Agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular have been identified</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>
<b>2. Actions have been taken to remove or replace agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>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 agriculture subsidies and incentives and their impacts on water resources and wetlands.]</b>		

<b>Action r8.1.iii.-</b> Review programmes of subsidies concerning the use of groundwater in order to guarantee that those programmes do not lead to negative consequences for the conservation of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.40)		
<b>1. The programmes of subsidies concerning the use of groundwater have been reviewed in relation to the negative consequences that they may have on wetland conservation</b>	<b>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>		

**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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)      [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>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**

<b>Action r9.i.ii.-</b> 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.		
<b>1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into sectoral policies, strategies, plans and programmes</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>		

**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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)      [Go to next Operational Objective](#)      - [Go to Table of Contents](#)

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

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

### 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.ii.i.-** Develop pilot projects to evaluate a range of approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands, in particular involving those who make a direct use of wetland resources

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

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

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

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

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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

### 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>	Working for Wetlands is the government's response to implement its wetland obligations. The programme is proving to be a perfect vehicle for providing the leadership, setting up of provincial wetland forums to support and catalyse CEPA.	

<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>COP9 REPORT SECTION</b>
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**Action r9.iii.i.-** Contracting Parties (as requested by Resolution VII.9) are urged as a matter of priority to appoint suitably qualified persons to fulfil the roles of national government and non-government Focal Points for wetland CEPA, and to advise the Ramsar Bureau of the persons fulfilling these roles and their contact details.

<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;</i> <i>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 institutional Information		

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

<b>1. A National wetland CEPA Task Force has been established</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
Working for Wetlands is about to contract a communications company to develop a CEPA for South Africa. Once this is done, a task force will be developed to implement it. Although we have no CEPA action plan for South Africa, Working for Wetlands, the Mondi Wetlands Project, and other NGO wetland projects are implementing aspects of a CEPA action plan. These include raising awareness through the mass media, running training courses on wetland basics, rehabilitation, and wise use. The provincial wetland forums play a vital wetland communications link between many of the role players in each province.		

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

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

<b>1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into the business of sectoral policy and planning committees</b>	<b>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>		



From a corporate side: Through the work of the Mondi Wetlands Project, some aspects of CEPA have been integrated into the plantation forestry industry, and work is under progress to integrate it into the sugar industry, although this may take a while.

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

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

**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.]**

Working for Wetlands does exactly this very well. The steering committee of Working for Wetlands, which consists of the departments of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Water Affairs and Forestry, and Agriculture, together with the Mondi Wetlands Project, Working for Water, South African National Biodiversity Institute and other partners, is beginning to play an important dual role as a forum for coordination at the national level. The role of the committee in promoting cooperative governance between the three national departments with the largest responsibilities for wetlands will be formalised by July 2005.

Seven of South Africa's nine provinces have provincial wetland forums, which are informal groupings of interested parties at provincial level, but always with strong government representation. An eighth forum is due to be launched in April 2005. Although these forums vary in their composition, effectiveness and scope of activities, they have proven to be highly successful mechanisms for communication, coordination and information sharing at provincial level.

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

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

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

**Action r9.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**

**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 roster was developed some years ago although this was not as part of CEPA. It is quite outdated now and thus requires some updating.

## 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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

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

<b>1. Materials to support wetland CEPA have been produced and distributed</b>	<b>B</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>Many materials have been produced to raise awareness about wetlands amongst the public, and government departments. Working for Wetlands have produced quite a few (Wetlands Life and Culture pamphlet); so too the Mondri Wetlands Project which has worked closely with the Department of Agriculture's LandCare Programme to produce 3 poster series of 4 posters each on the importance of wetlands to agriculture; developed a website with lots of free awareness and training materials on it; as well as numerous articles written for the popular press.</p>		

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

<b>1. A national email network on wetland CEPA has been established</b>	<b>B</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>The wetland list server was developed by Rhodes University before COP 8, and is still working really well. It is a vital wetland communication link between all wetlanders in the country.</p>		

**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.

<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).

<p>1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are part of the Wetland Link International Programme of the Wildfowl &amp; Wetland Trust, UK <i>(if available, please include number of centres or facilities)</i></p>	<p><b>C</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° centres</b></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[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.]</i></p>			

**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.

<p>1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are twinned with similar facilities in other countries <i>(if available, please include number of centres or facilities)</i></p>	<p><b>C</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° centres</b></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are twinned with similar ones in other countries, and further comments you consider relevant.]</i></p>			

**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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)      [Go to next Operational Objective](#)      - [Go to Table of Contents](#)

**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 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)

<p>1. A review of needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA has been completed</p>	<p><b>C</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>
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<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).

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

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

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

**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.]**

No comprehensive assessment has been done, however most of the wetland experts in the country are known. The University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Mondi Wetlands Project are the only organisations running wise use and rehabilitation training courses for wetland managers.

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

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

**D**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

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

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

*I = No answer*

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

**D**

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

Through Working for Wetlands the government has sourced funding for training in wetland rehabilitation for it's staff. The Mondi Wetlands Project runs free courses on wetland management for government extension services, the public, and industries such as the plantation forestry and sugar industry.

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

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

**D**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

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

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

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

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

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

**D**

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

No review has been undertaken, however the Mondi Wetlands Project has worked with 5 Technikons (tertiary education) in South Africa to firstly persuade them, and then to assist them to include information on the wise use of wetlands into their curricula. The Mondi Wetlands Project first ran the courses for the Technikons, with the resident lecturers taking over and running the courses themselves after a year or two. The Mondi Wetlands Project has worked with 5 publishers to include a section on the wise use of wetlands into 5 different school text books (secondary education).

## 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

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

**1. National campaigns, programmes or projects to increase awareness on wetland issues have been launched**

**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.]**

Working for Wetlands and the Mondi Wetlands Project both have separate ongoing programmes to raise awareness on wetland issues. This includes extensive media coverage in the print, radio and TV media, as well as holding exhibition displays, and giving numerous presentations and workshops. Working for Wetlands will launch a comprehensive website, dealing with wetland issues generally, by May 2005.

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

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

**B**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

Many different activities have taken place each year for World Wetlands Day. Schools, government departments, the public and NGO's involved in wetlands issues have participated. Too numerous to list here. Examples include visits to wetland rehabilitation sites for high profile politicians and industry leaders, organised by Working for Wetlands and the provincial governments; radio and television interviews, newspaper articles, school visits to a wetland etc by all those involved in wetland conservation in South Africa. World Wetlands Day has been celebrated every year since its inception, with visible increases in interest, profile and participation every year. The national event in 2003 was celebrated at Verloren Valei Nature Reserve, then the newest Ramsar site. The certificate for the site's designation was presented to the Premier of Mpumalanga Province by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The national event in 2004 was held in Ugie, Eastern Cape Province. Approximately 500 people attended from all levels of the surrounding rural communities, including local schools in the area. In 2005, the national event was held at a high profile

<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).



wetland in KwaZulu-Natal province that exemplified the theme for the year, relating to cultural and biological values. In excess of 400 people, including politicians, government officials, community members, schools and other stakeholders attended the event. For more information on World Wetlands Day 2005 celebration, see Action 3.3.3.

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

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

**D**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

This is one of the strengths of wetland conservation in South Africa. The media often get taken out to wetland sites to see first hand what the problems and solutions are. Working for Wetlands and the Mondi Wetlands Project have both run numerous media trips to inform journalists of wetland issues and their importance. This is the reason why wetlands have had a relatively high profile in South Africa over the past 8 years. Although the media is being used more and more effectively, there is not a systematic approach to convey the wetland message.

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

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

**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*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

**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.]**

## 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

### 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>		

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

## COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

**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.]**

Although Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs), as envisaged in the National Water Act, are in their infancy in some catchments and have yet to be constituted in others, significant progress has already been made in promoting the incorporation of wetlands into the catchment management strategies that the act requires the CMAs to develop. The most visible indicator of this accomplishment is the publication by the Water Research Commission and WWF in 2004 of Guidelines for integrating the protection, conservation and management of wetlands into catchment management planning.

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

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

**D**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

*planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status*

*(explain below); I = No answer*

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

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

In the Western Cape, two of the Ramsar sites are within provincial nature reserves, which have fairly updated management plans that take into account such aspects as public awareness, education and awareness. The third site is not a provincial reserve but as an estuary it falls under the auspices of Marine and Coastal Management

## 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

## 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>		

<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).

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

<b>1.- Education centres have been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of centres and sites)</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; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<b>N° centres</b>
<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>			
An Environmental Education Centre has been established at Blesbokspruit Ramsar site. This centre is under the management of Blesbokspruit Forum.			
<b>3.- Additional education centres are planned for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of centres and 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° centres</b>
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the centres planned and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>			

**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

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

**Action r9.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).

<b>1.- Places of learning, education and training (museums, zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens, etc.) are involved in national CEPA efforts and activities (if available, please include number of facilities)</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<b>N° facilities</b>
<b>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.]</b>			
Some Technikons and Universities, but not all, are involved in wetland training.			

## 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)

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>B</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	To have by COP10 a strategic framework for identification, designation and management of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), taking into account national considerations and the framework provided by the Ramsar Convention	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	Development of national objectives for South Africa's network of Ramsar sites, based on a review of the vision and objectives for the list outlined in Resolution VII-11	

### 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.

<b>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>	<b>F</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>		
Terms of reference have been drafted for a project that will result in a framework for future identification and designation of Ramsar sites that uses a strategic and systematic approach and complies with the requirements of Resolution VIII.10		

**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)

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>		
<b>1. All potential Ramsar sites have been identified and targets for future designations have been defined.</b>	<b>F</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>		

See above.

**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*)**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

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

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

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

No new sites since COP8.

**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*).**

**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  
1**

**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.*]**

No new sites designated since COP8.

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

**A**

*Choose an answer*

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

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

**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.*]**

No new Ramsar sites designated since COP8

**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>

*See action 1.1.2*

**1.- Designation of coastal and marine Ramsar sites has been done (*if applicable, please include number of sites designated*).**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

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

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

<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.]**

No new Ramsar sites designated since COP8

**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).**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

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

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

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

No new Ramsar sites designated since COP8

**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).**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

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

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

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

No new Ramsar sites designated since COP8

**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.

**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).**

**A**

*Choose an answer*

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

**N°  
Ramsar  
sites**

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

No new Ramsar sites designated since COP8

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

1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of the national area of transboundary wetlands has been done <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites designated).</i>	<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>N° Ramsar sites</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
No new Ramsar sites designated since COP8			

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

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

**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 VIII.10)

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

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

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

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

<b>1. Contributions have been made to the updating of the 1% thresholds for waterbird populations</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 contributions made.]</b>		
<b>3. Populations information for wetland-dependent taxa other than waterbirds have been provided to Wetlands International</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information provided.]</b>		

**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>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
<b>2. The population data on waterbirds collected has been regularly provided to Wetlands International</b>	<b>C</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>	
<b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information available about population data on waterbirds.]</b>		
The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004) makes provision for the listing of species that are threatened or in need of protection to ensure their survival in the wild and also regulate the activities, such as trade, which may involve such listed species. The process for listing these species is currently underway. Draft list was circulated to all stakeholders by February 2005, for comment and input.		

## 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[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>	See 10.1 above	
<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</b>	See 10.1 above	

## 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.

**1. All required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau**

**E**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

Letters have been sent out to managers of those sites that require update, i.e. those that are at least six years old. It is envisaged that the updates will be ready before COP9.

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

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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

## PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
<b>RESOURCING:</b>	<b>A</b>	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
<b>TARGETS (text answer):</b>	<b>To have Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth Ramsar sites removed from the Montreux Record. This may take until the COP10</b>	

<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b> (text answer):	Plans are in place to solve the identified conservation problems at the respective sites. See 11.1.1 below for detailed information
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### 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>E/F</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b> <b>17</b>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of sites involved and any additional comments on the implementation of this action that you consider relevant.]</b>			
Of the two Ramsar sites that are in the Montreux Record, measures are being taken to reverse the situations they are currently facing. At the Orange River Mouth Ramsar site, rehabilitation measures have started, a proper management structure will be formed soon and plans are also in place to establish a formal provincial nature reserve that would also wholly protect the Ramsar site. The ultimate objective is to remove the site from the Montreux Record. Similarly, in the case of Blesbokspuit, a business plan with the aim to restore, maintain and enhance the ecological characteristics for which the Blesbokspuit was included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, and to provide human benefits compatible with the concept of wise use as advocated by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, has been drafted. Most of these measures have yet to be implemented, however.			

**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.

<b>1. The New Guidelines for management planning have been used in the development of management plans or strategies</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 way the guidelines have been used.]</b>			
From the development of Orange River Mouth Ramsar site management plan, these guidelines were followed. Although others did not necessarily follow the guidelines, most of the aspects of the guidelines have been covered. However, the updates of the latter plans would follow the guidelines.			
<b>MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES</b>			<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
<b>3.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place</b>			<b>15</b>
<b>4.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place and being fully applied</b>			<b>15</b>
<b>5.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being prepared</b>			<b>2</b>
<b>6.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being revised or updated</b>			<b>None</b>
<b>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.]</b>			
For progress with regard to developments at Orange River mouth and Blesbokspuit Ramsar sites, see 11.1.1 above.			



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

MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES (CONT.)	N° Ramsar sites
1.- Ramsar sites in which management plans developed under other processes (e.g., Biosphere Reserves) are being applied	<u>NONE</u>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites under this category, and any other comments you consider relevant.]</i>	

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

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

**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	<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
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
The New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands have been sent to those sites that made request for them for purposes of updating the management plans. However, the department is not certain if all the relevant stakeholders have been involved in the planning process. The plan is to have these guidelines implemented in all wetlands sites. Follow-up will be made in due course.		

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

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

1.- Measures to maintain ecological character have been incorporated into the site management plans <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	<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>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			
These measures have been incorporated in the management plans of all the sites for which they have been developed.			

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

1. The need to increase wetland resilience to climate change and extreme climatic events has been taken into account in management planning	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

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

1. Waterbird data and analysis derived from them have been used in management planning	<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
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Waterbird count is done regularly for improved management purposes at Orange River Mouth.		

**Action r11.1.x.-** With the support of Contracting Parties and IOPs, the Ramsar Bureau should identify agriculture-related management practices developed for areas that include Ramsar sites, and contribute this information to the preparation of the guidelines as requested in Action r11.1.ix and share this information with the secretariats of CBD and the *Convention to Combat Desertification* (CCD). (Resolution VIII.34)

1. Assistance has been provided to the Ramsar Bureau in the identification of agriculture-related management practices developed for areas that include Ramsar sites	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action r11.1.xii.-** Identify examples of effective management and exemplary models at Ramsar sites and other wetlands for listing on the *San José Record* and submit nominations for consideration through the approved procedure, once established. (Resolution VIII.15)

1.- Best-practice examples of effective management of Ramsar sites have been identified for possible nomination to the San José Record <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites identified and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			

**Action 11.1.4.-** Promote, as necessary, the establishment and implementation of zoning measures for larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves, and other wetlands (Recommendation 5.3 and Resolution VIII.14) and strict protection measures for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity (Recommendation 5.3).

1.- Zoning measures have been established for larger Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>D</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <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 14</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites with zoning measures, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
Zoning measures are in place for fourteen (82%) of South Africa's Ramsar sites, namely Nylsvley, Verloren Valei, Barberspan, Kosi Bay, Lake Sibaya, Turtle Beaches and Coral Reefs of Tongaland, St Lucia, Ndumo, uKhahlamba, De Hoop, De Mond, Langebaan, Verlorenvlei and Wilderness Lakes.			
3.- Strict protection measures have been established for Ramsar sites of small size and/or particular sensitivity <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>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>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites with strict protection measures, and any additional comments you may consider relevant.]</i>			

**Action 11.1.5.-** Consider as a matter of priority the establishment of cross-sectoral site management committees for Ramsar sites, involving relevant government agencies, local community representatives, and other stakeholders, including the business sector.

		N° Ramsar sites
1.- Site management committees have been established at Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	<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
2.- Cross-sectoral site management committees established at Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>C</b>	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites with management committees under each category, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>		
At Orange River Mouth, an Interim Management Committee has been established. Similarly, at St Lucia, a management authority has been established.		

**Action r11.1.xiv.-** Give priority for support to the development of coherent national and international networks of Ramsar sites and their effective management, in recognition of their essential values and functions in combating poverty through the sustainable use of their ecosystems and their role in maintaining the quality and quantity of water, including at the basin scale; and give priority to projects addressing these issues in the future operation of the *Small Grants Fund*. (Resolution VIII.10)

1. Actions have been taken to develop coherent national and international networks of Ramsar sites and their effective management as a tool for combating poverty	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action 11.1.6.-** Continue to give high priority in the *Operational Guidelines for the Small Grants Fund* to support for management planning at Ramsar sites.

1. Project proposals to support management planning of Ramsar sites have been submitted to the Small Grants Fund	<b>F</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
A proposal for Environmental Awareness for the Rehabilitation of the Orange River Mouth (ORM) Ramsar site has been drafted and will be submitted to the Small Grants Fund.		

**Action r11.1.xv.-** Take into account the *General guidance for interpreting “urgent national interest” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and considering compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention* (Resolution VIII.20) when invoking the right under Article 2.5 and considering compensation in those cases where the boundaries of sites included in the Ramsar List are restricted or a Ramsar site is deleted from the List. (Resolution VIII.20)

1.- Article 2.5 of the Convention has been invoked to reduce the area of Ramsar sites and/or to delete sites from the List, and Article 4.2 (compensation) has been applied <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b> <b>1</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			
Plans are in place to establish a Nature Reserve on Orange River Mouth Ramsar site in order to improve its protection status. The boundaries of the Ramsar site might also be extended. The guidance mentioned will be applied accordingly.			

## 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[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 11.2.1.-** Establish for each Ramsar site an effective monitoring programme, ideally as part of the site management plan, which is designed to detect and provide early warning of changes in ecological character. In so doing, use the Convention's framework for designing an effective monitoring programme (Resolution VI.1) and its *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* (Resolution VII.10) (Ramsar Handbook 8).

			N°Ramsar sites
<b>1.- Monitoring programmes have been established at Ramsar sites (if available, please include number of sites)</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.- Monitoring programmes are part of the site management plan (if available, please include number of sites)</b>	<b>D</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>			
Where monitoring measures are in place, they are outdated and need to be reviewed. No progress since COP8 has been made in this regard.			

**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 (if applicable, please include number of sites)</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
<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>			
<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.]</b>			



**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**

**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.]**

While Environmental Impact Assessments have been undertaken for proposed developments with the potential to impact upon the ecological character of Ramsar sites, the outcomes of these studies and the resulting records of decision by the authorities have not been sufficient to warrant communication to the Ramsar Secretariat, as stipulated under Article 3.2.

**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.]**

**Action 11.2.4.-** In fulfillment 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)**

**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*

**N° Ramsar sites**

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

**A**

**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.]**

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

**Action 11.2.5.-** For sites included in the *Montreux Record* request a *Ramsar Advisory Mission* of independent experts, where appropriate, to review the problems affecting the site and offer recommendations for remedial actions.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** For all sites on the *Montreux Record*, and which have not been subject to a *Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM)*, CPs to request such a Mission prior to COP9.

1.- Ramsar Advisory Missions have been requested to review the problems at Ramsar sites included in the Montreux Record, if any <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; 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</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
Not since COP8.			

**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>
1.- Actions have been taken to implement the recommendations of Ramsar Advisory Missions <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
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>A</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, comments on RAM missions, results of the actions taken, including possible removal of sites from Montreux Record.]</i>			

**Action r11.2.viii.-** For sites included in the *Montreux Record*, regularly provide the Ramsar Bureau with an update on progress on taking action to address the issues for which these Ramsar sites were listed on the Record, including reporting fully on these matters in National Reports to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Resolution VIII.8)

		N°Ramsar sites
1.- Actions have been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites were listed in the Montreux Record ( <i>if applicable, please include number of sites</i> )	<b>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Actions taken to address issues at Montreux Record Ramsar sites have been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau	<b>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned and results of the actions taken.</i> ]		
See 11.1.1 above.		

## 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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

#### 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 12.1.1.-** Identify all wetland systems in each Contracting Party shared with other Parties and with non-parties and promote cooperation in their management with the adjoining jurisdiction(s), applying, where appropriate, the *Guidelines on integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Ramsar Handbook 4, Section A1 of the Guidelines), and the *Principles and Guidelines for integrating wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)* (Resolution VIII.4).

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005:** All CPs to have identified their transboundary wetlands. 50% of CPs to have identified cooperative management mechanisms.

1.- All transboundary/shared wetland systems have been identified ( <i>if applicable, please include number of sites</i> )	<b>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° wetlands/ wetland systems</b> <b>1</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [ <i>Please list the transboundary wetlands identified and provide any other additional comments you consider relevant.</i> ]			
Orange River Mouth Ramsar site lies on the border of South Africa and Namibia. Both sides of the river mouth have been designated as a Ramsar site by the governments of South Africa and Namibia. A interim joint management committee (which is envisaged to be transformed into a transboundary management structure) comprising officials from departments responsible for environment in both countries has been formed. With the recent accession to the convention of neighbours Mozambique and Lesotho, further potential exists for closer formal cooperation on management of shared wetland systems, including the possibility of designation of transboundary Ramsar sites.			

**Action 12.1.2.-** Pursue cooperation on shared hydrological basins, lake systems and coastal systems through the establishment of bi- or multilateral management commissions. (Section A2 of the Guidelines).

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: 50% of CPs with shared basins and coastal systems to be part of joint management commissions or authorities.**

**1. Cooperative management of shared wetland systems has progressed**

**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 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**

**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 12.1.3.-** Where appropriate, engage in joint impact assessment processes with neighbouring countries that share wetlands, international river basins, or coastal systems, taking note, where applicable, of the terms of the *Espoo Convention on impact assessment* in a European transboundary context.

*See action 2.2.3*

**1. Joint impact assessment processes with neighbouring countries have been applied in shared wetland systems**

**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 12.1.4.-** Ensure enhanced accessibility to information, analyses, good practice examples, and experience-sharing on integrating wetlands and biodiversity into integrated river basin management, including through the *Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative*.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: River Basin Initiative fully operational.**

**1. Actions have been taken to ensure accessibility of information, analysis, good practice examples, etc., on integrating wetlands and biodiversity issues into river basin management**

**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.]**

Guidelines for integrating the protection, conservation and management of wetlands into catchment management planning have been developed.

## 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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

#### 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 <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites designated)</i></b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
<b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i></b>			

**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)

<i>See action r10.1.iv</i>			
<b>1. New regional site networks and initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species have been developed</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 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i></b>			

**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.

<b>1. National hunting legislation is consistent with wise use principle for wetland-dependent species, including waterbirds</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 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i></b>			



**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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)      [Go to next Operational Objective](#)   - [Go to Table of Contents](#)

**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 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.

<b>1. Party has been involved in the development of a regional initiative in the framework of the Convention</b>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		

**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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)      [Go to next Operational Objective](#)   - [Go to Table of Contents](#)

**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 13.1.1.-** Continue to strengthen cooperation and synergy with the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, the *Convention to Combat Desertification*, the *Convention on Migratory Species* and its Agreements, the *World Heritage Convention*, and the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, in particular through the vehicles of Joint Work Plans and collaboration among the respective subsidiary scientific bodies of the conventions and the secretariats, and at national level among the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and Focal Points of the different MEAs.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: 3rd CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan fully implemented. CMS/AEWA Joint Work Plan in place and being implemented. Joint activities developed with UNCCD and UNFCCC, including through participation in the Joint Liaison Group with UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.**

*See action 18.1.1*

**1. Mechanisms are in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

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

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the MEAs involved and additional comments you consider relevant.]**

The focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Migratory Species, the World Heritage Convention, sit in one Chief Directorate, Biodiversity and Heritage. Although the focal point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change falls under a different section within the department, meaningful collaboration exists.

**Action r13.1.iii.-** Make renewed efforts to increase collaboration at the national level between the institutions and focal points responsible for the implementation of MEAs, including through ensuring their participation in National Ramsar Committees, so as to foster synergies and harmonization. (Resolution VIII.5)

*See action 18.1.2*

**1. Amongst other efforts to increase collaboration at the national level between the institutions and focal points responsible for the implementation of MEAs, focal points of other MEAs have been encouraged to participate in the National Ramsar / Wetland Committee**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the MEAs whose focal points participate in the Ramsar Committee and additional comments you consider relevant.]**

**Action 13.1.2.-** Maintain and, where appropriate, seek opportunities to further promote cooperation with UNESCO, in particular its *Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)*, especially as regards wetlands within *Biosphere Reserves*, and in the area of the development of curricula to integrate wetland issues.

**1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the National Committees and contacts of UNESCO MAB Programme**

**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 information on the relevant mechanisms.]**

**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**

**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 information on the relevant mechanisms.]**

**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.]**

Collaboration is being realised through participation in a regional (SADC) wetlands project whose main goal is to build capacity among member States on integrated wetland management.. The project, which is implemented through IUCN Regional Office for southern Africa organised three training seminars in the period 2002 to 2005. Training covered modules on wetland dynamics and integrated management techniques for riverine, estuarine and marine wetlands; and conflicts and participatory approaches in wetlands. Other activities under the project included a regional seminar for wetland policy makers, support to commemoration of World Wetlands Day, establishment of a regional information exchange framework and demonstrating the development of wetland management plans on four sites (Makgadikgadi palustrine, Marromeu complex estuarine, Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa marine, and Pungwe riverine) chosen to represent wetland types found in the SADC region. The project has also facilitated SADC member States accession to Ramsar, in the case of Mozambique, Lesotho and Angola.

**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**

**H**

*Choose an answer*

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

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

While South Africa was instrumental in drafting the original text of the wetland component of the Environment Initiative and Resolution VIII.44 on NEPAD and the Ramsar Convention, there has been little subsequent formal engagement on the implementation of the action plan for the wetland component. Zambia is designated as the lead country on the wetland component, and to date there appears to have been little movement.

South Africa made input into the consultations on engagement of Civil Society in NEPAD Wetlands strategy and Action Plan. This activity, which was facilitated by IUCN-ROSA was conducted during 2004 in conjunction with the meeting of the South African Wetlands Action group.

**Action 13.1.7.-** Continue to contribute, through the application of Ramsar tools and mechanisms, to the implementation of the *Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Review of Ramsar's contribution to the *Barbados Programme of Action*, as a contribution to the WSSD target.**

1. The Party has participated in wetland-related activities within the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	A	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

**Action 13.1.8.-** Continue the development and implementation of joint work plans under the Memorandum of Cooperation between the *Ramsar Convention* and the *South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)*

1. The Party has participated in the implementation of the Ramsar/SPREP Joint Work Plan	A	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

**Action r13.1.vi.-** Make use, as appropriate, of the *UNEP Guidelines on Enhancing Compliance with multilateral environmental agreements and on National Enforcement, and International Cooperation in Combating Violations, of Laws Implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements* in enhancing and supporting compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, including the *Ramsar Convention*. (Resolution VIII.24)

1. The Party has made use of the UNEP guidelines in relation to Ramsar	C	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION

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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

## PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

<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.]**

At the request of WWF – East Africa Regional Office, Working for Wetlands, WWF – South Africa, and the Mondi Wetlands Project undertook a education trip to Kenya to share experiences about the South African wetland rehabilitation programme called Working for Wetlands. Mondi Wetlands Project was invited to the World Water Forum in Japan by WWF's Living Waters Programme to share the South African experience of Working for Wetlands, as well as the World Parks Congress to do the same.

At regional level (i.e. SADC), South Africa has made contribution in sharing of information and experiences on wetland rehabilitation, community level capacity building and wetland management as part of the training events organised by the SADC Wetlands Project. South Africa also contributed resource persons in the regional awareness events under the SADC project; namely, at the Wetland management planning workshop (2002), the Policy Makers Workshop (2003) and the regional wetlands conference (2005).

**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**

**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.]**

Working for Wetlands has sent one of their staff to the 6-week Kenya Wildlife Training Institute's course on wetland management.

Preliminary discussions were held on closer cooperation between South Africa and the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute, which runs the International Wetland Management Course. These discussions centred around future opportunities for the introduction of a module on wetland restoration and the possibility of this module being taught by South Africa. See 13.1.5 (2) for engagement in wetlands training at the regional level.

**Action 14.1.3.-** Develop twinning and/or networks of transboundary wetlands and wetlands sharing common features, as an important mechanism for sharing knowledge and providing training opportunities.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: At least 75 twinning arrangements to be in place and reported to the Bureau for Web publicity on the Ramsar Web site.**

**1.- Networks among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

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

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the wetland networks established and other comments you consider relevant.]**



3.- Twinning arrangements among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites involved)</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</b>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the twinning arrangement, the sites involved and other comments you consider relevant.]</i>			

**Action 14.1.4.-** Further review and develop Internet-based resource kits and knowledge and information sharing, including the *Convention's Wetland Expert Database*, on topics including impact assessment, incentives, management planning, river basin management, participation, education and public awareness, and Ramsar sites.

1. Internet-based resource kits for knowledge and information sharing on wetland issues have been developed	<b>E</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Working for Wetlands is in the process of developing a comprehensive website that will contribute to knowledge and information sharing on wetlands in South Africa. The site will be launched by May 2005		

**Action r14.1.i.-** Share information and experiences on the management, conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems similar to those of the high Andean region. (Resolution VIII.39)

1. Actions have been taken to share information and experiences on wetlands in mountain ecosystems	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

### 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.**

1. (For CPs with development assistance agencies) Funding support has been mobilized from development assistance agency for wetland issues	<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
2. Other forms of funding support have been mobilized for wetland issues	<b>B</b>	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
See r15.1.i below.		

**Action r15.1.i.-** Encourage bilateral and multilateral donors to assign priority to supporting wetland inventories in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition in recognition of the importance of inventory as the basis for developing and implementing sustainable use of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.6)

1. The Party has worked with bilateral and multilateral donors to mobilize funding support for wetland inventories	<b>B</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Funding has been provided, under the auspices of the Norway-South African Environmental Cooperation Programme, for the development of a national wetland inventory. The first round of the inventory is currently underway.		

**Action 15.1.2.-** Mobilize resources to support the implementation of management plans for Ramsar sites in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition. (Refer also to Operational Objective 11.1)

1.- The Party has worked with donors to mobilize resources for implementation of Ramsar site management plans <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<b>N° Ramsar sites</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please list the sites involved and include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			

**Action r15.1.ii.-** Encourage Contracting Parties and donor organizations to give priority for support to the development of coherent national and international networks of Ramsar sites and their effective management, in recognition of their essential values and functions in combating poverty through the sustainable use of their ecosystems and their role in maintaining the quality and quantity of water, including at the basin scale. Resolution VIII.10) (Refer also to Operational Objective 11.1)

1. The Party has worked with donors to mobilize support for the establishment of coherent national and international networks of Ramsar sites and their effective management	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action r15.1.iii.-** Urge multilateral and bilateral donors to ensure that the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands and production potential of wetlands is fully addressed in the design, planning and implementation of river basin and water resource management projects, taking into account the special circumstances and constraints of the concerned countries. (Resolution VIII.1)

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

**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 r15.1.iv.-** Continue support, and, as appropriate, increase this support, for wetland-related projects in the Oceania region and extend it to include capacity building activities. (Resolution VIII.42)

**1. Financial support provided for wetland-related projects in the Oceania region**

**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 15.1.3.-** 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)**

**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 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**

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

**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>		
1. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund	<b>C</b>	<u>Choose an answer for each indicator</u>
2. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Endowment Fund	<b>C</b>	<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>
3. Contributions have been made to the Ramsar Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme	<b>C</b>	<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>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on contributions made to support the funds and services indicated above.]</i>		

**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.

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

**Action 15.1.8.-** For those Parties eligible for development assistance, include projects for conservation and wise use of wetlands in national portfolios and plans for consideration by development assistance agencies, and give priority among these for projects to build institutional capacity. (Based on Sections E8 and E12 of the Guidelines)

1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to development assistance agencies	<b>C</b>	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

**Action 15.1.9.-** For eligible Contracting Parties of both the *Ramsar Convention* and the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, develop wetland conservation and wise use projects suitable for consideration by the *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*, as part of the implementation of the Joint Work Plan with the CBD and in accordance with paragraphs 6 and 7 of Decision IV/4 of CBD's COP4 relating to inland water ecosystems.

**GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Assistance provided to at least 15 countries in preparing projects for submission to the *Global Environment Facility*.**

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

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI), has submitted a medium-sized project proposal on Sustainable Management of Inland Wetlands in Southern Africa: A Livelihoods and Ecosystems. The proposal is a component project of the Umbrella Action Programme on Sustainable Development and Management of Wetlands for Poverty Alleviation in the SADC region, a joint undertaking by the IWMI, the World Conservation Union, Regional Office for Southern Africa (IUCN-ROSA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

**Action 15.1.12.-** Pursue involvement of the private sector (including corporations and foundations) in wetland conservation and seek opportunities for private sector funding of wetland projects under Ramsar.

1. Steps have been taken to involve the private sector and private-sector funding in wetland projects	<b>C</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>
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**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	<b>C</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>
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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 15.2. Ensure that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)



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

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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

- [Go to Table of Contents](#)

### 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 16.1.1.-** Pay annual contributions to the Convention's core budget in full and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year.

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

**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:*

1. to the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2. to support regional initiatives under the Convention	<b>C</b>	
3. for Ramsar Advisory Missions related to Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record	<b>C</b>	
4. towards the development and maintenance of logistics of the San José Record	<b>C</b>	
5. to support the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)	<b>C</b>	
6. to expand the internship programme at the Ramsar Bureau	<b>C</b>	
7. in relation to COP9	<b>H</b>	
8.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the contributions made to support the services indicated above.]</i>		
In respect of 7 above, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat has requested South Africa, together with Algeria, Nigeria and Senegal, to form an African Support Group to assist with Uganda in the preparation of COP9. One of the objectives of the Group is to assist with raising funds for in-country costs to be incurred by the host country (Uganda).		

## 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)

### 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.]**

Refer to the Institutional Information for the Contracting Party.

### 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

- [Go to Table of Contents](#)

### 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*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the review and other comments you consider relevant.]**

Working for Wetlands programme, which is a programme that facilitates the conservation, rehabilitation and

sustainable use of wetland ecosystems, in accordance with South Africa's national policy and commitment to international conventions and regional partnerships, is a partnership between three government departments, viz. Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and Water Affairs and Forestry. In so doing, the programme seeks to optimise opportunities with respect to ecological integrity, water and food security, human well-being and poverty alleviation. All the departments mentioned, either through their activities or activities they co-ordinate or promote, have direct responsibility for wetland issues. It is through this programme that cooperation and synergy are enhanced.

*See action 13.1.1*

**3. A coordinating committee among focal points of environment-related conventions is in place**

**B**

*Choose an answer*

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

**4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the coordinating committee and other comments you consider relevant.]**

Established through the National Environmental Management Act, the Committee for Environmental Coordination aims to promote the integration and coordination of environmental functions by the relevant organs of state. The Committee is chaired by DEAT and comprises the Departments of Water Affairs and Forestry; Minerals and Energy; Land Affairs; Constitutional Development; Housing; Agriculture; Health; Labour; Arts, Culture, Science and Technology; provincial heads of department and representatives of local government.

Although integrating the implementation of international agreements is not explicitly listed in the brief of the Committee, the implementation of these agreements is part of the work of the departments comprising the Committee. Agreements covered include Ramsar, Convention on Biodiversity, Bonn Convention, CITES, Convention to Combat Desertification, World Heritage Convention and Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**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**

**E**

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

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

**6. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and relevant professional, scientific or educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including social and cultural heritage issues**

**C**

*D = Partly/ in some cases;  
E = In progress;  
F= Being planned;  
G = Being updated;  
H = Other status (explain below);  
I = No answer*

**7.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant cooperation mechanisms and any other comments you consider relevant.]**

In relation to point 5, refer to Action r2.2.i.

**Action r18.1.i.-** Build and strengthen institutional capacity and synergies between related instruments at the national level in order to address the linkages between climate change and wetlands and report to COP9 on progress on this matter, including achievements and the identification of difficulties encountered (Resolution VIII.3)

**1. Work has been done to address the linkages between climate change and wetlands**

**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 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**

**E**

*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.)**

**D**

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

Refer to Action r2.2.i.

**Action 18.1.3.-** Review the designated Ramsar national Administrative Authority (and provincial (sub-national) focal points where appropriate) and STRP and CEPA national focal points in each Contracting Party, with a view to ensuring that these positions are being effective in increasing involvement in the work of the Convention of all relevant agencies and organizations concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

**1. The institutional capacity for the effective implementation of the Convention – including the Ramsar Administrative Authority, National Wetland Committee (or equivalent body) and STRP and CEPA focal points– has been assessed**

**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 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**

**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 majority of issues addressed in the report either have plans in place or planning is progress to have them implemented.

## 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**

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to next Operational Objective](#)

[- Go to Table of Contents](#)



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

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

<b>1. The wetland-related training opportunities that exist in the country have been identified</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>		
The wetland community in South Africa is relatively small, so all known wetland training has easily been identified.		

**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;

<p>d) integrated site management planning at the local, provincial or catchment/river basin level;  e) wetland restoration and rehabilitation;  f) invasive alien species;  g) agricultural impacts on wetlands and water resources;  h) impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment;  i) impacts of climate change, and adaptive management and mitigation of such impacts  j) economic valuation of wetlands;  k) communication, education and public awareness techniques.</p>		
<b>1. Training modules and materials on wetland-related issues have been developed</b>	<b>B</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the development of training modules and materials for the issues listed above, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>		
<p>The Mondi Wetlands Project together with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, WWF – South Africa , and the Water Research Commission has developed 5 training tools: 1) A wetland functional assessment method for use by extension services. 2) Guidelines for integrating the protection, conservation and management of wetlands into river basin management planning developed for use by River Basin Management Authorities in South Africa. 3) Guidelines for managing wetlands in the Plantation Forestry industry. 4) Guidelines for sustainable subsistence farming in wetlands. 5) Guidelines for sustainably managing wetlands in the sugar industry. The Mondi Wetlands Project runs courses on how to use all the above.</p> <p>Wetland rehabilitation training continues for Working for Wetlands staff (Euros 5 million’s worth of rehabilitation a year).</p> <p>Mondi Wetlands Project continues to provide wise use training for the extension services in the Departments of Agriculture, Water Affairs and Environmental Affairs, as well as for subsistence farmers and the commercial sugar and plantation forestry industries.</p>		

<b>Action 20.1.6.-</b> Provide opportunities for manager training by:		
<p>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 <i>Wetlands for the Future Initiative</i> funded by the Government of the USA for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>		
<b>1. Opportunities for manager training in the country have been provided</b>	<b>B</b>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;  E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;  H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>
<b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>		
<p>Both Working for Wetlands and the Mondi Wetlands Project provide training for South African wetland managers in the wise use of wetlands. Anybody can come on these courses, most of which are for free. Working for Wetlands has sent one of their staff to the 6-week Kenya Wildlife Training Institute’s course on wetland management.</p>		

<b>Action 20.1.7.-</b> Continue to encourage the development of projects for submission to the <i>Small Grants Fund</i> for support for training activities.		
<b>1. Training-related projects have been submitted to the Small Grants Fund</b>	<b>C</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>		

**Action 20.1.8.-** Encourage further development and use of regional wetland training and research centres, including a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (Resolution VII.26) and a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia (Resolution VIII.41).

1.- Support has been provided to the development of regional wetland training and research centres <i>(if applicable, please include number of centres)</i>	<b>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° centres</b>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of centres and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
Representatives from Working for Wetlands and the Mondri Wetlands Project have both been to the Lake Naivasha Training Institute in Kenya to discuss with the principal ways of closer collaboration on the wetland course. It was agreed that South Africa should see if we are able to contribute expertise to the course. Working for Wetlands sent one of their staff to the course in 2004, to learn and evaluate the relevance of the course to South African wetland managers. Also refer to Actions 3.2.i and 3.2.1.			

**Action 20.1.9.-** Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about training for the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the *Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, the Bureau, *MedWet* and the IOPs of the Convention.

1. The Party has participated in exchanges of information and expertise related to wetland training issues	<b>C</b>	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
See above.		

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

[Go to Feedback on Report Format](#) - [Go to Table of Contents](#)

#### PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<b>PRIORITY:</b>		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 21.1.1.-** Recruit new Contracting Parties through:

- seeking direct contact with non-Contracting Parties to provide information on the benefits of membership and advice or assistance in overcoming obstacles;
- intensifying contacts with the diplomatic representatives of non-Contracting Parties;
- 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;
- organizing subregional workshops involving Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties;

<p>e) providing assistance for the identification of <i>Wetlands of International Importance</i> that could be listed as Ramsar sites upon accession;</p> <p>f) encouraging attendance by observers from non-Contracting Parties at regional meetings and meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and</p> <p>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)</p>		
<p><b>1. Actions have been taken to encourage the adherence to the Convention of new Contracting Parties</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i>  <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i>  <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>  <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p><b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b></p>		
<p>Not since COP8</p>		

**FEEDBACK ON COP9 NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT**

[Go to last Operational Objective \(21\)](#)

[Go to Table of Contents](#)

<p><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></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><b>B</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>