



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

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

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INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

CONTRACTING PARTY

<u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u>
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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

- Since 2002, three new sites were designated as Ramsar sites, two in California and one in Hawaii.

- The next update of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Wetland Status and Trend Report, will be completed by December 31 2005.
- In April 2004, the President announced an aggressive new national goal -- moving beyond a policy of "no net loss" of wetlands to have an *overall increase* of wetlands in America each year. The President's goal is to create, improve, and protect at least three million wetland acres over the next five years in order to increase overall wetland acres and quality. He also pledged to provide better tracking of the programs that would restore, enhance and protect these acres by utilizing remote sensing, the National Wetland Inventory, enhanced status and trends analysis and the development of useful protocols for measuring wetlands outcomes.
- United States has continued to provide support to the Ramsar Wetlands for the Future Fund, which provides small grants for wetland conservation and capacity building in the Americas. The U.S. has also contributed financial support for the Pan-American Ramsar meeting and the Regional Training Center in Panama, as well as for the upcoming COP9 in Uganda.
- The U.S. National Ramsar Committee is active in promoting ecotourism and outreach.
- The Association of State Wetland Managers, with U.S. federal government support, held an international wetlands conference October 18-20 2004 focusing on wetland and bird conservation, with an emphasis on Ramsar wise use guidelines and site designation.
- U.S. chairs a subgroup of the Standing Committee to coordinate an element of Resolution VIII.45 on the efficiency and awareness of Ramsar Resolutions
- The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species initiative is in the process of being launched, with Ramsar participation.
- The North American Waterfowl Management Plan has been reauthorized (Oct 6 2003).
- The White Water to Blue Water Initiative Conference was held in March 2004 in Miami to promote an integrated watershed management approach to wetland and coastal management in the Caribbean, hosted by the U.S. government with Ramsar participation
- Establishment of the International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership – to assist NGOs and corporations in donating to wetland projects at Ramsar or World Heritage sites; first project for \$750,000US in Sian Ka'an, Mexico.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	The National Wetlands Inventory strategy will focus on three program goals: 1) strategic digital updating of maps in areas experiencing substantial developmental pressure and providing these products to the public over the Internet; 2) analyzing changes and trends to wetlands and other aquatic habitats at ecosystem, regional, or local scales; and 3) analyzing and disseminating resource information to better identify threats and risks to important wetland and aquatic habitats to promote sound decision making.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Strategic actions: 1) Intensify the strategic completion and updating of outdated maps in priority areas of the Nation, and provide natural resources information when and where it is needed by expanding and improving the availability of digital wetlands data; 2) Develop a prioritization scheme to determine which of the existing maps are most important for digitizing; 3) Consult with the	

Congress on the redirection of the Inventory and needed amendments to the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act; 4) Conduct regional and local aquatic habitat trends analyses to guide management strategies, and sound habitat resource planning and decision making; 5) Use the latest scientific and technical tools to analyze information that will enhance the use of Geographic Information System capabilities in resource management; and 6) Enhance partnerships and develop new ones to promote fish and wildlife habitat protection, restoration, and recreation activities.

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

<p>1.- Country has a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory (<i>if inventory exists, please include the number of sites</i>)</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i></p>	<p>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites / 22</p>
<p>2.- Methodologies recommended in the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6) were used for National Wetland Inventory</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i></p>	

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.]

There are an estimated 42.5 million ha of wetlands, or 5 percent of the land area, in the lower 48 states. Many of these wetlands are in the southeastern United States. Alaska is estimated to be about 45 percent wetland, and Hawaii is 1 percent wetland. From a high of 185,500 ha lost per year between the 1950's to the 1970's, today the U.S. is losing 24,000 ha a year, an eight-fold decrease in losses. Crucial small, isolated, or temporary wetlands are often lost first. Many of our remaining wetlands have been degraded. Protection of these wetlands following a court decision limiting protection for them is being addressed by the individual states. The next update of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Wetland Status and Trend Report, will be completed by December 31 2005, five years ahead of schedule. Updates are expected more frequently thereafter. For more information, see: <http://wetlands.fws.gov/>

Action 1.1.2.- Include in national wetland inventories information which identifies: a) potential Ramsar sites; b) wetlands of national, provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party; and c) wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation, with a list of priorities, giving particular priority to inventories of karst and caves, intertidal wetlands, coral reefs, peatlands, sites supporting globally threatened species, and other wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List.

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

<i>See actions 3.2.1, 3.3.1, r4.1.1, and Operational Objective 10.1</i>		
<i>Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:</i>		N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites
1. The inventory assesses and documents potential Ramsar Sites	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
2. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands of national, provincial or local importance	B	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i>
3. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation	B	<i>E = In progress;</i>
4. The inventory assesses and documents wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List	B	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status</i>
5. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply	C	<i>(explain below); I = No answer</i>
6. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of coastal protection	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
7. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of flood defense	C	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i>
8. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of food security	C	<i>E = In progress;</i>
9. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of poverty alleviation	C	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>
10. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of cultural heritage	C	<i>H = Other status (explain below);</i>
11.- The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research	C	<i>I = No answer</i>
12.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Comments on the information included in the wetland inventory in light of the items indicated above]		
Some of these assessments and documentations are done through processes separate from the National Wetland Inventory, such as the Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA); Corps of Engineers (USCE) assessments and Inter-agency coordination procedures (Section 8 consultations).		

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

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

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

1. National (including provincial) wetland inventory metadata record provided for inclusion in Ramsar's Web-based wetland inventory metadatabase	C	<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 Ramsar website could make a link to the metadata record available in the U.S. National Wetlands Inventory website (http://wetlands.fws.gov/)		

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

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

1. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among decision makers	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;
2. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among wetland managers	B	E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status
3. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among other wetland users	B	(explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
These actions are mandated by law.		

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To prevent net wetland loss at the national level.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	1) Grant programs providing matching funds to states and territories for acquisition, restoration, habitat management and/or enhancement of wetlands. 2) The National Park Service (NPS) is developing a Compendium of Ecological Assessment Methods to provide park managers the information necessary for	

	<p>identifying and selecting assessment methods. 3) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and State water quality agencies are together conducting an ecological assessment of wadeable streams throughout the U.S. This Wadeable Streams Assessment uses a stratified, statistically-valid sample survey design that will allow extrapolation of stream condition throughout each ecological region of the U.S. State participants are using a common biologically-based protocol and are following a comprehensive quality assurance program and standardized data management system. The goals of the Wadeable Stream Assessment are to provide a status report on the condition and health of the wadeable streams of the U.S.; help build State capacity for monitoring and assessment; and improve the comparability and integration of State monitoring and assessment methods. 4) Annual Appropriation Grants by US FWS Div International Conservation to Caddo Lake Institute include long-term monthly ecological assessments of dominant Bald Cypress species, water quality and aquatic habitat. 5) Making data accessible by incorporating wetlands data into national databases (STORET, WATERS, etc) for use as GIS layers to improve wetlands management.</p>
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Contribution made to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project (MA)	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 [Please include additional comments on the contribution made to the work of the MA.]		
The U.S. participated in the MA process, recommending scientific experts and reviewing the documentation throughout the multi-step process.		

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

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

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

1. Repository of assessments of changes in wetland status established	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the repository of assessment of changes in wetland status, its contents and uses.]		
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has begun the Five-Year Update to the 2000 National Wetlands Status and Trends Report, as proclaimed by the President on Earth Day. The Report will be completed in 2006, and provide the conclusive scientific and statistical results towards achieving and possibly surpassing the national goal of 'No-Net-Loss' of wetlands. A consortium of federal agencies are working in partnership with the Service under the auspices of the Council on Environmental Quality to contribute towards the estimated \$2.7 million total cost of the Report.		

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.

1. Assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character were undertaken	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
2. The assessments include impacts of climate change	B	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>
3. The assessments include impacts of sea-level rise	B	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessments undertaken.]		
Large-scale assessments have been undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency as a basis for coastal zone policy making. These products have been published in scientific journals. Regarding climate change, The Wildlife Society published the first comprehensive assessment of global warming's likely consequences for North American wildlife in 2004. The report details the disruption of essential ecological processes, displacement or disappearance of coastal wetlands species, significant loss of coastal marshes and disruption of alpine and Arctic ecosystems. Direct threats to many species are reported, including polar bears, migratory songbirds and waterfowl and alpine amphibians. In the Prairie Pothole Region from northern Iowa to central Alberta - the duck factory of North America - "most scenarios and models projected significant declines in wetlands, and thus declines in the abundance of breeding ducks in this region by the 2080s." Projected declines in duck breeding range between nine and 69 percent. Coastal wetlands are part of the bi-annual coastal condition report which can be viewed at: http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/nccr/ The Environmental Protection Agency has convened a national wetland monitoring workgroup to develop condition assessment and monitoring tools and programs for capacity.		

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)

1. Past losses and current status and trends of coastal wetlands documented	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands.]		
This is part of the National Wetlands Inventory status and trends analysis.		
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.]		
The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act established the National Coastal Wetlands		

Conservation Grant Program (<http://www.fws.gov/cep/cwgcover.html>) to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands of coastal States and the Trust Territories. Since enactment of the law in 1990, the Service has been working with the States to acquire, restore, manage, or enhance coastal wetlands through a matching grants program. To date, about \$139 million in grant monies have been awarded to 25 coastal States and one U.S. Territory and to acquire, protect or restore over 167,000 acres of coastal wetland ecosystems.

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

1. Information on mangrove forest cover has been compiled	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Information on conservation status of mangroves has been compiled	B	
3. Information on levels of use of mangroves has been compiled	B	

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information compiled related to mangroves.]

In the continental U.S., only three species of mangrove grow: red, black, and white mangroves. Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), black mangrove (*Avicennia* sp.), which often grows more inland, and white mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*) often grow even farther inland with no outstanding root structures. As these wetlands are increasingly threatened by the damming of upstream sources, significant decline in their integrity and productivity has been observed. Mangrove swamps have experienced loss of 3.2 percent since the 1950s. However, efforts are underway to enhance the protection of these valuable ecosystems. Currently, mangroves are protected by law, and are only used for educational, recreational and aesthetic purposes (non-consumptive use). Mangroves are a specific type of wetland included in the National Wetlands Inventory.

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

1.- The impacts of dams on wetlands have been assessed (if available, please include number of sites affected)	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	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the impacts of dams on wetlands, sites affected, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

The impacts of dam construction are assessed under the National Environmental Protection Act-NEPA. Since the last National Report, there has been no new dam construction. The impact of existing dams has been assessed on a case-by-case basis. Some small dams under state jurisdiction have been removed. There are plans to build fish ladders in larger dams to protect fish migration.

3.-Impacts of dams on wetlands [Please provide here a summary of impacts and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]

The impact of large dams is well recognized and mitigation measures for existing dams are being explored, such as the use of fish ladders and fish hatcheries.

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>	D	<u>Choose an answer for each indicator</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;	N° wetlands /Ramsar sites
2.- Impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples dependent on these wetlands have been assessed	C	E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the impacts of drought and other natural disasters on wetlands and people dependent on them, with any other information you consider revelant.]			
<p>Within weeks of each other in 2004, hurricanes Charley, Francis, Ivan and Jeanne left a wake of destruction spanning the majority of the Southern Coastal States. The devastation brought on by the storms was responsible for considerable damage levied on National Wildlife Refuges in those states and Puerto Rico. Wildlife impacts are expected to include loss of Alabama, Perdido Key and Choctawhatchee beach mice populations (all endangered species) due to severe impacts to primary dune habitats. Sea turtle nests are most likely destroyed or buried due to beach erosions, inundation, or deposition of additional sand over the nests; additional impacts will undoubtedly be experienced by other species, such as birds and small mammals from habitat loss from tress and other vegetation damaged by the high winds or erosion on riverbanks and streams. Aquatic species will be adversely impacted by additional sediments, effluents and contaminants washed into streams, lakes and the ocean. Assessing the damage has been difficult, given that these storms occurred immediately after each other.</p>			
Action 1.2.6.- Assess the contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries, including utilizing information available from the <i>Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)</i> 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.			
1. The contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries has been assessed	D	<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 assessment undertaken.]			
<p>Approximately 75% of the fish and shellfish commercially harvested in U.S. waters are dependent on estuaries and their tidal wetlands. More than one-third of the nation's threatened and endangered species live only in wetlands, and nearly half use wetlands at some point in their lives. Estuarine and marine fish and shellfish, various birds, and certain mammals must have coastal wetlands to survive. Most commercial and game fish breed and raise their young in coastal marshes and estuaries. Menhaden, flounder, sea trout, spot, croaker and striped bass are among the more familiar fish that depend on coastal wetlands. Shrimp, oysters, clams, and blue and Dungeness crabs likewise need these wetlands for food, shelter and breeding grounds.</p> <p>The No Net Loss policy on wetlands is based on the understanding that wetlands, particularly coastal, contribute to the maintenance of fisheries. Inland fisheries are mostly recreational and the contribution of wetlands to recreational fisheries is recognized by the large number of state-level programs that promote their habitat conservation.</p>			
3. Recommendations on sustainable management practices of fish stocks in wetlands have been transmitted to relevant authorities/stakeholders	D	<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	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the recommendations and their transmission to relevant authorities/stakeholders.]			

Sea Grant is a nationwide network (administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]), of 30 university-based programs that work with coastal communities. This network of the nation’s top universities involves more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, educators, students, and outreach experts conducting scientific research, education, training, and extension projects designed to foster science-based decisions about the use and conservation of our aquatic resources.

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	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 the assessment undertaken.]</i>		
These assessments are made case-by-case, as water allocation is made by local and state authorities. The overall national policy is that water allocation will not degrade wetland functions.		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	No Net Loss of wetlands and, whenever feasible, restoration.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<p>The most powerful policy instrument is NEPA. The purposes of NEPA are to fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations; ensure safe, healthful, productive and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings; obtain the widest range of ecosystem services without degradation, risk to health or safety or undesirable or unintended consequences; preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of the national heritage and maintain an environment that supports diversity and variety of options.</p> <p>The Rivers and Harbors Act and the Endangered Species Act are two other powerful policy tools. Well over 1/3 of the 564 plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered in the U.S. utilize wetland habitats during some portion of their life cycle.</p> <p>Section 404 of the Clean Water Act establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Activities in waters of the United States that are regulated under this program include fills for development, water resource projects (such as dams and levees), infrastructure development (such as highways and airports), and conversion of wetlands to uplands for farming and forestry.</p>	

	<p>(http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/facts/fact10.html)</p> <p>Under Federal surface transportation legislation, TEA-21, transportation agencies may use Federal-aid highway funds to finance conservation planning and implementation, as well as wetland mitigation and restoration projects. The agency has a goal of 1.5 to 1 wetland acre mitigation and has achieved over 36,000 acres of wetland mitigation since 1996, with a net gain from mitigation of over 23,000 acres since 1996. FHWA also funds research on wetlands mitigation in connection with highways.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency and Corps of Engineers are leading an effort to identify appropriate wetland mitigation efforts called the Mitigation Action Plan. The plan being developed has 17 specific action items including the development of tools for local regulators.</p> <p>In April 2004, the President announced an aggressive new national goal -- moving beyond a policy of "no net loss" of wetlands to have an <u>overall increase</u> of wetlands in America each year. The President's goal is to create, improve, and protect at least three million wetland acres over the next five years in order to increase overall wetland acres and quality.</p>
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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	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible	B	
3. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporates WSSD targets and actions	A	
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.]		
There is an Executive Order on Wetlands (EO 11990) from 1977 (http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/regs/eo11990.html). The National Wetlands Policy was established before WSSD.		

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	D	<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. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies	A	
3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans	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	
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the incorporation of wetland issues into other sectoral strategic or planning processes.]		
Sustainable development in the U.S. is supported by the policy of No Net Loss and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969). NEPA provides a framework to ensure the wise use of wetlands and water and to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between society and its environment, and to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and the biosphere.		

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

1. Wetland tenure systems and user rights have been considered in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management	B	<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 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland tenure systems and user rights in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management.]		
The U.S. has promoted private initiatives that are compatible with rights of tenure and these are contained in Department of Agriculture programs (Farm Bill) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). These programs provide funding and incentives for conservation of wetlands by the private sector. For more information, see: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farbill/2002/		

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

1. A review of legislation, policies and incentives directly or indirectly related to high Andean wetlands has been completed	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	No net loss and no degradation of habitats of endangered or threatened species.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Ongoing implementation.	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. The Party is one of the 100 CPs identified by the Ramsar Bureau to initiate and if possible complete by COP9 a comprehensive review of wetland-related legislation and institutions	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i>
2. A review of legislation and institutions to promote the wise use of wetlands has been completed	B	<i>B = Yes; C = No;</i>
3. Legislation and institutional procedures have been modified to preclude unwise use of wetlands	D	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i>
<i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>		
<i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>		
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the review of legislation and institutions and the amendments made to preclude unwise use of wetlands.]</i>		
Wetlands are highly regulated, and wetlands protection is achieved through legislation, regulations, and private sector engagement in conservation programs. The current trend is to increase private sector engagement in wetland conservation through “joint ventures”. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Act was passed, in part, to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan , an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetlands and associated uplands habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds in North America. In December 2002, Congress reauthorized		

appropriations for the Act through Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. Congress increased the appropriation authorization to \$55 million in 2003, with \$5 million increases to occur annually until FY 2007, when the appropriation cap will be \$75 million.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. WRP is reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill). The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) administers the program. Funding for WRP comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

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

1. Intra- and/or inter-ministerial dialogues have been established

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Dialogues have been established to address specific issues. There are more formal dialogues required by regulatory mechanisms.

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

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.]

On a case-by-case basis. Heritage and cultural values are highlighted in most visitor centers at national and state parks that contain wetlands. For example, at the Caddo Lake Ramsar Site annual appropriation programs to the Caddo Lake Institute include development of video documentary as to "Lessons of Caddo Lake", specifically referencing tribal and archeological resources, history and artifacts, and modern methods to promulgate their appreciation and protection. This case is part of the Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetlands Science and Visitors Center at the Caddo Lake NWR.

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

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. 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

B

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

The U.S. has developed guidelines for identification and management of mountain wetlands. Mountain wetlands are fully integrated into the National Wetlands Policy.

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

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

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

The U.S. has its own environmental impact assessment procedures, which have been in place since 1972. A key element of these regulations is participation by all stakeholders.

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

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

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

C

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

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

E

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

The Council on Environmental Quality is currently conducting a review of federal programs that 1) Establish wetlands where they do not currently exist; 2) Enhance existing wetlands to improve their functions and values; and 3) Protect the remaining wetlands to ensure that the base is maintained in a desirable condition.

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

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

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.]

U.S. federal as well as state and local regulations require Environmental Impact Assessment studies on large infrastructure and construction projects, which include assessing potential impact on wetlands.

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	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands /Ramsar sites
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		
3.- EIAs have included full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts	B		
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include comments on Environmental Impact Assessment implementation at national level.]			
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Project Planning Program provides our Federal, State, and local partners with biological expertise to support many different types of development and conservation projects across the country. The program offers biological information to help conserve a variety of fish and wildlife and their habitats, but it also has a special focus on wetlands. A number of laws provide the foundation for Project Planning's partnerships for wetland conservation, such as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, and Federal Power Act. The program is playing a key role in the effort to meet the Administration's net gain goal, and is one reason why the nationwide rate of wetlands loss is diminishing.			

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	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 [Please include additional comments on the involvement of IAIA experts in EIA processes in the country.]		

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

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

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

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

The Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable (SWRR) is an official subgroup of the Advisory Committee on Water Information, a federal advisory group providing information to federal agencies. It serves as a national forum to share information and promote indicators and research related to water and water resource sustainability. It is currently developing ecosystem criteria and indicators to support decision-making at the federal level regarding water resources, including wetlands. Experts from throughout the country, including academics, NGOs and government agencies, contribute to this process.

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	<p>In April 2004, the President announced a goal is to create, improve, and protect at least three million wetland acres over the next five years in order to increase overall wetland acres and quality. Through a combined effort, the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA, will, over the next five years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restore and create at least 1 million acres of wetlands; - improve the quality of at least 1 million acres of wetlands; - protect at least 1 million acres of wetlands. <p>The benefits of these outcomes will be enhanced by further efforts to improve associated uplands and river habitat.</p>	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<p>Better Tracking of Wetland Programs (through the National Wetlands Inventory and improved interagency coordination on remote sensing and ground level data collection on gain, loss, and quality); Enhance Local Collaboration; and Partnership programs for restoring, improving, and protecting wetlands (through Farm Bill Wetlands Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Technical Assistance Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife</p>	

Program and the Coastal Program).

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

C

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

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

2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work to review and update the guidance on the wise use concept, including the ecosystem approach

C

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

The U.S. has not been asked to participate in this work.

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

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in 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 EPA actively disseminates information related to conservation and wise use of wetlands through the Internet (EPA to provide additional information). USFWS, in collaboration with other agencies, provides training to wetland managers at its National Conservation Training Center, in West Virginia.

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

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 elements of Resolution VIII.14 that relate to watershed scope and participatory management are also the core issues of the U.S. approach to water and wetlands management. It is too soon to assess to what degree the new management guidelines diverge from current management procedures in the U.S.

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	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Mechanisms need to be developed and/or strengthened to disseminate this information in the U.S. The USG incorporates the wise use concept into its policy of Integrated Watershed Resource Management (IWRM) which it included in its work with the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the White Water to Blue Water Initiative. State Dept officials participated in a side event at the UN CSD meeting in New York sponsored by Ramsar.		

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

<i>See action r2.2.iii</i>		
1. Actions have been taken to improve the awareness and understanding of values and functions of mountain and high altitude wetlands	H	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;
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	C	F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
3. National, regional or local strategies and plans for the conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been developed	H	H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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.]		
There is recognition of the importance of mountain and high altitude wetlands. However, management takes place at local levels.		

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

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)

<p>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</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>The U.S. provided input on global mangrove sustainability issues through details comments to the Ramsar’s STRP document on coastal wetlands for the Millennium Assessment.</p> <p>The U.S. presented a paper on sustainability of aquaculture and conservation of coastal wetlands at the 2003 World Aquaculture Congress in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.</p> <p>The U.S. actively assisted in the drafting of the World Bank Code of Conduct for the Management of Sustainable Use of Mangrove Ecosystems (World Bank, July 2004).</p>		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

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)

<p>1. The Party has participated in the Ramsar Bureau-led process to establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands</p>	<p>C</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</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)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

Action r3.2.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	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 the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Peatlands are included in the funding available for all types of wetlands in the U.S.		

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

1. Summary of the status and trends in national peatland resources is available	B	<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.- Status and trends in national peatland resources <i>[Please include information on the conservation status and trends of peatland resources and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]</i>		
This is part of the National Wetlands Inventory Status and Trends.		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	Enhanced awareness of the role wetlands play in our lives, our communities, and the environment.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Annually, the Environmental Protection Agency facilitates a nationwide, month long celebration of wetlands. Each year the theme varies. This effort reaches out to schools, state and federal agencies, local communities, non –profits and industries. Outreach includes, maintenance of a website, development of fact sheets, participation in conferences, hosting of trainings, publication of materials, and facilitating information exchange.	
	USFWS and the State Department disseminate materials and press information	

	<p>annually to promote World Wetlands Day, domestically and through US missions overseas.</p> <p>Coastal America (an umbrella organization of 12 federal agencies) coordinates a system of 18 Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers nationwide that include on-going programs on wetlands in their mandate to provide education and outreach to the public and policymakers.</p>
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Action 3.3.1.- As part of national (or, as appropriate, provincial) wetland inventories, assess and document wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, and/or scientific research, and, where appropriate, seek to have these sites protected in recognition of these values.

See action 1.1.2

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

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.]

In 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded more than \$13 million in grants to 10 states to conserve, restore and protect coastal wetlands, under the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The grants were supplemented with nearly \$13 million from state and private partners. The grants are used to acquire, restore or enhance coastal wetlands for long-term conservation benefits to wildlife and habitat. Partners include state and local governments, private landowners and conservation groups. The program is funded by the 1990 Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. Funding for the program is generated from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat and small engine fuels. These taxes are deposited into the Sport Fish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. To date, the Service has awarded almost \$152 million in grants to states and a U.S. territory under the program. Almost 189,000 acres will have been protected or restored since the wetlands grant program began in 1990.

The Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Association of State Flood Plain Managers are hosting a national training workshop in 2005 to highlight the connections between hazard mitigation and the value of wetlands and watershed planning.

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

See actions r2.2.ii, 6.1.6

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

D

Choose an answer for each indicator
A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;

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

D

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

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

The U.S. National Parks Service takes the lead role in creating awareness of the importance of social and cultural values of wetlands. Other actions are taken at the local level, including academic studies and community workshops. As an example, see a report on Stakeholder Attitudes about Managing Michigan’s Watersheds and Wetlands (<http://www.ippsr.msu.edu/AppliedResearch/KaplowitzKerr.htm>)

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)

<p>1. Actions have been taken to ensure that public institutions place emphasis on the hydrogeological, social, economic and environmental aspects of groundwater</p>	<p>D</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Groundwater is a state and local issue and is regulated by state laws. Groundwater becomes a federal issue when it affects migratory, threatened or endangered wildlife, or the public health through contaminated drinking water. EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) supports the development and implementation of ground and surface-water based drinking water source protection under EPA's Office of Water National Water Program Guidance for FY 2006 Program Activity Measure # SDW-9, which records the percent of community water systems for which source water protection strategies are in place and being implemented. Source water protection programs are comprehensive pollution-prevention programs developed and implemented at the local level through public participation, outreach and education, and technical assistance at the watershed delineation and protection level.

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)

<p>1. Compilation(s) and assessment(s) of both material and non-material cultural elements related to wetlands and water have been undertaken</p>	<p>H</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i></p>
<p>2. Actions have been taken to promote the appreciation and revitalization of cultural values related to wetlands and water</p>	<p>H</p>	<p><i>B = Yes;</i></p>
<p>3. All relevant aspects of cultural heritage have been incorporated in the design and implementation of wetland management</p>	<p>H</p>	<p><i>C = No;</i></p>
<p>4. Cultural values of wetlands have been used as a tool to strengthen involvement of local stakeholders, particularly in wetland planning and management</p>	<p>H</p>	<p><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></p>

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

Various actions have taken place at the federal (National Parks Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs), state, local and private sector levels. In addition, the U.S. designated the Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes as a Ramsar site. Sacred to Hawaiians, Kawainui Marsh, the largest remaining emergent wetland in Hawai'i and Hawaii's largest ancient freshwater fishpond, is located in what was once the center of a caldera of the Koolau shield volcano. The marsh provides primary habitat for four of Hawaii's endemic and endangered waterbirds, and contains archaeological and cultural resources, including ancient walled taro water gardens (lo'i) where fish were also cultivated.

[Restore America's Estuaries \(RAE\)](#) is a national coalition of 11 community-based organizations working to save our coastal areas. The members of the coalition include the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Galveston Bay Foundation, Conservation Law Foundation (Gulf of Maine), American Littoral Society/Baykeeper (Hudson-Raritan Estuary), Save the Sound (Long Island Sound), Save The Bay (Narragansett Bay), North Carolina Coastal Federation, People for Puget Sound, Save San Francisco

Bay, and Tampa BAYWATCH. RAE's mission is to protect and restore America's coastal regions by increasing awareness, appreciation and understanding of the environmental, economic, cultural and recreational values of our estuaries; and leading a national campaign to restore 1 million acres of estuary habitat.

The annual appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Institute, its Ramsar Science and Visitors Center and its collaborative Native American training initiative program with South Western Oklahoma State University, the Caddo Nation on the Caddo Lake NWR will include specific components to disseminate information about, and to replicate Caddo Native American pictograph images both authentic replications and consumer level ceramic dinnerware as an ancestral input to local and Native American ceramic industrial development.

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

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.]

The purpose of NEPA is to ensure the quality of the environment and wise use of natural resources taking into account sustainable social and economic development needs.

The Food Security Act of 1985 contains several provisions that were intended to discourage the conversion of wetlands to agricultural production. These provisions, often referred to as Swampbuster provisions, state that a person will be ineligible for all or a portion of certain USDA program benefits, including loans, subsidies, crop insurance, and price support programs, if the person produces an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985. A person will also be ineligible if, after November 28, 1990, the person converts a wetland by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, removing woody vegetation, or other means for the purpose, or to have the effect of, making possible the production of an agricultural commodity. For the former, the person would lose eligibility for all or a portion of the crop year of the commodity that was planted on the converted wetland. For the latter, the person would lose eligibility during the crop year that is equal to the calendar year during which the violation occurred as well as each subsequent crop year until the converted wetland is restored or the loss of wetland functions and values has been mitigated prior to the beginning of such calendar year in accordance with USDA requirements. Some agricultural activities are exempt from Swampbuster regulations, such as the production of an agricultural commodity on wetlands, when the conversion of the wetland was "commenced" prior to December 23, 1985; conversion of artificial wetlands; and activities that result in a minimal effect on wetland functions and values. Wetland alterations that do not make possible production of agricultural commodities, as defined in statute, are not subject to Swampbuster. These include alterations for fish production, trees, vineyards, shrubs, cranberries, agricultural waste management structures, livestock ponds, fire control or building and road construction.

A variety of permits may be required for aquaculture facilities in both freshwater and marine areas to prevent negative environmental impacts or navigational problems. The legal responsibility to oversee the alteration of wetlands, including agricultural and aquacultural activities that occur in these areas, has been given to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Corps of Engineers regulates the alteration of wetlands according to section 404 of the Clean Water Act and according to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The Natural Resources Conservation Service makes wetland determinations for agricultural producers who wish to receive certain USDA benefits as set forth in the Swampbuster provisions of the Food Security Act. Lands used for aquaculture are exempt from the Food Security Act as long as they are used continually for aquaculture.

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

<i>See action 20.1.8</i>		
1. Research has been promoted on the role of wetlands in any of the following areas: water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, and cultural heritage	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>Wetlands are the topic of research at many of the nation’s universities. At the Federal government level, the main institution conducting these studies is the USGS’s National Wetlands Research Center, which seeks to develop and disseminate scientific information needed for understanding the ecology and values of the nation's wetlands and for managing and restoring wetland habitats and associated plant and animal communities. The Center is a source and clearinghouse of science information about wetlands in the United States and the world for other agencies, private entities, academia, and the public at large. Staff members obtain and provide this information by performing original scientific research and developing research results into literature and technological tools. They then disseminate that information through a variety of means. On a National level, the Center provides information on wetland habitats through a system of peer reviewed journal articles, databases, synthesis reports, workshops, conferences, technical assistance, training, and information/library services. Often the information or databases reside at other organizations, including other USGS field offices and research centers. On a Regional basis, the Center solves wetland-related problems and conducts status and trends inventories of wetland habitats, evaluates wetland problems, and conducts field and laboratory research on wetland issues. Center research includes a broad array of projects on wetland ecology, values, management, restoration and creation, plus research on the ecology of a wide variety of plant and animal species and communities that are found in wetlands. NWRC's research focuses on estuarine, marine, and freshwater wetlands. Along the coasts, the Center works on issues related to marine seagrasses and corals, estuarine waters, marshes and submerged aquatic vegetation, mangrove swamps, and freshwater areas of open water, marshes, submerged vegetation, forests and coastal prairies. Farther inland the Center has work underway on forested wetlands, including bottomland hardwoods, cypress-tupelo swamps, and pine savannas. In addition to understanding the structure, functions and processes of these wetland systems, the Center's research program includes studies that will guide the conservation of wetland-dependent flora and fauna, including rare or exotic plants, waterfowl, wading and Neotropical birds, fish, herps, and invertebrates. Many other specific topics that contribute to our understanding of the ecology of wetland ecosystems such as biodiversity, genetics, water quality, contaminants, nutrient cycling, and exotic species are also addressed through research at the Center. The Center also develops technologies that will aid natural resource managers (Federal, State, and private) in determining the status and trends of wetland habitats. These technologies include remote sensing, geographic information systems, and computer models that simulate the influence of environmental change and management activities on wetlands. Training in the use of advanced technologies is a somewhat unique role of the National Wetlands Research Center, but it is an essential component of the Center's effort to enable natural resource managers to monitor complex and rapidly changing wetland environments, in a manner that fosters both feedback and continual improvement.</p> <p>Annual appropriations to the Caddo Lake Institute for its Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center program include local scientific workshops to identify environmental flow needs involving scientists from multiple agencies and NGO entities, to apply the Nature Conservancy’s Ecologically Sustainable Water Management (ESWM) Protocols to Caddo Lake. This model is intended to also serve as a training vehicle for adaptation of this methodology to other wetlands in Texas, Louisiana and elsewhere. These protocols are consistent with Ramsar environmental flow guidance.</p>		

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

- i) undertaking, as far as possible, baseline inventory of temporary pools;
- ii) raising awareness of their presence and their specific values and functions;
- iii) ensuring the maintenance of their specific hydrological functioning;
- iv) ensuring that their natural resources are sustainably used and not overexploited;

v) recognizing the commitment to, and importance of, temporary pools to local communities and indigenous peoples, and supporting their management and protection; and vi) undertaking regular surveillance of temporary pools so as to identify and avert any threat to their values and functions, always considering the traditional uses and management. (Resolution VIII.33)		
1. Actions have been taken to secure the wise use of temporary pools	B	<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>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
NAWCA and the Farm Bill promote conservation of these wetlands through grants and incentives to the private sector. The USFWS produced the report: Geographically Isolated Wetlands: A Preliminary Assessment of their Characteristics and Status in Selected Areas of the United States. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region, Hadley, MA. (Tiner, R.W., H. C. Bergquist, G. P. DeAlessio, and M. J. Starr. 2002.) This report documented the importance and variety of wetlands that are isolated in numerous physiographic settings across America. Although the national extent and statistical estimates of the percentage of isolated wetlands remain unknown, the report highlighted many areas where isolated wetlands are abundant. The profiles of isolated wetlands presented in this report have shown that many of the functions and benefits ascribed to non-isolated wetlands are performed by isolated wetlands. Moreover, their geographic isolation and local and regional distribution place isolated wetlands in a rather unique position to provide habitats crucial for the survival of many plant and animal species (e.g., endemism and breeding grounds for numerous amphibian and bird species). Isolated wetlands are vital natural resources, important for maintaining the Nation's biodiversity and for providing a host of other functions.		

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

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	There are multiple targets at federal, state, and local levels.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Implementation of actions relevant to these issues takes place under the laws and regulations related to wetlands described above. The annual Caddo Lake Institute Appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Ramsar site includes support of the “Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Clearinghouse” composed of local entities acting as a local Ramsar committee, for the purpose of integrating Ramsar and other technical guidance into local efforts to develop a Ramsar-based wetland management plan for Caddo Lake wetlands. Initiatives include environmental flow prescriptions and comprehensive wetland management planning recommendations, to support state and federal invasive species and water quality interventions under Clean Water and Clean Air Acts.	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. The Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) have been used/applied	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on application of the Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management.]

See Action 3.1.3

3. The Party has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the participation in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.]

N/A. However, the U.S. does incorporate wetlands into watershed planning efforts. The Environmental Protection Agency has a Targeted Watershed Grants Program that helps communities plan on a watershed basis. EPA has also supported conferences and trainings for local planners and states on smart growth concepts, how to develop comprehensive plans and implement them. States have developed comprehensive Coastal Zone Management Plans to plan for conservation and development needs for communities.

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

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

See action 3.1

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

Although no large dams have been constructed in the U.S. in this period, wetland and other environmental values and functions are considered by the U.S. government when support of large international dam projects is considered by the international financial institutions at which the U.S. government votes. Under the Pelosi amendment, the U.S. government may not support any project that does not meet U.S. standards for

environmental impact assessment.

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

See Action r1.2.vi. Coastal America, and its Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, undertakes projects including the installation of fish ladders. For example, the New Jersey Wetlands Restoration Partnership assisted in the funding of the Batsto River fish ladder. This program, sponsored by the US Army Corps of Engineers and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, received a \$50,000 donation from the NJCWRP. For more information, please visit cwrp.org.

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

1. Assessments of environmental flow have been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams	B	<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 assessments of environmental flow undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams.]

The USFWS is exploring measures to mitigate the impact of large dams on stream flow and migratory fish populations. The USFWS also funds the Fish Passage Program, which will seek to remove 91 barriers to fish passage in 26 states in 2005. Since 2001, the Fish Passage Program has removed 158 barriers across the country, restoring natural flows and fish migration. Fish Passage works to remove obstructions in waterways that prevent fish from reaching spawning grounds or historic habitat. Projects can be as small as inserting culverts under roads or railroad tracks or as large as the removal last year of the 95-year-old Embrey Dam near Fredericksburg by a military explosives team as part of a Coastal America partnership. Many of the small dams targeted for removal date as far back as the American and Industrial Revolutions. Completion of the 2004 projects will open 19,364 acres and more than 3,048 miles of waterways for fish, contributing to larger populations and more recreational fishing opportunities.

Annual appropriations to the Caddo Lake Institute at the Caddo Lake Texas Ramsar site for its Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center program include intensive workshops to develop environmental flow prescriptions for these wetlands and their tributary water sources, following the model established by the Nature Conservancy for Ecologically Sustainable Water Management (ESWM). This program involves approximately 40 scientists from multiple state and federal agencies as well as local scientific and lay participants. The goal is to establish environmental flow recommendations for Caddo Lake and its watershed, to incorporate the techniques for doing so into the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center Program for wetland management planning. The purpose is to establish this special expertise which is applicable not only in the Basin but also in watersheds throughout Texas, Louisiana and the southeast. ESWM protocols follow methodologies outlined in Richter, Brian D., et al. 2003. Ecologically Sustainable Water Management: Managing River Flows for Ecological Integrity. *Ecological Applications* 13(1) 2003. pp 206-224. *Ecological Society of America*. These principles and protocols are completely consistent with, and will be modified to reflect, Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2.

3.- Centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation have been encouraged (<i>if available, please include number of centres</i>)	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres 1
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.]			
<p>The Caddo Lake Environmental Flow Orientation Conference took place in 2004, sponsored by the Caddo Lake Institute (CLI), US National Ramsar Committee, Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Science & Visitors Center, Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Clearinghouse and The Nature Conservancy (TNC)</p> <p>This conference included scientists from US Army Corps of Engineers, USGS, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas, Louisiana and Mexican state environmental agencies and academic, for-profit and non-profit scientists. The Conference was the first of three steps that will lead to developing initial environmental flow recommendations for Caddo Lake and its tributaries. The purposes of this project are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To engage inter-disciplinary scientists in a collaborative process of developing environmental flow recommendations for inflows to Caddo Lake. (2) To facilitate interaction among a variety of agencies, academic institutions, and organizations to gain a shared understanding of the water needs of Caddo Lake. (3) To identify critical linkages between various components of the flow regime (low flows, high pulse flows, and over-bank flows), lake level fluctuations, and the plant and animal species inhabiting Caddo Lake and its tributaries. (4) To develop initial environmental flow recommendations to protect the health of Caddo Lake and its tributaries (5) To identify research and monitoring activities necessary to fill information gaps and address critical uncertainties in flow-ecology relationships. (6) To provide scientifically-credible information about environmental flow needs to water managers and thereby promote the adoption of "ecologically sustainable water management." (7) To demonstrate a process for developing environmental flow recommendations that can be applied in other aquatic ecosystems. <p>The project methodology is described in detail in: Richter, B.D., A.T. Warner, J.L. Meyer, and K. Lutz. 2005. A collaborative and adaptive process for developing environmental flow recommendations. <i>River Research and Applications</i>, in press. For more information, see: www.caddodefense.org</p>			

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

1. The <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management (Resolution VIII.4)</i> have been used/applied	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and amended in the Coastal Zone Protection Act of 1996, preceeds these guidelines and includes wetlands. Through its White Water to Blue Water Initiative, including small project grants, the U.S. actively promotes attention to wetlands as part of the ecosystems addressed under ICZM in the wider Caribbean region.		

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

1. Case studies of good practice examples on the integration of wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau	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
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

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

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

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

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.]

Annual appropriations to the Caddo Lake Institute include programs to provide flow prescription and adaptive flow management workshop recommendations for potential incorporation in state water allocation and management decision-making processes that may affect the Caddo Lake Ramsar site. These workshops involve application of the Nature Conservancy's EFWM protocols for consensus on environmental flow recommendations among 40 scientists from state, federal agencies, universities and local entities. These recommendations will be cross-referenced to Resolution VIII.1 and VIII.2.

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

See action 18.1.2

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

U.S. agencies are observer members of the U.S. National Ramsar Committee. These include the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of State, Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The USNRC is planning to invite observers from the Department of Agriculture and the Corps of Engineers as well.

Action r3.4.ix.- Develop projects and other activities that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, make such good practice examples available to others through the information exchange mechanisms of the *Ramsar/ CBD River Basin Initiative*, and report to COP9 on the successes achieved and lessons learned from these activities. (Resolution VIII.1)

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

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 relevant projects.]

See action 3.4.6

3.- Summary on successes achieved and lessons learned in developing this type of projects [Please provide a summary on the relevant projects, successes achieved, and lessons learned in their development.]**Action r3.4.x.-** Develop mechanisms to better plan and manage for the wise use of water in the Andean region. (Resolution VIII.39)**1. Mechanisms to better plan and manage the wise use of water in the Andean Region have been developed****A***Choose an answer**A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;**E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;**H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer***2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]****Action r3.4.xi.-** Seek to maintain, as far as practicable in countries affected by drought, the continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands, so as to ensure that they can continue to provide their full range of values and functions for people and biological diversity. (Resolution VIII.35)**1. Efforts have been made to maintain continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands in situations of drought****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.]**

In the Everglades, Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) store water for use during drought by South Dade County agriculture and the urban populations of Monroe, Dade, Broward, and southern Palm Beach Counties. In addition to agricultural users, about four million people on the lower east coast draw water from the surficial Biscayne Aquifer. The aquifer is supplied by water released from the WCAs when rains fail. The drought-induced releases rapidly lower marsh water levels in the Everglades. During severe droughts, Lake Okeechobee water is used to replenish supplies. The water passes through the Everglades Agricultural Area, where some is removed by growers. The rest passes through the Water Conservation Areas in the canals. Because they do not overflow the canal banks, however, drought releases to the lower east coast do not nourish Everglades vegetation.

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****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.]**

These type of studies are carried out by the U.S. Geological Survey. For more information, see:

<http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/>

The Caddo Lake Texas Ramsar Science and Visitors Center program and pilot project for ecologically sustainable water management will include flow prescription recommendations and proposed adaptive management procedures to accommodate ground water conservation and ground water dynamics as applied to the Caddo Lake Ramsar site.

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)

<p>1. The participation of civil society in the management of groundwater resources has been promoted</p>	<p>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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) supports the development and implementation of ground water protection programs primarily through the Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP) , begun in 1989, as well as the Source Water Protection Program SWPP) , developed in 1996 as a follow-on program combining protection and management of ground and surface water sources of drinking water. Both of these programs are based on local-level awareness and involvement of concerned citizens in the development and implementation of programs designed to protect water resources from the aesthetic as well as the human health standpoint. Both are comprehensive pollution-prevention programs developed and implemented at the local level through public participation, outreach and education, and technical assistance at the watershed delineation and protection level. EPA's OGWDW supports the development and implementation of both WHPPs and SWPPs under EPA's Office of Water National Water Program Guidance for FY 2006 Program Activity Measure # SDW-11, which identifies at the State level the most prevalent and/or threatening categories of existing potential sources of contamination for ground and surface water sources for community water systems.</p>		

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).

<p><i>See action 4.1.4</i></p>		
<p>1. The implications of implementation of the Kyoto Protocol for wetland conservation have been assessed</p>	<p>D</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>Some of these assessments have been carried out by the U.S. Geological Survey. As an example, USGS's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center and USDA's Agricultural Research Service collaborated to study the potential of prairie pothole region wetlands to sequester carbon emitted into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. Results suggest that wetlands traditionally functioned as sinks for atmospheric carbon, but cultivation, the current principal land use, has shifted their function to be sources of atmospheric carbon. Data suggest that equal or greater amounts of atmospheric carbon can be stored in wetlands through restoration programs when compared with cropland, even though the acreage of wetlands is much smaller. These restored wetlands will also provide improved habitat for wildlife in the prairie pothole region.</p> <p>http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/info/factsheet/carbon.htm</p>		

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	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.]		
The U.S. is not a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol.		

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	<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 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	D	<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.]		
As an example of implementation of this action, a new General Management Plan for the Everglades National Park (a Ramsar site) was begun in 2002 as required by law. This 4-5 year process will address a new range of internal park issues and regional ecosystem challenges facing the park. A round of public involvement and “scoping” meetings was held in January, 2003. The results have been incorporated into more detailed management prescriptions and park zoning ideas. Major areas of concern include: boating; access; facilities; partnering; ecosystem restoration; and education/interpretation. A second round of public meetings was scheduled during 2004 to further the process.		

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	H	<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.]		
The current regulatory framework provides protection to mangroves and coastal wetlands.		

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)

<p>1. Studies on the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration and in mitigating the impacts of sea-level rise have been undertaken</p>	<p>D</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>See Action 3.4.9</p>		

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)

<p>1. Information on wetlands and agriculture has been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau and others</p>	<p>E</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>The U.S. participated in the first three World Water Forums and will play an active role in the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006.</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	<p>Through a combined effort, the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Transportation, EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA will, over the next five years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restore and create at least 1 million acres of wetlands; - Improve the quality of at least 1 million acres of wetlands; - Protect at least 1 million acres of wetlands. <p>The benefits of these outcomes will be enhanced by further efforts to improve associated uplands and river habitat.</p>	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<p>To achieve the targets above, we will provide incentive to ranchers and farmers to stop cultivating areas that were once wetlands; expand public-private efforts; encourage programs that will remove invasive species so that native vegetation can return and the wetlands can be revitalized; and increase grants for land protection programs.</p>	

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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.

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

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Project Planning program is focusing its biological assistance on high-priority projects – energy, transportation, water supply, and restoration. Two examples of Project Planning's technical assistance follow:

- *Restoring Wetlands in South Florida:* In FY04, Project Planning played a key role in advancing the Alligator Creek Restoration Project, proposed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and co-led by the Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of this State-Federal partnership is to restore historical hydrological patterns to the wetlands in the 1,600-acre Alligator Creek area of Charlotte Harbor. The Service worked with planning team members to revise the construction schedule and improve activities to avoid disturbing nesting bald eagles. By coordinating with the applicant, Corps, and State and helping find alternative approaches, the Service streamlined the environmental review process and expedited actions that will foster significant fish and wildlife benefits.
- *Conserving Wetlands to Achieve Net Gain – National Wetland Mitigation Action Plan:* Project Planning's involvement with the Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 program is central to the Administration's National Wetland Mitigation Action Plan. The plan identifies 13 tasks designed to improve compensatory mitigation, and seeks to highlight the flexibility available for selecting sites and approaches that maximize resource benefits. Among the 13 tasks are developing guidance for on-site/off-site and in-kind/out-of-kind mitigation; creating a model mitigation checklist; and outlining key information related to performance standards, vegetated buffers, and preservation.

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

1.- Actions have been taken to restore / rehabilitate those wetlands defined as priority for restoration (if available, please include number of sites)	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>	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites 2
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

An example of this is the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, described in Section 7.1.1. Another example is the McPerson Valley Wetlands Phase V Project in Kansas. Ducks Unlimited, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, The Nature Conservancy, and private companies and individuals will bring nearly \$1,500,000 to the project to acquire 4,600 acres and restore much of the valley's historic wetlands.

In terms of specific Ramsar sites, restoration activities are taking place at the Lower Connecticut River site. Since 2002, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continues to lead in the restoration of Ramsar wetlands that are invaded by the non-native haplotype of *Phragmites australis*. A series of

restoration experiments are being implemented along a salinity gradient (mesohaline and oligohaline) to determine best control methodologies. These include ditch plugging (to restore hydrological alterations created by historic mosquito ditching activities), mowing (amphibious mulching mower) and a combination of herbicide treatment and mowing. Partners include USFWS, NOAA Restoration Center, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Waterfowl Association, DEP Connecticut Duck Stamp Program, and Ducks Unlimited. In addition, scientists at Connecticut College, NRCS, CT DEP, and TNC conduct research into the impacts of Phragmites upon the wetland ecosystems and monitoring of restoration activities. Funding partners include DEP Long Island Sound Fund, and EPA Long Island Sound Study.

The H. Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are evaluating the potential of using dredge material to fill in salt marsh grid ditches created in the 1930s.

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).

<p>1. The <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been integrated into the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument(s)</p>	<p>D</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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>Since wetlands restoration takes place at multiple levels (from the local to national levels), it is difficult to know whether these guidelines are being implemented.</p>		

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).

<p>1. The role of wetland restoration has been taken into account in river basin management</p>	<p>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>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>The U.S. incorporates wetlands into watershed planning efforts. The Environmental Protection Agency has a Targeted Watershed Grants Program that helps communities plan on a watershed basis. EPA has also supported conferences and training for local planners and states on smart growth concepts, how to develop comprehensive plans and implement them. States have developed comprehensive Coastal Zone Management Plans to plan for conservation and development needs for communities.</p>		

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.

<p>1. Information and/or case studies on wetland restoration and rehabilitation is available</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><u>Choose an answer for each indicator</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i></p>
<p>2. Information on new research and methodologies for wetland restoration/rehabilitation has been compiled and disseminated</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information on restoration/rehabilitation of wetlands and its dissemination.]</p>		

See Action 3.3.5

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

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

<p>1. The <i>Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been applied in relation to the provision of compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
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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

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

At the national level, one of the most relevant examples is the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, which seeks to restore Louisiana's 3.5 million acres of coastal wetlands, representing about 40 percent of all of the coastal wetlands in the continental United States. These wetlands are extremely valuable to all citizens, not only because of their commercial, recreational and cultural values, but also because of the biological and physical process benefits they provide to coastal communities, the state and the nation.

At the international level, the U.S. is helping in the restoration of Iraq's wetlands (see Action 13.1.5)

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

<i>See action 20.1.5</i>		
1. Training needs in relation to wetland restoration have been assessed	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. 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.]		
Training needs are assessed on an ongoing basis. Courses are developed to address identified training needs and offered at the National Conservation Training Center, and engage wetland managers at federal, state and private sector levels.		

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

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

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> have been disseminated to community stakeholders	C	<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. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in wetland restoration activities	B	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the dissemination of the Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration and the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in wetland restoration.]		
NAWCA funds restoration initiatives that include various stakeholders. In addition, local efforts play an important role in the involvement of communities. For example, activities such as the Coastal Restoration Business Luncheons serve to coordinate coastal restoration contractors in New Orleans to help them build their business & help the state of Louisiana to lobby for federal restoration money.		

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	<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 [Please include additional comments on the use of Ramsar web site on wetland restoration and the materials provided to it, if applicable.]		
Professor Royal C. Gardner of Stetson University College of Law (and Vice Chair of the U.S. National Ramsar Committee) provided his article "Rehabilitating nature: a comparative review of legal mechanisms that		

encourage wetland restoration efforts", Catholic University Law Review (Washington, D.C., USA), vol. 52, no. 3 (spring 2003), pages 573-620, to be posted on the web site. See: http://www Ramsar.org/strp_rest_incentives_gardner.htm.

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

<p>PRIORITY:</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i></p>
<p>RESOURCING:</p>	<p>E</p>	<p><i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i></p>
<p>TARGETS (text answer):</p>	<p>Reduce the impact of invasive plants and animals in the loss of wetland and coastal habitats</p>	
<p>PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):</p>	<p>Continue the research and management work conducted under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Invasives Program and the U.S. Geological Survey’s National Wetlands Research Center. Annual appropriations to the Caddo Lake Institute for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center include ongoing local strategies to provide early warning and early response to invasive species such as water hyacinth. These included kiosks, maps and species identification information for wetland users and a hotline to report the same to appropriate state agencies. The Caddo Lake program also includes the training of local people to apply herbicides correctly, and eventual equipping of appropriate local watercraft.</p>	

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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)

1. National policy, strategy and management responses to threats from invasive species have been developed and implemented	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
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	D	D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;
3. Actions related to invasive species have been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organizations/processes	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.]

Executive Order 13112 signed in 1999 by President Clinton provided direction and authority for U.S. agencies to improve coordination of federal actions to combat invasive species. The order established the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), co-chaired by the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and Interior, and including the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Defense, Transportation and the Administrator of the EPA. NISC representation has now expanded to include over 20 federal agencies, including most recently the Department of Homeland Security and the NASA. In response to EO 13112 the U.S. released its National Management Plan in 2001 for addressing invasive species, for which approximately 168 specific action items were identified; since the last Ramsar COP approximately 75% of them are in progress or have been completed.

At the legislative level, as of 9/9/04, 38 bills on invasive species have been introduced to Congress, more than half of which address issues associated with invasive weeds and aquatic organisms potentially affecting wetlands. Three have been signed into law, and the remainder are still under discussion.

At the international level, the US Department of State and USAID have sponsored 7 regional workshops around the globe to raise awareness and build capacity in both the developed and developing world to address the threats caused by invasive species. Besides the governmental sponsors of the host countries for each of these meetings, non-governmental partners included the Global Invasive Species Program, IUCN, and CAB-International.

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)

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

The USGS's National Wetlands Research Center has been researching the impacts of exotic grasses on native plants and investigating the interactions between wild land fires and exotic invasive plants.

Annual appropriations to the Caddo Lake Institute for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center include ongoing local strategies to provide early warning and early response to invasive species such as water hyacinth. These activities included kiosks, maps and species identification information for wetland users and a hotline to report the same to appropriate state agencies. The Caddo Lake program also includes the training of local people to apply herbicides correctly, and eventual equipping of appropriate watercraft. These pilot projects will be referenced to Resolution VIII.10 and VIII.18.

The US Government has applied risk assessment to import questions associated with approximately 30 aquatic species, some of which are wetlands associated or dependent. Federal guidance on the methods for conducting risk assessment on invasive species are currently being revised by a domestic panel appointed by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, and by an expert international panel formed under the

NAFTA/CEC, including Mexico and Canada.

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)

<p>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>)</p>	<p>F</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p>Nº wetlands / Ramsar sites 3</p>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the problems of invasion by alien species, sites affected and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

These problems are being reported as appropriate through the update of Ramsar Information Sheets for all U.S. Ramsar sites. Some of the sites which have reported concerns with invasive species include the Everglades National Park, and the newly designated sites Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes in Hawaii and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. Typical examples of invasive species problematic to U.S. Ramsar wetland sites include purple loosestrife, phragmites, green crab, and spartina.

In addition, the U.S. has been actively involved in the development of international conventions and national legislation to address invasive species introductions via vessel traffic. Various assessment tools are under development for appropriate monitoring protocols for identifying invasive species in ballast, and other media. Also, new eradication tools are under development, including the use of biocontrol agents and low toxicity herbicides with applicability to wetland and aquatic sites.

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)

<p>1. International cooperation related to invasive species in transboundary/shared wetlands and water systems has been agreed and implemented</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

These issues are coordinated through the North American Plant Protection Organization, and, to a lesser extent, through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) under NAFTA, and the Tri-lateral Commission organized by the U.S., Mexico and Canada. Specific border issues are also being addressed in bi-lateral negotiations by the respective governments. For example, the U.S. and Canada, under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, jointly monitor the health of wetlands associated with the Great Lakes ecosystem, the largest contiguous freshwater body in the world.

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

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

The NAAEC coordinates these actions on a bi-national or tri-national basis. The U.S. has worked with GISP and others in organizing regional strategy building workshops around the world. In addition, the U.S. is addressing prevention and management of invasive species in environmental consultative mechanisms of free trade agreements. Cooperative actions aimed at prevention are ongoing under NAFTA (CEC), and work plans are under development from the U.S./Chile FTA and the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Improvements in ballast technology are proposed as joint project in the Singapore and U.S. FTA, to improve prevention of unwanted aquatic invasives that could also impact wetlands.

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

In the Everglades National Park, top soil has been overtaken by Brazilian Pepper (*Scinus terebinthifolius*), an invasive non-native species. Intense experimentation showed the only effective control method to be the scraping of the disturbed soil to bedrock and its removal from the site. This work was begun in 1994 and has since treated and restored 987 acres. Work continues each dry season. Other invasive exotic plants of concern in the Park are Australian Pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Old World Climbing Fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*) and Latherleaf (*Colubrina asiatica*). Since 1999, approximately 15,900 acres have been treated for exotic plant removal and control.

In the Lower Connecticut River, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection continues to the lead in the restoration of Ramsar wetlands that are invaded by the non-native haplotype of *Phragmites australis*. A series of restoration experiments are being implemented along a salinity gradient (mesohaline and oligohaline) to determine best control methodologies. These include ditch plugging (to restore hydrological alterations created by historic mosquito ditching activities), mowing (amphibious mulching mower) and a combination of herbicide treatment and mowing. Partners include USFWS, NOAA Restoration Center, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, The Nature Conservancy, among others.

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	There are no specific targets in this area	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Continuation of ongoing activities and initiatives mentioned in other sections of this report.	

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	<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 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>Incentive measures, building of trust, flexible approaches, capacity building and knowledge exchange are priority areas within wetland conservation programs. The Environmental Protection Agency distributes approximately 15 million USD annually to States, Tribes, non-profits and local groups to protect and manage wetlands including the development of comprehensive wetland programs.</p> <p>The Caddo Lake Institute's Ramsar Science and Visitors Center at the Caddo Lake Ramsar site includes a strong local community participation framework, called the Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Clearinghouse. It includes 4 principal local civic entities as well as about 100 individual and business members. Its STRP has recommended and the Clearinghouse has approved risk-based priority task lists for inclusion in an exemplary wetland management plan pursuant to Ramsar guidance. These include priority attention to environmental flow requirements now under analysis, water quality and chemistry concerns that the Clearinghouse and its STRP referred to state agencies, and invasive species identification and response programs. This has resulted in significant local scientific and technical capacity building and information. The Caddo Lake Institute was a co-author of the original guidelines on establishing and strengthening local community participation, and the above-described model not only reflects that guidance but also utilizes international Ramsar institutional elements to implement this guidance at the local level.</p>		

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

1. Traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands has been documented and its application encouraged	D	<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 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>Save the Wetlands is a Lawrence, Kansas based group that has evolved over two decades of resistance to a plan that would route a major trafficway through the Haskell-Baker Wetlands aka "Wakarusa Bottoms". This wetland, a remnant of 18,000 acres of periodic prairie wetland that existed in the Wakarusa River floodplain at the time of white settlement, is considered sacred by people all across Indian Country. Haskell Indian Nations University, once an off-reservation boarding school, uses this wetland as an integral part of its tradition-based educational programs. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries school officials were determined to tame both the "savage" and the "swamp", which had become the primary place of refuge for those who resisted forced</p>		

acculturation. The recovery and restoration of this wetland is widely seen as paralleling the spiritual and cultural renewal of American Indians in the 21st century. Save the Wetlands board of directors is composed about evenly of American Indians presently or formerly associated with Haskell and non-Indians representing University of Kansas, Baker University, and various environmental, historic preservation and smart growth/wise use advocates from the wider Lawrence community. <http://www.savethewetlands.org/>

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	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the promotion of public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands.]			
<p>Public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands has been promoted through a myriad of government programs, grants, incentives, and initiatives which involve a variety of stakeholders from the communities affected. For example, the State of Louisiana is working to raise public awareness of the impact of Louisiana's wetland loss on the State, Nation, and world and is seeking to develop support for efforts to save coastal Louisiana. In August 2002, the State launched a three-year public education campaign, <i>America's WETLAND</i>, designed to "... establish the values and significance of this vast world ecological region and...highlight the pending economic and energy security threat posed to our nation by its destruction." As part of its efforts, <i>America's WETLAND</i> is sponsoring a series of seven 'summits' on various topics to bring together experts to discuss the State's and the federal government's plans for coastal restoration and the programs designed to manage the implementation of these plans and programs (http://www.americaswetland.com/index.cfm). Each summit is focused on identifying problem areas and recommending possible solutions. In August 2003, <i>America's WETLAND</i> sponsored its fourth Summit, Community & Culture to address threats to the culture of communities whose existence is threatened by wetland loss. In order to take advantage of the experience of scientists and engineers in carrying out restoration projects, <i>America's WETLAND</i> commissioned the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to convene the fifth Summit in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 16 and 17 October 2003. ASCE, in May 2003, had adopted Policy 498, Louisiana Coastal Restoration, to support the national and State efforts to deal with the coastal challenge.</p> <p>Also, annual appropriations to the Caddo Lake Institute for its Ramsar Science and Visitors Center at the Caddo Lake Ramsar site include strong local community participation framework, called the Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Clearinghouse. It includes 4 principal local civic entities as well as about 100 individual and business members. Its STRP has recommended and the Clearinghouse has approved a 4 point priority task risk for developing an exemplary wetland management plan pursuant to Ramsar guidance, including priority attention to environmental flow requirements now under analysis, water quality and chemistry concerns that the Clearinghouse has referred to state agencies and invasive species and response programs. This has resulted in significant local scientific and technical capacity building and data capture. The Caddo Lake Institute was a co-author of the original Ramsar guidelines on establishing and strengthening local community participation, and the above-described model not only reflects that guidance but also utilizes international Ramsar institutional elements to implement this guidance at the local level.</p> <p>See also Action r9.viii.iv.</p>			
3.- Local stakeholders have been involved in the selection of new Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites)	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	N° Ramsar sites 2
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.]			
Since the 1960s, the local community around Kawainui Marsh, and a variety of local and statewide environmental, educational, and native Hawaiian groups and individuals, have consistently advocated for			

resource protection and against development in and around the marsh (Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources, 1994; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998), which was one of the reasons behind the movement to designate these marshes as a Ramsar site, among other conservation measures. The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve’s designation request was made by a local group, the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, and was supported by multiple letters of endorsement by other community stakeholders.

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

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

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.]

Local stakeholders have been involved in wider issues related to water resources management at the basin level in numerous instances and promoted by multiple initiatives and programs at the federal, state and local level. To mention just one example, the Mississippi's Basin Management Approach seeks to protect and restore the quality of Mississippi's water resources. This is done by developing and implementing effective management strategies that address water quality issues. Many agencies, organizations, businesses and citizens are coming together to help implement the Basin Management Approach. By working together and collaborating with one another, they are protecting and improving their water resources (Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality).

The Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center at the Caddo Lake Ramsar site in Texas has developed the Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Clearinghouse composed of 4 principal civic entities and approximately 100 businesses and residence. Local stake holders involved in the Clearinghouse process, and its STRP, have identified and approved 5 priority tasks for inclusion in development of an exemplary wetland management plan consistent with Ramsar guidance. The components include recognition of priorities for water quality, environmental flow regime, invasive species identification and response as well as concerns about mercury and other contaminants in the aquatic system. The Clearinghouse participants and its STRP have requested state intervention in water chemistry concerns, and regularly comment in state permit renewal proceedings to encourage the actual monitoring of airborne emissions of acid, nutrients, mercury and other constituents. Thus, stakeholder involvement includes not only identification of scientific and technical priorities, but also utilization of local data to participate more meaningfully in state regulatory processes.

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

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the resources compiled about local communities’ and indigenous people's participation in wetland management.]

See 6.1.5.2

<p>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</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution to the elaboration of the guidance indicated above.]</p>		

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

<p>1. Participatory Environmental Management strategies have been applied</p>	<p>D</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>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.]</p>		
<p>The Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation for its Science and Visitors Center program at the Caddo Lake Ramsar site includes implementation and refinement of local web site that contains compilations of presentations and other resource and risk assessment information.</p>		

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.

<p><i>See action r3.3.iii</i></p>		
<p>1. The guiding principles on cultural values (Resolution VIII.19) have been used or applied</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guiding Principles on cultural values.]</p>		
<p>3. Resource information and case studies on cultural aspects of wetlands have been compiled</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the resource information compiled.]</p>		

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)

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

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

1. Cultural values of wetlands are being used to improve local stakeholders' involvement in wetland planning and management	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>For example, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) funds wetland enhancement projects nationwide, designating approximately \$50 million annually for work in Louisiana. These projects include work to protect the cultural values of wetlands and promote participation of local stakeholders.</p> <p>Also, the Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center includes ongoing wetland management planning initiatives that address water chemistry and water flow regimes, invasive species and other factors. Based on prior archeological assessments at the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge and in connection with an earlier oil spill desk top drill, the Caddo Lake Institute has identified areas in and around the refuge that likely contain cultural archeological features. Final wetland management planning will include these mapped cultural areas and recommendations to accommodate them in development, management or response situations. In addition, ongoing tribal and local archeological investigations form a basis for training of at-risk tribal and local youth in cultural values present on these sites.</p>		

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	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The annual appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Institute's Ramsar Science and Visitors Center at the Caddo Lake Ramsar site and the Caddo Lake NWR include the conduct of joint educational and training activities with regard to cultural values of wetlands by collaborative development of a national refuge intern training program that will include at risk local youth and young members of the Caddo native tribal community from Oklahoma. This training program will occur within the larger context of the "Lessons of Caddo Lake" educational documentary video, as well as potential archeological and NAGPRA Native American grave and archeological protection on the refuge as well as development of a potential tribal cultural site within portions of the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant adjacent to the Caddo Lake NWR. This will be a pilot project to test local, regional and national scale integration of Ramsar guiding principles generally, as well as VIII.19 cultural conservation guidance.</p>		

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

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	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =</i> <i>Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites 1
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.]			
The Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge is involved in this type of activity.			

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To increase private sector engagement in wetland conservation	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Promote private initiatives that are compatible with rights of tenure, such as those contained in Department of Agriculture programs (Farm Bill) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). These programs provide funding and incentives for conservation of wetlands by the private sector. Further development of Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) Chapters.	

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

1. The private sector has been encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E =</i> <i>In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status</i> <i>(explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The National Wetlands Conservation Awards are designated for the private sector. The awards recognize special efforts by individuals, corporations, and groups for their significant contributions in wetlands protection, enhancement and restoration. Another example of how the private sector has been encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands is Coastal America, a partnership of 12 federal agencies chaired by the White House Council on Environmental Quality, which has facilitated the development of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). In 1999 Coastal America partner agencies joined forces with private companies as a way for environmentally responsible companies to reach out to their communities, beyond the boundaries of their own facilities. It is not a substitute for corporate compliance with federal permitting requirements. Instead, it allows private companies to make voluntary donations of funds or in-kind services to a state trust fund or a non-profit organization. These funds or in-kind services are then used, at the		

company’s direction, to help support coastal habitat/wetlands restoration or public education projects that have been selected and approved by the Coastal America Regional Implementation Teams. CWRP Chapters currently exist in thirteen states, with more Chapters being created every year. Over 200 corporations participate in the partnership, which has funded over 80 restoration, preservation, and education projects. Coastal America also presents annual awards to recognize outstanding public-private project partnerships that successfully preserve, restore or enhance wetlands within the United States.

Stemming from the success of the domestic CWRP, a new international partnership, the International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (ICWRP), was launched at the White Water to Blue Water Conference in Miami in March 2004. ICWRP serves as a voluntary, private-public global initiative to restore impaired but ecologically important wetlands and other aquatic habitat throughout the world. The activities of ICWRP are addressed through cooperation with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), the Coastal America Foundation, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and the United Nations Foundation (UN Foundation) to leverage corporate resources for restoration and conservation projects at World Heritage and Ramsar sites. The first ICWRP project commenced in 2004 at the Sian Ka’an Biosphere Reserve in Quintana Roo, Mexico, with corporate backing from the Gillette Company. US\$750,000 has been donated to promote the protection of critical coastal habitats and ensure the viability of the region’s freshwater system.

The Wetlands Reserve Program under the Farm Bill, explained elsewhere in this report, is another good example of a program that provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture.

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

1. The private sector, academia and specialized institutions have been brought into decision-making related to wetlands	B	<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.]

The private sector, academic and specialized institutions have been brought into decision-making related to wetlands through a variety of initiatives, grant programs, and action plans.

For example, Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation programs for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center include academic, agency and specialized institutions participating in development of components of a Ramsar based comprehensive wetland management plan for the Caddo Lake Ramsar site. Participants include the water resources section of Texas A&M University, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the National Wetland Research Center and the Nature Conservancy’s Ecologically Sustainable Water Management Scientists and Protocols.

Resulting workshops will produce recommendations for environmental flow regimes under various climatic situations, will better equip the participants to extend the protocols being used. These will establish the Caddo Lake Institute’s local program elements as expert training centers for the development and refinement and extension of these methodologies elsewhere, as well as local inputs to local Ramsar based wetland management planning.

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

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

There are multiple examples of this mechanism. The list below is merely a sample:

- Coastal America (see above, Action 7.1.1)
- Friends of Ballona Wetlands works to preserve, protect and restore the last major coastal wetland in Los Angeles County and to provide a unique and valuable learning environment for the community.
- Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands (Washington State) works to protect and restore the environmental quality of Hylebos Creek, the West Hylebos Wetlands and the surrounding watershed.
- Friends of Wetlands (FOWL) works to protect and restore Ohio’s wetlands. Along with California, Ohio currently leads the nation in wetland losses, with over 90% of its wetlands having been converted to other uses, including agricultural lands, road construction, and industrial, commercial, and residential development – and the losses continue today, despite government wetlands protection efforts.
- Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex (New York state).
- Save the Wetlands is a Lawrence, Kansas based group that has evolved over two decades of resistance to a plan that would route a major trafficway through the Haskell-Baker Wetlands aka "Wakarusa Bottoms". This wetland, a remnant of 18,000 acres of periodic prairie wetland that existed in the Wakarusa River floodplain at the time of white settlement, is considered sacred by people all across Indian Country.

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

1. A review of domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products has been carried out	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. Legal, institutional and administrative measures are being implemented to ensure sustainable harvesting of wetland products	A	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the measures taken to ensure sustainable harvesting and trade of wetland products.]		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8. INCENTIVES

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

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PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Provide incentives that will contribute towards the national goal of no net loss, and whenever feasible restoration.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Continuation of ongoing programs through NAWCA and the Farm Bill, and various award programs.	

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

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

1. A review of positive and perverse incentive measures in relation to the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been completed	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
2. Actions have been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands	B	D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;
3. Actions have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands	B	F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the promotion and implementation of incentive measures and removal of perverse ones.]		
Public-private partnerships are developed to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a blueprint for continental waterfowl and wetlands conservation, and other North American migratory bird conservation agreements. The North American Wetlands Conservation Fund is used to fund a Small Grants program to promote long-term wetlands conservation activities through encouraging participation by new grantees and partners who may not otherwise be able to compete in the Standard Grants program. The program helps develop pools of new partners/grantees that may eventually participate in the Standard Grants program. Funding priority is given to projects from new grant applicants (individuals or organizations who have never received a NAWCA grant) with new partners, where the project ensures long-term conservation benefits. These grants are used to Re-establish former wetlands needed to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.		

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)

1. Agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular have been identified	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;
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	F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on agriculture subsidies and incentives and their impacts on water resources and wetlands.]		
Through the swampbuster provisions of the Food Security Act, a producer is ineligible for USDA program benefits, including loans, subsidies, crop insurance, and price support programs, if the person produces an agricultural commodity on a wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985, or converts a wetland after November 28, 1990.		

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

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

and surface water sources within watersheds resulting from agricultural and forest management practices. Through a combined EPA-USDA best management practices strategy, the issue of pollutant runoff through field tile drains is being examined. Similarly, the distribution of Source Water Assessment results to the ag community through agricultural conservation districts is being advanced. Case studies of EQIP funding uses versus water quality changes within selected watersheds will be addressed. Revision to language in the EPA-USDA 1999 Interagency Agreement has been amended by addendum to ensure that ground water sources within forested watersheds are protected during implementation of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) by USFS.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ²

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Enhanced communication and information exchange with and among Ramsar sites; increased membership and activities of U.S. National Ramsar Committee.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Continuation of NAWCA funded initiatives; disseminate materials and compile information about World Wetlands Day activities; assist in the designation of potential new Ramsar sites.	

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

CEPA is incorporated into the Environmental Protection Agency outreach programs and NAWCA initiatives.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ³

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

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² 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).

³ 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

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	No net loss policy and restoration goals are achieved in part through CEPA activities.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	CEPA activities are not centralized in any given agency, they are carried out through grants to state agencies and numerous non-governmental organizations, including private sector corporate partnerships. Being decentralized, these activities are extremely diverse and distributed throughout the U.S. An example of a discrete program is the support to the Caddo Lake Institute. At the global level, the U.S. will continue support to the Wetlands for the Future initiative.	

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Action r9.ii.i.- Develop pilot projects to evaluate a range of approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands, in particular involving those who make a direct use of wetland resources

1. Pilot projects have been developed to evaluate different approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands	D	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; 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 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Science and Visitors Center program elements are structured to maximize communication, education and public awareness both in the Caddo Lake region and elsewhere in the US and western hemisphere. Outreach activities have included partnerships with US Mexico Chamber of Commerce in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, where Ramsar best designation practices are being explored in connection with state recommendations for Ramsar designation for four aquatic systems. The Institute’s principal vehicle for external outreach is a bi-national team of local and international residents and scientists who are testing training activities and workshops in the US and Mexico. These are designed to tutor local communities on developing initial local data and information for inclusion in Ramsar information sheet categories and guidance. Additionally, this program includes local websites (www.ramsarecotourist.net) a hemispheric website to notify potential eco-tourists of joint field activities and to provide a means for participants to compile a personal transcript of field and other Ramsar based training and education.</p>		

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

1. A review of existing CEPA programmes has been completed	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. Lessons learnt in implementing CEPA programmes have been documented	D	<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>
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on implementation of CEPA programmes and information available.]		
<p>The Association of State Wetland Managers, with U.S. federal government support, held an international wetlands conference October 18-20 2004 focusing on wetland and bird conservation, with an emphasis on Ramsar wise use guidelines and site designation.</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ⁴

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Enhanced communication and information exchange with and among Ramsar sites; increased membership and activities of U.S. National Ramsar Committee.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Update of Ramsar Information Sheets for all U.S. Ramsar sites; biannual meetings of the U.S. National Ramsar Committee.	

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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.

1. A National Government Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed	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>
2. A National NGO Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed	B	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information about Government CEPA and NGO CEPA Focal Points].		
The U.S. National Ramsar Committee has taken on the role of CEPA NGO focal point. The point of contact is Royal C. Gardner, Vice Dean and Professor of Law at Stetson University College of Law in Florida. His areas of teaching and research include wetland law and policy. In 1999-2001, Dean Gardner served on the National Research Council's Committee on Mitigating Wetland Losses. He is currently the Vice Chair of the United States National Ramsar Committee and a Vice Chair of the American Bar Association's Committee on Water Quality and Wetlands.		

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.

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

⁴ 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).

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ⁵

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

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PRIORITY:	E	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See above, previous planning tool sections under CEPA	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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

1. Materials to support wetland CEPA have been produced and distributed	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>CEPA activities are not centralized. They are carried out by a great diversity of organizations, each with their own targets and modalities of work. Because of this diversity, it is impossible to report on all materials produced and distributed. USFWS and the U.S. State Department disseminated WWD materials received from Ramsar to NGO’s, aquariums and US embassies upon request.</p> <p>Just to mention one excellent example, in 2005 the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration partnered with the JASON project to highlight the issue of Louisiana’s Dissapearing Wetlands. On and around World Wetlands Day, they produced daily live broadcasts for large student groups, in addition to a variety of wetland-related activities for both students and public visitors. These activities included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Two Enviroscope models used to introduce visitors to watersheds, wetlands, and the potential effects of human activities on the vulnerable wetland habitat 2 Coastal Wetlands backdrop depicting the salt marsh and some of its inhabitants 3 Visitors could meet and touch animals from the Louisiana wetlands, including a live Alligator, turtle and frog 4 Visitors could play the 'Am I from your wetland?' game, where they decided which animals were wetland inhabitants 5 Various posters and sticker giveaways occurred throughout the week, and teachers were given wetland posters to take back for classroom display. 		

⁵ 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).

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.

1. A national email network on wetland CEPA has been established

B

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

This list includes all Ramsar sites and cooperators, the U.S. National Ramsar Committee, federal agencies involved in wetlands conservation, and multiple non-governmental organizations.

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

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

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° centres

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

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

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

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

N° centres
1

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

See action r9.ii.i

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ⁶

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

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⁶ 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).

PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	This is redundant with previous sections regarding CEPA.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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

1. A review of needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA has been completed	D	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The Caddo Lake Institute’s annual appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Science and Visitors Center program elements are structured to maximize communication, education and public awareness both in the Caddo Lake region and elsewhere in the US and western hemisphere. Outreach activities have included partnerships with US Mexico Chamber of Commerce in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, where Ramsar best designation practices are being explored in connection with state recommendations for Ramsar designation for four aquatic systems. The Institute’s principal vehicle for external outreach is a bi-national team of local and international residents and scientists who are testing training activities and workshops in the US and Mexico. These are designed tutor local communities on developing initial local data and information for inclusion in Ramsar information sheet categories and guidance. Additionally, this program includes local websites (www.ramsarecotourist.net) a hemispheric website to notify potential eco-tourists of joint field activities and to provide a means for participants to compile a personal transcript of field and other Ramsar based training and education.</p>		

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

1. Sources of expert information and training opportunities in wetland CEPA have been identified	D	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>In the last three years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Division of International Conservation has funded several projects that focus on this, including, among many others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Indian Whistling Duck and Wetlands Conservation Project, which seeks to raise public awareness about the functions and values of wetlands and train school teachers, government agency personnel and community leaders to increase their knowledge, skills, and commitment to make better decisions about wetland conservation and use. The main educational product of the project is Wondrous West Indian Wetlands: Teacher's Resource Book. This book is available in English and Spanish, and soon will be available in a Creole and French version. The book is used in workshops throughout the Caribbean. - Recovery of Manabi Mangroves in Ecuador Project, which will restore 10 ha of mangrove forest with the help of local community members using the resource for subsistence. This project is important to mitigate, in part, the environmental impact caused by the shrimp farming industry in the region. Fish farming is causing the loss of coastal wetlands and may trigger a decline of plant, fish, and wildlife populations depending on 		

mangrove ecosystems for their survival and reproduction.

- Fluvial fishing and wetlands project, to promote informed participation of key stakeholders for the integrated and sustainable management of fishing on the Medium and Lower Parana river, Argentina. The goal is to use an ecosystem to achieve replicable examples of wise use to preserve the ichtyc diversity of the river, and to improve the quality of life for river-side communities.

- Conservation and management of the Neotropical region wetlands, a project by the Neotropical Center for Training on Wetlands, in Chile, including training, community participation activities, and information transfer and use through the development and maintenance of a Neotropical wetlands conservation webpage.

- Habitat conservation and watershed protection efforts in the municipality of San Ildefonso Ixtahuacan Caserio Canutillo Huehuetenango, Guatemala, to conduct environmental education and assist local communities in management and conservation of natural resources through soil conservation and reforestation actions using agro-forestry techniques. Environmental education and hands-on training will be provided to members of the communities through technical demonstrations, workshops, and fieldtrips.

In addition, annual appropriations for the Caddo Lake Institute's Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center have included partnerships among the USNRC and the US Mexico Chamber of Commerce and the federal state of Tamaulipas, Mexico for sharing the expertise and the investment of Mexican resources in academic and agency expertise and knowledge through a series of team workshops and local conferences under a plan developed in 2004 for implementation in 2005.

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	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. 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.]		
Resources are available within the budgets of agencies carrying out CEPA activities.		

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	<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. 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.]		
An example of such activities is POW! The Planning of Wetlands, a guide for the design, construction and monitoring of a wetland on school grounds or within the community, hosted by the Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office in Viera, FL. 25 exciting and challenging activities promote conservation and stimulate interests in community service, conservation, science, math and engineering careers. Correlated to National Science Standards, all activities are presented in lesson plan format with Student Activity Pages ready for copying. Topics Include: Wetland functions and values Wetland regulations and permits Use of topographic & NWI maps Wetland Assessment Hydrological calculations Land-use Planning Surveying Biological monitoring. http://wetland.org/educ_pow.htm		
Under the guidance of the U.S. State Department, select Maryland and Washington DC public schools incorporated a cross-cultural project into their science and social studies curriculum in fall semester 2004. Entitled "Two Bays, One World", the project had students compare and contrast the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh and the Chesapeake Bay in the U.S., including the ecosystem and wetlands (particularly their contribution to the economic and cultural life of the areas). Special funding was provided to assist teachers in		

developing curriculum based on national standards. Those materials will be made available through the State Department public outreach website.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) ⁷

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	This is redundant with other CEPA activities.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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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	<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.]

The US National Ramsar Committee (USNRC), in collaboration with the Caddo Lake Institute and its annual appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center, field tested the development of a bi-national “best Ramsar designation practice” team composed of local residents from US and Mexican sites. On a pilot basis, this collaboration resulted in two regional workshops within the United States since COP8, recruitment of additional team members and planning for workshops, conferences and field assessments in Tamaulipas, Mexico and Tijuana, Mexico.

In 2004, the USNRC joined the Association of State Wetland Managers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assist in the management and editorial duties associated with the “Migratory Bird and Wetlands NewsLink”, a bimonthly electronic newsletter distributed to hundreds of individuals and institutions in 35 countries.

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	<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 information on the WWD activities that have taken place, if any, at national and local levels.]

Both FWS and the State Department distributed Ramsar educational materials for WWD. Through Coastal America all 18 CELCs received materials. Local organizations and schools conducted their own activities for WWD, including:

⁷ 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).

- Email announcements
- Lectures: The Stetson University College of Law hosted a presentation on the efforts to restore the Mesopotamian marshlands in southern Iraq. Dr. Azzam Alwash, Director of the Eden Again Project, spoke live from Iraq via the Internet. A video of the presentation is available on the Stetson web site. The press release is at <http://www.law.stetson.edu/communications/news.asp?id=148> and you can go directly to the video at <http://gpiis03.law.stetson.edu/media/on-demand/alwash.aspx>.
- Water monitoring programs.
- U.S. Embassies in Latin America and the Middle East also promoted the day, cooperating on providing materials and participating in events locally.

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

<p>1. Collaboration with the media has been systematically used to convey the wetland message</p>	<p>D</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>The U.S. State Department annually issues a press release for World Wetlands Day (WWD), both domestically and overseas through U.S. embassies. In 2005 both FWS and the State Department issued press releases for WWD, emphasizing the value of wetlands and announcing the designation of three new Ramsar sites in the U.S.</p>		

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.

<p>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)</p>	<p>D</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p>N° <u>Ramsar sites</u> 1</p>
<p>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.]</p>			
<p>Most Ramsar sites are National Refuges, and as such these sites are meant to be examples of wise use of wetlands and to preserve their ecological character perpetually.</p> <p>The annual appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Institute (as part of its Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center and Caddo Lake Ramsar Clearinghouse/Ramsar Committee Framework) are maturing demonstrations of use of Ramsar guidance to further the wise use principle in local communities. Other components of this program include identification of other potential demonstration sites and prototypes, such as US wetland mitigation banks; constructed wastewater wetland treatment sites; the Laguna Flamingos coastal wetland restoration site in Tamaulipas; and three other potential candidate Ramsar sites in the Soto La Marina watershed of the Mexican federal state of Tamaulipas. These demonstration activities will include recruitment of local members to the Caddo Lake Institute/USNRC bi-national “best designation practice team” and follow on workshops and orientation of local people in development of data for Ramsar designation information sheets.</p>			

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)⁸

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	C	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	This is redundant with previous CEPA sections (see above).	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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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	<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>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The Caddo Lake Institute's annual appropriation program includes maturing multi-stakeholder bodies in the form of the Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Clearinghouse, which is the designated Ramsar committee for the Caddo Lake Ramsar site. In addition, other multi-stake holder bodies have been organized to include local people and approximately 40 scientists from federal, state and academic entities to develop environmental flow prescription and adaptive management recommendations, as components of a larger wetland management planning program now underway at Caddo Lake and its watershed. Multi stake-holder activities also included two US regional workshops on best designation practices; quarterly or more frequent Caddo Lake Clearinghouse information and decision meetings; an orientation workshop in flow prescriptions for the Caddo Lake watershed and a scheduled May 2005 workshop to develop initial flow and adaptive management recommendations for this watershed.</p>		

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	<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>	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.]			
<p>Most Ramsar sites have visitor centers with outreach components as standard operating procedures. As an example, the following education activities take place at the Lower Connecticut River Ramsar site: Connecticut River Watershed Council, The Connecticut River Forum Report.</p>			

⁸ 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).

Publication of the River Roundtable findings identifying recommendations for how citizens can help to preserve and protect the unique character and environmental integrity of the Lower Connecticut River. Funding provided by the CT Department of Environmental Protections Long Island Sound Fund.

Connecticut River Museum - Essex - *The River That Connects Us Orientation/Pre-Visit Video*

Creation of a video about the Connecticut River and its resources and the river’s connection to Long Island Sound.

Lower CT River Land Trust, Inc/Tidewater Institute - Lower CT River Estuary *Tools for Land Use Commission Members in the Tidewater Region*

A workshop to educate land use commissioners about tools to assist in land use decisions in the Gateway Region of the lower Connecticut River and the importance of this area to the larger Long Island Sound estuary. Funding provided by the CT Department of Environmental Protections Long Island Sound Fund.

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		Continued support of the Caddo Lake Institute in the U.S. At the international level, support of the Ramsar training center in Panama. The Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center program includes on-going development of program elements for the Caddo Lake Regional Ramsar Center. This is intended to be a local venue to demonstrate exemplary implementation of Ramsar guidance at Caddo Lake through ecosystem-specific scientific and technical information (described elsewhere throughout this report). The Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center program is being developed in furtherance of Tripartite COP6 Brisbane Pledge (by US Department of Interior, Department of State and Caddo Lake Institute) to develop the first US Regional Ramsar Center at Caddo Lake. Planning for the Caddo Lake Center has progressed to the point where program elements are being field tested; the facility renovation and other needs have been identified, and potential capital grantors can be solicited.

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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.

⁹ 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).

1.- Education centres have been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands <i>(if available, please include number of centres and sites)</i>	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	N° centres N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites
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.]			
Most Ramsar sites have education and visitor centers.			
3.- Additional education centres are planned for Ramsar sites and other wetlands <i>(if available, please include number of centres and sites)</i>	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites
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.]			

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

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

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

1.- Places of learning, education and training (museums, zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens, etc.) are involved in national CEPA efforts and activities <i>(if available, please include number of facilities)</i>	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° facilities 18
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.]			
In the mid-1990's, discussions among the Coastal America partners on how to increase public awareness and understanding of coastal and marine issues led to a collaboration between Coastal America federal agencies and marine learning institutions around the country. In 1996, Coastal America formalized the <i>Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center</i> network, comprised of a number of the nation's premier aquaria and marine learning institutions. Building on their role as public education facilities, the CELCs use the resources of the partnership to expand the educational opportunities they offer their communities. With the combined resources, the CELCs increase public awareness and understanding about coastal and marine issues and implement community-based restoration projects. As of January 2005, there are 18 designated CELCs in 15 coastal states.			

Another example of educational centers as focal points for CEPA is the Stetson University College of Law, which in 2004 hosted an international environmental moot court that focused on legal issues related to invasive species and wetlands of international importance. Secretary General Bridgewater delivered an opening lecture and served as a final round judge. See http://www.ramsar.org/w.n.usa_stetson.htm. Also, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Zoological Park partnered to develop wetland related ecological exhibits/interpretive signs highlighting the importance of wetland ecosystems for a variety of animal species.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	C	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	D	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Obtain and process nominations of potential new Ramsar sites coming from local organizations (U.S. policy).	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	U.S. National Ramsar Committee, in coordination with relevant agencies, will provide materials to facilitate nomination process.	

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

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

1. A strategy and priorities have been established for further designation of Ramsar sites, in application of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List	C	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>		
1. All potential Ramsar sites have been identified and targets for future designations have been defined.	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
By policy, nominations are not centrally generated but rather must come from local organizations and state agencies.		

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 <i>Waterbird Population Estimates 3rd Edition</i> have been used in identifying and designating Ramsar sites under Criterion 6 (if applicable, please include number of sites designated under Criterion 6)	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	N° Ramsar sites 2
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.]			
This criterion was used to designate the Grassland Ecological Area (GEA) and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR). By comparing overall North American duck breeding population counts to aerial waterfowl surveys in the GEA over the past decade, we find that GEA supports significant proportions of several waterfowl species over the winter. In particular, GEA regularly winters over 11% of the entire North American populations of Gadwall (<i>Anas streper</i> ; Peak Count 106,600), Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i> ; Peak Count 499,500), Green-winged teal (<i>Anas crecca</i> ; Peak Count 329,300), Northern shoveler (<i>Anas chrypeata</i> ; Peak Count 188,000), and Canvasbacks (<i>Aythya valisineria</i> ; Peak Count 29,700). TRNERR is the second largest home for the federally listed endangered Light-footed Clapper Rail, with an estimated 77 pairs residing in the estuary in 2003-2004 (1% threshold given by Wetlands International (2002): is 10).			

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.

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>			
1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of representative, rare or unique wetland types present in the territory has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 3
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments on the implementation of this action that you consider relevant.]			
All three of the newly designated Ramsar sites meet this criterion. The Grassland Ecological Area (GEA) is the largest remaining block of contiguous wetlands in the Central Valley, and is thus a unique and critical resource for wildlife. The Central Valley of California once consisted of over four million acres of wetlands, yet only five percent now remain, mostly due to drainage and			

conversion to agricultural use. In addition, GEA is a prime example of a vernal pool complex, with an ecologically distinctive flora and fauna, which is an increasingly rare habitat type; ninety percent of California's vernal pools have been destroyed. Riparian habitat in California has been reduced to just 2 % of what it was a century ago; the GEA contains riparian habitat along 30 kilometers of the San Joaquin River and about 60 kilometers of other riparian habitat on tributaries to the San Joaquin River, a river used by Chinook Salmon and other anadromous fish. This segment of the river and associated floodplain are important to water quality as well.

The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve has not suffered habitat fragmentation caused by the presence of a railway system within the lagoon, as evidenced in many (if not most) coastal lagoons in southern California. This system is an excellent example of the wetlands habitat that, in the past, was a prominent feature in Southern California's coastal zone; today, more than 95% of those wetlands have been converted for coastal development or severely degraded. In addition, TJNERR is the only bi-national watershed in California. With 1,020 hectares (2,521 acres) of tidally flushed wetland, riparian and upland habitat, TJNERR receives drainage from a 1,731 square-mile watershed, of which 73% lies within Mexico.

Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes meet this criterion due to their hydrological functions and provision of valued services. The wetland complex is valued for its flood control of the surrounding local community, and has a major role in maintaining natural functioning and high water quality of Kailua Bay (Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources, 1994; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998). The marsh acts as a flood control reservoir, storing runoff as surface water from major rainfall events, which is gradually discharged to Kailua Bay. The marsh also traps sediment and uptakes nutrients and pollutants, reducing adverse water quality impacts on the nearshore ecosystem in Kailua Bay.

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites
2**

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

The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Grassland Ecological Area contain seasonal freshwater pools.

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 2012.¹⁰

See action 1.1.2

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

I = No answer

**N°
Ramsar
sites
1**

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

The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve includes Sand shores, Estuarine waters, Intertidal mud flats and Intertidal marshes.

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.

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

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>			
<p>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 <u>(if applicable, please include number of sites designated)</u>.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No; 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></p>	<p>N° Ramsar sites 3</p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</p>			
<p>All three newest Ramsar sites meet this criterion.</p> <p>This is the most significant of the Ramsar criteria to TRNERR, due to the site’s value to supporting vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species and threatened habitat. Home to more than 370 bird species, over 95% of TRNERR is designated as critical habitat that supports six bird species listed as federally threatened or endangered (Light-footed Clapper Rail <i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>; Least Bell’s vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>; California least tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>; Brown pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>; Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>; and one federally listed endangered plant subspecies (i.e. Salt marsh Bird’s Beak <i>Cordylanthus maritimus maritimus</i>. Furthermore, located within TRNERR’s 1,021 hectares is the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Comprised of 428 hectares, NWR was established in 1980 under the United States Endangered Species Act (1973) and incorporated into TRNERR in 1982 with the expressed purpose of “conserving fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species...or plants which are listed as endangered species or threatened species.” A few small vernal pools can be found in the Reserve. These shallow pools, which hold a few inches of water during the wet months, host San Diego fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>, a federally endangered species as well as in the IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2004).</p> <p>Both the Kawainui and Hamakua marshes meet this criterion, as the wetlands support four endangered species endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. The wetland complex provides habitat for four endemic Hawaiian waterbirds listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act: hybrids of the Hawaiian Duck or koloa maoli (<i>Anas nyvilliana</i>), Hawaiian Coot or ‘alae ke’oke’o (<i>Fulica alai</i>), Hawaiian Moorhen or ‘alae ‘ula (<i>Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis</i>), and Hawaiian Stilt or kukuluae’o (abbreviated as ae’o) (<i>Himantopus mexicanus knudseni</i>) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). The Hawaiian Duck is listed as Endangered and the Hawaii Coot as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2004). The protection and management of Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes is identified as a required action to facilitate recovery of these four waterbirds (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). Habitat enhancement and ongoing management of this wetland complex could be pivotal in recovering these four endangered endemic waterbirds. Furthermore, the two marshes meet this criterion because they are wetland types that have undergone significant decline in area and quality (pursuant to Guideline 75 of Ramsar (1999)) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). A large proportion of Hawaii’s wetlands have been filled or altered. There has been an approximate 31% decrease in the area of wetlands located within Hawaii’s coastal plain between circa 1780 and 1990 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). As of 1990, approximately 14% (6,190 hectares or 15,474 acres) of Hawaii’s 44,320 hectares (110,800 acres) of wetlands and deep water habitats existed within Hawaii’s coastal plains (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). Numerous threats continue to reduce the area and quality of wetland habitat in Hawai’i, described in detail in section 18.</p> <p>Several federally listed threatened (T) and endangered species (E) under the Endangered Species Act are known to occur either seasonally or year-round at Grassland Ecological Area (GEA). Some of these are included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2004) as Vulnerable (VU) or Endangered (EN). As one of the largest remaining vernal pool complexes, the GEA is home to many rare species associated with this disappearing habitat including: Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>, E, EN), Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>, E, EN), Vernal pool fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>, T, VU), Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>, E, EN), California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>, T), and Colusa grass (<i>Neostapfia colusana</i>, T). Other endangered species using GEA include the San Joaquin kit fox (<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>, E), Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>, T), and Western snowy plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>, T). Giant garter snakes (<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>, T, VU) have recently been documented within GEA.</p>			

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 *Management Plan*, the *Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network*, and the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy*. (Resolution VIII.10)

See action 12.2.2			
1.- Designation of Ramsar sites that form part of networks for migratory species has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 3
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<p>All three of the latest Ramsar sites are part of networks for migratory species.</p> <p>TRNERR is located along the Pacific flyway and is used for migration and wintering habitat for a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds. Wintering waterfowl include pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), cinnamon teal (<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>), American wigeon (<i>Anas americana</i>), surf scoter (<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>) and ruddy duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes also provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and wintering shorebirds (Ducks Unlimited, No Date and 1993). Migratory waterfowl, such as the Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), Northern Shoveler (<i>Anas chpeata</i>), Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>), Canada Goose (<i>Branta Canadensis</i>), Lesser Scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>), Green-winged Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), American Wigeon (<i>Anas americana</i>), and Redhead (<i>Aythya americana</i>) are found within the small ponds in the wet pasture and the larger open water areas of Kawainui Marsh during winter months (Conant, 1981; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1997). Feral mallards are regular, year-round inhabitants. Migratory shorebirds reported from Kawainui Marsh include the Pacific Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>), Ruddy Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>), Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), and Wandering Tattler (<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>) (adapted from Conant, 1981; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1997).</p> <p>GEA is a critical wintering area for Pacific Flyway waterfowl, supporting up to one million individual birds. It provides wintering habitat for over 30,000 lesser Sandhill Cranes (<i>Grus canadensis</i>). It is also a vital stopover point for shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds in the fall and spring along their migration routes. With little wetland and riparian habitat remaining in California, the presence of GEA habitats has become increasingly critical and important for migratory birds. GEA was officially recognized in 1991 by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network as an international site of importance for shorebird use (http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/sites.php). Shorebird counts are highest in March and April during spring migration when hundreds of thousands of birds utilize the GEA as a stopover point. In addition, tens of thousands of shorebirds make use of GEA habitats on a year-round basis as do several species of waterfowl and raptors. The natural riparian corridor provides fish passage and rearing habitat.</p>			

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).	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	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<p>All designated sites were under other types of protection or conservation management regimes previous to their designation.</p>			

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

1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of the national area of transboundary wetlands has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =</i> <i>Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° Ramsar sites 1
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<p>The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve is the only bi-national watershed in California. With 1,020 hectares (2,521 acres) of tidally flushed wetland, riparian and upland habitat, TJNERR receives drainage from a 1,731 square-mile watershed, of which 73% lies within Mexico.</p>			

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

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

Action r10.1.xi.- Develop, for consideration by COP9, additional Criteria and guidelines for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites concerning their socio-economic and cultural values and functions that are relevant to biological diversity, as listed in Annex 1 of the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, which would be applied on each occasion in conjunction with one or more existing Criteria for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites; and include in this work a full analysis of the implications for Contracting Parties of the implementation of such Criteria for the management of Ramsar sites, including Contracting Party obligations and responsibilities for maintaining the ecological character of any sites so selected in order to ensure that the coherent national networks of Ramsar sites fully incorporate all relevant aspects of the biological diversity of wetlands. (Resolution 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	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in</i> <i>some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

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

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

1. Contributions have been made to the updating of the 1% thresholds for waterbird populations	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
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contributions made.]

3. Populations information for wetland-dependent taxa other than waterbirds have been provided to Wetlands International	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
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4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information provided.]

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

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

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

The population data on waterbirds in the U.S. is available to the public and interested parties.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	D	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	Update all RIS that need it.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Request updates from sites and work with the Ramsar Secretariat to complete updates.	

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	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 Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve provides several social values with regard to public use that involve: environmental education, interpretive programs, special events, recreation (e.g. wildlife observation, foot trails, equestrian trails, beach use, surfing and photography), and scientific research. In addition, a number of historical and archaeological sites exist in the Reserve.

Kawainui Marsh and the surrounding area was a significant prehistoric settlement as evidenced by Hawaiian legend, extensive agricultural systems, ceremonial sites, burial sites, and habitation areas. This once supported one of the largest native Hawaiian settlements, contains some of the oldest known Hawaiian agricultural sites, and Kawainui Marsh and surrounding environs have provided significant information about Hawaiian culture, particularly having to do with the relationship of the early Hawaiians to the environment of a windward valley. Kawainui Marsh was a primary food-producing area from traditional Hawaiian times to the early 20th century. Kawainui is a significant archaeological site because it is one of the few areas remaining on O‘ahu where evidence of terraced agricultural pondfields and a fishpond still exist in conjunction with associated religious structures. In 1979, the U.S. National Registrar of Historic Places issued a Determination of Eligibility Notification” finding that Kawainui Marsh area is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (U.S. Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, 1979). According to the determination, “Kawainui Marsh is important as a major component of a larger cultural district which would include...the ponding/wet agricultural area...remains of extensive terracing systems, ceremonial sites, burial sites, and habitation areas associated with this agricultural complex”. The earliest navigators and chiefs who inhabited the area directed the water management and agricultural systems, which are unparalleled elsewhere in Polynesia. On the slopes of Ulumawao are two great stone platform temples which overlook Kawainui Marsh, Pahukini Heiau attributed to the 14th century Tahitian Chief Olopana (listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places), and the newly re-discovered Holomakani Heiau attributed to a 10th century home-grown navigational chief, Paumakua. Surrounding the 180 hectare (450 acre) former freshwater fishpond and its tributaries are the remnants of walled water gardens (lo‘i) in which the Hawaiian staple crop, taro, was grown for one of the largest native Hawaiian settlements. The agricultural site cluster associated with the Kawainui area has been described as the earliest agricultural field dated in the Hawaiian Islands. Hawai‘i State Department of Land and Natural Resources (1994) contains a seven page list of records of archaeological sites known in Kawainui Marsh. About 500 years ago, early Hawaiians maintained the freshwater fishpond in Kawainui, which was joined by a stream to nearby Ka‘elepulu Pond (Enchanted Lake). The fishpond was surrounded on all sides by a system of canals (‘auwai) bringing water from Maunawili Stream and springs to walled taro lo‘i. The historical walls from the lo‘i still exist in Kawainui Marsh, thought to be approximately 50 cm below existing ground elevations. The system of terraces east of the seaward end of Pu‘uo‘ehu was fed by the stream running from Kawainui to Ka‘elepulu Stream. Terraces west of Kawainui Pond at Kapa‘a Valley were fed by Kapa‘a Stream, while those to the north, below Mahinui, received waters diverted from Kawainui. Where the system of canals moved through what is now called the Hamakua area, excessive runoff could be directed into Kailua’s other freshwater, spring-fed fishpond, Ka‘elepulu (now called Enchanted Lake). Both fishponds were used to raise fish (milkfish, mullet, aholehole, and o‘opu), with the residents of Waimanalo and Kailua seasonally called upon to help clear the ponds of excessive algae; all who participated in maintaining the fishponds were permitted to keep fish. Hamakua Marsh was once part of this extensive system of wetlands, fishponds, and agricultural terraces of this Native Hawaiian settlement, and a historical study of the wetland found platforms, lithic scatters, and a possible habitation structure. The Kawainui Marsh area has many landforms named for sacred persons revered in over 1,500 years of Hawaiian tradition. There is Hawaiian legendary history

associated with the Kawainui Marsh area, including a legend of Hau-wahine, a guardian spirit over the Kawainui fishpond, called a mo'o, and a famous mythological tree, Makalei, which had the power of attracting fish. Mo'o purportedly lived in her grove of awa by the Makalei tree near where the waters drain from Kawainui Marsh to Hamakua. Hauwahine's companion mo'o, named Kilioe, lived at the opposite end of Hamakua near where Kawainui Stream enters Ka'elepulu Stream. The length of Kawainui Stream is the area of coitus between the male, Kawainui, and the female, Ka'elepulu, explaining why those waters always teemed with the juvenile fish common to both ancient fishponds. Since the 1960s, the local community around Kawainui Marsh, and a variety of local and statewide environmental, educational, and native Hawaiian groups and individuals, have consistently advocated for resource protection and against development in and around the marsh.

In the Grassland Ecological Area, Yokut Indians once lived in the Central Valley, and cultural artifacts and signs have been found within the Ramsar site. The area is a destination for duck hunters and bird watchers which provide healthy eco-tourism for the local economy.

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

G

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in 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.]

Updated RIS and, when needed, maps, have been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for the Everglades National Park, Bolinas Lagoon, Catahoula Lake, Chesapeake Bay, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, and Tomale Bay. The lack of resources available for Ramsar implementation have hindered completion of this task.

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

G

Choose an answer

A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in 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 above, section 10.2.3.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Implement, and when needed, update management plans for all Ramsar	

	sites.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Submit management plans for all Ramsar sites to Bureau.

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1.- The measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been defined and applied <u>(if available, please include number of sites where measures have been applied)</u>.	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =</i> <i>Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° Ramsar sites 1
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.]			
Most Ramsar sites, and all National Wildlife Refuges, have management plans. For example, the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge is being managed in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.			

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

1. The <i>New Guidelines for management planning</i> have been used in the development of management plans or strategies	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other</i> <i>status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the way the guidelines have been used.]			
It is too soon to expect that recently produced guidelines could be applied for the management plans of Ramsar sites, because management procedures in place respond to institutional requirements that cannot be easily changed. However, the management procedures in place are essentially compatible with the Ramsar guidelines.			
MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES			N° Ramsar sites
3.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place			22
4.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place and being fully applied			22
5.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being prepared			some
6.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being revised or updated			some
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.]			
For example, the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR was approved June 2004.			
The Caddo Lake Institute’s annual program has included and continues to develop, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy, a wetland management plan for Caddo Lake that will address locally approved priority task list goals identified by the Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Clearinghouse (the Caddo Lake Ramsar Committee). These include ESWM protocols to obtain scientific consensus to maintain or restore (in connection with upstream reservoirs) natural flow regimes, water chemistry interventions by state agencies (as to acid and other contaminant run off and airborne depositions); invasive species identification and rapid response (water hyacinth) and development of adaptive management and research strategies to support implementation of locally identified management priorities consistent with exemplary demonstration of			

MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES	N° Ramsar sites
Ramsar guidance.	

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>22</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>	
All Ramsar site management plans were developed under other processes, such as for National Wildlife Refuges.	

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	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Ramsar sites varied widely in their use of Ramsar tools and guidance for management and other purposes.		

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

1. All stakeholders have been fully involved in the management planning processes	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in 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>		
Most Ramsar sites in the U.S. are federal or state government lands.		

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	<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	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 22
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			
The main goal of management plans of all Ramsar sites is to maintain the ecological character of the sites.			

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	<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>		
Management plans have as their goal the protection of natural processes and the conservation of resilience.		

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

1. Waterbird data and analysis derived from them have been used in management planning	D	<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 freshwater wetlands of the Prairie Pothole Region of North America support an estimated 50%-80% of the continent's waterfowl production each year. Wetland losses in this region have been a major factor in the decline of duck populations in North America. Eighty percent of America's breeding birds and more than half of the 800 species of protected migratory birds rely on wetlands.		
The Environmental Protection Agency has developed a wetlands biological assessment module utilizing birds. This can be found on EPA's website.		

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

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

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 (if applicable, please include number of sites)	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	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites identified and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			

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 (if available, please include number of sites)	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	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with zoning measures, and additional comments you consider relevant.]			
Most Ramsar sites are contained within several other specially designated areas. For example, the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR Ramsar site is contained within the EPA Barnegat Bay Estuary, NOAA Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site, and the Brignatine Wilderness Area.			
3.- Strict protection measures have been established for Ramsar sites of small size and/or particular sensitivity (if available, please include number of sites)	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 1
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with strict protection measures, and any additional comments you may consider relevant.]			
An example of this is the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge Ramsar site.			

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>	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<u>1</u>
2.- Cross-sectoral site management committees established at Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	D		<u>1</u>
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>			
The Edwin B. Frosythe NWR is a participant in several watershed management councils.			

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

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11.2. Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Bureau without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems

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PRIORITY:	E	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	E	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Each Ramsar site has their own monitoring needs, mandated by their management plans.	

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

			N°Ramsar sites
1.- Monitoring programmes have been established at Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	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>	22
2.- Monitoring programmes are part of the site management plan <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	B	<i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	22
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites falling under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant about monitoring programmes.]</i>			
Monitoring is one of the main goals of management plans of Ramsar sites. For example, the Caddo Lake Ramsar site has been the subject of monthly water chemistry monitoring programs for the past 7 years. In 2004 – 2005 monitoring activities included assessments of the relationships between water chemistry and hydrological conditions. The Caddo Lake Ramsar site also supports invasive species monitoring by wetland users and report hotlines to encourage rapid reports and response to infestations of water hyacinth, and protections against introduction of giant salvinia. The invasive species ID/response program improved coordination between state response agencies and local and statewide herbicide applicators.			

Action 11.2.2.- Ensure that sites on the Ramsar List are used as baseline and reference areas for national, supranational/regional, and international environmental monitoring to detect trends in the loss of biological diversity, climate change and the processes of desertification (Objective 4.1 of the Objectives for the List (Resolution VII.11), and report on status and trends to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

1.- Ramsar sites are used as baseline and reference areas for national environmental monitoring <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	D	<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>	N° Ramsar sites 2
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and any additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			
Two examples of this are the Lower Connecticut River Ramsar site and the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR Ramsar			

site.

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.]

- DEP Bureau of Natural Resources, Marine Fisheries - Lower CT River. Atlantic Sturgeon in Long Island Sound. A research study to collect information about Connecticut's population of Atlantic Sturgeon and their habitat. Funding provided by the CT Department of Environmental Protections Long Island Sound Fund.
 - Dreyer, Glenn D. and Caplis, Marcianna, editors. Living Resources and Habitats of the Lower Connecticut River, Connecticut Arboretum Bulletin No. 37. 2001 (December). Published by the Connecticut College Arboretum, New London, CT. [The CT Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Long Island Sound Program proposed this project to the Connecticut College Arboretum for the purposes of producing an informative bulletin about the ecology of the Connecticut River Ramsar Area. Several partners authored the Chapters (i.e., staff from CT DEP, USFWS and Connecticut College scientists). The Arboretum applied for and received a grant from the CT DEP Long Island Sound Fund (a fund generated from the sale of Long Island Sound license plates). The web version is nearly complete and should be online through the CT College Arboretum website in 2005.]

Action 11.2.3.- Ensure that at Ramsar sites where change in ecological character may occur as a result of proposed developments or changes in territorial and/or water use which have potential to affect them, an impact assessment is carried out which considers the full range of environmental, social and economic benefits and functions provided by the wetland, and that the resulting conclusions are communicated to the Ramsar Bureau, in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention, and fully taken into account by the authorities concerned.

See action 2.2.3

1. Proposed developments that may affect the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been subject to EIAs, and the results communicated to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2

C

Choose an answer

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

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

Action r11.2.iv.- Put in place, as a matter of high priority in fulfillment of 3.2 of the Convention, mechanisms in order to be informed at the earliest possible time, including through reports by national authorities and local and indigenous communities and NGOs, if the ecological character of any wetland included in the Ramsar List has changed, is changing or is likely to change. (Resolution VIII.8)

1. Mechanisms have been established to collect information on changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites in accordance with Article 3.2

C

Choose an answer

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

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

Action 11.2.4.- In fulfilment of Article 3.2 of the Convention, report to the Ramsar Bureau without delay all actual or likely changes in ecological character on Ramsar sites, and include Ramsar sites “where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur” in the *Montreux Record* as appropriate.

1.- Changes or likely changes (both positive and negative) in ecological character at Ramsar sites have occurred or may occur (Art. 3.2) <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	D	<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>	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	B		
3.- Ramsar sites were included in the Montreux Record since COP8 <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	C		N° Ramsar sites
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the changes or likely changes in ecological character, and list the sites affected.]</i>			
There is no known condition that could lead to changes in ecological character in any of the Ramsar sites, except for the Everglades National Park, which is undergoing massive restoration effort.s			
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the steps followed to include sites in the Montreux Record since COP8.]</i>			

Action r11.2.vi.- Utilize all appropriate mechanisms to address and resolve as soon as practicable the matters for which a site may have been the subject of a report pursuant to Article 3.2; and once those matters have been resolved, submit a further report, so that both positive influences at sites and changes in ecological character may be fully reflected in reporting under Article 3.2 and in the reporting to all meetings of the COP in order to establish a clear picture of the status and trends of the Ramsar site network at three-year intervals (Resolution VIII.8)

1. Actions have been taken to address the problems that have originated a report to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the actions taken.]</i>		

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

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

1.- Ramsar Advisory Missions have been requested to review the problems at Ramsar sites included in the Montreux Record, if any <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	C	<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>	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			

Action 11.2.6.- Where a *Ramsar Advisory Mission* has been completed for a *Montreux Record* site, take all necessary steps to implement the recommendations, and report at regular intervals to the Bureau on the results of these actions. At the appropriate time, seek the removal of the site from the *Montreux Record*, having provided the Bureau and STRP with details of the site condition using the approved questionnaire (Ramsar Handbook 7).

<i>(For CPs with sites in Montreux Record and RAMs made)</i>			N°Ramsar sites
1.- Actions have been taken to implement the recommendations of Ramsar Advisory Missions <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Actions have been taken to address the issues for which the site(s) was/were listed in the Montreux Record <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	B		<u>1</u>
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>			
Nothing since COP8.			

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	<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>	<u>1</u>
2.- Actions taken to address issues at Montreux Record Ramsar sites have been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau	B		
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned and results of the actions taken.]</i>			
This is the case of the Everglades National Park.			

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.1. Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Coordinated management of shared resources	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Ongoing work of the Great Lakes Commission, the Gulf of Maine Commission, and the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation.	

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

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

<p>1.- All transboundary /shared wetland systems have been identified (<i>if applicable, please include number of sites</i>)</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>N° wetlands/ wetland systems</p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the transboundary wetlands identified and provide any other additional comments you consider relevant.]</p>		
<p>This is done through the National Wetlands Inventory.</p> <p>One of the newest Ramsar sites, the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) is actively pursuing linkages with Mexican counterparts in environmental work to explore the possibilities of designation of additional wetland area to form a transboundary site.</p> <p>In addition, the Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation program for Ramsar based education and management of the Caddo Lake Ramsar site in Texas has recently included representatives of the State of Louisiana which manages half of Caddo Lake’s wetlands. The Caddo Lake Institute program included international partnerships with the State of Tamaulipas and the US Mexico Chamber of Commerce to identify integrative watershed management opportunities in the Soto La Marina watershed under the State Department initiative called “White Water to Blue Water”. Initial recon work was done in both the Red River/Atchafalaya watershed outfalls of Caddo Lake to the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the Soto La Marina watershed –from sierra to gulf--in the State of Tamaulipas. These will form the basis for on-going bi-state and bi-national programs for integrated watershed management capacity-building in future years under Ramsar guidance.</p>		

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

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

<p>1. Cooperative management of shared wetland systems has progressed</p>	<p>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></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>	
<p>This is done through participation in various committees, including the Great Lakes Commission, Gulf of Maine Commission, and the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation.</p>	

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).

<p>1. The guidelines for allocation and management of water have been applied in the context of shared water systems</p>	<p>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></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>	

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

<i>See action 2.2.3</i>		
1. Joint impact assessment processes with neighbouring countries have been applied in shared wetland systems	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
This is done through the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the U.S.-Canada-Mexico Trilateral Agreement.		

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	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
This action is carried out by several agencies, including the USFWS, EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Department of Agriculture.		

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.2. Promote cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Continue involvement in the U.S.-Canada-Mexico Trilateral Agreement	

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Action 12.2.1.- Identify and designate as Ramsar sites all wetlands which satisfy the relevant Ramsar Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species, giving priority in the first instance to waterbirds, fish, and marine turtles, especially those that are globally threatened. (Section B1 of the Guidelines)

1.- Wetlands which satisfy Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species have been designated as Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites designated)	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	N° Ramsar sites 3
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			

See Action r10.1.iv.-

Action 12.2.2.- Continue to promote and support the development of further regional site networks and initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species, as exemplified by the *African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)*, the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy*, the *Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network*, and others. (Sections B2 and B4 of the Guidelines)

See action r10.1.iv

1. New regional site networks and initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species have been developed

B

Choose an answer

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

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

The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species initiative is in the process of being launched, with Ramsar participation. In addition, the Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitor Center program includes the establishment of a Western Hemisphere website to encourage Ramsar based wetland eco-tourism www.ramsarecotourist.net. This initiated and tested the publication of linkages between US, Mexican and other Western Hemisphere Ramsar sites or Ramsar site candidates to encourage eco-tourism participation in local wise use conferences or field assessment activities.

Action 12.2.5.- Ensure that national hunting legislation is consistent with the wise use principle for migratory waterbird and other wetland-dependent species, taking into account geographical range, life-history characteristics of species, and research on sustainable harvesting.

1. National hunting legislation is consistent with wise use principle for wetland-dependent species, including waterbirds

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Hunting is a state government prerogative. Hunting for migratory species is regulated by the federal government.

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.3. Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Continued support of the Wetlands for the Future Fund	

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Action 12.3.2.- Encourage development of regional arrangements under the Convention similar to *MedWet*, where appropriate, applying the *Guidance for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands* (Resolution VIII.30) for example in the Black Sea, Caspian Sea, the Caribbean, South America and the Altaj-Sayansky region.

1. Party has been involved in the development of a regional initiative in the framework of the Convention

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 13. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13.1. Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		Launching of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiatives, with Ramsar participation.

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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.]

This is done through Inter-agency groups focusing on specific issues and/or Conventions.

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

B

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the relevant mechanisms.]

The National Authorities for the Convention and for UNESCO MAB are sister agencies (USFWS and US National Park Service).

Action 13.1.3.- Give priority to the implementation of the Memoranda of Cooperation or Understanding with the *Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)*, the *Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona Convention)*, the *Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea*, other regional seas conventions, and the *Danube River Protection Convention*, and seek to establish similar cooperative arrangements with other regional instruments, such as the *Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)*.

1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of the applicable regional seas conventions

B

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the relevant mechanisms.]

The U.S. supports and actively works with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.

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

D

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the mechanisms in place.]

The U.S. (through U.S.A.I.D) is helping in the restoration of the Mesopotamian Marshes in Iraq. The marshlands are the largest remaining wetlands in the Middle East. Until recently, they covered up to 20-thousand square kilometers. But now, less than one-tenth remains. The fish and shrimp that thrive in the Mesopotamian marshlands are major sources of protein in the region's diet; migrating birds, including some endangered species, stop there as they fly between the Nile River and Siberia; and the wetlands filter out contaminants before they reach the Persian Gulf. Large dams in Syria, Turkey, Iran, and Iraq have diverted water from the Tigris and Euphrates for irrigation, flood control, and hydroelectric power. But the most dramatic losses came in the last decade, as Iraq built massive structures to drain the wetlands. Marshland restoration activities have included surveys, pilot sites, flow and marsh hydrology modeling, and infrastructure needs assessments. The strategy for marsh restoration will include ecosystem monitoring, wetland reconstruction, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, agribusiness, fishing and aquaculture, livestock and dairy production, and primary healthcare. The U.S. is also helping to improve capacity through laboratory and GIS development, study tours, training, and formulation of a strategy for international donor assistance and participation.

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	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 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

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	I	<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 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

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	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 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14.1. Promote the sharing of expertise and information

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 14.1.1.- Using mechanisms such as the national focal points for communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) and for the STRP, promote the sharing of knowledge (traditional, indigenous, and more recently derived technologies and methods) at the global, regional, and national levels. (Section D1 of the Guidelines.)

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

As an example, the Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center program includes co-sponsorship of communication, education and awareness workshops, recruitment of bi-national teams, sharing of Ramsar based knowledge with other community members and communities. Elements include indigenous and other cultural components to teach some of the “Lessons of Caddo Lake”, a documentary video now in progress. Partnerships were established with the Caddo Nation in Oklahoma, the Southwestern Oklahoma State University, the Jeffersonian Institute of Jefferson, Texas, the US Mexico Chamber of Commerce and the Federal State of Tamaulipas, Mexico and the USNRC.

The U.S regularly participates in international fora addressing water resource issues, including the CSD, the White Water to Blue Water Initiative and the Millennium Assessment process.

Action 14.1.2.- Recognize training as an important element of international cooperation under the Convention and provide access to such training, especially for wetland managers, and wetland educators and those others responsible for implementing the Convention, from other countries that would benefit from these opportunities. (Sections D2 and D3 of the Guidelines).

1. The Party has engaged in international cooperation activities related to training on wetland issues	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
This was done by, among other things, providing support to a number of projects focused on wetlands training and capacity building in Latin America (see Action r9.v.ii), through funding support for the Wetlands for the Future Fund, and through support to the Regional Ramsar Training Center (CREHO) in Panama.		

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	F	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the wetland networks established and other comments you consider relevant.]			
This is one of the goals of the National Ramsar Committee and its Newslink Newsletter. In addition, the Caddo Lake Institute Science and Visitor Center program included establishment of a web-based network for Ramsar eco-tourist www.ramsarecotourist.net .			
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>	E	<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>	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites 1
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the twinning arrangement, the sites involved and other comments you consider relevant.]			
Twinning arrangements were created by the Caddo Lake Institute's annual appropriation for its Science and Visitors Center at the Caddo Lake Ramsar site, with four twinned Ramsar candidate sites in Tamaulipas, Mexico.			

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	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The Migratory Bird and Wetlands Newslink, sponsored by the U.S. National Ramsar Committee and funded by the U.S. government, is a free, bi-monthly news service that is disseminated to individuals in 35 countries. In addition, the Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriations for its Science and Visitors Center and Ramsar programs established 3 websites to share knowledge and information: www.caddodefense.org (Caddo Lake Ramsar Site issues and conservation activities); www.ramsarecotourist.net (western hemisphere network to support eco-tourist visits and recruit their involvement in field and conference activities at Ramsar sites or candidate sites) and www.ramsarcommittee.us (the US National Ramsar Committee's document site). These 3 websites are integrated by links to each other. Integration and improvement of these sites is underway. The eco-tourist site also includes a site member option to compile a "personal transcript" of learning and field		

experience gained in eco-tourism, or during local Ramsar based programs.

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

C

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

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15.1. Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Increase international assistance to support conservation of wetlands.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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

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. Other forms of funding support have been mobilized for wetland issues

B

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

The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided over four million dollars in assistance to projects in the Mesopotamian Marshland area of Iraq. The U.S. State Department provided over a dozen small grants to wetland, particularly coral reef, projects in the wider Caribbean region following the Miami White Water to Blue Water conference.

USFWS grant funding to the Caddo Lake Institute mobilized partnership formation and technical reconnaissance of 4 wetlands in Tamaulipas State that were recommended for Ramsar designation by that state's Secretariat for Environment. (SEDUE)

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

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

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

1. The Party has worked with donors to ensure that the ecological functions of wetlands are conserved when designing and implementing water projects	B	<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>		
An example of this was through contribution to the Code of Conducts for Mangroves, developed by the World Bank. Under the Pelosi Amendment, prior to determining whether to support a project, the U.S. requires wetlands issues and environmental impact assessments and plans to be developed for all projects under consideration by the international financing institutions such as the World Bank.		

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

1. Financial support provided for wetland-related projects in the Oceania region	B	<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 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The U.S. provided partial support (in the amount of \$10,000.00) to the Ramsar Bureau for general operational costs. This will include support for the position of Assistant Adviser for the Small Island States and Territories of the Oceania Region.		

Action 15.1.3.- For those Parties with bilateral development assistance agencies, respond to sections E1, E2, E5, E7, E10, E11, E14 and E15 of the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands* (Ramsar Handbook 9), and especially consider issues such as long-term fund generation mechanisms, appropriate monitoring of projects, training of development assistance agency staff, priority for institutional capacity building, the need for cooperation between development assistance agencies, and the importance of coordination between bilateral development assistance agencies and the Ramsar Administrative Authorities in the donor and recipient countries.

<i>(For CPs with development assistance agencies)</i>		
1. Work has been done with the development assistance agency in relation to Ramsar's <i>Guidelines for international cooperation</i> (Res. VII.19)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [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)

<i>(For CPs with development assistance agencies)</i>		
1. The performance of the development assistance agency in relation to wetland issues has been assessed	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [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	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
See action r15.1.iii		

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.)

See action 16.1.2

1. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Endowment Fund	A	
3. Contributions have been made to the Ramsar Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme	C	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on contributions made to support the funds and services indicated above.]		
In 2002 the U.S. contributed \$70,000 to the Small Grants Fund. From 2002-2004 the U.S. contributed \$695,000 to the Wetlands for the Future Fund.		

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	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The U.S. has supported the Regional Ramsar Training Center in Panama, and has encouraged other countries to do likewise. The U.S. also provided funding for the Pan American regional meeting held in Mexico in November 2004.		
Also, USFWS annual appropriation program for the Caddo Lake Institute includes ongoing development of the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Centers to support wetland training and education of visitors and local residents. The Center's program includes outreach and establishment of similar nodes in Tamaulipas, Mexico and other Ramsar sites on a pilot basis. This program is also developing bi-national team "best Ramsar designation practices" and recruiting community members from US and Mexico.		

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

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)	A	<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>		
The U.S. State Department provides comments and recommendations on the soundness of proposals impacting wetlands being considered by the GEF.		

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	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>Tax codes encourage corporations to make charitable contributions to non-profit organizations, including those engaged in wetland restoration activities. While there is some financial benefit from the tax deduction, the real value to corporations is the favorable publicity. The value to the environment depends on whether the money is channeled to worthwhile projects and whether the corporate contribution can be leveraged to spur additional funding. The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) seeks to provide value to both the donors and the environment. The CWRP encourages corporations to make contributions, either cash or services, for aquatic restoration activities. The Coastal America Partnership, a consortium of federal entities, decides (in consultation with state agencies, NGOs, and donors) which private foundation or state trust should receive the contribution. (see http://www.coastalamerica.gov/text/cwrp.html).</p> <p>The Caddo Lake Institute annual appropriation programs develop significant private sector cash and in-kind contributions to enhance Ramsar based wise use, education and training at Caddo Lake and other partner sites.</p>		

Action 15.1.13.- Promote establishment of effective mechanisms to encourage environmentally sound trade in wetland products, in particular from Ramsar sites, compatible with international trade agreements.

1. Mechanisms have been established to encourage environmentally sound trade of wetland products, in particular from Ramsar sites	C	<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>		

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15.2. Ensure that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 15.2.1.- Work with international development agencies, including banks, financial institutions and private investors and developers, to ensure that proposed grants, loans, and development projects include environmental safeguards and environmental assessments of possible impacts upon wetlands. (Based on Section G1 of the Guidelines.)

1. Actions have been taken to work with investors on possible impacts of their projects on wetlands	H	<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.]

Within the U.S., that action is mandated by law and is required by the NEPA. See r15.1.iii

Action 15.2.3.- Review wetland-related project development approval and consider the introduction of mechanisms to direct resources derived from these activities back to hands-on wetland management in the country. (Based on Section G3 of the Guidelines.)

1. Work has been done to introduce mechanisms to direct resources derived from wetlands back to wetland management	C	<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.]

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 16. FINANCING OF THE CONVENTION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 16.1. Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

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	<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>		
The U.S. makes a voluntary contribution annually to the Ramsar Convention. The amount available each year is determined through the domestic budget process. The U.S. government runs on an October 1-September 30 fiscal year and pays its contribution as soon as possible following completion of the budget process.		

Action 16.1.2.- Consider providing additional voluntary contributions to the Convention to support the *Small Grants Fund* and its *Endowment Fund*, the *Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, and the *Training Service*, regionally-based initiatives such as *MedWet*, the undertaking of *Ramsar Advisory Missions* for sites included in the *Montreux Record* and other Ramsar sites, and other priority activities as determined by the Strategic Plan.

<i>In addition to any contributions listed under Action 15.1.6 above, voluntary contributions have been made:</i>		
1. to the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	C	<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	
3. for Ramsar Advisory Missions related to Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record	C	
4. towards the development and maintenance of logistics of the San José Record	C	
5. to support the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)	B	
6. to expand the internship programme at the Ramsar Bureau	C	
7. in relation to COP9	B	
8.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the contributions made to support the services indicated above.]</i>		
In 2004 the U.S. contributed \$56,000 to support COP9. See action 15.1.6		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE CONVENTION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17.1. Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Bureau are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Strategic Plan

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Assist in the implementation of Resolution VIII.45	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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.]

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18.1. Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

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.]

This work is being conducted by the Council on Environmental Quality.

<i>See action 13.1.1</i>		
3. A coordinating committee among focal points of environment-related conventions is in place	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the coordinating committee and other comments you consider relevant.]		
5. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other national institutions directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues, in particular water and biodiversity	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
6. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and relevant professional, scientific or educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including social and cultural heritage issues	B	<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
7.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant cooperation mechanisms and any other comments you consider relevant.]		
USFWS and the State Department cooperate closely on Ramsar issues. Relevant agencies are included in the interagency process as necessary. A mature and robust partnership exists between USFWS Division of International Conservation, and the Caddo Lake Institute of Caddo Lake, Texas under annual appropriations for the fulfillment of their COP6 Brisbane Pledge to establish the first regional Ramsar Center at Caddo Lake. This program develops annual Ramsar based components to enhance local technical support and outreach and as a part of the CLI's program for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center.		
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	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
See action 1.2.5		
Action 18.1.2.- Establish National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, relevant government agencies, including national water management ministries and/or agencies, where appropriate, and non-governmental organizations, STRP and CEPA National Focal Points, key stakeholders, indigenous people and local communities, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). When in place, ensure the proper functioning of these Committees.		
<i>See actions r3.4.iii, r13.1.iii</i>		
1. A National Ramsar / Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body) is in place	B	<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. If a Ramsar Committee exists, it is cross-sectoral (relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, key stakeholders, local communities, private sector, etc.)	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

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

Since COP8, efforts have been undertaken to expand and reinvigorate the USNRC. In addition to USG observer members, voting members of the USNRC include Friends of Eastern Neck, Conservation Treaty Support Fund, Ducks Unlimited, Stetson University College of Law, Wildlife Habitat Council, International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Marin County Open Space District, Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, American Bird Conservancy, Save the Wetlands, and Caddo Lake Institute.

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.

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

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.

<p>1. The National Report Format has been used as a national planning tool for the implementation of the Convention</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20. TRAINING

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20.1. Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 20.1.1.- Implement, and further develop and publicize, the *Convention's Wetland Training Service*.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Ramsar Wetland Training Service in place and fully implemented.

1. The Party has participated in the development and use of the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	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
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

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.

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

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) and the *Directory of Wetland Management Training Opportunities* (http://ramsar.org/wurc_training_directory.htm).

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

This is done mainly through the courses offered by the National Conservation Training Center.

In addition, USFWS Division of International Conservation annual appropriation partnership with the Caddo Lake Institute has initiated wetland related training opportunities at Caddo Lake, and in conjunction with USNRC, regional workshops in California, Florida and an emerging Ramsar based training partnership with the US/Mexico Chamber of Commerce and the Federal State of Tamaulipas, Mexico. These initiatives have included establishment of Ramsar based eco-tourism frameworks for the western hemisphere www.ramsarecotourist.net; local Caddo Lake websites for access to local information (www.caddodefense.org) and US National Ramsar Committee website (www.ramsarcommittee.us). All of these sites and programs provide information about Ramsar or training opportunities for lay people and scientists.

Action 20.1.5.- Assemble and make available, or develop, new training activities and general training modules as necessary, for the use of the Ramsar Handbooks, with specialized modules including coverage of the following fields:

- a) wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring;
- b) national wetland policies and plans;
- c) integrated catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning and management;
- d) integrated site management planning at the local, provincial or catchment/river basin level;

- e) wetland restoration and rehabilitation;
- f) invasive alien species;
- g) agricultural impacts on wetlands and water resources;
- h) impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment;
- i) impacts of climate change, and adaptive management and mitigation of such impacts
- j) economic valuation of wetlands;
- k) communication, education and public awareness techniques.

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

USFWS Division of International Conservation annual appropriation partnership with the Caddo Lake Institute has initiated wetland related training opportunities at Caddo Lake, and in conjunction with USNRC, regional workshops in California, Florida and an emerging Ramsar based training partnership with the US/Mexico Chamber of Commerce and the Federal State of Tamaulipas, Mexico. These initiatives have included establishment of Ramsar based eco-tourism frameworks for the western hemisphere www.ramsarecotourist.net ; local Caddo Lake websites for access to local information (www.caddodefense.org) and US National Ramsar Committee website (www.ramsarcommittee.us). All of these sites and programs provide information about Ramsar or training opportunities for lay people and scientists.

Action 20.1.6.- Provide opportunities for manager training by:

- a) encouraging personnel exchanges for on-the-job training, possibly between twinned sites;
- b) holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites;
- c) siting wetland manager and wetland educator training facilities at Ramsar sites;
- d) obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers around the world;
- e) establishing further regional training initiatives such as the *Wetlands for the Future Initiative* funded by the Government of the USA for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

1. Opportunities for manager training in the country have been provided	B	<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.]

In the U.S., this is done at the National Conservation Training Center.

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

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

Action 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	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres 2
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of centres and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
The U.S. has contributed financial support for the Pan-American Ramsar meeting and the Regional Training Center in Panama. See action 20.1.5.			

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21.1. Secure the universal membership of the Convention

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

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;
- providing assistance for the identification of *Wetlands of International Importance* that could be listed as Ramsar sites upon accession;
- encouraging attendance by observers from non-Contracting Parties at regional meetings and meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and
- 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)

1. Actions have been taken to encourage the adherence to the Convention of new Contracting Parties	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>
<p>In general, the U.S. position is that, rather than recruitment, efforts should be focused on enhancing the quality and diversity of the services offered by the Convention to its Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Science officers at the US Embassy in Barbados are working with national authorities there to assist Barbados in becoming a party. The U.S. is working with Iraq on the development of environmental policy and laws, including the establishment of a Ministry of Environment. Part of that process includes encouraging Iraq to become a party to the Ramsar Convention and other relevant environmental agreements.</p>

FEEDBACK ON COP9 NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

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<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>The report is too long, repetitive, and naïve (in terms of what it expects the countries to implement). It's not completely coherent with a federal or provincial system of government (decentralized) or with a developed country, where the private sector takes a leading role in wetland conservation.</p>		
<p>In case a specific working group would be created, will you be interested in participating in the preparation of the COP10 National Report Format?</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>