



## **NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,  
Romania, June 2012**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **15 September 2011**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org))

### Introduction & background

1. This National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee in Decision SC41-24 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2009, and its Decision SC40-29, this COP11 National Report Format closely follows that used for the COP10 National Report Format, which in turn was a significantly revised and simplified format in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In addition to thus permitting continuity of reporting and implementation progress analyses by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP10 NRF), this COP11 NRF is structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP10 as Resolution X.1, and the indicators speak to relevant Key Result Areas (KRAs) for each Strategy in the Strategic Plan.
4. The COP11 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee, certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in light of its work on assessing effectiveness indicators, and by the CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention. The format also includes indicator questions concerning the use of the "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands", as requested in Resolution X.3 (2008).
5. This COP11 NRF includes 82 indicator questions. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply additional information concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.
6. The COP11 Format also now includes an additional, optional, section (section 4) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, if it wishes to, on indicators relevant to individual Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

### The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's website.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
  - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
  - ii) capture lessons and experience to help Parties develop future action;
  - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
  - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable for their commitments under the Convention;

- v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and to plan its future priorities; and
  - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP11 consideration.
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
    - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 6);
    - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 7); and
    - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP10 DOCs 8-13);
  - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP. Examples at CO9 and COP10 included:
    - Resolution IX.15 and X.13, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
    - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar Sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC. 15), *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC. 25), *Overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2006-2008* (COP10 DOC. 16, and *Background and rationale to the Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character* (COP10 DOC. 27);
  - iii) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development

of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010); and

- iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the COP10 NRF indicators have been used extensively in 2009 in the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems that was being considered by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3).

### The structure of the COP11 National Report Format

12. The COP11 National Report Format is in four sections.

**Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

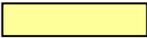
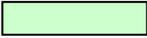
**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**Section 3** provides the 82 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional “free-text” section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity; and a further “free-text” section for adding further information on other aspects of implementation of that Strategy.

**Section 4** ([www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://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). This has been included at the request of a number of Parties.

### Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP11 National Report Format

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT**

13. All of the first three Sections of the COP11 National Report Format should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **15 September 2011**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP11.
15. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
16. Fields with a pale green background  are optional free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since experience

shows that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.

17. In order to assist Contracting Parties in providing such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the “Additional implementation information” fields.
18. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the form and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties. If you need to work with an unlocked version of the Format, please contact Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org)), who will advise on how that can be done.
19. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
20. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
21. For a “free-text” field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box – this is because within the Microsoft “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes in the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
22. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic data entry into our database for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ] °°°° in the “free text” fields.
23. For each of the “Indicator questions” in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: “Yes”, “No”, “Partly”, “In progress”, etc. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
24. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
25. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
26. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party’s overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the

work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given. When filling in this form, it is also advised to refer back to the National Report submitted for COP10 for purposes of continuity and consistency.

27. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP11NRF [Country] [date].
28. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, e-mail: [dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org). The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in this electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
29. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP11 National Report.**
30. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP11 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

## SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

<b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: GERMANY</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU), Referat / Division N I 4, Internationale Angelegenheiten der biologischen Vielfalt
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Joachim Schmitz
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<b>Email:</b>	joachim.schmitz@bmu.bund.de
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Joachim Schmitz
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<b>Email:</b>	joachim.schmitz@bmu.bund.de
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst, Dr.
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Bundesamt für Naturschutz
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Konstantinstraße 110, 53179 Bonn
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+49 228 8491 1760
<b>Email:</b>	Bettina.Hedden-Dunkhorst@BfN.de
<b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Karl-Heinz Erdmann, Prof. Dr.
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Bundesamt für Naturschutz
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Konstantinstraße 110, 53179 Bonn
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+49 228 8491 1711 / 1709
<b>Email:</b>	Natur-und-Gesellschaft@bfn.de
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
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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?

The following key aspects of Germany's work within the framework of the Ramsar Convention are worth mentioning for the period since the last COP:

On 28 August 2008, the wetland of international Importance 'Oberrhein – Rhin supérieur' in Baden-Wuerttemberg covering an area of 25,117 ha was designated as Germany's 34<sup>th</sup> Ramsar site. In North Rhine-Westphalia, the wetland of international importance 'Unterer Niederrhein' was extended by 5,538 ha in 2009.

In consequence, the total area of Ramsar wetlands in Germany has increased to a total of 868,226 ha.

During the course of implementing the targets of NATURA 2000, in 2009 the 'Aland-Elbe-Niederung' sub-section of the Ramsar site 'Aland-Elbe-Niederung und Elbaue Jerichow' became protected as a designated nature conservation area. Similarly, a management plan was adopted for the sub-section 'Elbaue Jerichow' in 2009.

For the Ramsar and EU SPA area 'Helmestausee Berga-Kelbra', the drafting of a management plan has been commissioned, and will be completed during 2011.

Additionally, the amendment to the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) extended the 'biotopes with statutory protection' (§ 30 of the BNatSchG) to include additional waterbody and wetland types, so that all wetland types defined in the Ramsar Convention and occurring in Germany are now protected by law.

In order to spread the message of the Ramsar Convention, stress the importance of wetlands to the general public and make work materials available for those responsible for Ramsar in Germany, Germany has commissioned the translation into German and publication of the latest edition of the Ramsar Handbook.

In September 2010, Germany staged a Ramsar Workshop in Bonn to share information between all interested parties at the midway point between two COPs, and collate initial input for the next COP 2012.

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

Within the context of implementing international, European and national obligations and other, farther-reaching commitments, the following steps are considered the most successful aspects of implementation of the Ramsar Convention:

- a) The designation of the Upper Rhine as Germany's 34<sup>th</sup> Ramsar site
- b) The expansion of the Wetland of International Importance 'Unterer Niederrhein' by a further 5,538 ha in 2009
- c) The inscription of the wetlands of international importance near the Wadden Sea as UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites in 2009 and 2011
- d) Confirmation and designation of the Natura 2000 corridor has secured additional protection for those wetlands simultaneously designated as Ramsar sites
- e) The wider definition of 'biotopes with statutory protection' (§ 30 of the BNatSchG) in the revised Federal Nature Conservation Act to include other waterbody and wetland types, which means that that all wetland types defined in the Ramsar Convention and occurring in Germany are now protected by law
- f) The translation and publication of the Ramsar Handbook
- g) The provision of extensive funding for renaturation and conservation projects in wetland areas and river basins and for usage regulation in agriculture.

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

Within the national framework of nature and environmental conservation legislation, also in compliance with EU statutory regulations, implementation of the Ramsar Convention is not viewed as an isolated task. Instead, the challenge is to profitably combine implementation of the European directives, such as the Natura 2000 network, the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Due allowance must also be made for competing claims e.g. with regard to space utilisation both within and in the vicinity of protected areas.

Obtaining the necessary acceptance among affected parties has necessitated a very intensive and time-consuming information and PR campaign by the relevant authorities. The fact that the German language is not one of the official languages of the Convention has made it more difficult to raise awareness.

The implementation of nationwide measures is also proving time-consuming, since under Germany's federal system, each of the Federal Länder also has its own nature conservation and water legislation alongside EU and national law.

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

As nature and environmental conservation work is continuously evolving, priorities relating to the Ramsar Convention have been set in the following areas:

- a) The continuing implementation of the Natura 2000 network via the development of regional management plans, the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and the National Strategy on Biological Diversity
- b) The use of available data for Natura 2000 areas so that sites may be analysed according to their representativeness in terms of size and uniqueness, with a particular emphasis on under-represented wetland types, and the selection of potential areas for designation as wetlands of international importance
- c) The drafting of outstanding management plans for selected wetlands of international importance, where applicable within the context of plans for Natura 2000 areas, or in the case of designated Ramsar sites with existing management, maintenance and development plans, greater emphasis on the implementation thereof

- d) Maintaining the respective protected area status of wetlands of international importance
- e) The more widespread promotion of cross-sectional/interdisciplinary public relations work in the German language, in order to educate the general public about the importance and benefits of the Ramsar Convention and its Wise Use approach
- f) The support of wetland protection at international level via the provision of funding.

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?

Overall, communication between the Ramsar Secretariat and the German Federal authorities is rated as good.

Earlier availability of the national reporting format would be desirable.

This would enable more effective incorporation of information from and coordination with the Federal Länder. In the long term, not only would this facilitate a more in-depth report, but would also allow the permanent communication and mediation of content and references between wetlands of international importance and other protected area categories.

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

The relevant nature conservation and environmental organisations in Germany are integrated into the social environment in a multitude of ways, and active at various different levels. In particular, the three IOPs active in Germany (NABU as Birdlife partner, IUCN, WWF) make a significant contribution towards implementation of the Convention through their work, albeit not in an IOP capacity. This NGO work enjoys support at both national and international level, and its involvement in wetland areas and in water catchment area-related bodies is well-regarded.

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?

Decisions made within the context of national implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) also benefit the conservation of wetlands and waters, their habitats and species. One current example is the National Strategy on Biological Diversity, which contains extensive targets and approaches for measures relating to waterbody/wetland area protection.

Moreover, the majority of German Ramsar regions and other wetlands have close links with the AEWA Agreement, in view of their significance as breeding, resting or overwintering grounds for migratory birds. Further links to the framework convention CMS may be made for other migratory species of the wetlands and waterbodies. Coastal and marine wetland areas have close links with work under the Helsinki Convention (Baltic Sea) and the OSPAR Convention (North Sea). In the field of wetland protection, there are also links with the UN Water Convention (UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes) and the UN Convention on the Law on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, both of which have been ratified by Germany.

In this connection, it is worth noting that certain segments of the population may have difficulty in comprehending the multiple assignment of areas under various different protection conventions, and this can weaken acceptance in some cases.

There are still close and effective links with conventions such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UNFCCC via the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, with its reference to the World Commission on Dams (WCD).

In future, cooperation with the World Heritage Convention could become more important, following the submission of a joint application in January 2008 by Germany and the Netherlands for the Wadden Sea's inclusion in the list of World Natural Heritage Sites. The Wadden Sea comprises 5 German Ramsar sites. Protected Wadden Sea areas (in Germany: National Parks) in the Netherlands, Lower Saxony and Schleswig Holstein were inscribed as UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites in June 2009; inscription of the National Park 'Hamburgisches Wattenmeer' followed in June 2011.

- 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)?

In the EU, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) provide the basis for an integrated water policy. Their implementation is designed to ensure the sustainable use and management of waters. River basins, i.e. all rivers with their tributaries, corresponding coastal waters and groundwater, are viewed as one ecosystem, even on a transboundary basis. The Directives stipulate that the protection and use of waterbodies should be harmonised as far as possible, e.g. with regard to hydropower generation or mining. The aim of the both Directives is to achieve a good status throughout all waterbodies. In contrast to earlier water directives, the Directives are strongly geared to waterbody ecology, and also make allowance for protected areas that are dependent on waterbodies. As such, implementation of these Directives also helps to conserve biological diversity. Within the context of the joint implementation strategy by the European Commission and the EU Member States, the 'General guideline on the importance of wetlands in conjunction with the WFD' was drafted to serve as an aid.

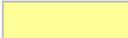
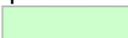
In an international context, Germany's development cooperation work aids the development of integrative water policies in keeping with the principle of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in a wide range of projects. In the long term, this should help to conserve natural resources and eradicate poverty.

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

In Germany, implementation of the Ramsar Convention occurs against a complex backdrop of legal regulations and approaches. The relevant mechanisms are not usually tailored specifically to wetland areas, but instead address the handling of nature and the environment, their services and values as a whole, to which end mechanisms have been developed over the course of several decades.

## 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>Germany has a National Wetland Inventory; however, this was not developed systematically in a single operation, but instead has evolved gradually over the course of several decades. Today, it is comprised of various sub-inventories of wetland types (e.g. peatlands, lakes, watercourses, wetland meadows, sea inlets, Wadden Sea) which are continuously extended, supplemented and updated. The precise number of inventorised wetlands is not known. The competent authorities of the Federal Länder collate data on the various wetland types (watercourses, lakes, peatlands, wetland meadows, river meadows etc.) according to various criteria (biotope protection, water conservation, flood control, water supply) and methods (e.g. biotope mapping at the site, colour/infrared aerial picture or satellite picture evaluation), and process this information with the aid of databases and geographical information systems (GIS).</p> <p>Overall, we are currently unable to specify the number of wetlands falling under the individual categories, since no evaluation using these categories has been implemented to date.</p> <p>Systematic monitoring and reporting occurs for the wetland habitat types pursuant to the Habitats Directive and designated Natura-2000 areas. For areas which are largely identical to the Ramsar sites, this is used to aid development.</p>	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>All data is available to the authorities and other institutions for evaluation of the wetlands, for designating protected areas and planning, and for management and monitoring of the wetlands. This information is also available to all interest groups and interested members of the general public, firstly via publication on the Internet, on the homepages of the environmental, nature conservation, agriculture, water and other specialist authorities at Länder or Federal Government level; and secondly, for viewing directly at the offices of the relevant authorities.</p>	

1.1.3 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}

- a) Ramsar Sites
- b) wetlands generally

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).

\* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

P - Status improved

P - Status improved

1.1.3 a) Additional information:

The national report pursuant to the Habitats Directive, which contains data on the ecological character of areas under the Habitats Directive which are entirely or partially identical to the territory of the Ramsar sites, is also proving increasingly important as a basis for monitoring and evaluation. All German Ramsar sites are at least 75 % part of the Natura-2000 network.

Acceptance of the list of Natura-2000 sites in 2007 was followed by the first inventory of the conservation status of habitat types and species as per the Habitats Directive. This evaluation also provides the basis for the development and further adaptation of related management plans.

The national report pursuant to the Habitats Directive indicates that inland waters (freshwater habitats) of the Atlantic and Continental zone are in a poor to inadequate conservation status. Raised bogs/mires/fens in the Atlantic and Continental zone are likewise assessed as having a poor to inadequate/unfavourable conservation status. In the Alpine zone, both freshwater habitats and raised bogs/mires/fens are classified as favourable. For riparian forest types, the conservation status in the Atlantic to Continental zone is again assessed as poor to unfavourable, and only in the Alpine zone is it classed as favourable. The relevant information was prepared on the basis of habitat types and biogeographical regions, rather than specific sites.

It is not yet possible to compare the current conservation status assessment with the previous status on the basis of the Habitats Directive Report, since this evaluation was only carried out for the first time in 2007. It will not be possible to meaningfully analyse changes in ecological conditions until the next status report becomes available in 2013.

However, areas of selected Ramsar sites already indicate improvements in the ecological conditions, for example, in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, where the ecological status of the wetland of international importance 'Krakower Obersee' has seen a slight improvement, and the wetland of international importance 'Galenbecker See', which has seen a significant positive change following the completion of renaturation work.

## 1.1.3 b) Additional information:

Information on changes in wetlands is collated, supplemented, updated and administered in databases for more in-depth analyses, assessments and reports by the relevant authorities in the Federal Länder. Such information cannot cover all wetlands in Germany; instead, data collection focuses primarily on surface waters, protected wetlands, and wetlands meriting protection.

The ecological status of limnic habitats is increasingly considered a decisive criterion in implementation of the WFD. Related measures generally lead to an improvement in ecological status. For the Ramsar sites in Saxony-Anhalt 'Aland-Elbe-Niederung und Elbaue-Jerichow' and 'Niederung der Unteren Havel / Gülper See / Schollener See', for example, there have been no apparent adverse changes in ecological status. On the other hand, growing pressure from tourism use on reservoir management, as well as increased nutrient accumulation within the basin in recent years represent potential threats to the ecological status of the Ramsar site 'Melmestausee Berga-Kelbra'.

It can generally be assumed that the status of waterbodies and wetlands is improving, at least in selected areas, thanks to the successful implementation of LIFE and large-scale nature conservation projects by the German Federal Government.

For the Wadden Sea, joint Quality Status Reports are prepared at regular intervals in collaboration with the Netherlands and Denmark as part of the trilateral government cooperation for the protection of the Wadden Sea, which covers the relevant Ramsar sites in those areas.

The Wadden Sea Secretariat publishes population trends on migrating waterfowl and breeding birds of the Wadden Sea.

In Hesse, since publication of the last report, other sections of streams, rivers and standing waters in various waterbody systems not protected by the Convention have undergone renaturation and revitalisation, and overall, can be considered to have changed for the better.

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.*

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)

A - Yes

### 1.3.1 Additional information:

In Germany, the national wetland strategy is part of a more comprehensive nature conservation policy by the Federal Government and Länder. Wetland conservation plays a central role in the nature conservation laws, protection programmes and projects of the Federal, Länder and district governments. There are independent protection strategies for individual wetland types, e.g. for the Wadden Sea within the context of trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation and the OSPAR Convention, for the Baltic Sea in conjunction with the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), and for rivers such as the Rhine, Elbe and Danube to a certain extent also within the context of the International Commissions for the Protection of the Rhine (IKSR), the Elbe (IKSE) and the Danube (IKSD). The Federal Länder have regional strategies and action programmes for the protection of watercourses, peatlands, lakes, water meadows, wetland meadows and other wetland types.

Wetlands are also an important aspect of the 2007 National Strategy on Biological Diversity, within whose framework a national water meadow programme was created incorporating requirements relating to implementation of the Water Framework Directive. Based on technical data from the Federal Government on water meadows and flood plains, as part of an R&D project entitled 'National water meadow programme - A Contribution to climate adjustment and to the protection of biological diversity', strategic targets and priorities for the protection and development of water meadows were developed at national level. The aim of this project, in particular, is to identify development potential and feasible measures, and propose implementation phases. It also focuses on identifying the potential ecosystem services of water meadows. Within the R&D project, the current and potential contribution of water meadows in Germany to the conservation of biodiversity, climate protection and adaptation to climate change was ascertained in an initial stage. In a second stage, the development potential of river meadows in Germany will be identified, and their effects on biological diversity, climate adjustment and climate protection, river meadow functions and other ecosystem services will be geographically pinpointed and quantified in the form of scenarios. Economic aspects will also be taken into account. Empirical data on large-scale water meadow revitalisation projects will be incorporated into the individual scenarios so as to gauge the time scales and costs of each individual scenario.

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
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### 1.3.2 Additional information:

The Strategy on Biological Diversity (2007) integrates the targets and actions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) on the conservation of biological diversity, the eradication of poverty, and development cooperation. In the field of biodiversity and the eradication of poverty, we would refer you directly to the efforts made within the context of the Ramsar Convention.

1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

- |                                                         |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| a) Poverty eradication strategies                       | B - No  |
| b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans | A - Yes |
| c) Coastal and marine resource management plans         | A - Yes |
| d) National forest programmes                           | B - No  |
| e) National strategies for sustainable development      | A - Yes |
| f) National policies or measures on agriculture         | B - No  |
| g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans      | A - Yes |
- {1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

1.3.3 Additional information:

a) Not applicable.

b) Under German water legislation, water abstraction programmes and plans are designed to ensure the sustainable use and protection of water resources. Due consideration is given to wetland conservation and protection aspects. In view of Germany's federal structure, the requirements of waterbody and nature conservation are incorporated into other sector-specific plans at national, regional and local level, as well as into planning for the region as a whole. At international level, too, wetland concerns are addressed and discussed in transboundary organisations such as the International Lake Constance Conference (IBK) or the Upper Rhine Conference.

The Integrated Management Plan for the Elbe Estuary by the Länder of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and Lower Saxony, due for completion by the end of 2011, also addresses the conservation status and required measures to preserve or improve the Ramsar site 'Mühlenberger Loch'.

c) At international level (Netherlands, Germany, Denmark), the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan specifies an internationally agreed transboundary management plan for the Wadden Sea area.

e) The 2008 progress report on the National Sustainability Strategy highlights the importance of the conservation and sustainable management of water as a resource, as well as of waterbodies and waterbody-dependent ecosystems, and relates this to many of the action areas and targets cited in the Strategy. Germany is also committed to implementing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to improve access to clean drinking water, and supports these processes in numerous countries. The protection and sustainable use of wetlands plays an important role in this context.

g) The relevant requirements of the Ramsar Convention were also widely incorporated into the drafting of a biodiversity strategy for Saxony-Anhalt, for example.

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
<p>1.3.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The Federal Government, Länder, districts and local authorities regularly review all policies, programmes and plans which could impact the conservation of wetlands in accordance with the valid legal foundations, such as the intervention provisions relating to nature conservation, the environmental impact assessment (EIA), and the strategic environmental assessment (SEA). The Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) requires these legal foundations to be applied directly to all plans under the Federal Highways and Federal Waterways Act, as well as to regional planning and other plans in general.</p>	
1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	A - Yes
<p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p> <p>The EIA and SEA Directives prescribed by European law have been implemented in various national laws (Construction Code (BauGB), Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatschG), Environmental Impact Assessment Act (UVPG)).</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:	
<p><b>STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services.</b> <i>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.</i></p>	
1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly

1.4.1 Additional information:

Assessments of the services provided by wetland ecosystems have not yet been compiled into a comprehensive analysis. The assessment of individual services, such as drinking and service water use, flood prevention, hydropower, shipping, fishing, angling and recreation are, on the one hand, part of area-specific plans, and on the other, subject to sectoral planning by the Federal Länder e.g. on raw materials use.

The Federal Environmental Agency regularly publishes data on water supply. Information on tourism significance tends to be recorded at a regional level. In recent years, moreover, flood prevention has become an increasingly important topic, partly with the aim of improving the retention capacity of wetlands, river meadows and riparian forests.

Extensive socio-economic studies are available for the large German Wadden Sea national parks.

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

A - Yes

#### 1.4.2 Additional information:

The development and promotion of sustainable wetland use is part of a comprehensive nature conservation and environmental policy in Germany, much of which also serves to implement EU legislation. Programmes to promote individual projects and usage forms therefore originate from various different sectors, including nature conservation (LIFE+), flood prevention, agriculture (e.g. cultural landscape and extensification programmes) and development of the rural region by the EU and the German Government, and also to an increasing extent by individual Federal Länder. The Federal Länder have developed specific programmes and funding mechanisms depending on the landscape features. In this connection, particular attention is devoted to peatlands.

For example, as part of its landscape maintenance programme, Baden-Wuerttemberg has conducted extensive annual biotope management and species conservation measures in the Ramsar sites of Mindelsee and Wollmatinger Ried totalling 230,000 euros. Moreover, 11 of the 15 LIFE nature projects implemented to date in Baden-Wuerttemberg include elements designed to strengthen wetland protection.

In addition to the LIFE projects 'Rosenheimer Stammbeckenmoore' (Rosenheimer Stammbecken peatlands) and 'Schwäbisches Donautal' (Swabian Danube Valley), parts of which are identical to the Ramsar sites of Donauauen and Donaumoos, the LIFE projects 'Donautal mit Hängen und Aue' (Danube valley with slopes and water meadows) and 'Oberes Maintal' (Upper Main Valley) are also currently ongoing in Bavaria. The Federal Government projects 'Waldnaabau' (completion in 2011), 'Allgäuer Moorallianz' and 'Schwäbisches Donautal', parts of which are identical with the Ramsar sites of Donauauen and Donaumoos, are of representative national importance and are currently still ongoing.

In Benninger Ried (the nature conservation and Natura 2000 area is a calcareous fen in the community of Benningen, distinguished by the fact that it is the only remaining habitat of *Armeria purpurea*), the Federal Government project 'Redevelopment and control of the groundwater balance in Benninger Ried' under its stimulus package II will ensure a sufficient supply of groundwater for the area's long-term conservation. Under Bavaria's climate protection programme 2020 (KLIP 2020), some € 8.8 million was made available between 2008 and 2011 for the renaturation of peatlands as natural carbon dioxide sinks, while at the same time safeguarding the species diversity of these threatened habitats. Bavaria currently boasts some 273 wetland protection projects as part of the BayernNetz Natur scheme.

In Brandenburg, projects aimed at the development of waterbodies from former mining applications (e.g. LENAB, SUBICON) contribute to the development of wetlands.

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, 2009 saw the drafting of a water management concept incorporating the wetland of international importance Krakower See.

For the Ramsar sites of Unterer Niederrhein, Riselfelder Münster and Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg in North-Rhine Westphalia, there is documentation of projects aimed at ensuring balanced wetland use with varying emphasis on flood prevention, cultural heritage and research.

With reference to the underrepresented wetlands on the Ramsar list, the designation of Bayerische Wildalm is the first karst region in Germany to be added to the Ramsar list.

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

A - Yes

#### 1.4.3 Additional information:

For centuries, wetlands in Germany have been characterised by cultural development, and is now reflected primarily in an understanding of the cultural landscape. In this connection, the formulation and implementation of management plans make allowance for cultural heritage. Implementation of the resolution is achieved a) by anchoring the cultural values in law in the form of intervention provisions, land use and protected area planning, and b) by using our understanding of the particular cultural values of wetlands in order to maintain the cultural landscape.

Some Federal Länder, including Baden-Wuerttemberg, Brandenburg, North-Rhine Westphalia and Thuringia, have developed their own cultural landscape programmes which are supported by measures aimed at the extensive use and conservation of historical landscapes. The wetlands of international importance also benefit from this. Examples include, firstly, the development of the Ramsar site 'Steinhuder Meer' (cf. [www.naturpark-steinhuder-meer.de](http://www.naturpark-steinhuder-meer.de)) and 'Federseelandschaft' (cf. <http://www.federseemuseum.de>), and secondly, the 'Haus im Moos' in Donaumoos and the information office 'Schwarzes Moor' in the Rhön region, which also teaches visitors about the wetlands and their traditional usage forms.

Overall, social and cultural aspects play a major role, particularly in those wetland areas that require the extensive use of wet grassland in the interests of nature conservation.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea in March 2010, the Ministerial Council adopted a new 'Joint Declaration' agreeing cooperation between the Wadden Sea littoral states vis-a-vis the cultural aspects of the Wadden Sea region. In May 2011, a workshop on cultural landscapes was held in Ribe, and a plan of action agreed.

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

C - Partly

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

Germany's inland wetlands have been influenced by man and shaped by cultural development over the course of hundreds of years. Cultural heritage is incorporated into the drafting of protection strategies and the implementation of management plans. Cultural assets as protected commodities also feature in all environmental impact assessments, a principle which is anchored in law, and the relevance of any planned impairment is taken into account in the decision-making process.

By involving various interest groups and public institutions within the framework of the existing nature conservation, water and planning legislation, it is possible to ensure that due consideration is given to culturally relevant aspects of the respective wetland area.

Protecting old cultural landscapes is an essential component of the protection targets for inland wetlands. Examples include protecting traditional cultivated agricultural landscapes which incorporate elements such as traditional pollarded willows or open peat-ditches.

For the SPA and wetland of international importance 'Unterer Niederrhein', promoting opportunities to experience nature was considered an important aspect of the area's development. In Saxony-Anhalt, too, cultural aspects have been incorporated into management plans, by agreeing phased management plans in collaboration with users based on the available funding opportunities (such as various subsidies for local producers).

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

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

Regular exchange between focal points is guaranteed.

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

A - Yes  
A - Yes  
A - Yes  
A - Yes

1.5.2 Additional information:

This occurred within the framework of reporting on COP10. The declaration was discussed at length within the context of a Ramsar workshop in September 2010.

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)?

C - Partly

1.5.3 Additional information:

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?

A - Yes

1.5.4 Additional information:

In November 2010, Germany published a German-language version of the Ramsar Convention Manual. Annex 3 contains the Changwon Declaration on Human Well-Being and Wetlands ([http://www.bmu.de/naturschutz\\_biologische\\_vielfalt/downloads/doc/46776.php](http://www.bmu.de/naturschutz_biologische_vielfalt/downloads/doc/46776.php)).

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

B - No  
A - Yes  
D - Planned

## 1.6.1 Additional information:

b) Research on climate change is available at national level, for example on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improving the local water regime through peatland renaturation, or the impacts of climate change on waterways and shipping (KLIWAS, <http://www.kliwas.de>). There are also research projects in the wetlands of various different regions

- In North-Rhine Westphalia, for example, the research project 'Impacts of climate change on biological diversity'

- In Hesse, the project 'Impacts of climate change on sustainable groundwater management' (AnKliG) and a series of research projects by the Fachzentrum Klimawandel Hessen (Hessian Centre on Climate Change) entitled 'INLKIM-A' (interdisciplinary research into climate change, consequences and adaptation in Hesse)

- In Schleswig-Holstein, for the Wadden Sea region as part of the working party on Coastal Protection and Sea Level Rise, as well as other projects

c) The results of ecological flood protection on the Elbe have been extensively analysed (cf. Grossmann, M., Hartje, V. and Meyerhoff, J. 2010: Ökonomische Bewertung naturverträglicher Hochwasservorsorge an der Elbe. NaBiV 89).

There are also plans to assess peatlands with regard to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and to assess the renaturation of wetlands with regard to reducing nitrogen loads in waterbodies, as well as other projects within the framework of TEEB Deutschland.

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

A - Yes

## 1.6.2 Additional information:

The available Natura 2000 field surveys, together with plans of measures for many protected wetland areas based on these surveys reflect the latest state of the art, and apply the very latest findings on areas, habitat types and species. In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, for example, scientific research has additionally been incorporated into the national park plans.

For the Wadden Sea in Schleswig-Holstein or the SPA and wetland of international importance 'Unterer Niederrhein' in North-Rhine Westphalia, for example, the influencing factors (e.g. water regime) were subjected to an in-depth analysis when devising the concept of measures, including an evaluation of existing scientific studies. In Saxony-Anhalt, too, the management, maintenance and development plans for the Ramsar sites were drafted on the basis of thorough scientific surveys (particularly species and habitat type surveys), in some cases including hydrological reports and studies of watercourse morphology and retention areas. In addition to scientific research, a number of well-established tools and empirical data such as extensification programmes were also incorporated into Germany's wetland management plans (particularly for Natura 2000 areas), and taken into account during the implementation phase.

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

In Germany, the fundamental principles and guidance contained in Resolution IX.1 Annex C are implemented by the water legislation provisions of the Federal Government and Länder, particularly in order to implement EC water law. The cycle outlined in Annex Ci for the development of river basin management is equivalent in structure to the basic planning procedures for land and water use, e.g. for national implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). In particular, cooperation between local authorities and river basins (nature conservation and waterbody planning authorities) has been intensified under the WFD, in keeping with the WFD's holistic approach to river basins in the preparation of programmes of measures and management plans for the respective catchment areas.

For the river basins of the Rhine and the Elbe, aspects of integrated planning, development and use are addressed in the International Commissions for the Protection of the Rhine (IKSR - [www.iksr.de](http://www.iksr.de)), the Elbe (IKSE - [www.ikse.de](http://www.ikse.de)) and the Danube (ICPDR - [www.icpdr.org](http://www.icpdr.org)).

The Internet platform 'WasserBLiCK', operated by the supreme water authorities of the Federal Government and Länder, makes an important contribution with regard to the mediation of information and communication within the water management authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany, who are responsible for implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) (<http://www.wasserblick.net>).

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

A - Yes

## 1.7.2 Additional information:

The relevant legislation considers wetlands to be part of the water infrastructure and therefore an integral part of water resource management at river basin level. The cycle outlined in Annex Ci of Resolution IX.1 for the development of river basin management is equivalent in structure to the basic planning procedures for land and water use, e.g. for implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). In particular, cooperation between local authorities and river basins (equivalent to nature conservation and waterbody planning authorities) has been intensified under the WFD. Under the WFD, groundwater-dependent land ecosystems are considered indicative of the status of a body of groundwater. A good status can only be achieved provided there is no significant groundwater-related damage to groundwater-dependent land ecosystems. More recently, groundwater-dependent land ecosystems have generally been considered in water legislation processes with the aim of precluding ecological damage. The affected habitats are subject to suitable monitoring. Equally, surface waters likewise fall under the protection of the WFD. The preparation of programmes of measures and management plans for the respective catchment areas likewise follows the WFD's holistic approach.

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:

In implementing the European Water Framework Directive, the Water Resources Act and the water legislation of the Länder require the information and participation of the general public in the preparation of management plans for the river basins and waterbodies.

Above and beyond this, the international river basin commissions, such as the International Commissions for the Protection of the Danube, Elbe, Oder and Rhine, coupled with a number of environmental protection organisations, help significantly to promote understanding of these plans through their public relations work and educational offerings, as well as publicly available information materials.

For example, there are extensive public relations efforts in the transboundary German-French Ramsar site Oberrhein-Rhin superieur. This includes annual excursions, various educational facilities, a nature conservation centre at Rappenwört, the eco-mobile of the Freiburg and Karlsruhe regional governments, themed events, a press campaign, a schools competition by the Naturschutzfonds Baden-Wuerttemberg foundation, a range of publications, exhibitions, a website, as well as lectures at various national and international events, such as the German national Ramsar Committee.

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}

C - Partly

## 1.7.4 Additional information:

The Federal Länder of Bremen, Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania are responsible for the development of an integrated coastal zone management plan (ICZM) along the German North and Baltic Sea Coast. Res. VIII. 4 contains numerous valuable proposals and suggestions for implementation of an ICZM in Germany.

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

A - Yes

## 1.7.5 Additional information:

Germany's strategy for adapting to climate change includes the promotion of measures with synergy effects for various climate consequences. For example, these could include measures to improve the hydromorphology of watercourses. Within the framework of Government support, waterbody, water meadow and peatland protection are among the priorities.

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

C - Partly

## 1.7.6 Additional information:

In Hesse, for example, the Hessian Integrated Agri-Environment Scheme (HIAP) applies to wetlands. Contract-based nature conservation under HIAP has succeeded in significantly reducing the levels of pollution associated with the use of fertilisers and pesticides in standing waters and watercourses, as well as in groundwater. Additionally, extensive grazing projects have been launched in several protected wet grassland sites in Hesse within the context of protected area management (including grazing by robust cattle, water buffalo, Heck cattle, horses etc.), aimed at combining extensive agricultural management with the conservation of biodiversity.

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

A - Yes

## 1.8.1 Additional information:

Priority areas for the renaturation of wetlands have been identified, for example, in the Ramsar site 'Niederung der Unteren Havel / Gülper See / Schollener See' and when extending retention areas along the River Elbe. In Baden-Wuerttemberg, LIFE nature and LIFE+ projects of the European Commission are a particular priority, such as the project 'Restoration of habitats in the Federsee fen' by the Tübingen regional government or 'Rhine water meadows near Karlsruhe' and 'Rhine water meadows near Rastatt' by the Karlsruhe government. Various INTERREG projects by the Freiburg regional government are also devoted to priority areas such as riparian forests or peatlands. Baden-Wuerttemberg has also developed a nature conservation strategy, parts of which cite peatland protection as a particular priority.

The programmes of measures by the Länder to implement the Water Framework Directive contain implementation measures for the respective management units (waterbodies). For example, in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, prioritisation was carried out by the WFD and the peatlands protection programme. Generally speaking, the nationwide results of the report on the status of water meadows (cf. NaBiV 87) and on interlinked biotopes (cf. NaBiV 96) provide overarching foundations from which recommendations may be derived, but the Federal Government has not designated any priority regions.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

### 1.8.2 Additional information:

Since COP10, a large number of projects encompassing a significant proportion of wetlands (watercourses, river meadows, wetland forests, peatlands and water meadows) have been continued under Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) programmes for the protection of nature conservation areas of national importance. Large-scale projects for the conservation and renaturation of wetlands are currently ongoing in eight Federal Länder, with an average funding period of 10 years and a project budget of up to 15 million Euros. Key objectives of these projects include the restoration and permanent improvement of the ecological functions of wetlands ([www.bfn.de/0203\\_liste\\_laufend.html](http://www.bfn.de/0203_liste_laufend.html)). One such large-scale nature conservation project is the renaturation of the Havel river in the Ramsar site 'Niederung der Unteren Havel / Gülper See / Schollener See' in Saxony-Anhalt and Brandenburg. Numerous programmes and funding mechanisms dedicated to the conservation and renaturation of wetlands of regional and local importance exist in the majority of Federal Länder, as illustrated by the following examples:

- In Lower Saxony, nature conservation subsidy programmes make an important contribution towards wetland protection, such as the wet grassland protection programme, the white stork protection programme, and the fish otter protection programme.
- In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the alder swamp 'Großer Barkhorst' adjacent to Krakower Obersee has been dammed. Furthermore, 2008 saw the completion of the EU-LIFE project 'Galenbecker See restoration project for priority species', aimed at increasing and stabilising the lake water level, improving water quality by reducing the input of nutrients, and encouraging peat growth by irrigating low-lying land close to the lake.
- In North-Rhine Westphalia, the measures within the framework of the large-scale nature conservation project 'Unterer Niederrhein', the LIFE project 'Rieselfelder Münster' and the 'Weser Dam Schlüsselburg' in wetlands of international importance are being continued. In addition to this, various other programmes (contract-based nature conservation) make an important contribution to the protection of wetlands, such as the meadow breeding birds programme and the white stork protection programme.
- In Saxony-Anhalt, within the framework of another large-scale project on the Elbe dyke in the Middle Elbe region in the Steckby-Löddersitzer Forst nature conservation area has been postponed. However, the affected areas are currently outside of the reported Ramsar site, but within the NATURA 2000 corridor. Another large-scale project has begun in the vicinity of the Middle Elbe (scheduled to run from 2010 to 2018): LIFE + NATUR project 'Elbauen bei Vockerode' (supported by the WWF, Kulturstiftung Dessau-Wörlitz, Landeshochwasserbetrieb Sachsen-Anhalt, Biosphärenreservatsverwaltung Mittel Elbe). This likewise aims to expand retention areas and increase the dynamic development of a river meadow.
- In Baden-Wuerttemberg, funding from the LIFE nature and LIFE+ nature and biological diversity funds has facilitated the implementation of the projects 'Lebendige Rheinauen bei Karlsruhe' (2004-2009), 'Oberer Hotzenwald' (2005-2011), 'Rohrhardsberg, Obere Elz und Wilde Gutach' (2006-2011), 'Restauration von Habitaten im Federseemoor' (2009-2012), 'Rheinauen bei Rastatt' (2011-2015) and 'LIFE rund ums Heckengäu' (2011-2016), comprising elements for the renaturation of wetlands, during the current reporting period.
- In Bavaria, examples of recent projects include four LIFE projects, three Federal Government projects with national representative importance, a project to redevelop and control the groundwater balance in Benninger Ried, and peatland redevelopment within the framework of the 2020 climate program (KLIP 2020).

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}

A - Yes

1.8.3 Additional information:

The resolution was widely applied and taken into account when implementing projects for the renaturation of wetlands. Above and beyond the technical descriptions and recommendations developed by Ramsar, the procedure for the planning and implementation of projects is regulated in a legally binding manner by German environmental legislation, related standards, and the planning and licensing procedures.

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

C - Partly

1.9.1 Additional information:

In 2009 and 2010, there was a comprehensive survey of invasive aquatic species in twelve ports on the North and Baltic Sea Coasts, and data is therefore available for at least some of the potentially invasive species.

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

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information:

In the Federal Nature Conservation Act which entered into force on 1 March 2010, Chapter 5 on the conservation of wild fauna and flora species, their habitats and biotopes (non-native, alien and invasive species) addresses the handling of alien species in § 40.

This states that it is the task of the Federal Government and of the Länder to adopt suitable measures to avert the threat of adulteration of the native fauna and flora associated with the establishment and dispersion of alien species.

The Federal Ordinance on the Conservation of Species (BArtSchV) also prohibits the ownership and marketing of species which may adulterate or endanger the fauna and flora, while the Federal Hunting Act contains provisions on the release and establishment of alien species in the wild.

A superordinate framework is provided by the binding provisions of EU law under Article 22 of the Habitats Directive (29/43/EEC), which state that Member States must ensure that 'the deliberate introduction into the wild of any species which is not native to their territory is regulated so as not to prejudice natural habitats within their range or the wild native fauna and flora' and Article 11 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) which states that 'Member States shall see that any introduction of species of bird which do not occur naturally in the wild state in the European territory of the Member States does not prejudice the local flora and fauna'.

The strategy on invasive species developed within the framework of the Berne Convention (cf. <http://www.coe.int/de>) provides guidance for Germany but is not binding. The same applies to other international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (particularly the guiding principles on invasive species) and the EU Regulation on the Protection of Wild Species of Fauna and Flora (Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97), together with Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 of 4 May 2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of the Washington Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

The National Strategy on Biological Diversity (2007) cites the drafting of a national strategy to protect against invasive species as one of its goals. The measures listed include the implementation of international and national provisions to prevent the spread and introduction of invasive species. In the chapter on waterbodies, lakes, ponds and rivers, reference is explicitly made to the risk of entrainment, and appropriate preventive measures for wetland ecosystems are recommended.

Concrete data on the presence of invasive species and individual measures to tackle this problem is not available for all Ramsar sites. Examples worth mentioning include hunting of the Egyptian Goose in the wetland of international importance 'Unterer Niederrhein und Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg'. There are local initiatives, primarily NGOs, in some regions which carry out small-scale measures to inhibit neophytes. In accordance with the CBD's three-stage approach for dealing with invasive species, however, the main emphasis is on preventive action rather than management measures. For example, various players (botanical gardens, landscape gardeners) have developed voluntary codes of conduct for dealing with invasive non-native species.

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

A - Yes

## 1.10.1 Additional information:

As a general principle, activities only refer to those wetlands which do not enjoy absolute protection under the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) and which therefore permit ecosystem-compatible usage.

Individual projects by the private sector in wetland areas - such as industrial facilities, commercial developments or excavations - are subject to the statutory provisions under the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Construction Code, Excavations Act, mining legislation and Nature Conservation Act. These are designed to prevent or compensate for any adverse ecological effects that may emanate from such measures.

Application of the wise use principle by agriculture is important for many wetland areas.

Management contracts within the context of the EC agricultural funding programmes for rural development and payments under the EC structural fund for rural development for extensification, together with special utilisation agreements between nature conservation authorities and farmers, can help us to achieve a more sustainable management of wetlands that is more in tune with nature conservation targets: for example, salt meadows in the Wadden Sea, extensive use of grassland, and organic farming in river meadows. The Federal Länder have devised specific programmes and mechanisms depending on the landscape characteristics. For example, Bavaria operates a contract-based nature conservation programme, whereby owners and authorised users receive financial compensation for the income losses and additional costs associated with voluntary services in the management of valuable wetland areas. The North-Rhine Westphalian cultivated landscape programme is organised along similar lines and provides financial support for the nature conservation-based management of agricultural land.

Most of these financial incentives and compensation payments for wise use provide the basis for the success of sustainable wetland management.

Recreational and tourism use impairs the ecological functions and wild fauna and flora of many wetlands. With the aid of geographical and temporal access restrictions, uninterrupted signposting and other visitor guidance measures designed to provide information and support, Germany is endeavouring to implement the wise use principle in cooperation with tourism organisations and tourism suppliers.

There are no sustainable solutions as such for the shipping and the raw materials mining industries. Uses in this respect are decided via an assessment process under the Habitats Directive and/or environmental impact assessments.

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:

For example, the Volkswagen Foundation supports the management of wetlands on the Aller in Lower Saxony.

1.10.3 Have awareness-raising materials been made available to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices? KRA 1.10.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.10.3 Additional information:</p> <p>Material provided by the Ramsar Secretariat has been displayed at Ramsar site information centres and other nature conservation facilities. For example, a variety of publications, excursions, exhibitions and lectures were made available to highlight the importance of wetlands to consumers in conjunction with the transboundary Ramsar site 'Oberrhein-Rhin superieur' and related local LIFE nature and LIFE+ nature projects, as well as the nature conservation centres and mobile environmental education facilities. This was supplemented by a 12-month media campaign by the Stiftung Naturschutzfonds Baden-Württemberg in 2011/2012.</p>	

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
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The existing financing measures for the protection and sustainable management of wetland areas in need of conservation-friendly agricultural use - such as management contracts for wetland meadows, or hardship compensation - are continuously being adapted in line with the latest ecological findings and economic framework conditions.</p> <p>The EU funding programmes for extensification, which in Germany are primarily implemented via Federal Länder programmes and co-financed from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, have particular significance for wetlands used for agricultural purposes.</p>	

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
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#### 1.11.2 Additional information:

German nature conservation legislation provides the basis for the prevention and rectification of mechanisms with adverse effects, also with regard to the implementation of relevant EU Directives. In this way, via the designation of nature conservation areas, access prohibition and visitor/user guidance measures, together with resting zone concepts and other voluntary support mechanisms, positive developments can be achieved. This also includes the most broad-based possible educational and PR work, also with a focus on user groups. In Germany's Wadden Sea, its status as a national park, and more recently as World Natural Heritage Site, provide additional protection for the region from possible adverse factors.

Based on this legislation, furthermore, the mechanisms of landscape, regional and town planning provide a range of options for defining specific usage restrictions and exclusion areas on the one hand, and priority areas on the other, and for achieving binding agreements throughout every phase of the political agreement process.

In the case of uses and projects that could significantly impair the natural balance, it is necessary to carry out a sequence of analyses as prescribed by the intervention provisions in German nature conservation law. For selected larger projects, an environmental impact assessment must also be conducted. To the extent that key aspects of the conservation objectives or protective purpose of selected areas of the European ecological network 'Natura 2000' could be significantly impaired, an impact assessment under the Habitats Directive must be carried out.

In the past, particularly problematic uses of wetlands included peat harvesting and the use of river sediment. The requirements and demands of shipping are assessed in environmental impact studies, and decided on this basis.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

<b>GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE</b>
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**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).

<b>STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation.</b> <i>Apply the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance" (Handbook 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition).</i>
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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	D - Planned
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2.1.1 Additional information:

At least 3,077 of Germany's Natura 2000 sites contain wetland habitat types. Of these, 125 have an area in excess of 5,000 ha (cf. Petersen & Ssymank 2007: Die Feuchtgebiete internationaler Bedeutung und das Schutzgebietsnetz Natura-2000 in Deutschland, Natur und Landschaft 11/2007, p. 494 ff).

A review of potential Ramsar Sites could conceivably be carried out on the basis of the area data available. As well as overall national representativeness and uniqueness, the criteria for such a review would primarily include those wetland types which are underrepresented on the Ramsar list, such as peatlands, alluvial waterbodies, riparian forests and mountain waterbodies, as well as the consideration of important fish populations. Generally, the intention is to forge ahead with this type of development within the context of a strategy for the conservation of wetlands based around the objectives of the Ramsar Convention's strategic framework plan. For Saxony-Anhalt, for example, in addition to the three existing Ramsar Sites, at least nine additional sites have been identified that satisfy the criteria of the Ramsar Convention (Sudfeldt, C., D. Doer & J. Wahl (2002): Important Bird Areas und potentielle Ramsar-Gebiete in Deutschland. Berichte zum Vogelschutz 39, 119-132). These are largely subject to the protective regime set up under NATURA 2000 for these areas. For this reason, they have not yet been explicitly reported as Ramsar Sites.

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	C - Partly
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## 2.1.2 Additional information:

The process to update the Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) in line with the modified format as per the resolutions of COP9 was introduced in 2006 in the affected German Länder responsible for monitoring and reporting. At present, some of the 34 data sheets for German Ramsar sites are in need of an update. All RIS are being edited, and the advanced coordination process both between German Länder (for those sites which straddle two or more Federal Länder) and with the Federal Office for Nature Conservation has been initiated. For some German wetlands of international importance, information sheets are being drawn up for the first time.

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

0 sites

2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation):

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

B - No

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
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2.3.1 Additional information:  
This applies to those sites that were recently nominated. However, there is no information available as to whether this was also the case for sites nominated in the 1970s.

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

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

No concrete figures can be given in response to questions 2.4.1-4, because up-to-date reports are not available from all Ramsar Sites.

Almost all Ramsar Sites in Germany have management and/or maintenance and development plans in accordance with valid nature conservation standards.

Additional site management plans are currently being drafted in this way.

An overview of Ramsar Sites in seven Federal Länder confirms this:

Schleswig-Holstein: There is a trilateral management plan, the 'Wadden Sea Plan 2010', for the Wadden Sea as a whole, as well as management plans for parts of the Ramsar Site 'S-H Wattenmeer' within the framework of Natura2000.

Hamburg: The Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan forms the basis for management in the 'Nationalpark Hamburgisches Wattenmeer' site. For the 'Mühlenberger Loch' site, there are no concrete management plans as yet. However, Mühlenberger Loch will be included in the integrated management plan of the Federal Länder of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and Lower Saxony for the Elbe estuary, due for completion by the end of 2011.

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania: Krakower Obersee is part of the 'Nebeltal mit Zuflüssen, verbundenen Seen und angrenzenden Wäldern' site under the Habitats Directive, for which a management plan is currently being prepared.

North Rhine-Westphalia: For the SPA and wetland of international importance DE-4302-401 'Unterer Niederrhein', a concept of measures for the entire area was drawn up in 2010-2011. Its implementation is expected to be shortly.

Maintenance and development plans exist for the 'Rieselfelder Münster' and 'Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg' sites.

Saxony-Anhalt: A maintenance and development plan exists for the Ramsar Site 'Niederung der Unteren Havel / Fülper See / Schollener See', the requirements of which are taken into account and implemented accordingly.

For the Aland-Elbe-Niederung section of Ramsar site 'Aland-Elbe-Niederung und Elbaue Jerichow', a protected area ordinance based on a protected area concept with related conservation targets was updated in 2009; for the Elbaue Jerichow section, a management plan was prepared in 2009.

For the Ramsar Site 'Helmestausee Berga-Kelbra', a management plan is currently being drafted and is due for completion in 2011.

In Baden-Wuerttemberg, maintenance and development plans exist for 'Mindelsee' and 'Wollmatinger Ried'. In preparing the management plan under the Habitats Directive for Bodanrück, which covers a wider geographical area, the management plans for both sites were combined in 2008-2009. For the Ramsar Site 'Oberrhein-Rhin-superieur', management plans already exist on the German side for selected sub-areas (those areas contained within the Natura 2000 sites).

Bavaria: All eight Bavarian Ramsar Sites are simultaneously SPA sites, and some of them are also sites under the Habitats Directive, in which the new management plans for these Natura 2000 sites will fulfill the required function. Management plans for 'Starnberger See' and 'Unterer Inn' are currently under preparation. The regulations on waterfowl hunting at Starnberger See and Ammersee, some of which have already been introduced and which make allowance for rest zone concepts, may be considered important foundations for management planning. A waterbody development plan for Ammersee, incorporating temporally and geographically staggered rest zones, will be completed shortly.

Ramsar Sites that are part of the NATURA 2000 network will receive new management plans in accordance with the prescribed guidelines over the next few years.

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
<p>2.4.5 Additional information:</p> <p>Preserving the ecological conditions in wetlands, particularly in Natura 2000 sites, is anchored as a target in the Natura 2000 Ordinances of the Federal Länder. In the medium-term plans of measures derived from this Ordinance, these targets are concretised and implemented by means of appropriate conservation and development measures.</p> <p>Because all Ramsar Sites in Bavaria (apart from 'Bayerische Wildalm') are also designated SPAs, preserving the ecological character of wetlands is already fixed in the conservation targets at the time of reporting them as SPAs. For the 'Nationalpark Hamburgisches Wattenmeer' site, this is anchored in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan, and for 'Mühlenberger Loch', this is the aim of measures in the aforementioned IBP, due for completion in 2011.</p> <p>In the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea, conserving the ecological character is prescribed, inter alia, by the National Parks Act, and for sub-areas by the Land Nature Conservation Act and Nature Conservation Site Ordinances, as well as in the Wadden Sea Plan.</p> <p>For the SPA and wetland of international importance 'Untere Niederrhein', for example, conserving and restoring semi-natural soil humidity conditions and a semi-natural watercourse dynamic is an integral part of the concept of measures. In Saxony-Anhalt, too, preserving or improving the ecological character is formulated as one of the key objectives of the management plans. The same applies to the status of the corresponding inventory of species and habitat types. This is particularly relevant where it affects Ramsar sites and other wetlands.</p>	
2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv	sites

**2.4.6 Additional information** (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):

In the process of preparing and implementing management plans in Ramsar sites, German law generally prescribes that all departments, land users, interest groups and affected individuals should be included in the debate. In addition to the nature and environmental conservation departments, representatives of the water management, agriculture and tourism sectors are already included in the majority of cases.

Site management committees are used in parts of the Ramsar sites to notify and involve the various interest groups and participants on measures for the maintenance and development of the site.

Also worth mentioning are the interdisciplinary working parties which are responsible for preparing the waterbody development plans (e.g. in the Ramsar Sites 'Chiemsee', 'Ammersee' and 'Starnberger See').

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

sites

**2.4.7 Additional information** (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number):

It is impossible to give a concrete figure, since up-to-date reports are not available from all Ramsar Sites.

Virtually all completed and still to be prepared/completed management plans include a description of ecological character. For example, basic data has been logged for sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives within the framework of Natura 2000 management. The logging of basic data is linked to comprehensive inventurisation of Natura 2000 habitat types and species, coupled with an assessment of the respective conservation status.

The description of ecological character is also the subject of current Ramsar Information Sheets, e.g. for the transboundary Ramsar Site 'Oberrhein-Rhin superieur'.

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**

C - Some sites

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):

There has been no analysis to date of effective management practices in Ramsar Sites. It is possible that the monitoring envisaged for Natura 2000 sites will allow conclusions to be drawn regarding the success of management in areas identical to, or overlapping with, Ramsar Sites on the basis of the observed conservation status, allowing suitable corrections to be made where applicable. Furthermore, in the Wadden Sea National Parks, for example, statements on management effectiveness may be derived from the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP).

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):

It is the task of the specialist authorities of the Länder to monitor any ecological changes in Ramsar sites and, where applicable, to report these to the Federal Environment Ministry, which decides whether the impairments merit notification of the Ramsar Secretariat pursuant to Article 3.2. Generally speaking, there are mechanisms at all administrative levels for pursuing any reports of threats or site impairments and, where applicable, forwarding these to the competent higher nature conservation authority.

In future, compulsory monitoring and reporting for Natura-2000 sites will constitute an important basis for detecting changes in the ecological character of wetland areas.

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

C - Some cases

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):

It is the task of the specialist authorities of the Länder to monitor any ecological changes in Ramsar sites. Only changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites which are characterised as particularly important at national level are reported to the Federal Government and the Ramsar Secretariat by the Länder. In accordance with this procedure, not all impairments have been reported to the Secretariat because - as described in 2.6.1 - there are other national mechanisms for addressing such effects, assessing them, and counteracting them by means of suitable decisions.

No German Ramsar sites have recently been added to the Montreux Record (MR).

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

A - Yes

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

The damming of part of the Ramsar site 'Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer mit Dollart' (wetland of international importance no. 82), which was approved in a planning decision of 1985 to protect a storm flood-proof dyke, led to the 121,620 ha site being added to the Montreux Record by Germany on 4 July 1990.

A ruling by the European Court of Justice of 1991 declared the plans and process legal, because adequate compensation measures had been specified with legally binding effect. In particular, the Court of Justice asserted that the ecological character of the region would not be impaired by the planned measures and that rather, in conjunction with the specified compensation measures, the ecological quality of the site would be improved.

The coastal protection project Leybucht, with its extensive package of compensatory and substitute measures, was implemented by 2005. The dyked site is protected as the nature conservation area 'Leyhör'n' and as the EU bird sanctuary V06 'Krummhör'n'. Areas of land outside of the dyke are part of the national park 'Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer' and simultaneously of the EU bird sanctuary V01 'Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer und angrenzendes Küstenmeer'.

Many years of monitoring the visiting bird populations have proven that Leybucht, as part of the wetland of international importance 'Wattenmeer: Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer mit Dollart', has retained its outstanding function as a resting, migration and overwintering site. Even when considered in isolation, a number of species in Leybucht continuously meet criteria 5 and 6. Species that inhabit the unused salt meadows (such as the redshank) have seen a sharp increase in population numbers, while species which previously benefited from more intensive use or intermediately from the construction work (such as the avocet) indicate declining populations.

The current assessment of parts of Leybucht from an avifaunist viewpoint illustrate that Leybucht, as part of the Ramsar site 'Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer und angrenzendes Küstenmeer', has maintained its outstanding importance as a resting, migration and overwintering ground for waterfowl.

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:

During the course of achieving the objectives of NATURA 2000, the ecological character of wetlands of international importance not reported as Ramsar Sites will be preserved, as they are subject to deterioration prohibition. In Hesse, for example, 21 % of the territory is covered by the protective regime of Natura-2000.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

<b>GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>
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<p><b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.</b> <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p>
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<p>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 &amp; 3.1.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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3.1.1 Additional information:

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) ensures cooperation between the various international agreements and conventions.

The framework for this is provided by concrete thematic task areas in the implementation of the Strategy on Biological Diversity, and coordination of the implementation of EC law (Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, Water Framework Directive) and other multilateral agreements.

<p>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 &amp; 3.1.iv</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
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3.1.2 Additional information:

Cooperation between the various different players at national level is performed by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

To date, the national focal points of other MEAs have not been invited to participate in the National Ramsar Committee.

<p>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</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
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3.1.3 Additional information:

<p>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</p>	<p>Z - Not applicable</p>
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3.1.4 Additional information:

<p>Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:</p>
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**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

B - No

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

Germany is intensively involved in regional initiatives which include both wetlands in general and Ramsar Sites, but which are not explicitly listed under the umbrella of the Ramsar Convention.

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}

A - Yes

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

The International Nature Conservation Academy of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation has held a range of workshops, including some with relevance to wetlands, especially for delegates from Eastern Europe.

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

A - Yes

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

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has its own water protection department, one of whose aims is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Germany is the world's second-largest bilateral donor in the water sector with annual funding of around 350 million euros for bilateral measures in a total of 28 priority countries. Of this, 2 % is allocated to water resource conservation, 9 % to water resource policy and administration, 0.3 % to river development and regulation, 26.7 % to the basic supply of drinking water and wastewater disposal, primarily in rural regions, and 1 % to education and training in the field of water supply and disposal. Just under half of the funds benefit rural systems, while 56 % are allocated to larger (generally urban) water and wastewater systems (cf. [www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)).

Development cooperation is divided into two areas: financial cooperation, which is executed by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Reconstruction Loan Corporation (KfW) - [www.kfwentwicklungsbank.de](http://www.kfwentwicklungsbank.de)), and technical cooperation, which is predominantly carried out by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ, [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)). The GIZ supports numerous projects worldwide with links to the protection and sustainable management of wetlands, such as Ramsar Sites, water catchment areas, drinking water supply and management, integrated water management and wastewater disposal. These projects are based on the principles of sustainable development, and make particular allowance for the ecological functions of wetlands (see [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de) - Projects).

Projects such as TRANSWATER are gaining particular significance as a way of averting conflict over water resources. TRANSWATER is an example of integrated water resource management in the African river basins of the Nile, Limpopo and Orange Senqu; since 2001, the project has been executed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (see [www.giz/transwater](http://www.giz/transwater)).

Overall, around one-third of the BMZ funding budget is spent on multilateral development cooperation, whose aims include achievement of the MDGs and tackling poverty. Within this context, the BMZ and Germany cooperate closely with international organisations, including the 'Water and Sanitation Program' (WSP) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

As well as development work under the direct control of the government, the BMZ, the KfW and the GIZ also allocate project funding to the protection of wetland areas and the development of integrated water resource management mechanisms. Within the context of trust funds, for example, the BMZ is supporting the WWF project to develop a water policy and water management system in the Mara river basin in Kenya and Tanzania (2008/2009).

Participation is one of the basic principles of Germany's development cooperation work. In all projects supported by the BMZ dedicated to the protection of wetlands, therefore, great importance is attached to the concept of co-management. Alongside the financial aspects of sustainable funding, this is by far the most important aspect for boosting the acceptance of these areas and developing ownership.

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

A - Yes

3.3.2 Additional information:

Since January 2011, the 'Guidelines on the analysis and consideration of environmental and climate aspects in bilateral government development cooperation' have been applied by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. All projects relating to wetlands are subjected to the analysis prescribed by these Guidelines.

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}

Z - Not applicable

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}

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): In recent years, Germany has made a particular effort to step up its cooperation with eastern and south-eastern European countries. To this end, the Internationale Naturschutzakademie Insel Vilm of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) held a series of seminars, workshops and expert meetings aimed at the exchange of information and experience regarding mechanisms for the protection of the Baltic Sea. The nature conservation academies of the Federal Länder are also involved in the advanced training of specialist nature conservation personnel in Germany and eastern Europe. Examples include the nature conservation academies in Bavaria (ANL) and Lower Saxony (NNA). The implementation of LIFE nature projects can also contribute to an expert exchange at regional/local level within the context of conferences and excursions. Cooperation arrangements and multilateral agreements exist in the transboundary Ramsar Sites (Wattenmeer, Oberrhein-Rhin superieur, Unterer Niederrhein, Unterer Odertal, Unterer Inn, Bayerische Wildalm) and in other wetland areas (such as Saar-Moselle, Danube, Oder-Neiße, Elbe), within whose framework an intensive exchange of information takes place. Examples of transboundary cooperation include the cooperation with Austria in the EuRegio Salzburg/Berchtesgadener Land/Traunstein: 'Moor & Torf' and within the context of the INTERREG project 'Moor & More am Wilden Kaiser'. There are also networks with other wetlands in Europe and other parts of the world which are organised autonomously by individuals, nature conservation groups and scientific institutions.

The existing twinning arrangements have been continued:

- Common Waddensea Secretariat with The Wash/Norfolk and with Guinea Bissau (see [www.waddensea-secretariat.org](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org))
- Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park with the Lahemaa National Park in Estonia
- Unterer Odertal National Park with the 'Biebrza' National Park in Poland
- Ramsar Site 'Rieselfelder Münster' with the 'Donaudelta' National Park in Romania, Kamanos reserve in Lithuania, and 'Djoudj' National Park in Senegal (see [www.rieselfelder-muenster.de](http://www.rieselfelder-muenster.de))
- Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer National Park with tidal flats in South Korea - Saemangeum region (see [www.wattenmeer-nationalpark.de](http://www.wattenmeer-nationalpark.de)).

German nature conservation groups also support wetlands in Europe and other continents through project work, e.g.:

- EURONATUR ([www.euronatur.de](http://www.euronatur.de)) is dedicated to the protection of wetlands for migratory birds and coastal regions, particularly with projects in the catchment area of the rivers Save, Drau and Mur, the Narew region (Poland) and Lake Skadar in Montenegro
- Global Nature Fund carries out projects with EU funding for the protection and management of wetlands and lakes in Europe. In recent years, the annual Living Lakes Conference has been supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation using BMU funds ([www.livingwetlands.org](http://www.livingwetlands.org) and [www.livinglakes.org](http://www.livinglakes.org))
- At national level, WWF-Deutschland works mainly in the Elbe river basin, particularly with the large-scale nature conservation project on the Middle Elbe. At European level, the WWF also provides support with the development of an integrated river basin management system and with renaturation work. The international priorities of WWF Germany are promoting nature conservation and nature resources work, including advanced technical training in various river basins ([www.wwf.de](http://www.wwf.de)).

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
<p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Any designated wetland which is placed under protection in accordance with the protection categories in the Federal Nature Conservation Act is announced in the official journal of the Länder / Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt (Länder Gazette) / Ministerialblatt (Ministerial Gazette) or in the Bundesgesetzblatt (Federal Gazette) (in the form of the National Parks Act, Act on Biosphere Reserves, ordinances on nature conservation acts).</p> <p>For the majority of protected wetlands, including less-protected sites, public relations work includes the publication and circulation of information materials regarding the status, objectives and measures for conservation of the site, which are prepared by the competent institutions or the NGOs which manage the sites in the form of printed documents or Web pages.</p> <p>16 of Germany's 34 Ramsar sites have their own website, which is maintained either by the site administration or a nature conservation group (e.g. <a href="http://www.ramsar-bw.de">www.ramsar-bw.de</a>, <a href="http://www.wattenmeernationalpark.de">www.wattenmeernationalpark.de</a>, <a href="http://www.naturschutzring-duemmer.de">www.naturschutzring-duemmer.de</a>, <a href="http://www.bskw.de">www.bskw.de</a>, <a href="http://www.ramsar-ammersee.de">www.ramsar-ammersee.de</a>, <a href="http://www.nationalpark-mueritz.de">www.nationalpark-mueritz.de</a>, <a href="http://www.unteres-odertal.de">www.unteres-odertal.de</a>, <a href="http://www.nabu-rheinauen.de">www.nabu-rheinauen.de</a>, <a href="http://www.nabuwoellmatingerried.de">www.nabuwoellmatingerried.de</a>, <a href="http://www.lbv-starnberg.de">www.lbv-starnberg.de</a>). All Ramsar sites are presented under various different categories, but not always with an explicit reference to their status as 'wetlands of international importance'. To date, there is no joint website presentation of all Ramsar sites in Germany. The WWF Deutschland website contains an overview of the Convention and Germany's wetlands of international importance.</p> <p>Most of the Federal Länder which carry out nature conservation in Germany have their own websites on the Natura-2000 areas, whose territory includes the relevant Ramsar Sites (e.g. <a href="http://www.ramsar-bw.de">www.ramsar-bw.de</a>, <a href="http://www.natura2000-bw.de">www.natura2000-bw.de</a>, <a href="http://www.umwelt.nrw.de">www.umwelt.nrw.de</a>, <a href="http://www.mu.sachsenanhalt.de/start/fachbereich04/schutzgebiete/main.htm">http://www.mu.sachsenanhalt.de/start/fachbereich04/schutzgebiete/main.htm</a>). Some Federal Länder provide information on all protected areas and are planning a website of their Ramsar sites, or offer more in-depth information on wetlands, e.g. Gutachtliches Landschaftsprogramm Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (<a href="http://ikzm-oder.de/download.php?fileid=456">http://ikzm-oder.de/download.php?fileid=456</a>).</p> <p>In November 2007, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation published a special booklet on the development of the Ramsar Convention and the wetlands of international importance in Germany, in the journal 'Natur und Landschaft'. It examines overlaps with both Natura-2000 sites and important bird areas (IBAs), and highlights aspects of communication and public relations work, future development prospects, and the potential for designating additional Ramsar Sites in Germany. This publication gave a broad expert audience an insight into recent developments, key topics and potential synergies in conjunction with Natura 2000.</p>	
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	B - No

## 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:

In recent years, the transboundary river basins and water catchment areas existing in Germany have been defined within the context of implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD). There are 10 relevant river basins for Germany, some of which have only a very limited international character. International agreements exist for most of these river basins, within the framework of which management is coordinated. The fundamental objective of the international commissions which have been set up for most of these river basins, as well as implementation of the WFD, is to provide general protection from contamination, improve the water quality, coordinate flood prevention, and overall, achieve semi-natural aquatic and related terrestrial ecosystems wherever possible, as well as to intensify the mutual exchange of information.

Hence, transboundary cooperation in water management is one of the most important foundations for an integrated protection strategy and cooperative management mechanism for transboundary river basins.

In the transboundary Ramsar Sites Wattenmeer, Unterer Niederrhein, Unterer Inn and Unterer Odertal as well as Oberrhein-Rhin superieur, furthermore, intensive relationships have existed for many years for the coordination of protection measures and management of the sites. For example, in the Wadden Sea alone, intensive multilateral mechanisms and management plans are in force with the trilateral government cooperation, the 'Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea', the joint Wadden Sea Secretariat, the trilateral Wadden Sea Plan (WSP) and the Trilateral Monitoring & Assessment Programmes (TMAP).

Moreover, all transboundary protection areas, including those which incorporate inland wetlands or coastal sections, together with their maintenance and development requirements, are covered by a BfN project.

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

A - Yes

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

For the Wadden Sea, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, together with all major river basins which Germany shares with neighbouring countries, multilateral agreements and river basin commissions have been concluded for the purposes of protection, management, monitoring and sustainable management. To date, their effectiveness has been derived primarily from transboundary cooperation, and in some cases also from trans-sectoral cooperation.

For the transboundary German-French Ramsar site 'Oberrhein', coordinated management plans are in place.

In the area of international waterfowl counts, there have been various endeavours towards transboundary cooperation in the north and south of the country.

With the development of management plans for Natura-2000 sites, joint development and conservation concepts will also be created for those wetlands of international importance which are close to national borders: 'Unterer Niederrhein', 'Unterer Inn zwischen Haiming und Neuhaus', 'Unteres Odertal bei Schwedt', and 'Bayerische Wildalm'.

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:

One example of an international initiative for wetland-dependent migratory species is the trilateral Wadden Sea Plan: at the 6<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Government Conference between the three Wadden Sea countries Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands in 1991, the Parties decided to formulate a management plan for the Wadden Sea area from Den Helder to Esbjerg, with the aim of furthering joint protection of the Wadden Sea. The 7<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Government Conference in 1994 reinforced the joint trilateral nature conservation policy, the conservation or improvement of biotope quality, the consideration of the entire Wadden Sea as one coherent unit, and the completion of the management plan. This trilateral Wadden Sea Plan was adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Government Conference in 1997. The main aim here was to achieve a natural and self-sustaining ecosystem as far as possible, in which natural processes are able to continue undisturbed, and the flats, salt meadows, beaches and dunes are protected as habitats. Joint targets are developed, not only for landscapes and culture and for the offshore zone, but also in respect of birds and marine mammals. A range of joint projects and measures are developed in order to achieve these targets. The Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme, or TMAP, is a tool for tracking progress in the achievement of these targets. The revised Wadden Sea Plan 2010 was adopted at the Government Conference in 2010.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

<b>GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY</b>
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<p><b>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.</b> <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>A - Yes</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|

<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>In 2001, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) published a study outlining considerations and proposals for a national action plan for CEPA.</p>	
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<p>The German action plan (German Wetland CEPA Action Plan) has been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat.</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>	<p>centres</p>
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4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)):

It is impossible to give a specific figure, since up-to-date reports are not yet available from all Ramsar sites.

According to a 2001 publication by Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, there were more than 500 environmental, nature conservation and educational centres in Germany, a large proportion of which are located in wetland areas, particularly on rivers and in peatlands. More accurate figures are not yet available.

Germany's Ramsar sites (currently 34) contain at least 56 permanent information or educational centres, in addition to project-related educational work. Those Ramsar sites which are located within large conservation areas (e.g. in the national parks Wattenmeer, Ostufer Müritz, Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft and the biosphere reserve Mittlere Elbe) are served by the educational and information centres of those areas.

In a number of wetlands of international importance, nature conservation facilities are operated in collaboration with the respective Federal Land, e.g. national parks buildings and national parks centres in the Wadden Sea, nature conservation stations in the Untere Elbe, Dümmer and Steinhuder Meer regions, and the government nature conservation centre Obere Donau (Upper Danube). In addition to this, nature conservation groups provide vital educational work, such as the NABU nature conservation station at Kranenburg (wetland of international importance 'Unterer Niederrhein'), the biological station in the Wesel district (wetland of international importance 'Unterer Niederrhein'), the BUND nature conservation centre Möggingen and NABU nature conservation centre Radolfzell (wetland of international importance 'Rheinauen bei Eltville & Bingen'), and the nature conservation and youth centre Wartaweil on Lake Ammersee (wetland of international importance 'Ammersee').

Educational work is not confined to existing centres, but also includes a wide range of lectures, guided tours and exhibitions for the general public, tourists, schools and other interested parties prompted by renaturation projects, annual conferences (e.g. WWD) and special seasonal events.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

A - Yes

A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):

The general public are not only involved in decision-making processes with regard to wetlands and waterbodies and the protection thereof; this is in fact regulated with legally binding effect by German law, including the requirement for the competent authorities to inform the general public in a suitable manner of the opportunities available for participation.

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
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>Such an assessment has not been implemented to date. Furthermore, the structures and capacities of the management institutions and responsibilities in individual Ramsar sites are very varied.</p> <p>A comprehensive German-language information campaign on Ramsar sites, their implementation and their benefits could inspire fresh interest, e.g. in the tourism sector.</p>	
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
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>We have not yet developed any special education and training programmes for wetland managers of the German Ramsar Sites on implementing the targets and tasks of the Ramsar Convention in the various Ramsar regions.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the nature conservation academies of individual Federal Länder regularly stage educational events for the personnel of protected wetland areas, site managers and other interested parties, which tend to focus primarily on the relevant management issues of the respective Federal Länder landscapes. For example, the national parks administration offers educational courses for site managers twice a year.</p> <p>There is also interest in specific events and advanced training courses on the Ramsar Convention in German, which could be used to mediate content and approaches in an application-oriented manner.</p>	
4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}	A - Yes
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>In Germany, a National Ramsar Committee has existed since 1993. It is headed by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and is formally composed of representatives from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the nature conservation ministries of the Federal Länder, together with private ecological research institutions, nature conservation groups and associations of land users.</p>	

<p>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</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites managers?  b. other MEA national focal points?  c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?</p> <p>{4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A - Yes  A - Yes  A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):</p> <p>There are sufficient, established communication channels between the competent authorities, departments and agencies to facilitate the mutual exchange of information. As implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) progresses, these will be supplemented by new communication and work channels, thanks to the new work structures based on river basins.</p>	
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>We were only able to communicate World Wetlands Day to a limited extent in Germany due to a lack of capacity. Some of the Ramsar sites have been staging events for a number of years, some of them with a local theme. These include, for example, the events in the Ramsar site 'Oberrhein-Rhin superieur', where the events have traditionally alternated each year between the German and French sides. They are organised jointly by the Federal Land of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the Region Alsace. Other events are held, for example, on Lake Starnberg and Lake Ammersee, and in the biosphere reserve Mittlere Elbe, which includes the Ramsar site 'Aland-Elbe-Niederung &amp; Elbaue Jerichow'. In recent years, this has been supplemented by numerous press releases issued by some of the larger organisations and institutions.</p>	
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

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):

Here are a few examples of current national and regional information campaigns which may help raise awareness of wetlands and their importance in Germany:

- a) Following the flood disaster of 2002, Germany decided that raising awareness of preventive, sustainable flood control would be one of the priorities of CEPA activities. It aims to considerably strengthen awareness of the risks associated with flooding among local authorities and the general public. In this way, Germany hopes to avoid future mis-planning and advance the renaturation of river meadows. Various players, including Federal and Land ministries, specialist institutions, nature conservation groups, youth initiatives etc. are involved in public campaigns (e.g. [www.hochwasser-special.de](http://www.hochwasser-special.de), [www.umweltbundesamt.de](http://www.umweltbundesamt.de)).
- b) The BMU has developed a series of posters on issues relating to waterbody conservation, waste water, water quality and the Water Framework Directive, as well as flood control and water use at national and international level. ([www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de)).
- c) As part of the PR work of the national parks administrations of the German Wadden Sea, the importance of wetlands for humans and their ecosystem services is repeatedly highlighted.
- d) The Federal Land of Hesse formulated guidelines for the conservation and development of waterbody habitat types and presented them at an event by the Hesse Nature Conservation Academy. Next year, the guidelines will be made available to all those involved in the planning of official measures to serve as a basis for the management of waterbody habitat types. Furthermore, as part of the 'Natura 2000 praktisch' series, a volume entitled 'Artenschutz in und an Gewässern' (Species Conservation in and around Waterbodies) has been published and made available to the general public. In addition to numerous species profiles, this highly sought-after paperback also addresses the following topics: 'Acceptance and understanding - The basis for successful waterbody conservation', 'Natura 2000 & the Water Framework Directive', 'Waterbodies and leisure use', 'Conservation-friendly fish pond covers to deter fish-eating birds' and 'Fish migrations - Migratory fish - Obstacles to migration'.
- e) At the transboundary Ramsar site Oberrhein-Rhin superieur, a twelve-month press campaign (in German and French) was carried out by the Stiftung Naturschutzfonds Baden-Wuerttemberg in collaboration with the government nature conservation administration of Baden-Wuerttemberg in 2011 and 2012.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

**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

A - Yes

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

For example, financial support was provided for the European Ramsar regional meeting.

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):

The National Report Format is a helpful instrument for the documentation and planning of activities associated with the Ramsar Convention. The drafting process and the associated coordination with and between the Federal Länder and the Federal Government authorities entails a form of evaluation, but the Report does not have a monitoring function

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):

Overall, there are a large number of organisations in Germany that contribute to the protection and conservation of wetlands and waterbodies through local, regional and national projects. These include the Naturschutzbund (NABU), which is a BirdLife partner at international level.

One of the central priorities of WWF Deutschland's work is the protection and conservation or renaturation of wetlands and the management of river basins. This is visible, firstly, via diverse project work in its offices along the North and Baltic Sea coastline and in the Wadden Sea office, and through innovative large-scale nature conservation projects on the Mittlere Elbe and Schaalsee in Schleswig-Holstein. Secondly, through its involvement in the river commissions for the Elbe, Rhine, Danube and Oder, for example, the WWF also contributes to the advancement of integrated waterbody management approaches at national and European level.

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):

By co-financing the projects of NABU and the WWF, Germany supports IOP organisations at national level, and also at international level via the provision of development aid funding (BMZ) - examples include IUCN, Wetlands International and WWF projects.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

**Section 4** ([www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://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).