

NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS



Report elaborated for General Directorate for Environmental Protection, financed by National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management



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SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

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Name and title:	
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SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP10 reporting):

A. What new steps have been taken to implement the Convention?

Ramsar Convention Secretary was established. Data for updating of Ramsar Information Sheets and GIS maps of Polish Ramsar Sites have been collected. Data for preparing new RIS for new 7 Ramsar, sites to be submitted to the Ramsar list, were collected and the RIS were prepared. Extensive preparing of management plans for Natura 2000 sites and national parks was started, including management plans for almost all Ramsar sites and other nationally important wetlands. National programme of conserving alkaline fens was prepared. Some projects of wetland restoration were implemented.

B. What have been the most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?

Including almost all internationally and nationally important wetlands to the Natura 2000 network, which created the good base for future management planning, conservation and restoration. Successful financing of relevant restoration and conservation projects using EU funds. Legislation changes fully transposing requirements of EU Habitat Directive, Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and Water Framework Directive, creating base for wetland protection and conservation. Big progress in wetland inventory, as a result of implementation of some national projects, progress in nature management planning and some whole-country surveys.

C. What have been the greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

Scarce human resources has to be mentioned as one of the important factors, which restrains activities for the RC implementation - creating new job positions for only wetlands conservation is limited by economical reasons as well as existing system of nature conservation. Moreover, lack of social awareness reflected in attitudes unwilling to protect natural resources.

D. What are the priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

Management planning on existing wetlands taken under protection and implementation of necessary conservation measures. Full including of wetlands to the river basin management plans, and full implementation of Water Framework Directive standards. CEPA issues and transforming public attitude towards wetland friendly.

E. Does the Contracting Party have any proposals concerning adjustments to the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan?

No

F. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

No

G. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)?

No

H. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those

in the "Biodiversity cluster" (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention, and UNCCD and UNFCCC)?

Poland as a party to agreements adopted for nature conservation, is implementing their provisions by adaptation and connection of their requirements into national policy and strategies. In Poland, one of the main goals of the State ecological policy is to integrate the policy of biodiversity conservation with sectoral policies and promoting the joint responsibility for the environmental status of the country. "The Document of the State Ecological Policy for 2009 - 2012 with perspectives until 2016" points out, among others, to the need of implementing the protection of the most threatened ecosystems and species (and their habitats) via establishing and extending the Natura 2000 network. This Document recommends to implement the Strategy of Wetland Conservation taking into account that wetlands are of special significance for preserving species and landscape diversity at the country scale.

Moreover, their protection requires a multisectoral approach in the spatial land planning in both the regional and country scale. For this, National Concept of Spatial Management 2030 was elaborated and established, including main requirements of ecological systems. The ecological policy programmes for the years 2002-2010 envisage an array of legislation and organisational activities concerning the protection of river valleys, hydrogenic ecosystems, rare and endangered species and traditional agricultural landscape; they also envisage the restoration of degraded but still valuable ecosystems and natural habitats. Biodiversity conservation, including wetland conservation, is presently included to the Project of Strategy "Energetic Safety and Environment. Perspective 2020". In frames of European Union Presidency in 2011. Poland organised the international conference "Planning for biodiversity", promoting integrated planning approach.

- I. How can Ramsar Convention implementation be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

Requirements of wetland protection and Strategy of wetland protection are fully implemented to binding National Programme of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Action Plan for years 2007 - 2013 (Polish biodiversity strategy). Requirements of wetland protection was implemented to the proposal of National Strategy of Water Management 2030, later converted into project "National Water Policy until 2030" although the strategy was not established formally. Work on water policy continues.

Requirements of protected wetlands must be included as binding 'environmental objective' to the river basin management plans (RBMP), which will be followed by their including to the whole water management process in Poland. It was not done in the 1st edition of the RBMPs, nevertheless is planned to be implemented in 2nd edition of the plans.

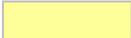
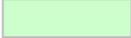
Wetland-dependent natural features are the targets of some measures of the Rural Development Plan for 2007-2013 (RDP), especially agrienvironmental schemes. In next RDP for 2014-2020, the wetlands will be probably even more accentuated, especially peatlands and peat deposits important for carbon accumulation, as a result of obligatory 'climatic' component of the rural development policy, as proposed in the EU Common Agricultural Policy (EU CAP) reform.

- J. Does the Contracting Party have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

No

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box. 
2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions. 
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database designed for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [], "" in the free text box.
5. To assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP10, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP10 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment. *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.*

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A - Yes
<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>There's a comprehensive wetland inventory for the whole country, database and GIS maintained by Institute of Technology and Life Sciences (ITLS) in Falenty, although the quality of data is not perfect. On the base of these data, register and map of ecosystems dependent on waters was elaborated, for water management planning. There's register of water bodies, nevertheless the ecological character of particular waters is not always known in details. Water-dependent terrestrial ecosystems are mapped, nevertheless the recognition of ecological type is not good enough. For some regions, for some kinds of property, and for some types of wetlands, there's much better inventory. As a result of lately finalised project implemented by ITLS, wet meadows in Mazowsze region are mapped in details. There is a survey of "natural habitats" (including wetland habitats) in the State Forests, covering ca 30% of the Polish territory. There are detail inventories and registers of some specific kinds of wetlands, as: lobelia oligotrophic lakes, alkalic fens, Baltic raised bogs.</p>	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Most of the data are not publicly disseminated, nevertheless most of them are available on request. Some data are owned by scientific institutons, NGOs or State Forests, and avaiability to stakeholders depends on individual decision of the data owner. Generally, wetlands data, although available, are still not a part of "common knowledge"; even some wetlands affecting activities are approved without use of full existing knowledge on nature. Knowledge of wetlands and the need to protect them is sometimes limited and not always taken into account in the authorization process activities affecting or likely to affect wetlands.</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>O - No change N - Status deteriorated</p>
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1.1.3 a) Additional information:

Lack of data for worsening of the Ramsar sites. Although some important and extensive conservation measures was implemented lately - especially in: Warta Mouth National Park, Biebrza National Park, Narew National Park, Slowinski National Park - achieving real improvement of conservation status needs more time.

1.1.3 b) Additional information:

The pression on wetland areas in Poland is now greater due to the accelerated activity in agriculture, as consolidation of farmlands, restoring the draining ditches and more funds for rivers transforming. Former good status of agri-wetland was at least partially result of abandoning of some drainage systems, which no longer take place. There's strong social attitude towards river regulation, flooding defence and meadows drainage. On the other hand, there are many activities for the protection and improvement of the state of wetlands, and even recovering it, carried out by both government organizations, NGOs and research centers. Large projects like "a small water retention in the woods," LIFE projects and other projects funded by the European Union and national funds, are implemented where actions to improve the water regime and wetland habitats recovery are carried out.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i (If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.1 Additional information: The National Strategy of Wetland Conservation and the Action Plan for the years 2006-2013 has been developed and approved by the Minister of Environment in 2006. A consistent implementation of the tasks covered by the Action Plan will allow for the full implementation of recommendations and commitments resulting the Convention.</p>	

1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}	A - Yes
1.3.2 Additional information: The National Strategy of Wetland Conservation as of 2006 is based on the UNCED Agenda 21 and the final document of the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002, and refers to goals and actions highlighted in the above documents	
<p>1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Poverty eradication strategies b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans c) Coastal and marine resource management plans d) National forest programmes e) National strategies for sustainable development f) National policies or measures on agriculture g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans <p>{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<p>Z - Not applicable D - Planned D - Planned C - Partly Z - Not applicable C - Partly A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lack of such strategy b) Must be implemented in the next round of water management planning (2015), as obligation of EU Water Framework Directive and national legislation c) Must be implemented by Marine Strategy required by 2015 by EU Marine Strategy Directive. d) Partially incorporated to the forest policy, as "water retention in forests", wetlands restoration and conservation as a factor improving forest health and growth. e) Lack of such strategy f) Wetlands are targets of some agrienvironmental measures of Rural Development Plan for 2007-2013. In the next plan for 2014-2020, the wetlands will be probably even more accented, as a result of obligatory 'climatic' component of the rural development policy, as proposed in the CAP reform. g) The National Strategy of Wetland Conservation is incorporated to the Programme of Biodiversity Conservation (Biodiversity Strategy), with its implementation plan for 2007-2013. 	
1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii	A - Yes
1.3.4 Additional information: According to national legislation, SEA is obligatory for all plans, policies and programmes which can influence the environment in general, or Natura 2000 sites.	

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	C - In some cases
<p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p> <p>According to national legislation, each project which can influence environment in general, should be the subject of EIA procedure, and theoretically it should be applied to all projects affecting wetlands. At least, each project should be screened. Existence, and potential affecting of wetlands, are listed among criteria for qualifying to full EIA procedure. Additionally, each project influencing Natura 2000 site, must be the subject of Habitat Assessment procedure. Nevertheless, in practice, some wetlands-affecting projects, as ditches digging/deepening or rivers deepening/banks strenghtening, are implemented without appropriate assesment, under the name of river/ditch "maintenance". Actions of this type were carried out in particular in connection with the flood that occurred in 2010-2011 in Poland. Social discontent caused by floods resulted in tremendous increase in work recognized as flood-prevention actions, ignoring the protection of wetlands. Currently, there is on-going work on changing regulations and the introduction of legal instruments, which ensure mitigation of the environmental impact of projects carried out beyond the EIA.</p>	

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	B - No
1.3.6 Additional information:	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	B - No
<p>1.4.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Lack of systematic assessment for ecosystem services , nevertheless some initial scientific considerations exists. No special attitude for Ramsar Sites.</p>	
1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i	C - Partly
<p>1.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>No systematic approach, nevertheless indirect effects exists: implemented projects provide employment possibilities in regions affected by unemployment problems, and improve general ecological conditions, which is followed by general better food and water security.</p>	

1.4.3 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)?
{1.3.4} KRA 1.4.iii

C - Partly

1.4.3 Additional information:

No systematic approach, nevertheless some citizen's and NGO's initiatives exists, expressing the cultural values of rivers, as cultural values of Vistula (Me Vistula - Warsaw, Vistula Traditional Raft), Odra (Open Technical Museum), other rivers ("6 rivers of Cracow", Biala river in Bielsko Biala, Drawa Fest in Drawno, Warta).

1.4.4 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.1.5} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

According to Polish legislation, its obligatory to consider socio-economic and cultural aspects, including values, in each management plan. In many protected areas (all national parks, landscape parks) protecting wetlands, the cultural values are also the target of protection.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention. *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes*

1.5.1 Have you taken steps to ensure that your national focal points for other environmental conventions are contributing to the application of Ramsar Convention implementation mechanisms? KRA 1.5.i

B - No

1.5.1 Additional information:

1.5.2 Have you brought the "Changwon Declaration" (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
- b. parliament
- c. private sector
- d. civil society

B - No

B - No

B - No

B - No

1.5.2 Additional information:

1.5.3 Has the “Changwon Declaration” been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?	B - No
1.5.3 Additional information:	

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?	C - Partly
1.5.4 Additional information: Strategy was translated to Polish, it is planned to upload it on webpage of General Directorate of Environment Protection	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: a. agriculture-wetland interactions b. climate change c. valuation of ecosystem services KRA 1.6.i	A - Yes A - Yes D - Planned
1.6.1 Additional information: Intensive research on agricultural wetlands and on relations wetlands-agriculture are carried on by Universities, and by special research institute focused on this issue - Institute of Technology and Life Sciences in Falenty near Warsaw. The objective of the Institute is to conduct research and development together with the operational implementation, dissemination, advisory, educational, training, promotion, inventive and monitoring activities concerning, among others, water supply and drainage engineering, agricultural drainage, construction of buildings and water facilities and flood control facilities. Some research on climate changes are carried on, also on hydrological effects. In 2012, the General Directorate for Environmental Protection has commissioned a development of study "Assessment of the impact of climate change on biodiversity and the resulting guidelines for environmental protection administration activities in Poland until 2030". The study will be used in further work of GDEP. Lack of systematic research on wetlands ecosystem services.	

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including on potential threats to the wetlands? KRA 1.6.ii	C - Partly
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1.6.2 Additional information:

Although all management plans are generally based on scientific knowledge, the simplified approach for Natura 2000 management planning was chosen, to prepare, in a short time and with limited resources, at least basic management plans for most of the sites. So called "plans of conservation measures" are prepared without good nature inventory, only on the base of existing, sometimes not completed knowledge. Nevertheless, in such cases, relevant research and inventory for filling the knowledge gaps is planned as one of the measures.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i

B - No

1.7.1 Additional information:

Nevertheless, similar approach is used, as a result of requirements of EU Water Framework Directive

1.7.2 Does your country's water governance and management treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? KRA 1.7.ii

D - Planned

1.7.2 Additional information:

Even now, wetlands are understood as element of natural water retention, and necessity of its protection is appreciated, at least in general plan. More integration of wetland requirements and services to the water basin management plans is expected in the next round of river basin management plans preparing, in 2015.

1.7.3 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.4.2}

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

There is no direct incorporation of any Ramsar resolution, nevertheless the same approach, incl. wide consultations, education and public awareness measures, is incorporated in the process of river basin management planning, as required by EU Water Framework Directive.

1.7.4 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {1.4.3}	B - No
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1.7.4 Additional information:

1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii	D - Planned
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1.7.5 Additional information: In 2012, the General Directorate for Environmental Protection has commissioned a development of study "Assessment of the impact of climate change on biodiversity and the resulting guidelines for environmental protection administration activities in Poland until 2030". The study will be used in further work of GDEP. Wetland areas will be included.

1.7.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands and water in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? KRA 1.7.v	B - No
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1.7.6 Additional information: By 2014, should be established draft of the new Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, which must find a means to protect the climate as well as biodiversity of agricultural land and which will have to take into account the wetlands ecosystems.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems 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 and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i	D - Planned
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1.8.1 Additional information:

Some wetland restoration projects are implemented, and the sites targeted are selected properly. Restoration needs are identified during the management planning processes for particular wetland sites. Nevertheless there's no systematic, strategic approach.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i	A - Yes
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1.8.2 Additional information:

Numerous projects, outside Ramsar sites. Examples:

- restoration of Biała Tarnowska river, with the river migration corridor
- restoration of Raba river
- restoration and conservation of the saline spring Owczary (Małopolska region),
- raised bog restoration in "Bór na Czerwonym" nature reserve, Nowy Targ forest district
- restoration of Baltic raised bogs in northern Poland (23 sites)
- raised bogs restoration by Sphagnum sp. reintroduction in Pomerania region,
- Rynki bog restoration in Narew National Park (Ramsar site),
- Drawa Great Forest bogs restoration, incl. IAS Spiraea tomentosa eradication,
- restoration of bogs in Sudety Mts.
- restoration of wetlands in Strzałowo Forest District,
- small wetlands restoration in State Forests,
- restoration of maine vegetation (Zosterera underwater meadow) in Puck Bay.
- blue corridor of river Ina, blue corridor of river Rega

1.8.3 Has Ramsar guidance (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidance on wetland restoration been used in designing and implementing wetland restoration/ rehabilitation programmes or projects? {1.5.2}

C - Partly

1.8.3 Additional information:

No direct use of the Ramsar guidance, and no other written guidance exists nevertheless similar standards are followed as a part of 'usual good restoration practice'. In fact, proposals of restoration are selected in a process of application for financing, using reviewing procedures based on 'common good standards', similar to the Ramsar ones.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species. *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands?
KRA 1.9.i

B - No

1.9.1 Additional information: There is national list and database of IAS (list available on: <http://www.iop.krakow.pl/gatunkiobce/default.asp?nazwa=mete&je=pl>) as well as database about their biology. In addition, in 2012, was created a study "Alien plants in Poland, with particular emphasis on invasive species," which will be available in electronic form on the GDEP webpage and in print. Naturalists Club has developed and published a book "Invasive plant species of Polish wetland ecosystems." But there is no coherent, based on field data, inventory of the location of alien species in wetland ecosystems.

1.9.2 Have national invasive species control and management policies or guidelines been established for wetlands?
{1.6.1} KRa 1.9.iii

B - No

1.9.2 Additional information: Nevertheless, knowledge is developed. There are numerous scientific research, conferences, practical control and eradication of invasive alien species. In 6 of the 13 Polish Ramsar sites are carried out actions to combat invasive alien species of plants and animals.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {4.2.1} KRA 1.10.i

C - Partly

1.10.1 Additional information:

Although private sector is widely invited to participation in wetland conservation, and, on the other hand, only sustainable activities are allowed for protected wetlands, no Ramsar principles and guidances are directly used for this.

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of:

a. Wetlands in general

b. Ramsar Sites

KRA 1.10.ii

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

Private sector is involved in agri-wetland management, also in some national parks and Ramsar sites. Private farmers lease protected grounds, and receive agrienvironmental payments for appropriate farming management, which is also appropriate for maintaining wetland biodiversity. This system supports improved management in:

- Biebrza National Park
- Slowinski National Park
- Warta Mouth (Ujście Warty) National Park
- Narew National Park

Additionally, there is wide and intensive activity of conservation NGO's, but they are not considered as 'private sector' here.

1.10.3 Have awareness-raising materials been made available to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices? KRA 1.10.iii

A - Yes

1.10.3 Additional information:

In some regions of Poland, local products, some of them produced by the wetlands (as carp fish from traditional fish ponds important also for birds), are promoted.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information:

Agri environmental payments, available for farmers - stimulate the proper management of wet meadows, salt pastures, alkaline fens, wetland birds habitats. To some extent (max. for 5 ha/farmer) applicable also for conservation of rushes and raised bogs

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information: Taking such actions should be considered.

Efforts have been made and successfully eliminated uncontrolled afforestation of open space, including wetlands, in Natura 2000 areas. It is planned to analyze and eliminate any other harmful incentives to violate the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note. An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP11 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on any of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. *Apply the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance" (Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?</i> {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A - Yes
2.1.1 Additional information: Wetland Conservation Strategy identifies gaps in including representation of Polish wetlands to the Ramsar List, and establish submitting new sites, for filling the gaps, as one of the objectives. Filling the gaps would require ultimately application of about 20-30 sites more.	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	D - Planned
2.1.2 Additional information:	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.3 Additional information:	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	7 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation): Materials concerning 7 areas are prepared to submit.	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information. *Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.*

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii	A - Yes
2.2.1 Additional information:	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning - new Ramsar Sites. *While recognizing that Ramsar Site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar Sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.*

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? KRA 2.3.i

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information: All sites prepared are Natura 2000 sites or parts of Natura 2000 sites, with the legal obligation to prepare management plan by 6 years at the latest. For all relevant sites, the management plan preparing processes are started.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.3.2} KRA 2.4.i

12 sites

2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i

12 sites

2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i

1 sites

2.4.4 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being revised or updated? KRA 2.4.i

12 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

For sites: Karaś Lake and Lake Družno protection plans are set for a period of 20 years.

Most of the sites: Warta Mouth National Park, a nature reserve "Lake of Seven Islands" nature reserve "Lake Świdwie" Biebrza National Park, nature reserve "Ponds Milickie" Slowinski National Park, Narew National Park, Polesie National Park, Karkonosze National Park, Wigry National Park - has established the so-called "conservation measures", which is a form of short-term (1-5 years) plans to ensure continuity of management and to the drafting and establish long-term conservation / management plan. One site - Lake Łuknajno – has not got any planning document, but the plan is in preparation.

Plans of conservation measures (longterm, for 10 years) are in preparation for:

- Warta Mouth (Ujście Warty) National Park,
- Biebrza National Park,
- Świdwie Lake,
- Narew National Park
- Karkonosze National park (incl. subalpine bogs)
- Wigry National Park
- Polesie National Park
- Łuknajno Lake

2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii

A - Yes

2.4.5 Additional information: maintenance of the ecological character is the basic objective obligatory for each management plans for protected areas in Poland.

2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv

0 sites

2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):
Nevertheless, for 6 sites multisectoral advisory committee exists (so called "Park Scientific Board")

2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v

13 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number): Each of the Ramsar sites established in Poland is also a form of nature protection and at the stage of appointment for each were prepared an inventory of nature, containing a description of the ecological characteristics. Update this characteristic is part of the plans currently being developed.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness. *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance".*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of Ramsar Site management effectiveness been carried out? {2.3.4} KRA 2.5.i

A - Yes

2.5.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available):

Status of all Ramsar sites are continuously and every year monitored by responsible authorities (for national parks - by National Park Office, for nature reserves - by Regional Directorate of Environmental Protection). Apart his, national monitoring of species and habitat resources is carried on (Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, 2007-2011), including some monitoring plots in Ramsar sites. All Ramsar sites are Natura 2000 sites or parts of Natura 200 sites; there's legal mechanism requiring reporting the site status to the General Directorate for Environmental Protection every 3 (birds sites) or 6 (habitats sites) years. At the same time in accordance with the provisions of the Habitats Committee at the European Commission, the obligation to report in the future will be razed to 6 years in order to improve the coordination of the work.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status. *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.4.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established):

All Ramsar sites are Natura 2000 sites or parts of Natura 2000 sites; there's legal mechanism requiring reporting the site status, by responsible authority, to the general Directorate for Environmental Protection every 3 (birds sites) or 6 (habitats sites) years. Responsible authority is for national parks - National Park Office, for nature reserves and other Natura 2000 sites - Regional Directorate of Environmental Protection).

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {2.4.2} KRA 2.6.i

Z - No negative change

2.6.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some cases", please indicate for which Ramsar Sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.4.3} KRA 2.6.ii

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information: All wetlands chosen for designation as Ramsar Sites are protected as Natura 2000 sites, with European Union obligation to maintain the ecological character.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i>
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3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.ii	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information:

The focal points of the Ramsar Convention, Bern Convention, European Landscape Convention and Aquatic Warbler MoU are organised in the same institution (General Directorate for Environmental Protection) and partially are represented by the same persons, which guarantee good collaboration.

3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	B - No
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3.1.2 Additional information: At the moment, the Polish side has not established no committee or body that could serve a similar function, but in October 2012 at GDEP was held a working meeting which aimed to discuss among the parties involved need to establish such a body. Focal points of other agreements were also invited to the meeting. The conclusions of the meeting, indicating the number of possible options for the establishment of the Committee, will be examined in the institution and used in further work on the implementation of the Convention.

3.1.3 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO, etc)? KRA 3.1.iv	B - No
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3.1.3 Additional information:

3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii	---
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3.1.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i

A - Yes

3.2.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Planned", please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

Carpathian Wetland Initiative - Czech, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine

3.2.2 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {4.10.1}

B - No

3.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only ("donor countries")]: Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i

B - No

3.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate the countries supported since COP10):

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only ("donor countries")]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”): Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}

B - No

3.3.3 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.2.1}

B - No

3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):

3.4.2 Has information about your country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

Basic information about all Ramsar sites are available at the Ramsar Focal Point website. More information are available at the websites of relevant national parks and Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection.

There are numerous publications presenting informations about wetlands in general and their ecological importance. The website <http://www.bagna.org>, led by NGO, exists.

The information about wetland status is available as results of national habitats and species monitoring and status assessment. National results of monitoring are presented on the website of Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, results of comprehensive assessment are reported to the European Commission and presented in the CIRCA European information system.

3.4.3 Has information about your country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? KRA 3.4.ii

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. *Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

3.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

Main transboundary wetland systems:

- rivers and river basins: Odra, Nysa Łużycka, Bug,
- subalpine peatbogs in Karkonosze,
- peatbogs of Izera Mts,
- Szczecin Lagoon,
- Vistula Lagoon,
- Orawa – Nowy targ peatbogs,
- Polesie.

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {2.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

C - Partly

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

For Odra river and river basin (Polish-German border), joint Committee exists. There's scientific and planning collaboration with Ukraine for Bug river basin management. There are some joint scientific projects for transboundary wetlands (as Vistula Lagoon - collaboration with the Russia). Transboundary cooperation for transboundary river basin management planning is clear obligation from EU Water Framework Directive. Moreover, Poland is cooperating with the Czech Republic on management of the border area which is a Ramsar site of international importance, including subalpine peat bogs in the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše/Karkonosze subalpine peatbogs).

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? KRA 3.5.iii

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

Poland is a party of Bonn Convention for migratory species, also acceded to the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*), established under the auspices of the Bonn Convention. Discussions are ongoing on Polish accession to The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
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<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>a) At the national level</p> <p>b) Sub-national level</p> <p>c) Catchment/basin level</p> <p>d) Local/site level</p> | |
|---|--|

	<p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p>
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<p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)</p>	
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<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>	
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<p>There are no specific Action Plan, nevertheless broad objectives for national CEPA are contained in the National Strategy of Wetland Conservation and the Action Plan which provides for undertaking special educational tasks.</p>	
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<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
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	<p>8 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)):</p>	
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<p>Above figure is the number of centers in 13 Ramsar sites (7 centers: Biebrza NP, Warta Mouth NP, Narew NP, Slowinski NP, Poleski NP, Karkonoski NP, Wigierski NP and Swidwie Lake nature reserve). There are numerous education centers, working for environment or nature, more or less linked with wetlands. The number seems not to be possible to estimate because lack of clear criteria.</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p>	
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- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> | |
|---|--|

	<p>A - Yes</p>
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	<p>C - Partly</p>
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<p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	
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4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):

There's legal obligation to involve local stakeholders into the management planing process.

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

B - No

4.1.4 Additional information:

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv

0 opportunities

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}

B - No

4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):

4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and

- a. Ramsar Sites managers?
- b. other MEA national focal points?
- c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?

{4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):

- a) Every-day collaboration between national parks and between Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection, common participation in conferences and workshops organised separately or in frames of different projects. Conferences and workshops organised especially by the Ramsar Focal Point, for example meeting which has been described in point 3.1.2.

b), c) - Official communication

4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information: NGO-led activities are carried out every year, as organisation of events and organisation the conference on wetland values. In addition, national parks, which are also Ramsar areas, are organizing on the occasion of Wetlands own events (eg Biebrza University).

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:
Continuous NGOs activity, mainly Centre for Mire Conservation (CMOK) and Naturalists Club (Klub Przyrodników). WWF campaign for 'living rivers', initiative "Bird Republic"

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. *Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.*

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.6.2} KRA 4.2.i

B - No

4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness. *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii

B - No

4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i

A - Yes

4.3.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, and WWF International.

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

Polish partner of BirdLife International, Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP) and WWF Poland, are very active in wetlands conservation. For example OTOP is carrying out the project for conservation of the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*), while WWF Poland is carrying out project titled "Rivers for life" to save and restore the natural character of Polish rivers and the protection of fish inhabiting them.

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.2 Additional information (If “Yes” please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

The National Secretariat of the Aquatic Warbler MoU supports projects for the active protection of the Aquatic Warbler and wetland habitats, carried out by the Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP). As a representative of government, it is also involved as an advisory body, in the work of the Steering Committee of the project implemented by the OTOP, funded by LIFE+, titled “Facilitating Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) habitat management through sustainable systems of biomass use” (LIFE09 NAT/PL/000260).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

Section 4 (www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).