



**9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

*“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining
livelihoods”*

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**Regional overview of the implementation of the Convention and
its Strategic Plan 2003 - 2008: North America**

National Reports upon which this overview is based can be consulted on the Ramsar Web site,
http://ramsar.org/cop9/cop9_natlrpts_index.htm.

Contracting Parties in North America: Canada, the United States of America, and Mexico (3).

Contracting Parties whose National Reports are included in this analysis: Canada, the United States of America, and Mexico (3).

1. Main achievements since COP8 and priorities for 2006-2008

1.1 Main achievements since COP8

1. As of July 30 2005 the region has 117 Ramsar sites, compared to 61 by 30 August 2002, an 82% increase in the number of sites during the period. The total area of designated sites is now almost 19.5 million hectares, representing approximately 15.5% by area of Wetlands of International Importance in the world, compared to 15.4% by COP8. Since COP8, one site has been designated by Canada, 51 by Mexico and 4 by the United States of America.
2. Canada and the United States have National Wetland Policies in place, while Mexico has established policies that partially fulfill this task.
3. Canada and the United States have bodies that perform the tasks of a National Ramsar Committee, while Mexico has begun the process of establishing its Committee. The United States Committee is promoting tourism activities in wetlands as well as public awareness activities.
4. The United States has provided USD 905,000 to support the Wetlands for the Future Initiative (WFF) since 2002. So far WFF has provided USD 2,725,000 in funding. During the last triennium USD 531,516 were used to support 56 projects in the Neotropical Region, as well as USD 63,438 in funding for 5 projects in Mexico.
5. The Governments of Canada and the United States have made important financial contributions to the Ramsar Hemispheric Centre in Panama, equivalent to USD 31,301

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(The United States - USD 23,971, and Canada - USD 7,330), as well as to the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands, to which the United States contributed with USD 258,730 and Canada donated CAD 74,000.

6. The Governments of Canada, the United States of America, and Mexico provided funding and jointly coordinated with Argentina, Bahamas, and Nicaragua the organization of the 3rd Pan-American Regional Meeting held in Merida, Mexico, in November 2004. The United States, Canada and Mexico contributed with USD 44,409, USD34,000 and USD 35,211, respectively.
7. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) has continued providing important support to the conservation of wetland ecosystems as well to the population of waterfowl from Canada, the United States and Mexico.
8. Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has partnered with over 50 organizations including government, industry, and aboriginal communities and has successfully mapped over 51 million hectares (20 percent) of the western boreal forest. This work will make an important contribution to the Canadian Wetland Inventory (CWI), for which DUC serves as a technical partner.
9. The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) was developed and implemented in 2003 to significantly transform agricultural production in Canada, emphasizing the importance of sustainable use of the soil and the environment.
10. Canada adopted in June 2003 the Species at Risk Act (SARA) in order to protect these species and their habitats.
11. A strategy on exotic invasive species for Canada was approved in September 2004 to minimize risks to economy, environment and society.
12. The Canadian website *WetKit* continues advancing in promoting practical tools to help Canadians better understand and manage their wetlands.
13. The Wildlife Habitat Canada Organization is working with Wetlands International-Indonesia, with the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA (US\$3.4 million/5 years), the government of Indonesia, and the Global Environmental Centre, to promote conservation practices for peatlands in Indonesia.
14. The Canada Iraq Marshlands Initiative (CIMI) is an alliance between Canadian and Iraqi universities, government and NGOs. With 3 million in funds from CIDA, its implementation began in 2004 and will continue to 2007 to increase scientific and biological knowledge of marshlands in South Iraq in order to facilitate restoration efforts and to strengthen national capacities for the efficient management of wetlands.
15. The Association of State Wetland Managers, with the support of the United States Federal Government, organized an international conference in October 2004 with emphasis on the guidelines for wise use, designation and management of Ramsar sites.

16. The Western Hemisphere Initiative for Migrating Species (WHIMS) and the White Waters to Blue Waters Initiative were promoted by the Government of the United States during the last triennium, and Ramsar has participated as an active member in these initiatives.
17. During the triennium, the International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (ICWRP) was also established to support NGOs and corporations interested in donating funds to wetland projects for Ramsar or World Heritage sites. The first project implemented is for the Sian Ka'an reserve in Mexico, with USD 750,000.
18. Mexico has made efforts to begin its national Wetlands Inventory in the near future.
19. Mexico has opened the first CEPA (Communication, Education, and Public Awareness) initiative centre in the country.

1.2 Priorities for 2006-2008

20. These priorities for future implementation action have been identified from those Strategic Plan Operational Objectives which all three countries in the region have reported as high priorities in their national reports (priorities 1 to 4), or at least two countries identified as high priority (priorities 5 to 17).
 1. Policy instruments related to wise use of wetlands [2.1]
 2. Local communities, indigenous people and cultural values [6.1]
 3. Maintaining ecological characteristics of all Ramsar sites [11.1]
 4. Cooperative monitoring and management for shared species that depend on wetlands [12.2]
 5. Wetlands inventory [1.1]
 6. Methodologies to achieve conservation and rational use of wetlands [3.1]
 7. Increasing acknowledgment of the values and functions of wetlands [3.3]
 8. Integration of wetland policies into broader planning and management from local to national scales [3.4]
 9. Invasive alien species [5.1]
 10. Promoting campaigns, programs and projects to increase awareness of the community about the services offered by wetlands [9.VI]
 11. Maintaining ecological characteristics of all Ramsar sites [11.1]
 12. Integrated Management Inventory of shared wetlands and river basins [12.1]
 13. Shared use of specialized knowledge and information [14.1]
 14. Looking after environmental safeguards and assessments to keep them part of all development projects affecting the wetlands, including national and foreign investments [15.2]
 15. Funding for the Convention
 16. Institutional and financial capacity of the Contracting Parties [18.1]
 17. Education and training [20.1]
21. In addition to these areas of future priority action, three further, more specific actions remain a priority for 2006-2008:
 18. Removal of Ramsar Everglades National Park site from the Montreux Record
 19. Continued support for Wetlands for the Future Fund-style initiatives, and
 20. Support for the development of the Ramsar Hemispheric Centre in Panama.

2. Implementation activities undertaken since COP8

22. This analysis is presented for each of the 21 Operational Objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008. Numbers in square brackets [...] in each section heading refer to the numbering of the relevant Operational Objective in the Strategic Plan.

2.1 Inventory and assessment

2.1.A Wetland inventory [1.1]

23. All three Contracting Parties in North America have partially completed comprehensive wetland inventories with national coverage. The Canadian Wetland Inventory (CWI) represents a new approach to classification and mapping of wetlands in Canada, and it is expected to produce important information on wetlands from now to 2009. The first phase was finished in 2003 with optimized satellite images for wetland mapping, increasing knowledge about classification of soil with remote sensors, and digital maps of wetlands in the pilot demonstration regions. Mexico currently has a coastal ecosystem inventory, and is planning to finalize a national inventory in the near future. Mexico has integrated a cross-institutional group that will take care of defining the methodology to complete the national inventory. Likewise, it has accomplished prioritization exercises for wetland conservation. The update of the Wetland Status and Trends prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be ready by 31 December 2005. It has been estimated that there are now 42.5 million hectares of wetlands in the United States, or 5% of the inland area of the country, mainly located in the southern states of the United States. Approximately 45% of the Alaskan territory is made up of wetlands.
24. The results related to custody, storage and maintenance of national databases on wetlands are similar, since the three countries report having partial data compiled and hosted in databases from various institutions and bodies. In the case of Canada data from the Natural Resources Topographic Information Centre will be used as a base for the wetlands inventory, and these data will be stored as they are produced. At the moment some of these data regarding the provinces are already stored at that level. In the case of the United States the information belongs to the public domain.

2.1.B Wetland assessment [1.2]

25. Canada, Mexico and the United States reported having actively contributed to the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* (MA), through experts, information and comments.
26. The United States is the only country in the region that carries out a periodic analysis of the ecological characteristics of all the wetlands in its territory, and it will soon publish the results of the most recent analysis. In the United States coastland wetlands are part of the biannual report on coastal conditions carried out by EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency), which is also working as part of a wetland monitoring group at the national level that will develop assessment and monitoring tools and strengthen training programs on this issue. Mexico has made this analysis in isolated cases.
27. For two years, the Wildlife Society carried out a detailed assessment of wetland vulnerability in regard to the consequences of climate change in North America (Global

Climate Change and Wildlife in North America, 2004). Likewise, a report by the Joint International Commission has been produced on the possible implications of climate change and the change of quality of water in the Great Lakes.

28. Canada has completed a partial evaluation of the contribution of some wetlands, such as the Great Lakes, Lake Ontario and Saint Lawrence, to the maintenance of fisheries. In Mexico, the Fisheries State Department is working to some extent on this issue. In the case of the United States, approximately 75% of commercial fishing depends on wetlands, and more than one third of the endangered fauna lives in wetlands. The “No net loss” policy on wetlands has a direct relationship with the contribution of these ecosystems to fisheries. The three countries have carried out training activities on responsible fishing.
29. Of the three countries, Mexico reports that it began to prepare a standard for ecological flow. The United States says that a quality and quantity assessment of water available for wetlands that they require is carried out when necessary, for local or state authorities to make a decision on water distribution.

2.2 Policies and legislation, including impact assessment and valuation

2.2.A Policy instruments for wetland wise use [2.1]

30. Canada and the United States have National Wetland Policies (NWP) in place, while in Mexico the task is partially fulfilled through the National Water Law (LAN) 2004.
31. Canada and the United States report that they are fully considering the Ramsar Convention obligations in their environmental policies, while Mexico reports partial efforts in this respect.

2.2.B Development, review and amendment of policies, legislation, institutions and practices [2.2]

32. All Contracting Parties in the region have carried out complete (United States) or partial (Canada and Mexico) reviews of laws and institutions related to wetlands.
33. Canada has conducted a review of its national institutions related to wetlands in order to ensure the resource availability for implementation of the Ramsar Convention. Several Canadian provinces (Ontario, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and British Columbia) are currently revising their legislation and institutions to avoid the unwise use of wetlands. Mexico has only completed a general assessment of the institutions that look after the use of natural resources and the environment. The United States has not made any assessment due to the number and diversity of all institutions participating in wetland protection and conservation. The Environmental Quality Council in the United States is currently analyzing the federal programs that establish wetlands where not present, preserve the existing wetlands to improve their functions and values, and protect them to make sure they are maintained in appropriate conditions.
34. The heritage and cultural values of wetlands have been incorporated into the existing legal frameworks and policies in Canada. In the United States, this is done on an individual case basis, for example the Caddo Lake Ramsar site.

35. All three countries in North America have full or partial legal requirements to carry out an EIA in all likely cases of change in ecological character of all wetlands, including Ramsar sites. Mexico has full requirement, while the other two Contracting Parties in the region have partial requirements for this task. In Canada, the requirement is dependent upon general environmental requirements at provincial and federal level; however, a strategic environmental assessment is required for all policies, plans or programs that may have important positive or negative environmental impacts. This document must be submitted to a minister or a Cabinet member for approval. In the United States the requirement applies to major federal projects that significantly affect the quality of human environment.
36. There has been progress in preparing and/or applying valuation methodologies for the economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands in Canada and the United States. In Canada, in 2004, Ducks Unlimited carried out a study on the wetland valuation issue, and the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver prepared case studies in British Columbia, Saskatchewan/Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia.

2.3 Integration of wetland wise use into sustainable development

2.3.A Methodologies for wetland conservation and wise use [3.1]

37. Through its observer to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), Canada has contributed to the revision of the Wise Use concept, its application, and compatibility with the sustainable development objectives that will be presented in COP9.
38. Canada has undertaken a review of resource materials related to wetland management, policies and practices, through the initiative “WetKit: Tools for Working with Wetlands in Canada”. Likewise, Environment Canada has provided training in wetland management and conservation at different levels. Mexico is disseminating the wise use principles and will promote training on this matter. The United States has various resource materials actively distributed by the EPA, and the Wildlife Service provides training on wetlands at its national training centre in West Virginia.
39. Ramsar guidelines on wise use are partially disseminated at the Ramsar sites in Mexico, and in Canada they are available through WetKit.
40. The United States has contributed to information exchange regarding conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems. At the beginning of 2003, Mexico issued the Official Mexican Standard NOM-022-SEMARNAT-2003, which established the specifications for preservation, conservation, wise use and restoration of coastal wetlands in mangrove areas, as well as the standard for mangrove conservation in the Gulf of México, and has promoted information exchange with local communities.

2.3.B Peatlands [3.2]

41. Canada has participated in the process guided by the Ramsar Secretariat for establishing a Coordinating Committee for global action on peatlands.
42. Canada and the United States reported giving special attention to under-represented wetland types, including peatlands. Furthermore, Canada also highlighted the presence of peatlands in its Ramsar sites and mentioned that Wildlife Habitat Canada has been the

leader in developing a peatland website (www.peat-portal.net). Likewise, Canada reported CIDA is supporting a project on peatlands in Indonesia through Wetlands International (WI) –Indonesia Program. In addition they mentioned there are peatland inventories that currently exist in several Canadian provinces. Mexico reported lack of knowledge about the peatland situation and indicated this should be a point of analysis for the national wetlands inventory. None of the three countries applies the COP8 Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands.

2.3.C Increase of recognition of wetland values and functions [3.3]

43. Canada emphasized its promotion for full awareness of the cultural and social heritage of wetlands through the “Canadian Heritage Rivers System” (CHRS). During the last triennium six rivers were designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers. In addition, social and cultural acknowledgment of wetlands is promoted in their Interpreting Centre at the Ramsar site in Cap Tourmente, Québec. In the United States measures are taken at the local level to make emphasis on the social and cultural importance of wetlands. The United States National Parks Service has undertaken the role of increasing awareness regarding social and cultural importance of wetlands. Likewise, in Mexico, these values are taken into consideration for preparing wetland management plans.

2.3.D Integration of wetland policies into broader planning and management from local to national scales [3.4]

44. All Contracting Parties in North America have implemented or developed (wholly or in part) programs with varying percentages of national coverage using integrated management approaches for river basins or coastal zones. However, none of the countries has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basins Initiative. In the case of Mexico integration is achieved through the Basin Councils, which are under the responsibility of the National Water Commission (CNA).
45. None of the countries in the region has used the Ramsar *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands*, though part of their content has been applied to local assessments for the resource allocation. Nor they have used the Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4 on integrated river basin management. In the United States, a group of 40 scientists is evaluating the Nature Conservancy recommendations for environmental flow evaluation, and when this process is complete a cross reference with Resolutions VIII.1 and VIII.2 will be carried out. Canada, on the other hand, is applying the ecosystem approach.
46. Mexico reports that it has not taken measures to avoid damage to the ecological character of wetlands as a result of responses to the Kyoto Protocol such as revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation, while the United States says it has partially accomplished this through the studies of its Geological Service and the Department of Agriculture, which have concluded that wetlands can act as carbon sinks through restoration programs. Canada reports advances since the study on carbon sinks was prepared by Wetlands International (Americas), the North American Council for Wetlands Conservation, and Ducks Unlimited (Canada) in 1999.

2.4 Restoration and rehabilitation [4.1]

47. The three Contracting Parties in the region have only carried out partial assessments to identify priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation. In Canada efforts have focused on expanding protected areas and funding recovery programs for endangered species, especially under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and other programs. In the United States the Fish and Wildlife Service has focused on priority projects that include restoration of wetlands in Florida and wetland conservation to achieve a positive balance through compensation.
48. Additionally, all countries in the region report being engaged in restoration and rehabilitation actions. Canada detailed several existing programs, including the Wetland Habitat Fund, the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program, and the Species at Risk Recovery. Mexico reported restoration efforts at three Ramsar sites, damaged by meteorological events, as well as in some river basins. In the United States not all efforts are gathered under one centralized implementation process; rather, different programs are successfully managed regionally. A chief national effort has been the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, which seeks to restore nearly 40% of all the continental wetlands in the country.
49. All countries in the region reported that they have taken important steps to preserve, restore and protect wetlands. The United States highlights that in 2004 there were donations equivalent to 13 million dollars to 10 States with this purpose, with an equivalent counterpart from private owners and the States. This program, starting in 1990, has granted almost 12 million dollars in donations and has restored 189,000 acres. In the case of Canada, it is considered that joint habitat alliances within the North American Waterfowl Management Plan have been of great importance for wetland protection, as in the case of the Pacific Coast Joint Venture (PCJV), the Canadian Eastern Habitat Joint Venture and the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture. The threats related to aquaculture, mining, hydrocarbon spills, and expansion of the agricultural border have been addressed through these initiatives. Likewise, Ducks Unlimited has adopted measures to protect important wetlands, water and habitats related to fowl, as part of its North Western Program.
50. All the Parties in the region have information on wetlands restoration. However, it is still necessary to make more resource materials available to the Ramsar Secretariat.

2.5 Invasive alien species [5.1]

51. All three Contracting Parties in North America provided details on their resource materials and initiatives regarding invasive species, and have recognized the importance of the issue. Besides national initiatives there are bi- and tri-national cooperation mechanisms to face cross-border exotic species under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) and other agreements.

2.6 Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values [6.1]

52. All Contracting Parties in North America have broadly promoted local stakeholder management of wetlands, while all three governments also provide support for site managers in monitoring ecological character of Ramsar sites.

53. The COP8 guiding principles regarding cultural values have been applied unevenly in the three countries in the region, with more importance in Canada, and varying applications in Mexico and the United States. In spite of that, all countries in North America reported that they have supported the use of traditional knowledge and management practices, as well as the participation of communities in this management.

2.7 Private sector involvement [7.1]

54. Canada and the United States report having carried out efforts to encourage wise use among the private sector. In Canada various specialized institutions and companies have organized wetland conservation associations, such as the Canadian Habitat Joint Venture NAWMP, and the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture. Mexico has promoted private sector participation in the Advisory Councils for Protected Areas and the Basin Councils. In the United States initiatives focused on the private sector have been introduced, as in the case of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, forums, and other institutions, where federal, state and local organizations, private owners (industrial and non-industrial), ecological groups and non-profit organizations participate.
55. The United States has established “Friends of wetlands” local forums for the private sector in various wetlands in California, Washington State, Ohio, New York, and Kansas. Canada has similar groups at Cap Tourmente, Lake San Francois and Alaksen Ramsar sites.
56. Concerning analysis of the implications of national and international trade of products from wetlands, only Canada reported it has a series of ongoing programs as part of its obligations under CITES.

2.8 Incentives [8.1]

57. Canada reported some concrete activities related to the use of incentives. In North America, the United States has made the most complete assessment of the existing incentive measures, particularly in relation to subsidization for agriculture, according to its Wetland Reserves Program; Canada has promoted conservation of wetlands through legal incentives that modify land use and promote ecological donations; in Mexico there are ongoing negotiations on payments for environmental services, and a study was carried out to apply various economic and fiscal incentives in order to promote the wise use of natural resources.
58. Concerning the use of groundwater, the United States provided information on advances in this area on behalf of several agencies. It particularly highlighted the efforts of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) promoting a strategy of “best practices”. Mexico reported availability of water in 180 aquifers and created the Underground Water Technical Committees at the regional level, where decisions are discussed and taken together with the authorities. In Canada, groundwater is part of the province/territorial and/or municipal jurisdiction, and several provinces are working on issues related to hydrological, social, economic and environmental aspects of underground waters.

2.9 Communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA) [9.1]

59. Overall, CEPA-related activities are generally further developed in the North American region than in many other parts of the world, although there are still opportunities for further increasing CEPA work on wetlands, for example by establishing CEPA task force groups and analyzing national CEPA needs.
60. The accomplishment of pilot projects to evaluate different CEPA approaches has had its major advances in the United States, through the actions at the Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetland Science and Visitors Centre, which carries out communication activities in various regions of the U.S. and the north of Mexico.
61. Canada and the United States have carried out isolated actions to identify regional CEPA needs. Additionally, Mexico has recently begun gathering information and making a diagnosis of CEPA actions for wetlands.
62. All three countries in the region have designated their government CEPA National Focal Points, but only Mexico and the United States have designated a non-governmental CEPA National Focal Point.
63. Regarding establishing task groups as well as preparing national CEPA plans, only Mexico reported to have meetings scheduled for this purpose.
64. On the other hand, concerning communication and information exchange among government agencies, Canada and the United States already have concrete measures in place, while Mexico is going through an awareness-raising phase. All Contracting Parties in North America have provided support to international programs that encourage transfer of information, knowledge and skills among wetland education centers and educators.
65. Likewise, all three countries have undertaken activities to contribute to the preparation of international CEPA resource materials. In the United States materials are produced in a decentralized way, while in Canada there are specific entities assigned for this purpose, such as Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). In the case of Mexico there is no detailed information in this respect.
66. Regarding the use of other tools to enhance the work of CEPA, including email, the Wetland Link International program from the United Kingdom, twinning of centers, and assessing capacities, the United States has the widest range of initiatives and programs, followed by Canada and Mexico. The United States has incorporated material related to wetlands in the curricula of some official study programs. DUC has a wide selection of wetland materials available in their website, for students, parents, teachers, landowners and farmers, researchers and others.
67. Regarding incorporation of CEPA information on watershed management, the United States has reported the greatest advances through the initiatives developed by the Caddo Lake Institute, while advances in Canada have been partial.
68. The three countries actively celebrate World Wetlands Day and distribute related materials at the national level.

69. Canada, the United States and Mexico have encouraged the establishment of educational centers in wetland sites, and have plans for increasing them in number in the future.

2.10 Designation of Ramsar sites

2.10.A Application of the Strategic Framework [10.1]

70. While Canada and Mexico have preliminary directories of potential Ramsar sites, in the United States the designation process is promoted by local organizations and not by a centralized agency. Since COP8 a total of 55 new Ramsar sites have been designated in the region, covering a surface of almost 4 million hectares; 1 in Canada, 4 in the United States and 51 in Mexico (see annex, Table 1).
71. However, so far no country in the region has developed a strategy or priorities for the designation of new Ramsar sites, even though there are some initiatives in this regard from Canada and Mexico.
72. Since none of the countries has a complete inventory of their wetlands, or a national strategy to designate priority sites, it is difficult to state which types of wetlands are under-represented in North America.
73. There is a large number of coastal-marine Ramsar sites in the North American Region (71 of 117 sites). Canada has designated a total of 18, while there are 43 in Mexico, and 10 in the United States.
74. A total of 85 Ramsar sites in the region have been designated for threatened species (Criterion 2): Canada currently has 19 such sites; Mexico has 50 sites, the greatest number in the region; and the United States has 16.
75. A high proportion of Ramsar sites in the region also have formal protection by a national, provincial or local body (95 out of 117). Canada has designated a total of 34, while there are 40 in Mexico, and 21 in the United States that were previously protected. Within the region, Mexico has the largest number of sites for which Ramsar designation provided the first form of protected areas designation (18 sites, of which 17 were designated during the last triennium).
76. Contracting Parties in North America have not designated all suitable shared wetlands as Ramsar Sites. However, they have included some shared wetlands in the Ramsar List. Canada has 7 cross-border sites, Mexico has 3 and the United States has 1. Of these, 2 from México and 1 from the United States were designated during the last triennium.

2.10.B Maintenance and use of the Ramsar Sites Database [10.2]

77. After analyzing the available information regarding date of last update of Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS), 12 sites in the United States and one site in Mexico require updated RISs. Canada recently updated the RIS of all its Ramsar sites but these were not provided in the required format approved by COP8, and the Secretariat is waiting to receive the necessary maps in the near future. Details of the RIS updates needed are provided in Table 2 of the Annex.

2.11 Management planning and monitoring of Ramsar sites

2.11.A Maintenance of the ecological character of all Ramsar sites [11.1]

78. Canada has reported measures in place to maintain the ecological character of all its Ramsar sites, and the United States has reported partial measures.
79. Even though none of the Contracting Parties in North America has directly applied the COP9 *New Guidelines for management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands*, all the Parties have, to a lesser or greater extent, established management plans or strategies for their Ramsar sites (24 sites in Canada, all in place; 18 sites in the United States, 15 in place; and 13 sites in Mexico, all in place). By 31 July 2005, 54 (46%) of the 117 Ramsar sites in North America had management plans. Table 3 of the Annex gives details of the situation of management planning for all the Ramsar sites of the region.
80. Mexico reported zoning measures being in place for five Ramsar sites.
81. Canada and the United States reported the use of strict protection measures to regulate the activities in vulnerable wetlands.
82. All three countries in North America have management committees for the wetland sites, or similar organizations, in many of their Ramsar sites.

2.11.B Monitoring the condition of Ramsar sites, including application of Article 3.2 and the Montreux Record [11.2]

83. The North America region still has one Ramsar site on the Montreux record: Everglades National Park, USA, designated on 4 June 1987, and placed on the Montreux Record on 16 June 1993. No Ramsar Advisory Mission has been carried out in this site.
84. The United States provided details of the situation in the Everglades in its National Report. The application of the General Management Plan for the park is a process that began in 2002 and will last approximately 4-5 years. Some initiatives were carried out as part of this plan to involve the neighboring communities in 2003 and 2004, and these have resulted in a better zoning and management of the park. Other activities have also been accomplished to eliminate exotic invasive species, as well as a massive effort to rehabilitate the area. However, there is no clear diagnosis on whether the ecological character of the site is being improved or maintained overall, or a timetable for removal from the Montreux Record provided.

2.12 Management of shared water resources, wetlands and wetland species

2.12.A Inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins [12.1]

85. All countries in North America reported their advances in transboundary wetlands identification. In the United States this task is accomplished through the National Wetland Inventory that includes Ramsar sites bordering Mexico, such as the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) and the Caddo Lake. In Canada, this effort has

also been carried out through the National Wetland Inventory, which is still being completed. In Mexico some transboundary sites that can be the objects of international cooperation have been identified, but no information was provided in terms of the methodology used to identify them. Canada and the United States have made the greatest achievements in the region in terms of applying joint impact studies in the area of the Great Lakes.

(See also additional related references to integrated zone management in sections 2.3.D and 2.10.A)

2.12.B Cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species [12.2]

86. All countries in the region regularly collect bird population data, though none of them report transmitting that information to Wetlands International to update the 1% thresholds for those populations. [Secretariat note: Canada and the United States have jointly provided updated population estimates for North American shorebirds to Wetlands International in 2005.] In Mexico the existence of migratory species is one of the criteria considered as part of the proposal for new Ramsar sites, and the three countries in the region have designated 25 sites that meet this criterion (6 sites in Canada, 7 sites in Mexico, and 12 in the United States). Regarding sites that contribute to the protection of migratory species, it has been estimated that there are 68 sites of importance for migratory birds dependent on wetlands at the regional level (29 sites in Canada, 28 sites in Mexico, and 11 in the United States), and another 27 sites that are important for several species of sea turtles (1 in the United States and 26 in Mexico).

2.12.C Support and promotion of regional arrangements under the Convention [12.3]

87. Canada and the United States reported their contribution to the creation and operation of the Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere, in Panama.

2.13 Collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions [13.1]

88. There are national mechanisms in the three countries in the region for coordination between the Ramsar Administrative Authority with other Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA). This task is carried out by cross-ministry groups in the United States, by assigning similar focal point topic responsibilities in Mexico (Ramsar, MAB, World Heritage), and through the International Relations Directorate in Canada. None of the Contracting Parties has yet carried out official assessments of the Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the CBD.
89. The United States actively supports and participates in the Wider Caribbean Region Action Plan (Cartagena Convention). Mexico participates actively in the regional initiative with the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System and the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

2.14 Sharing expertise and information [14.1]

90. All Contracting Parties in North America have undertaken activities or given assistance with regards to North-South or South-South cooperation, particularly cooperating within the Neotropical Region. Some significant examples include: The Canada-Iraq Marshlands Initiative (CIMI) to promote transfer of information and train personnel responsible of the wetlands in Iraq; the annual Workshop on Wetlands Management in Mexico, and the cooperation of this country with parties in the Neotropics in the context of the Meso-American biological corridor and the Meso-American barrier reef system; and the highly valuable support provided by the United States for South-South cooperation through funding of the Wetlands for the Future Initiative and recently sponsoring a person to assist the Secretariat in Oceania. The United States highlighted the importance of the Caddo Lake Institute with regards to education, communication and information exchange with community members, government officials and other stakeholders.
91. One country in North America reported the twinning of their Ramsar sites with those of other Contracting Parties: Mexico formalized the twinning of its Ria Lagartos site with Ciénega de Zapata, Cuba, as well as La Encrucijada with Laguna del Tigre in Guatemala. The United States also mentioned the efforts accomplished to designate sites together with Mexico, particularly in the bordering states of Texas and Tamaulipas. Canada has identified the possibility of future twinning of sites in the context of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN).

2.15 Financing the conservation and wise use of wetlands

2.15.A Promoting international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands [15.1]

92. Canada and the United States have development assistance bodies and both have provided funding to conserve and manage wetlands in other countries. Two examples from Canada are: capacity building in Iraq (marshes) and Indonesia (peatlands). In the United States, besides the contributions made to the wetlands in Iraq, technical assistance has been provided for designation and management of four wetlands in Tamaulipas, Mexico.
93. Mexico, the only Contracting Party in the region eligible to receive international development assistance, reported the mobilization of external funds for undertaking projects such as the management plan for the Delta del Rio Colorado and the SINAP 1 & 2 projects (FMAM/GEF), as well as a project for wetland conservation and management in Rio Celestun (JICA).
94. Canada and the United States are represented in the governing bodies or scientific advisory bodies of multilateral donor institutions and the GEF.

2.15.B Environmental safeguards and assessments as part of all development projects (including foreign and domestic investments) affecting wetlands [15.2]

95. Requirements of EIA in each Contracting Party are covered in section 2.2.B.

2.16 Financing for the Convention [16.1]

96. Two of the Contracting Parties in North America reported being up to date with their contributions to the Convention. This was confirmed from a Secretariat review of the state of contributions as of 20 July 2005.
97. Both Canada and the United States provided invaluable financial support to the organization of the regional meetings for the Convention and to the Ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9). The United States has also provided additional assistance to the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)
98. During the three-year period, the United States has also contributed a total of USD 905,000 to the Wetlands for the Future Initiative.

2.17 Institutional mechanisms of the Convention [17.1]

99. All Contracting Parties of North America have appointed their STRP National Focal Points. In the case of Mexico, there is an interim National Focal Point.

2.18 Institutional and financial capacity of Contracting Parties [18.1]

100. Only a partial examination of the national institutions related to wetlands has been conducted in the three countries of the region. In Canada it has been mainly conducted by Ducks Unlimited, while in the United States the Council on Environmental Quality has assumed this responsibility.
101. None of the Contracting Parties in the region has established a steering committee for the focal points of the various Agreements related to the environment. In Mexico this function has been partially fulfilled by the International Affairs Coordination Unit of SEMARNAT.
102. All Contracting Parties in the region report having a National Ramsar Committee or similar cross-sectoral body, as well as cooperation mechanisms between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other institutions. There are ongoing efforts in the United States to expand and strengthen the existing National Ramsar Committee, currently composed of more than 10 organizations. The cooperation mechanisms in this country include initiatives between the Fishing & Wild Life Services (USFWS) and the State Department, as well as with the Caddo Lake Institute. In Canada two forums have been established before COP8 to provide information related to wetlands: the Federal Wetlands Forum (2001) integrated by 17 federal agencies and 4 national NGOs and the North American Bird Conservation Council (formerly North American Wetlands Conservation Council), which is an instrumental part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Establishing new inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms, such as a National Ramsar Committee, is going through a planning process.
103. Canada is the only country that has conducted an analysis of the National Administrative Authority's performance and the implementation of the Convention on a national basis through an audit carried out by the Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development. The preliminary report recommends improving the information on the conservation status of Ramsar sites.

104. All Contracting Parties in North America allocate funds for conservation and wise use of wetlands. In each country these allocations have taken place as part of wider allocations for the environment or as part of cross-sector and cross-ministerial initiatives and programs.

2.19 Education and Training [20.1]

105. None of the Contracting Parties has carried out an analysis of the national and local training needs regarding the Convention. Notwithstanding this, the three countries have reported various training opportunities that involve action areas of the Convention. Particularly, the United States has the National Training & Conservation Centre and information sources on Ramsar eco-tourism guidelines. Nevertheless, the country's competent bodies are evaluating the convenience of training at all levels. Canada has partially analyzed its training capacities and has courses on wetland restoration at its Wetlands Institute in British Columbia, amongst others. Mexico is assessing CEPA activities through the Centre of Education and Training for Sustainable Development (CECADESU), and it is also undertaking an analysis of its training and development needs.
106. All three Contracting Parties of North America have envisaged extensive training activities and modules related to wetlands. Mexico and the United States have also provided training to wetland managers through personnel exchanges.
107. All the Contracting Parties in the region have contributed to the development of the Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO).

2.20 Membership of the Convention [21.1]

108. The United States has actively encouraged the adhesion of non-Parties in the Caribbean Region through financial and technical assistance. Canada has provided materials and assistance to Iraq for its accession to the Convention and the possible designation of a Ramsar site in November 2005.

Annex Summary statistics

Table 1 – North America Ramsar Sites designated since COP8

	Country	Site name	Designation date	Area (in ha.)	Wetland types
1	Canada	Columbia Wetlands	05.06.05	15,069.8	Ts, U, Xp
2	United States of America	Grassland Ecological Area	02.02.05	65,000	Ts
3		Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR)	02.02.05	1,021	G, Ts
4		Kawainui and Hamakua Marsh Complex	02.02.04	414	Ts, U
5	Mexico	Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Xcalak	27.11.03	17,949	A, B, C, I
6		Cuencas y corales de la zona costera de Huatulco	27.11.03	44,400	A, C, I
7		Laguna de Tecocomulco	27.11.03	1,769	None
8		Parque Nacional Isla Contoy	27.11.03	5,126	A, B, C, I
9		Parque Nacional Isla Isabel	27.11.03	94	A, C
10		Parque Nacional Lagunas de Montebello	27.11.03	6,022	Zk(b)
11		Playa Tortuguera Rancho Nuevo	27.11.03	30	None
12		Playa Tortuguera Tierra Colorada	27.11.03	54	I
13		Reserva Estatal El Palmar	27.11.03	50,177	A, B, G, I, Zk(a), Zk(b)
14		Sian Ka'an	27.11.03	652,193	A, B, C, I, Zk(a)
15		Áreas de Protección de Flora y Fauna de Nahá y Metzabok	02.02.04	7,216	Zk(b)
16		Bala'an K'aax	02.02.04	131,610	Zk(b)
17		Reserva de la Biosfera Ría Celestún	02.02.04	81,482	A, B, I, Zk(a), Zk(b)
18		Reserva de la Biosfera Chamela-Cuixmala	02.02.04	13,142	I
19		Ciénegas de Lerma	02.02.04	3,023	None
20		La Mancha y El Llano	02.02.04	1,414.27	B, I, U
21		Laguna de Metzútlán	02.02.04	2,937	None
22		Laguna de Sayula	02.02.04	16,800	Ts
23		Laguna Ojo de Liebre	02.02.04	36,600	B, G, I
24		Laguna Playa Colorada-Santa María La Reforma	02.02.04	53,140	A, G, I
25		Laguna San Ignacio	02.02.04	17,500	B, G
26		Manglares y humedales de la Laguna de Sontecomapan	02.02.04	8,921	I, Ts
27		Parque Nacional Arrecife de Puerto Morelos	02.02.04	9,066	A, B, C, I, Ts, Zk(a), Zk(b)
28		Parque Nacional Cañón del Sumidero	02.02.04	21,789	Zk(b)
29		Islas Marietas	02.02.04	1,357.29	A, B, C
30		Parque Nacional Sistema Arrecifal Veracruzano	02.02.04	52,238	A, B, C, I
31		Playa Tortuguera Cahuitán	02.02.04	65	None
32		Playa Tortuguera Chenkán	02.02.04	100	I
33		Playa Tortuguera El Verde Camacho	02.02.04	6,450	I
34		Playón Mexiquillo	02.02.04	66.5	None
35		Playa Tortuguera X'cacel-X'cacelito	02.02.04	362	A, B, C, I, Zk(a)
36		Presa Jalpan	02.02.04	68	None
37		Reserva de la Biosfera Banco Chinchorro	02.02.04	144,360	A, B, C, I

38	Reserva de la Biosfera Los Petenes	02.02.04	282,857	A, B, G, I, Zk(a)
39	Sistema Lagunar Alvarado	02.02.04	267,010	I
40	Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Laguna de Términos	02.02.04	705,016	I, U
41	Reserva de la Biosfera Archipiélago de Revillagigedo	02.02.04	636,685	C
42	Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto	02.02.04	206,580.75	A, B, I
43	Isla San Pedro Mártir	02.02.04	30,165	None
44	Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Yum Balam	02.02.04	154,052	A, B, I, Ts, Zk(a), Zk(b)
45	Laguna de Yuriria	02.02.04	15,020	None
46	Laguna Madre	02.02.04	307,894.156	A, B, G, I, Ts
47	Sistema Lacustre Ejidos de Xochimilco y San Gregorio Atlapulco	02.02.04	2,657	Ts
48	Laguna de Chichankanab	02.02.04	1,999	Ts, Zk(b)
49	Humedales del Lago de Pátzcuaro	02.02.05	707	None
50	Laguna Costera El Caimán	02.02.05	1,125	I
51	Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Cozumel	02.02.05	11,987	A, B, C, Zk(a)
52	Sistema de Lagunas Interdunarias de la Ciudad de Veracruz	02.02.05	141	None
53	Humedales de la Laguna La Popotera	05.06.05	1,975	None
54	Laguna de Zacapu	05.06.05	40	Xp, U
55	Laguna de Zapotlán	05.06.05	1,496	None

Key for under-represented wetland types:

Coastal and marine wetlands

A Permanent shallow marine waters, in most cases less than six meters deep at low tide; includes sea bays and straits.

B Marine sub-tidal aquatic beds; includes kelp beds, sea-grass beds, tropical marine meadows

C Coral reefs.

G Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats.

I Intertidal forested wetlands; includes mangrove swamps, nipah swamps and tidal freshwater swamp forests.

Zk(a) Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, marine and coastal.

Inland Wetlands

Ts Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.

U Non-forested peatlands; includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens

Xp Forested peatlands; peat swamp forests.

Zk(b) Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, inland.

Human-made wetlands

Zk(c) Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, human-made.

Table 2 - Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) and Maps needing updating

Country	Site Name	Area (ha)	Last RIS update	Comments	
United States of America	Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge	9.509	1992	RIS and map pending.	
	Bolinas Lagoon	445	1997	RIS and map pending.	
	Cache-Lower White Rivers	81.376	1993	RIS and map pending.	
	Cache River-Cypress Creek Wetlands	24.281	1994	RIS and map pending.	
	Connecticut River Estuary & Tidal Wetlands Complex	6.484	1995	RIS and map pending.	
	Delaware Bay Estuary	51.252	1992	RIS and map pending.	
	Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge	13.080	1992	RIS and map pending.	
	Horicon Marsh	12.912	1990	RIS and map pending.	
	Izembek Lagoon National Wildlife Refuge	168.433	1992	RIS and map pending.	
	Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge	159.889	1992	RIS and map pending.	
	Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge	1.908	1993	RIS and map pending.	
	Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge	8,700	1998	RIS and map pending.	
	Mexico	Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Cuatrociénegas	84,347	1995	RIS and map pending.

Table 3 – North America Ramsar site list and management plan status

Country	Site Name	Area (ha)	Management Plan (MP)	Additional comments
Canada	Alaksen	586	Yes	1986 MP was revised in 1993 and 1995; to be finalized (2002).
	Baie de l'Isle-Verte	2.215	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Beaverhill Lake	18.050	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Cap Tourmente	2.398	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Chignecto	1.020	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Columbia Wetlands	15,070	Yes	PM developed and instrumented since April 2001
	Creston Valley	6.970	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Delta Marsh	23.000	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary	815.900	No	MP currently under development, to be finalized 2004 under the Nunavut land claim agreement.
	Grand Codroy Estuary	925	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Hay-Zama Lakes	50.000	No	No information available.
	Lac Saint-François	2.310	Yes	No information available.
	Lac Saint-Pierre	11.952	No	MP currently under development 2001.
	Last Mountain Lake	15.602	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Long Point	13.730	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Malpeque Bay	24.440	No	MP currently under development 2001.
	Mary's Point	1.200	Yes	Partial MP- part of site is in National Wildlife Area
	Matchedash Bay Provincial Wildlife Area	1.840	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	McConnell River	32.800	No	MP under development, to be finalized 2004 under Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.

Country	Site Name	Area (ha)	Management Plan (MP)	Additional comments
	Mer Bleue Conservation Area	3.100	No	MP currently under development 2001.
	Minesing Swamp	6.000	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Musquodoboit Harbour	1.925	No	MP currently under development 2001.
	Oak Hammock Marsh	3.600	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Old Crow Flats	617.000	No	MP fully implemented, also covers Vuntut National Park.
	Peace-Athabasca Delta	321.300	Yes	Preliminary MP 1993. Under revision 2001.
	Point Pelee	1.564	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Polar Bear Pass	262.400	Yes	MP fully implemented, but will be affected by future Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement.
	Polar Bear Provincial Park	2.408.700	Yes	MP fully implemented; new MP in preparation.
	Queen Maud Gulf	6.278.200	No	MP under development, to be finalized 2004 under Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.
	Quill Lakes	63.500	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Rasmussen Lowlands	300.000	No	MP under development, to be finalized 2004 under Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.
	Shepody Bay	12.200	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Southern Bight-Minas Basin	26.800	No	MP under development.
	Southern James Bay (Moose River & Hannah Bay)	25.290	No	MP development is not programmed (2001).
	St. Clair	244	Yes	MP fully implemented.
	Tabusintac Lagoon & River Estuary	4.997	No	MP under development 2001.
	Whooping Crane Summer Range	1.689.500	Yes	Partial MP for part of the site within Wood Buffalo National Park
	Total area per country (ha)	13,066,571	24	
United States of America	Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge	9.509	No	MP being prepared for National Wildlife Refuge 2002.
	Bolinas Lagoon	445	Yes	State Recreation Area
	Cache-Lower White Rivers	81.376	No	MP being prepared for National Wildlife Refuge 2002.
	Cache River-Cypress Creek Wetlands	24.281	Yes	MP currently under revision for National Wildlife Refuge.
	Caddo Lake	8.382	No	Training facility for community based management currently under development.
	Catahoula Lake	12.150	Yes	MP being prepared for National Wildlife Refuge 2002.
	Chesapeake Bay Estuarine Complex	45.000	No	MP to be developed by 2012 for National Wildlife Refuge.
	Cheyenne Bottoms State Game Area	10.978	Yes	MP fully implemented 2002.
	Connecticut River Estuary & Tidal Wetlands Complex	6.484	Yes	MP fully implemented 2002.
	Delaware Bay Estuary	51.252	No	MP to be developed by 2012 for National Wildlife Refuge.
	Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge	13.080	No	MP being prepared for National Wildlife Refuge 2002.
	Everglades National Park	566.143	Yes	MP fully implemented.

Country	Site Name	Area (ha)	Management Plan (MP)	Additional comments
	Grassland Ecological Area (GEA)	65,000	No	There are designations for protection but not for management
	Horicon Marsh	12,912	No	MP being prepared for National Wildlife Refuge 2002.
	Izembek Lagoon National Wildlife Refuge	168,433	No	MP being prepared for National Wildlife Refuge 2002.
	Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge	159,889	No	MP being prepared for National Wildlife Refuge 2002.
	Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge	1,908	No	MP being prepared for National Wildlife Refuge 2002.
	Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge	8,700	No	MP being prepared for National Wildlife Refuge.
	Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	8,958	Yes	MP approved in 2000 for the Rattlesnake Creek Basin.
	Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR)	1,021	Yes	National Wildlife Refuge
	Tomales Bay	2,850	No	MP planned for 2000.
	Kawainui and Hamakua Marsh Complex	414	Yes	MP currently exists; has not been instrumented
Total area per country		1,303,519	9	
Mexico	Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Cuatrociénegas	84,347	Yes	MP applied (NR,2002). Area changed from 150,000ha in 2001 RIS update.
	Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Laguna de Términos	705,016	Yes	MP adopted since 1997
	Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna de Nahá y Metzabok	7,216	No	MP under revision (Nov 2003)
	Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Yum Balam	154,052	No	MP to be published (Dec 2003)
	Bala'an K'aax	131,610	No	Management program planned
	Ciénegas de Lerma	3,023	No	MP under development (2003)
	Cuencas y corales de la zona costera de Huatulco	44,400	Yes	MP exists for Parque Nacional Huatulco (part of the site); and territorial ordering study for Santa Ma. Huatulco (another part).
	Dzilam (reserva estatal)	61,707	Yes	MP implemented (NR,2002)
	Humedal de Importancia Especialmente para la Conservación de Aves Acuáticas Reserva Ría Lagartos	60,348	Yes	MP implemented (NR,2002). Site expanded from 47,840ha in 2001 RIS update.
	Humedales de la Laguna La Popotera	1,975	Yes	MP under development (RIS 2005)
	Humedales del Delta del Rio Colorado	250,000	Yes	MP implemented (NR,2002)
	Humedales del Lago de Pátzcuaro	707	Yes	Basin MP prepared by the Fisheries Commission, under review.
	Isla San Pedro Mártir	30,165	Yes	Joint MP for the Islands in the Gulf of California, there are plans

Country	Site Name	Area (ha)	Management Plan (MP)	Additional comments
				to draft specific plans
	Islas Marietas	1,357	No	MP to be developed when decreed as protected area
	La Mancha-El Llano	1,414	No	Community Management Plan under development by the Institute of Ecology. External notification and pictures showing it is completely dry.
	Laguna Costera El Caimán	1,125	No	Presence of OET [Organization for Tropical Studies]. The national plan for mangrove protection is being followed. Under the process of being decreed as MPA
	Laguna de Chichankanab	1,999	No	No information available.
	Laguna de Metztlán	2,937	Yes	MP for Reserva de la Biosfera Barranca de Metztlán
	Laguna de Sayula	16,800	No	Basin MP under development (2003)
	Laguna Madre	307,894	No	Management diagnosis 1993
	Laguna de Tecocomulco	1,769	No	Proposed as protected area; MP to be developed.
	Laguna de Yuriria	15,020	Yes	MP (2001) under implementation
	Laguna Ojo de Liebre	36,600	Yes	MP for Reserva de la Biosfera El Vizcaino (2000)
	Laguna Playa Colorada-Santa María La Reforma	53,140	Yes	MP for the islands of the gulf of California, pending for the zone of Dautillos-Malacataya (2003)
	Laguna San Ignacio	17,500	Yes	MP for Reserva de la Biosfera El Vizcaino (2000)
	Laguna de Zacapu	40	No	MP under planning
	Laguna de Zapotlán	1,496	No	MP under development (RIS 2005)
	Manglares y humedales de la Laguna de Sontecomapan	8,921	Yes	MP for Reserva de la Biosfera Los Tuxtlas under development (2003)
	Marismas Nacionales	200,000	Yes	Uses Coastal Zone Ecological Ordering Program. Special management instrument being prepared (NR,2002)
	Parque Nacional Arrecife de Puerto Morelos	9,066	Yes	MP implemented
	Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Cozumel	11,987	Yes	National Sea Park, Refuge Zone.
	Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Xcalak	17,949	No	MP developed by. Sep 2003 and to be soon published in the Official Journal.
	Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto	206,581	Yes	MP approved and being executed
	Parque Nacional Cañón del Sumidero	21,789	No	MP under revision (2003)
	Parque Nacional Isla Contoy	5,126	Yes	1994MP, being currently updated.

Country	Site Name	Area (ha)	Management Plan (MP)	Additional comments
	Parque Nacional Isla Isabel	94	No	MP final version under evaluation.
	Parque Nacional Lagunas de Montebello	6,022	Yes	MP developed by Pronatura 2002, to be validated in the communities.
	Parque Nacional Sistema Arrecifal Veracruzano	52,238	No	MP under development (2003)
	Playa Tortuguera Cahuitán	65	Yes	Laud turtle conservation program
	Playa Tortuguera Chenkán	100	No	Guidelines of the national protection, conservation and management program for marine turtles are followed, but there is no specific MP
	Playa Tortuguera El Verde Camacho	6,450	No	MP waiting for official approval (2003)
	Playón Mexiquillo	67	No	Guidelines of the national protection, conservation and management program for marine turtles are followed, but there is no specific MP.
	Playa Tortuguera Rancho Nuevo	30	No	It is part of the reserves for turtle protection; there is no specific MP.
	Playa Tortuguera Tierra Colorada	54	Yes	MP for turtle protection, implemented by the Laud Project.
	Playa Tortuguera X'cacel - X'cacelito	362	Yes	MP 2000 under execution
	Presa Jalpan	68	Yes	RB Sierra Gorda MP, which encompasses the site
	Reserva de la Biosfera Archipiélago de Revillagigedo	636,685	Yes	Conservation and management program
	Reserva de la Biosfera Banco Chinchorro	144,360	Yes	MP 2000, partially accomplished
	Reserva de la Biosfera Chamela-Cuixmala	13,142	Yes	Reserve's MP
	Reserva de la Biosfera La Encrucijada	144,868	Yes	Applied MP (NR,2002). RIS last update 1997.
	Reserva de la Biosfera Los Petenes	282,857	Yes	MP 1997, requires updating
	Reserva de la Biosfera Pantanos de Centla	302,706	Yes	MP implemented (NR,2002)
	Reserva de la Biosfera Ría Celestún	81,482	No	Ecological ordering in validation phase (2004)
	Reserva Estatal El Palmar	50,177	Yes	MP executed but under revision and updating.
	Sian Ka'an	652,193	Yes	MP 1996 currently being updated; public use program (1995) being updated; ecological ordering program (Coastal Development Plan) 2000.

Country	Site Name	Area (ha)	Management Plan (MP)	Additional comments
	Sistema de Lagunas Interdunarias de la Ciudad de Veracruz	141	No	There is a proposal for Lagoon management under process. Lagoon Restoration Program, Lobby meeting record.
	Sistema lacustre Ejidos de Xochimilco y San gregorio Atlapulco	2,657	No	MP under development, it is expected for 2004
	Sistema Lagunar Alvarado	267,010	No	Various management studies
		5,118,904	34	
TOTAL	117	19,488,994	64	