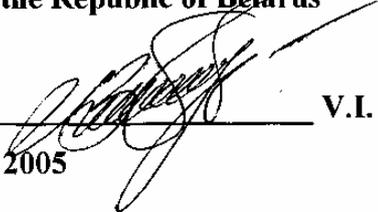


APPROVED

**Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental
Protection of the Republic of Belarus**

25 February, 2005

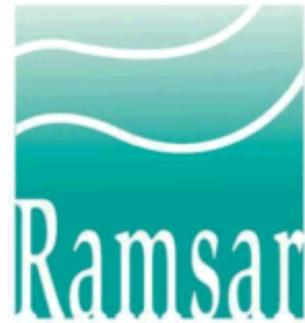

V.I. Malishevsky

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

Approved by the National Ramsar Committee
11 February 2005

**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF BELARUS



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

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

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INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION	
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SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION (OPTIONAL)

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

A strategy for the implementation of Ramsar Convention during the last triennium focused on building legal and institutional support to ensure protection and wise use of wetlands of international importance.

Proposals are being drafted to change the existing legislation to ensure legislative support for the creation and management of Ramsar sites.

Practical experience in the development and implementation of Management Plans for three Ramsar Sites has been gained and will be replicated in other sites.

The Ramsar Committee has been created to coordinate activities of various organizations towards the implementation of the Convention objectives. Relationships have been established between focal points of different conventions to coordinate efforts in similar operational areas.

As part of the UNDP/GEF Polesie Project, recommendations are being formulated to integrate global biodiversity concerns into economic practices (agriculture, forest and water management) to reduce economic impact on wetlands.

The first stage of wetland inventory has been completed, potential Ramsar sites identified, the condition of wetland monitoring system evaluated, Action Plan of the National Inventory of Peatlands elaborated and related weaknesses identified. A large-scale GEF/UNDP-sponsored project aimed at re-naturalizing peatlands on the area of 42,000 ha has been launched.

Certain progress has been made in the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the transboundary context. The first transboundary Ramsar site has been created with Lithuania – Kotra-Chepkelyai, a Strategy for the Biodiversity Conservation of the Dnieper Basin has been developed and the Basin Council of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine created.

Lack of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands mainly explains shortcomings in implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<p>To take a national inventory of natural and disturbed peatlands, potential Ramsar sites</p> <p>To review wetland registers and introduce the necessary measures to ensure that these resources are both as comprehensive as possible and readily accessible to the full range of stakeholders</p> <p>To take an inventory of wetlands of international and national importance</p> <p>To improve the Belarusian version of the wetland database and continue updating it</p>
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<p>To develop a draft mire inventory</p> <p>To develop a questionnaire listing indicators for a mire inventory</p> <p>To raise funds to support a mire inventory</p> <p>To make changes to the way the peatland register is maintained</p> <p>To introduce several new indicators for a mire inventory</p> <p>To communicate data contained in the registers to the full range of stakeholders</p> <p>To publish cadastral books on changes in the hydrological network</p> <p>To incorporate a wetland inventory element into the national regulations relating to protected area designation following the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory</p> <p>In the course of SPA inventory, to conduct additional research and make additional inventories of wetlands in line with the Convention requirements</p> <p>To complete a peatland inventory to ensure their protection and wise use</p>

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1.- Country has a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory (<i>if inventory exists, please include the number of sites</i>)	E	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites 45/7
2.- Methodologies recommended in the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6) were used for National Wetland Inventory	B		

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

In 2002, within the framework of the international project “First Stage of National Wetland Inventory in the Republic of Belarus” funded by the Global Peatland Initiative, an assessment of national wetland registration system was undertaken.

Examination of the current status of a system to register, store and use information about the condition of wetlands in Belarus makes it possible to draw the following general conclusions:

1. Belarus has a system in place to register the following types of wetlands: rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs, and ponds. Data about changes in size and status of these sites is collected annually.
2. Belarus maintains “The National Water Cadastre. Water resources, their use and quality”.
3. A system to monitor the quality and flow of water is in place and operational.
4. Scientific preparations have been made to study lake ecosystems to ensure inventories and scientific rationale behind the evaluation and application of the wise use principle with regard to lakes.
5. A peat deposit register of Belarus has been created containing information about the condition of peatlands as at 1976.
6. “National Plan for the Wise Use and Protection of Peat Resources up until 2010” has been drawn up specifying the current condition and prospects for use of peat deposits.
7. The National Land Cadastre is in place and maintained specifying the size of mires, water bodies and waterlogged meadows at a provincial level.
8. Efforts have been applied to identify and make an inventory of potential Ramsar sites of Belarus, during which initial comprehensive inventories of the most important wetlands were made.

To date, inventories of 45 wetlands of which 7 are designated and 11 are potential Ramsar sites have been completed. Wetland inventory was included in the implementation of a number of projects: OMPO Project “Identifying Ramsar Sites in Belarus”, IBA Programme, scheduled feasibility studies for SPA designation. Standard wetland inventory methodologies were used during the inventory taking. Inventory of SPAs and the most important wetlands will be completed by 2015.

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

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

<i>See actions 3.2.1, 3.3.1, r4.1.1, and Operational Objective 10.1</i>			
<i>Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:</i>			<u>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</u>
1. The inventory assesses and documents potential Ramsar Sites	E	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>	18
2. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands of national, provincial or local importance	F	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i>	
3. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation	D	<i>E = In progress;</i>	17/0
4. The inventory assesses and documents wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List	C	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>	
5. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply	F	<i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
6. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of coastal protection	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>	
7. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of flood defense	F	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i>	
8. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of food security	F	<i>E = In progress;</i>	
9. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of poverty alleviation	A	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>	
10. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of cultural heritage	E	<i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
11.- The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research	E		
12.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Comments on the information included in the wetland inventory in light of the items indicated above]			
<p>An inventory identified and approved the list of potential Ramsar sites in Belarus out of 11 sites. It is also envisaged to make a list of shadow potential Ramsar sites, i.e. sites requiring additional research.</p> <p>An inventory of wetlands that need rehabilitation has been completed. According to formal inventory results, 420,000 ha of peatlands in Belarus are in need of rehabilitation. As part of the GEF/UNDP Project, detailed surveys of 17 peatlands (42,000 ha) planned for restoration have been undertaken.</p> <p>Standard wetland inventory focused on the importance of sites in relation to flood threat, research values and sources of drinking water.</p>			

Action 1.1.3.- Ensure that national arrangements for the custodianship, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data and information, including metadata, are in place and introduce the necessary measures to ensure that this resource is both as comprehensive as possible and readily accessible to the full range of stakeholders.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All wetland inventories to have full data management, custodianship, and metadata records in place.

1. National arrangements established for the custodianship, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data and information, including metadata	D	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>In Belarus, databases on SPAs, IBAs, and Belarusian lakes are in place and operational, however they do not meet the full range of requirements applied to wetland databases. A wetland inventory database has been also created, but it needs to be finalized, a process which should benefit from the best practice of other countries.</p>		

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

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

1. National (including provincial) wetland inventory metadata record provided for inclusion in Ramsar's Web-based wetland inventory metadatabase	C	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Additional training of national experts is required, as well as the establishment of a general multilingual database by the Ramsar Bureau, including in Russian.		

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

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

1. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among decision makers	D	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i></p>
2. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among wetland managers	D	<p><i>E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status</i></p>
3. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among other wetland users	D	<p><i>(explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>A communication strategy has been developed to disseminate relevant information to all wetland users within the implementation of management plans of 4 Ramsar sites. A plan for the dissemination of inventories of potential Ramsar sites among stakeholders, especially wetland users is being prepared.</p> <p>In addition, Belarus has national arrangements allowing it to inform local decision-makers, wetland users and populations about the condition of wetlands within the SPA system, most of which are wetlands.</p>		

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To make environmental assessment of wetland ecosystems in Belarus. To conduct a wetland vulnerability assessment to the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To designate persons responsible for the EIA study (MA) and its possible application in Belarus.	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

The Ministry of Environment has only recently received a request to contribute to the MA Project and is considering possible contributions to this project.

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

1. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at national scale	F	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at regional (supranational) scale	F	
3. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at local scale	F	

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

MA guidance and methods, and possible application of wetland wise use in the organization are being studied.

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

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

Information received from the MA structures is being analyzed and an organization to assess the status of wetlands decided on.

Action 1.2.5.- Undertake assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character, including their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: SC/Bureau to identify at least 20 Parties willing to undertake vulnerability assessments and report to COP9.

1. Assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character were undertaken	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The assessments include impacts of climate change	C	
3. The assessments include impacts of sea-level rise	C	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the assessments undertaken.]</i>		

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

1. Past losses and current status and trends of coastal wetlands documented	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands.]</i>		
3.- Summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands <i>[Please provide here a summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands and provide reference citation to any relevant publication, reports or analysis.]</i>		

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

1. Information on mangrove forest cover has been compiled	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Information on conservation status of mangroves has been compiled	A	
3. Information on levels of use of mangroves has been compiled	A	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the information compiled related to mangroves.]</i>		

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

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

The impacts of dams of the Pripjat floodplain on floodplain ecosystems are expected to be analyzed within the framework of the GEF/UNDP Polesie Project

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

No dedicated work has been done in this area

Action r1.2.vii.- Monitor and assess the impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, and on the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples dependent on these wetlands, and report this information to the Ramsar Bureau and STRP. (Resolution VIII.35).

1.- Impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands have been assessed <i>(if available, please include number of sites assessed)</i>	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands /Ramsar sites
2.- Impacts of drought and other natural disasters on the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples dependent on these wetlands have been assessed	A		
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the impacts of drought and other natural disasters on wetlands and people dependent on them, with any other information you consider revelant.]			

Action 1.2.6.- Assess the contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries, including utilizing information available from the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)* and other assessment programmes, and recommend sustainable management practices which can contribute to the WSSD target of, where possible by 2015, maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield.

1. The contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries has been assessed	F	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below) ;I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]		
In 2004-2005, GEF/UNDP Project PDF B “Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Polesie Region through Integration of Global Biodiversity Concerns into Economic Practices on the Key Sites” is implemented under which a plan for sustainable management of fisheries in the Pripjat Floodplain is expected to be developed.		
3. Recommendations on sustainable management practices of fish stocks in wetlands have been transmitted to relevant authorities/stakeholders	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the recommendations and their transmission to relevant authorities/stakeholders.]		

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

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

1. The water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands has been assessed	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]</i>		
As part of the TACIS Project “Joint TACIS Programme on River Management” and UNDP/GEF Project on the Dnieper rehabilitation, quality and quantity of water in the basins of Pripyat and Dnieper was assessed, including transboundary aspects. Relevant project reports are available at the Ministry of Environment and will be transmitted to interested organizations upon request. Relevant materials are published in a book “Monitoring, Use and Management of Water Resources of the Pripyat Basin”, 2003.		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To develop a National Strategy of Wetland Protection and Wise Use. To take into account Convention recommendations when drafting and reviewing legislation. To undertake EIA during the development and implementation of wetland projects	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	As part of the TACIS Project “Joint TACIS Programme on River Management” and UNDP/GEF Project on the Dnieper rehabilitation, quality and quantity of water in the basins of Pripyat and Dnieper was assessed, including transboundary aspects. Relevant project reports are available at the Ministry of Environment and will be transmitted to interested organizations upon request. Relevant materials are published in a book “Monitoring, Use and Management of Water Resources of the Pripyat Basin”, 2003.	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. A National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) is in place	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
2. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible	D	<i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
3. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporates WSSD targets and actions	D	
4- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the status of the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument, its contents, and any other information you consider relevant.]</i>		

A National Wetland Policy is still not in place. The wise use principle is included in various programmes and policies:

- The Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus.
- The National Sustainable Development Strategy of Belarus (covering the period until 2020).
- Implementation of scheduled activities in water protection areas and coastland of water bodies.
- Regulations on the Reclamation of Lands Disturbed by Development of Mineral Resources and Peat.
- Peat Wise Use and Conservation Policy of Belarus.
- The Concept of Environmentally Friendly Use of Natural Resources of the Polesie Region.
- The 2000-2005 National Programme “Conservation and Use of Drained Land”.
- Spatial planning policies.

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

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

1. Wetland issues have been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development called for by WSSD	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
2. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies	C	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans	D	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i>
4. Wetland issues (conservation, wise use, restoration/rehabilitation) have been integrated into other sectoral strategic or planning processes and documents at any of the following levels: national, regional, provincial, and local	D	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the incorporation of wetland issues into other sectoral strategic or planning processes.]		
Wetland policies are integrated into major development programmes and plans of Belarus developed in recent years: Sustainable Development Strategy of Belarus, Drainage System Reconstruction Programme, Spatial Planning Policies.		

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

1. Wetland tenure systems and user rights have been considered in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland tenure systems and user rights in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management.]		
In Belarus, the state is the main land owner. Recently however, a considerable portion of wetlands has been		

leased out. When leased out, the rules for reservoir wise use apply.

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

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

Action 2.1.3.- Ensure best practice examples of integration and harmonization of policies and legislation are made available to the Ramsar Bureau and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, so as to contribute to the development of good practice guidance to assist Contracting Parties.

1. Examples of best practice related to the integration and harmonisation of policies and legislation have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau/STRP	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>Since 1983, the use of the Regulations on Water Protection Areas of Small Areas of Belarus has substantially improved the ecological situation of rivers.</p> <p>The Regulations on the Reclamation of Lands Disturbed by Development of Mineral Resources and Peat includes a chapter allowing re-flooding of disturbed mires which is now heavily applied in practice. In particular, the Ministry of Forestry developed a sectoral programme “Programme for Reclamation of Worked-out Peatlands in the Forests of Belarus” in 2002.</p>		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To develop a supra-national policy for the protection and wise use of natural resources within the Dnieper basin.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	Within the framework of the GEF/UNDP Project “Environmental Rehabilitation of the Dnieper”, develop a strategy for the conservation of landscape and biodiversity of the Dnieper basin by ensuring sustainable agriculture, forest and water management.	

	<p>To carry out a review of legislation and institutional procedures related to the protection of biodiversity within the Dnieper basin.</p> <p>To assess agricultural practices in terms of transboundary biodiversity protection in the context of soil conservation and pollution reduction.</p> <p>To analyze forest management and use in the context of conserving biological and landscape diversity within the Dnieper basin.</p> <p>To develop an integrated policy to assess the status of water ecosystems and their biodiversity for the Specially Protected Areas located within the Dnieper basin.</p>
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. The Party is one of the 100 CPs identified by the Ramsar Bureau to initiate and if possible complete by COP9 a comprehensive review of wetland-related legislation and institutions	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. A review of legislation and institutions to promote the wise use of wetlands has been completed	D	
3. Legislation and institutional procedures have been modified to preclude unwise use of wetlands	C	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the review of legislation and institutions and the amendments made to preclude unwise use of wetlands.]</i>		
Within the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project “Environmental Rehabilitation of the Dnieper”, legislation and policies related to the protection of biodiversity within the Dnieper basin is reviewed.		

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

1. Intra- and/or inter-ministerial dialogues have been established	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Intra- and inter-ministerial dialogues have been established to look into complex issues related to wetlands: reconstruction of drainage systems, formulation of new rules to use water resources of the Sporovsky Reserve, Zvanets, discussions of the Dnieper basin conservation strategy.		

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

<i>See action r3.3.iii</i>		
1. Cultural and heritage values related to wetlands have been incorporated into existing heritage protection, legal frameworks and policies	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>

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

Cultural and heritage values of wetlands are incorporated into existing heritage protection, legal frameworks and policies. When taking wetland inventories, newly surveyed cultural and heritage values are included in the site protection list.

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

See action r3.1.i

1. The conservation status of mountain wetlands has been assessed	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. A review of legislation, policies and practices that may be impacting negatively on mountain wetlands has been completed	A	
3. Actions have been taken for stopping and reversing impacts on mountain wetlands	A	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on assessment, reviews and other actions taken in relation to mountain wetlands.]		

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

1. The Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment annexed to Resolution VIII.9 are being applied	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (annex to Resolution VIII.9).]		
The Belarusian laws provide a compulsory environmental impact assessment for any proposed project. A considerable part of EIA recommendations is incorporated into current legislation, however new regulatory acts relating to EIA need to be drafted to take into account the international EIA experience. The Sustainable Development Strategy sets an objective of keying the national environmental impact assessment and review legislation to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context.		
3. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in impact assessment processes	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in impact assessment processes.]		
The Belarusian laws stipulate that the EIA process is to be agreed to by local communities and indigenous peoples on a compulsory basis. Previously, this requirement was followed only formally, but recently local people have become more actively involved in project discussion process, especially projects liable to impact on the ecological character of wetlands, change the groundwater level, damage mires local people depend on for cranberries.		

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

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: SC/Bureau to identify at least 50 Parties to have in place Strategic Environmental Assessment for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands.		
1. The Party has been identified by the Ramsar Bureau as one having in place Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to wetlands	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. A review of policies, programmes, and plans that may impact upon wetlands has been completed	C	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the review of policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands.]</i>		
4. Strategic Environmental Assessment practices have been applied while reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the way Strategic Environmental Assessment practices have been applied while reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands.]</i>		
Most of the national programmes and projects which may impact on wetlands were subjected to the standard EIA procedure.		

Action 2.2.3.- If not yet in place, develop and implement Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation so as to ensure that an EIA is carried out, as appropriate, in wetlands, including Ramsar sites, where adverse impacts may occur due to a proposed development, change in land/water use, invasive species, etc., in line with additional guidance adopted by Resolution VIII.9 and enlisting the collaboration, if required, of the <i>International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA)</i> . Ensure that these impact assessments include full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts.
GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All CPs to have required EIA, as appropriate, for proposed projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands.

1.- Legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applicable to wetlands is in place	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands /Ramsar sites <u>2/2</u>
2.- EIA is carried out for projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	D		
3.- EIAs have included full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts	D		
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include comments on Environmental Impact Assessment implementation at national level.]</i>			
Most of the national programmes and projects which might impact on wetlands are subjected to the standard EIA procedure which includes assessment of social, cultural and economic impacts.			

Action r2.2.vi.- Establish contact with the relevant national contact points from within the networks of the <i>International Association for Impact Assessment</i> with a view to identifying sources of expertise and advice for assisting with wetland-related impact assessment. (Resolution VIII.9)		
1. Experts from the International Association for Impact assessment have been involved in EIA processes in the country	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the involvement of IAIA experts in EIA processes in the country.]*

Action r2.2.vii.- Provide impact assessment materials relevant to wetlands, including case studies indicating lessons learned, guidelines, sources of advice, and other relevant materials, to the Bureau for incorporation into the *IUCN Biodiversity Economics Web site*. (Resolution VIII.9)

1. EIA materials, including case studies, have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau for loading in the EIA-dedicated Web site

C

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on EIA materials.]*

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

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

1. Progress has been made in the development and/or application of methodologies for the valuation of economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands

D

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work on methodologies for economic, social and environmental valuation of wetland benefits and functions

C

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

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on progress made and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]*

Belarus used STRP guidance in developing management plans and planning restoration of degraded peatlands.

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

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

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PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Belarus used STRP guidance in developing management plans and planning restoration of degraded peatlands.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<p>To disseminate information about new wetland wise use methodologies among interested parties.</p> <p>To ensure application of Convention recommendations when preparing SPA management plans.</p> <p>To compile a Management Planning Guidebook in the Russian language following Convention recommendations.</p>	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

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

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

1. Advice, methods and best practice studies on the wise use of wetlands, including the application of the ecosystem approach, have been compiled and distributed to wetland managers	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
A good practice of combating peatland fires through better mire hydrological regime developed and implemented based on the Ramsar site Yelnya is disseminated and successfully utilized by many forestries which contain degraded mires on their territory.		

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

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

1. Ramsar's new management planning guidelines (Resolution VIII.14) have been adapted and incorporated into national practice	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Following the Convention's recommendations, Belarus has prepared and translated into Russian "Management Planning Guidelines". These guidelines are used to make management plans for SPAs.		

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

1. Ramsar guidance on the wise use concept and its application has been made available to appropriate decision-makers, institutions and processes	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Ramsar guidance on the wise use concept is primarily used with regard to Ramsar sites. It is envisaged that the wise use concept be made available to all organizations involved in wetland management.

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

See action r2.2.iii

1. Actions have been taken to improve the awareness and understanding of values and functions of mountain and high altitude wetlands	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2. Information, expertise and experience concerning the study, conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been shared with other interested Parties	A	
3. National, regional or local strategies and plans for the conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been developed	A	
4. Ramsar work on mountain wetlands has been coordinated with other environment-related and mountain-related agreements and institutions	A	
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on information available and strategies developed concerning mountain and high altitude wetlands.]		

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

1. Specific work programmes for the wise use of high Andean wetlands and the basins fed by them have been established	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

1. Information relating to the conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems, especially in relation to the participation of local communities and indigenous people, has been exchanged with other Parties and institutions	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

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

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PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To implement the key provisions of the Convention on the Protection and Wise Use of Peatlands	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To carry out a national inventory of natural and disturbed peatlands. To identify peatlands meeting Ramsar criteria. To prepare a GEF/UNDP project on the environmental rehabilitation of the most important disturbed peatlands.	

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Action r3.2.i.- Establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands and prepare an implementation plan for global action on peatlands. (Resolution VIII.17)

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

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

1. Action has been taken to implement at national level the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)	B	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F = Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The first stage of a peatland inventory which identified the area of natural and disturbed mires by river catchment area and province has been completed. A plan for the second stage of the peatland inventory has been formulated. The National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mires has been drafted. A GEF/UNDP project on rehabilitation of degraded mires has been developed. A book “Environmentally Friendly Use of Forest and Mire Ecosystems: Global Trends and Experience of Belarus” was published in 2003.		

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

1. Funds have been made available at national level for the implementation of the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands	D	<p><i>Choose an answer</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Funds have been made available to finance a medium-term UNDP/GEF Project on restoration of degraded mires “Renaturalization and Sustainable Management of Degraded Peatlands in Belarus to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Mitigate Land Degradation and Conserve Biodiversity”. Project timeframe: 2005-2009.		

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

1. Summary of the status and trends in national peatland resources is available	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Status and trends in national peatland resources [Please include information on the conservation status and trends of peatland resources and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]		
Belarus is a country with a substantial share of peat and non-peat wetlands. In the early 1960s, peatlands covered a total of 2,399,000 ha or 14.2% of the country. The large-scale amelioration campaign carried out over the past decades has resulted in the drainage of some 54% of peatlands. Today, around 1,345,000 ha of peatlands (6.4% of the country's territory) remain intact (Zemlya Belarusi, 2001), compared to 3.4% for the globe on average, but many of these have disturbed hydrological regimes and could benefit from approaches tested through the proposed intervention. Of the 1,594,000 ha of anthropogenically transformed or drained peatlands, about 65% were used in agriculture, 15.6% in forestry, 18.4% for peat extraction (Zemlya Belarusi, 2001, Project Report “First Stage of Wetland Inventory in Belarus”).		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	<p>To assess and document information on wetlands of special significance.</p> <p>To integrate wetland cultural and social values and functions into wetland planning policies.</p> <p>To promote research of wetlands for reasons of flood defense, water supply, etc.</p>	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<p>When carrying out a wetland inventory, load into databases a section on assessment of wetland social and cultural values.</p> <p>To integrate wetland social and cultural values into the project environmental review process.</p> <p>To develop a framework for commercial wetland use based on valuation of water resources.</p> <p>To improve legislation and regulatory framework related to wetland use.</p>	

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

See action 1.1.2

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

I = No answer

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

In Belarus, a special attention is paid to wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply and flood defense. Human security, specifically **flood defense**, remains high on the Government's agenda. Polesian floods are the tragic outcome of unwise physical planning in the past. They render direct physical and psychological damage to people and economy, further aggravate the state of agriculture and present a constant risk of re-suspending the radioactively contaminated sediments. 13 large floods took place on the Pripyat and its tributaries over the last 50 years. The *Belgiprovodkhoz State Amelioration Concern* and the *Ministry of Agriculture* are in charge of development and implementation of the flood defense programmes and strategies. Forecast and warning about floods is the responsibility of the Ministry of Emergencies. The first *Programme of Action for Flood Defense for the Polesie Region* was developed as late as 1977. It was subsequently revised several times. Initially the Programme envisaged construction of full-length ground levees along the river on both banks. More than half of the Pripyat was protected this way. The latest revision of the Programme up to 2015, currently in implementation, uses a modified approach, whereby localized dyking is introduced to protect the more important areas, such as towns and isolated industrial and agricultural areas, which hydrologically proved to make sense.

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

See actions r2.2.ii, 6.1.6

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

D

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

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

F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below);

I = No answer

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

D

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

The principles of identification, protection and wise use of cultural monuments are used in inventory making and management planning with regard to SPAs and Ramsar sites.

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

I = No answer

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

Groundwater protection is high on national agenda. Groundwater resources constitute 15.9 km³ a year, underground water storage – 2.3 km³ a year. A primary goal in the field of water conservation at a national level is to enhance efficiency and improve quality of water resources balanced against public needs and climate change.

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

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

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

Cultural aspects were used in wetland planning and management mainly based on Ramsar sites for which management plans were developed.

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

1. Wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and food and water security plans have been developed	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F = Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

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

See action 20.1.8

1. Research has been promoted on the role of wetlands in any of the following areas: water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, and cultural heritage	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F = Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

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

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

1. Actions have been taken to secure the wise use of temporary pools

A

Choose an answer

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

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3.4. Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties, and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To ensure integration of policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands into agricultural and forestry practices concerning territorial management.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To explore the possibility of creating river basin management bodies and ensure a transition to river basin management of water resources. In the decision-making process related to water resources, use the guiding principles on water distribution to support wetland functioning. To implement legislation on water protection zones	

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

1. The *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) have been used/applied

D

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on application of the Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management.]		
Under the TACIS Programme, a water management plan for the Pripyat was developed (water quality and quantity) wherein integration of the wise use concept into river basin management was ensured. A book “Monitoring, Use and Management of Water Resources of the Pripyat” was published in 2003. Recommendations were developed to create a river basin management framework.		
3. The Party has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the participation in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.]		

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

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

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

1. Wetland values and functions have been taken into account in decision-making on large dams	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Within the framework of the UNDP/GEF Polesie Project, the impact of dams built along the river on floodplain ecosystems is to be assessed and activities to mitigate the adverse impact recommended.		

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

1. Steps have been taken to ensure that dams are not impeding the migration of indigenous fish and other species	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Belarus has no dams limiting the migration access for fish, however dams built in the Ukraine on the Dnieper and a dam on the Neman in Lithuania totally blocked the migration access for a number of fish species.		

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

1. Assessments of environmental flow have been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessments of environmental flow undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams.]			
3.- Centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation have been encouraged (if available, please include number of centres)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [If applicable, please include information on the centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation that have been encouraged.]			

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

1. The <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management</i> (Resolution VIII.4) have been used/applied	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			

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

1. Case studies of good practice examples on the integration of wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			

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

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

1. The <i>Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1)</i> have been used/applied in decision-making related to freshwater	D	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The Guidelines were used when developing water resource management plans in the catchment area of Ramsar sites Sporovskoe and Zvanets to support sustainable functions of mire ecosystems.		

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

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

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

1. Projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands have been developed	B	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant projects.]		
Projects were designed and activities partially implemented to optimize the hydrological regime of Ramsar sites Zvanets, Sporovsky, Elnya.		
3.- Summary on successes achieved and lessons learned in developing this type of projects [Please provide a summary on the relevant projects, successes achieved, and lessons learned in their development.]		
When management plans were being prepared, it was decided that the main threat to Ramsar sites is the disturbed hydrological regime resulting from drainage activities of canals surrounding the Ramsar sites. To mitigate the impact of these canals, a rationale was provided and projects developed to optimize the hydrological regime. The projects suggested that a number of constructions be built to control water flow from mires along drainage canals, as well as new rules for the use of water resources be developed and agreed with wetland users. The implementation of projects should maintain the hydrological regime of the mires at an optimal level. The key lesson learned in developing these projects is that it is possible to reach a compromise even in difficult situations to advocate interests of wetland users and observe Ramsar requirements.		

Action r3.4.x.- Develop mechanisms to better plan and manage for the wise use of water in the Andean region. (Resolution VIII.39)

1. Mechanisms to better plan and manage the wise use of water in the Andean Region have been developed	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

Action r3.4.xi.- Seek to maintain, as far as practicable in countries affected by drought, the continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands, so as to ensure that they can continue to provide their full range of values and functions for people and biological diversity. (Resolution VIII.35)

1. Efforts have been made to maintain continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands in situations of drought	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

Action r3.4.xiv.- Study, from an interdisciplinary point of view and with the participation of civil society, the impact of the use of groundwater on the conservation of the wetlands in those territories where these impacts exist. (Resolution VIII.40)

1. Interdisciplinary studies on the impact of the use of groundwater on the conservation of wetlands have been undertaken	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The impact of the use of groundwater on rivers in the Minsk District was studied.		

Action r3.4.xv.- Promote proposals for the participation of civil society, both public and private, related to the management of groundwater within the framework of integrated management of water resources. (Resolution VIII.40)

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

Action 3.4.9.- Ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the *Kyoto Protocol*, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All relevant CPs to have assessed implications of *Kyoto Protocol* implementation on wetlands (including applying COP8 restoration guidelines).

See action 4.1.4

1. The implications of implementation of the Kyoto Protocol for wetland conservation have been assessed

C

Choose an answer

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

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

Action r3.4.xvi.- Make every effort, when implementing UNFCCC and, where appropriate, its *Kyoto Protocol*, including revegetation and forest management, afforestation and reforestation, that this implementation does not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of their wetlands, using, where appropriate, strategic and other forms of environmental impact assessment and risk assessment, taking account Resolutions VII.10, VII.16 and VIII.9, as well as Article 4.1 of the UNFCCC and Article 2.1 of the Kyoto Protocol, as appropriate. (Resolution VIII.3)

1. Efforts have been made to avoid serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands due to the implementation of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol

C

Choose an answer

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

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

At the moment, Belarus plans to begin the development of a strategy and action plan to combat land degradation to meet its commitments under the Convention to Combat Desertification/Land Degradation which should specify measures to address clashing requirements of different conventions.

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

COP 8 background papers were distributed among institutions and experts involved.

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Belarus developed the Plan for the Wise Use and Protection of Peat Resources stipulating the wise use of peat soils in agriculture and conservation of natural peatlands. A number of projects designed to preclude peatland degradation and restore degraded peatlands was carried out:

A project on restoration of hydrological regime of Yelnya (Ramsar site) – good practice for prevention of peat fires and rehabilitation of disturbed mires of Belarus.

Project “Implementation of Priority Activities of Management Plans to Restore the Hydrological Regime of Key Fen Mires of the Polesie Region”
The GEF/UNDP project on restoration of degraded peatlands has just started.

Action r3.4.xix.- Recognize the important role of mangrove ecosystems in mitigating climate change and sea-level rise, especially in low-lying areas and Small Island Developing States, and plan their management, including required adaptation measures, so as to ensure that mangrove ecosystems may respond to impacts caused by climate change and sea-level rise. (Resolution VIII.32)

1. Management planning measures have been taken to preserve the role of mangrove ecosystems in mitigating climate change and sea-level rise	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

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

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

Studies of the role of Belarusian mires in carbon storage and sequestration were undertaken. CO₂ stored by natural bogs is 414,900 tonnes a year, fen mires – 937,700 tonnes a year. The total CO₂ sink of 1676,500 ha of natural mires is estimated at 1388,600 tonnes a year (Environmentally Friendly Use of Forest and Mire Ecosystems, 2003).

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To identify wetlands that need restoration or rehabilitation. To develop a plan of activities to recover the most important wetlands. To make available to stakeholders recommendations on the restoration of peatlands developed under the GEF/UNDP Project on Renaturalization of Degraded Peatlands. To study and apply modern methodologies.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To develop selection criteria and make a list of disturbed peatlands for priority rehabilitation (under the GEF Project). To prepare engineering projects to restore mires, ensure their endorsement and commence implementation. To develop a programme for restoration of degraded mires of Belarus.	

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Action 4.1.2.- Establish wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, where feasible, at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in those associated with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value, in line with Recommendation 4.1 and Resolutions VII.17 and VII.20.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All CPs with lost or degraded wetlands to have identified priority sites for restoration; restoration projects underway or completed in at least 100 CPs.

Action 4.1.2.- Établir, lorsque c'est possible, des programmes de restauration/remise en état des zones humides détruites ou dégradées, en particulier dans les grands bassins hydrographiques ou les régions très importantes pour la conservation de la nature, conformément à la Recommandation 4.1 et aux Résolutions VII.17 et VII.20.

1. Wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects have been developed	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
UNDP/GEF Project "Renaturalization and Sustainable Management of Degraded Peatlands of Belarus to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Mitigate Soil Degradation and Conserve Biodiversity" developed and launched. The Ministry of Forestry developed a peatland restoration programme targeting peat extraction sites.		

Action r4.1.i.- Report on progress in implementation of Actions 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 in triennial National Reports to the COP (Resolution VIII.16).

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>		
1.- Actions have been taken to restore / rehabilitate those wetlands defined as priority for restoration (if available, please include number of sites)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
In 2005, the GEF/UNDP Project is to begin restoration of 17 degraded peatlands. Also it is planned to recover mire sections with disturbed hydrological regime at Sporovskoe and Osveisky (Ramsar sites). Previously work has been done to restore the hydrological regime at Zvanets and Yelnya (Ramsar sites).		

Action r4.1.ii.- Integrate fully the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* (Resolution VIII.16) into National Wetland Policies and plans, paying particular attention to issues of legislation, impact assessment, incentive measures, and the mitigation of impacts of climate change and sea-level rise. (Resolution VIII.16).

1. The *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* (Resolution VIII.16) have been integrated into the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument(s)

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration were used during the preparatory stage of the UNDP/GEF Project on restoration of degraded peatlands as well as during the development of a strategy for the biodiversity conservation in the Dnieper basin.

Action r4.1.iii.- Pay particular attention to the role of wetland restoration in management at the catchment and river basin level in relation to the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions (Resolution VIII.1), integrating the conservation and wise use of wetlands into river basin management (Resolution VII.18), and transboundary action (Resolution VII.19). (Resolution VIII.16).

1. The role of wetland restoration has been taken into account in river basin management

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Water resource management in Belarus is carried out according to an administrative division of the country. Plans are to switch to river basin management. Several documents and strategies mention the need to restore degraded mires when developing river basin management plans. One of the components of the regional Strategy for the Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Dnieper Basin (GEF/UNDP Project on Dnieper Rehabilitation) specifically deals with the restoration of degraded wetlands within the river basin.

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

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

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

B

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

2. Information on new research and methodologies for wetland restoration/rehabilitation has been compiled and disseminated

F

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

Information about the project aimed at restoring the hydrological regime at Yelnya (Ramsar site) is posted on the website of Wetlands International and was transmitted as case studies for a dedicated publication

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

<i>See action 3.4.9</i>		
1. The <i>Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been used in the assessment of the implications of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol for wetland conservation	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Belarus is not party to the Kyoto Protocol.		

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

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been applied in relation to the provision of compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

<i>See action r3.3.iii</i>		
1. Cultural and archaeological heritage significance of wetlands has been considered in restoration actions	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
When selecting priority sites for renaturalization, the cultural and archaeological significance of the wetlands was assessed.		

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

<i>See action 20.1.5</i>		
1. Training needs in relation to wetland restoration have been assessed	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Training opportunities and expertise in relation to wetland restoration have been identified	E	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on training needs and opportunities in relation to wetland restoration.]		
A training needs in wetland restoration assessment was made during the preparation of the GEF/UNDP Project on Rehabilitation of Degraded Peatlands. During the implementation of the project, a series of workshops is planned for forestry professionals in mire restoration methods and techniques.		
The first international field seminar on mire restoration experience exchange was held in October 2004.		

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

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

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

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> have been disseminated to community stakeholders	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in wetland restoration activities	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the dissemination of the Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration and the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in wetland restoration.]		
A project on fire prevention and a seminar contributed to disseminating experience in peat fire control among most of the Belarusian forestries. A national seminar was followed by regional ones. Peat companies and forestry professionals were involved in activities to prevent peat fires.		

Action r4.1.ix.- Utilise the information and resources of *Ramsar's restoration Web site*, and contribute relevant additional information on wetland restoration projects and experience to this Web site, so as to increase the wide availability of such information, and particularly to provide demonstration projects that illustrate the application of the principles and guidelines adopted by Resolution VIII.16. (Resolution VIII.16)

1. The Ramsar Web site on wetland restoration has been used and materials have been provided to it	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the use of Ramsar web site on wetland restoration and the materials provided to it, if applicable.]		
The Ramsar's restoration Web site was used during the preparation of the GEF/UNDP Project on Degraded Peatlands Restoration. Materials pertaining to the GEF/UNDP Project will be transferred for experience utilisation and dissemination to the Ramsar's Web site.		

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5.1. Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems**[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)[Go to next Operational Objective](#)[- Go to Table of Contents](#)**PLANNING TOOL SECTION**

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To implement the Convention's guidelines to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To study, develop and begin to implement recommendations to reduce the negative impact of invasive and introduced species on indigenous vegetation, flora and fauna. To study the impacts of invasive alien species on national Ramsar sites and develop mitigation recommendations.	

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

1. National policy, strategy and management responses to threats from invasive species have been developed and implemented	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i>
2. Prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species have been fully incorporated in national legislation and national wetland and biodiversity policies, strategies and action plans	D	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i>
3. Actions related to invasive species have been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organizations/processes	D	<i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on incorporation of invasive species matters in national legislation and policies, actions taken, and cooperation in this field.]		
<p>The fauna of Belarus includes 4 invasive species of mammals, 14 invasive fish species, 1 invasive crustacean. Most sensitive was the introduction of the racoon dog (<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>) and American mink (<i>Mustela lutreola</i>). This resulted in extrusion of European mink, competition pressure exerted by the racoon dog on local species such as fougart, marten, badger. Predation activities of the racoon dog and American mink exert significant negative pressure on water birds.</p> <p>The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus contains a section on invasive alien species.</p> <p>A number of invasive species were found harmful in the new hunting regulations and allowed to be hunted all year round with a special license.</p> <p>When reviewing the laws on the use of plants and animals, measures designed to prevent the spread of invasive species are suggested.</p> <p>Some forestries have already begun to destroy American Mink and Raccoon Dog in areas of capercaillie's</p>		

display.

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

1. Risk assessments of alien species that pose a threat to wetlands have been undertaken

B

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

Belarus undertook extensive research to assess risks posed by alien species (American Mink, Raccoon Dog) to indigenous fauna. It has been proved that by affecting the nutritive base invasive species lead to reductions in numbers of most of indigenous species of near-water mammals, wetlands birds and birds of prey. The main results are contained in the books below:

Sidorovich V.E., Polozov A.G., Lauzhel G.O., Krasko D.A. Dietary overlap among generalist carnivores in relation to the impact of the introduced raccoon dog *nyctereutes procyonoides* on native predators in northern Belarus // Z.Sdugetierkunde 2000, 65: 271-285.

Macdonald D.W., Sidorovich V.E., Anisimova E.I., Sidorovich N.V., Johnson P.J. The impact of American mink *Mustela vison* and European mink *M. lutreola* on water voles *Arvicola terrestris* in Belarus//Ecography, 2002, 25:295-302.

Action r5.1.iv.- Identify the presence of invasive alien species in Ramsar sites and other wetlands in the Party's territory, the threats they pose to the ecological character of these wetlands (including the risk of invasions by such species not yet present within each site), and the actions underway or planned for their prevention, eradication or control; for Ramsar sites, report on this to the Ramsar Bureau without delay in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention, so that this information may be included in the *Ramsar Sites Database* (refer also to Operational Objective 11.2); and make information provided by Contracting Parties available to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and others in support of the implementation of the *CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2002-2006*. (Resolution VIII.18)

1.- Problems of invasion by alien species in Ramsar sites have been assessed and communicated to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant Article 3.2 of the Convention (if applicable, please include number of sites)

C

Choose an answer

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

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

F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below);

I = No answer

N° wetlands / Ramsar sites

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the problems of invasion by alien species, sites affected and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

It is necessary to include problems related to alien species into Ramsar site inventories.

Action r5.1.v.- Cooperate fully in the prevention, early warning in transboundary wetlands, eradication and control of invasive species concerning invasive species in shared wetlands, river systems, and coastal/marine zones, including examining carefully, prior to moving water between river basins, the potential environmental impacts due to invasive species, and applying the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Ramsar Handbook 9) in recognition that many aquatic invasive species, both inland and coastal and marine species, can spread rapidly and repeatedly throughout entire wetland ecosystems, river basins and coastal and marine zones, such that eradication in one place may not prove effective at preventing further invasions. (Resolution VIII.18)

1. International cooperation related to invasive species in transboundary/shared wetlands and water systems has been agreed and implemented

F

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

It is planned to develop action on invasive species with regard to transboundary site Kotra-Chepkelyai when preparing a joint Management Plan.

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

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

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

F

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

As part of a MoE's Special Assignment, activities to control and eradicate invasive species are to be developed

Action r5.1.ix.- In the development and implementation of national strategies and responses to invasive alien species, recognize that terrestrial invasions by alien species can threaten and affect the ecological character of wetlands, including through the lowering of water tables and alteration of water flow patterns, and ensure that appropriate measures to prevent or control such invasions are in place. (Resolution VIII.18)

1. The impact on wetlands of terrestrial invasions by alien species has been assessed

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To implement the Ramsar's guidelines on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<p>To incorporate objectives of involving local peoples in the management of wetlands into national strategies to combat desertification, conserve biodiversity, etc.</p> <p>To take into account the experience of wetland use by local people when developing and implementing wetland management plans.</p> <p>To ensure that Ramsar site designation plans, wetland management plans and other projects are agreed to by local authorities.</p> <p>To collect and disseminate good practice related public participation in the</p>	

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

1. The guidance for the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management has been applied

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

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

The Convention's guidelines for strengthening indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands were followed in the development and implementation of management plans for three Ramsar sites (Sporovsky, Zvanets, Yelnya). Local people were involved at all planning and management stages. During the implementation of management plans, people from local villages were involved in construction efforts and reserve management, so that they could yield economic benefits.

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

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

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

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

A traditional wetland management practice is annual burning of old vegetation on fen mires which supports sustainable functions of fen mire ecosystems and prevents overgrowth of sedge mires with reed and shrub.

The awareness of local people is raised about possible harm of vegetation burning and the need to undertake this action under certain conditions and at a certain time.

Traditional local knowledge of dam building was applied to construct dams in areas inaccessible for transport.

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

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

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

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

All technical projects relating to wetlands are agreed with local people, necessary changes are made in case of disagreement.

3.- Local stakeholders have been involved in the selection of new Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites)

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites**

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the participation of local stakeholders in Ramsar site selection, the sites involved (if applicable), and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]

At the moment Belarus is developing a regulatory act which stipulates compulsory approval of NGOs and local people in case of protected area designation, reorganization and elimination, including Ramsar sites.

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

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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

3. The Party has contributed with case studies and other materials to the elaboration of further guidance on the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management

C

Choose an answer

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

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution to the elaboration of the guidance indicated above.]

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

1. Participatory Environmental Management strategies have been applied

Choose an answer

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

2.- Summary on progress and successes in relation to Participatory Environmental Management strategies [Please provide here a summary on progress and successes and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

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

See action r3.3.iii

1. The guiding principles on cultural values (Resolution VIII.19) have been used or applied	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guiding Principles on cultural values.]		
During the preparation of management plans and ecotourism development assessment, architectural and cultural values of Ramsar sites were studied. This assessment contributed to developing tourist routes and tourism in general in Sporovsky (Ramsar site).		
3. Resource information and case studies on cultural aspects of wetlands have been compiled	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the resource information compiled.]		
Belarus compiled a catalogue of cultural monuments which includes cultural values of Ramsar sites and other wetlands.		

Action r6.1.v.- Establish appropriate consultation mechanisms at regional or national levels, in order to consider how the list of Guiding Principles included in the Annex to Resolution VIII.19 might be applied in developing and promoting cultural values of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.19)

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

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

1. Cultural values of wetlands are being used to improve local stakeholders' involvement in wetland planning and management	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
During the preparation of management plans and ecotourism development assessment, architectural and cultural values of Ramsar sites were studied. This assessment contributed to developing tourist routes and tourism in general in Sporovsky (Ramsar site).		

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

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

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

1. The ancestral practices of indigenous people in the Andean region that are compatible with environment protection have been retrieved, assessed, and documented	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

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

1.- Cultural values of wetlands have been incorporated into the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites ?/2
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the incorporation of cultural values into management planning, sites involved, and other comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
Cultural values of wetlands have been incorporated into the management planning of Sporovsky, Zvanets (Ramsar sites).			

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

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

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PRIORITY:	C	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To ensure private sector involvement in the wise use of wetlands.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To replicate the relevant experience to other wetlands. To submit the most important projects related to wetlands to the National Wetland Committee for discussion. To ensure the representation of the National Academy of Sciences in the Committee and invite the private sector and NGOs to Committee meetings. To inform organizations and the private sector about the rules of trade in plant and animal products and applicable legislative, institutional and administrative measures on sustainable harvesting of wetland products in line with the CITES.	

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

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

The private sector is underdeveloped in Belarus. All the land, including wetlands, are in ownership of the state. Recently however, many wetlands have been leased out or transferred into temporary use of the private sector. To take one example, tenants of the Lebyazhiy Reserve financed the management planning of this wetland. Management plans of sites being leased out have to be agreed by the Ministry of Environment to ensure that the wise use principle is fully and properly observed. However, there are cases of unsustainable use of wetlands, especially in relation to fish stock during tenancy of lakes and other reservoirs.

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

1. The private sector, academia and specialized institutions have been brought into decision-making related to wetlands	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

The National Science Academy is involved in the National Ramsar Committee. The Committee plans to invite the private sector and NGOs to its meetings if the subject-matter is of interest for or affects them.

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

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

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

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

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the measures taken to ensure sustainable harvesting and trade of wetland products.]

Organizations and private sector are informed about the rules of trade in plant and animal products and applicable legislative, institutional and administrative measures to ensure that harvesting is sustainable and in accordance with the CITES.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8. INCENTIVES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	C	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	D	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To explore opportunities for incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use principle and the removal of perverse incentives.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	The National Ramsar Committee is to discuss an action plan on incentive measures for wise use of agricultural land and mitigation of agricultural impacts on wetlands. To study and apply the IUCN incentive experience. To assign the Ramsar Committee to consider this issue and propose action.	

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

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

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

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

1. Agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular have been identified	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;
2. Actions have been taken to remove or replace agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular	D	H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on agriculture subsidies and incentives and their impacts on water resources and wetlands.]		
<p><u>Agricultural production</u> still plays the key role in the region's economic development. However, arable agricultural activities continue on drained lands with ever-declining efficiency. This is true for crop production, which is a dominant agricultural activity, represented mainly by grain production and grass seeding on drained peatlands. The level of mineralization of drained peatlands grows every year resulting in drastically declining soil fertility. An ever-growing area of lands is being annually withdrawn from agriculture. This has recently become a large problem for the region.</p> <p><i>The State Program on Inventory of Drained Areas of Belarus</i> was carried out in 1996-1999 with the purpose of assessing the state of drained agricultural lands and providing recommendations for their subsequent use. The Program found that out of the 3.05 million ha of drained areas, about 760,000 ha could no longer continue to be exploited as usual. Their drainage networks are extremely dilapidated, so decisions need to be made regarding introduction of a different agricultural or non-agricultural use.</p> <p>The Program <i>Measures on Effective Sustainable Agriculture in selected districts in Belarus</i> adopted by the Council of Ministers' Decree #79 dated 20 January 2000 builds on the outcomes of the inventory. The Program seeks to divide lands into various categories based on their conditions, and develops specific recommendations and a work program for each category.</p> <p>As part of the National Programme "2000-2005 Conservation and Use of Drained Land" and a follow-up programme up to 2010, and "Rural Recovery and Development Programme for 2005–2010", land optimization is envisaged with the subsequent withdrawal of land below 22 grades out of use. These programmes only include the reconstruction of existing drainage networks, not the drainage of new areas.</p>		

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

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

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

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

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

PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	Develop a plan to integrate CEPA processes into all levels of policy development, planning and implementation of the Convention.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	CEPA sections should be an integral part of all wetland-related programmes and projects.	

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

1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into sectoral policies, strategies, plans and programmes	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
CEPA principles are incorporated into policies, programmes and projects related to wetlands. Some of them are the 2001-2005 National Programme of the Wise Use of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, UNDP/GEF Programme on Dnieper's Environmental Rehabilitation, TACIS Project on Water Management Planning of the Dnieper Basin; Management Planning of Key Fen Mires of the Polesie Region, etc.		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To review CEPA-related projects and programmes.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To submit case studies to the Convention's Secretariat	

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

1. Pilot projects have been developed to evaluate different approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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³ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

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

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

1. A review of existing CEPA programmes has been completed	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Lessons learnt in implementing CEPA programmes have been documented	D	

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on implementation of CEPA programmes and information available.]*

CEPA report was prepared during the preparation and implementation of Management Plans of Ramsar Sites Zvanets and Sporovsky.

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

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

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PRIORITY:	B	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To support CEPA activities to promote the wise use of wetlands	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To appoint CEPA focal points and ensure resources to support various activities	

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

1. A National Government Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. A National NGO Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed	B	

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include information about Government CEPA and NGO CEPA Focal Points].*

National government and non-government Focal Points for wetland CEPA were appointed in 2004.

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

⁴ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

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

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

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

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

1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into the business of sectoral policy and planning committees	D	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>“Environmentally Friendly Use of Forest and Mire Ecosystems: Global Trends and National Experience” was published as a tool to promote the conservation and wise use of forests and mires. Several posters on wetland and Ramsar sites wise use were printed.</p>		

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

1. Actions have been taken in relation to communication and information-sharing on wetland issues between relevant ministries, departments and agencies	D	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>There are communication systems in place between ministries and other institutions to discuss projects and programmes related to wetlands. The Ministry of Environment held meetings with Ramsar Site managers to discuss the need to ensure that forestry, agricultural and water practices are sustainable. New rules of the wise use of water resources in Sporovsky (Ramsar site) were discussed.</p>		

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

1. Actions have been taken to encourage synergies on CEPA activities among international conventions and programmes	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Within the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project “National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management in Belarus”, national capacity and needs reviews were made to better implement the Convention on Biodiversity, Convention to Combat Desertification and UNFCCC. CEPA programme is covered by separate chapters in these reviews. A book “Global Conservation Conventions: Implementation Experience in Belarus” was published, with a chapter devoted to the Ramsar Convention.		

Action r9.iii.vii.- Establish and maintain an on-line searchable listing of expertise in CEPA and of the CEPA Focal Points, one which can be accessed to assist CEPA activities at national and international levels, and promote this service to assist CEPA programmes and activities.

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

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

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

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PRIORITY:	B	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To ensure information sharing on the wise use of wetlands	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To produce and distribute on a regular basis resource materials that promote the wise use of wetlands	

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

1. Materials to support wetland CEPA have been produced and distributed	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Special TV advertising and films proved to be the most efficient vehicle for the promotion of wetland		

⁵ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

significance and wise use principle. A colorful book “Treasures of the Belarusian Nature” describing all the Ramsar sites and IBAs of Belarus was of great importance. Also a great number of posters and a CD containing information on Ramsar sites were produced.

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

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

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

<p>1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are part of the Wetland Link International Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p>N° centres</p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are part of the Wetland Link International Programme, and any other comments you consider relevant.]</p>			

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

<p>1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are twinned with similar facilities in other countries (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p>N° centres</p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are twinned with similar ones in other countries, and further comments you consider relevant.]</p>			

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	C	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To review the current national needs and capacities in the area of wetland CEPA to promote wetland wise use	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To assess the national CEPA capacities to implement the conservation conventions. To identify CEPA funding sources by integrating CEPA objectives in all conservation projects. To include the CEPA programme in national educational programmes	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. A review of needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA has been completed

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Within the framework of the UNDP/GEF Project “National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management in Belarus”, the current national capacities and needs were reviewed to successfully implement the Convention on Biodiversity Conservation, Convention to Combat Desertification and UNFCCC. CEPA programme is covered by separate chapters in these reviews.

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Within the framework of implementing the Management Plans of Ramsar Sites, RSPB experts arrange regular training for local Ramsar Site managers to apply wetland CEPA.

⁶ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

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

1. Resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA have been sought	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. Progress in obtaining resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA has been made	C	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the activities for resourcing capacity building in wetland CEPA.]		

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

1. A review of formal educational curricula in relation to wetland services and wise use has been carried out	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. Changes in the formal educational curricula to incorporate wetland-related issues have been effected	C	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland services and wise use in the formal educational curricula.]		

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

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

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PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To develop a plan of national campaigns and programmes to raise community awareness on wetland significance	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To produce a promo for the national television about wetland importance, launch several awareness raising campaigns.	

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Action r9.vi.i.- Undertake national campaigns, programmes or projects to raise awareness, build community support, and promote stewardship approaches and attitudes towards wetlands.

1. National campaigns, programmes or projects to increase awareness on wetland issues have been launched	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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⁷ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

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

The national television daily runs a couple of promos on wetland importance; the first national wetlands bird watching competition has been held; photoexhibitions arranged in different towns of Belarus.

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

1. World Wetlands Day activities have been carried out

B

Choose an answer

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

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

A press conference was held; a dedicated photoexhibition and national children's drawing contest dedicated to wetlands are planned.

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

The national television daily runs a couple of promos on wetland importance; there are also regular radio messages.

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites
2**

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

Zvanets and Sporovsky Ramsar Sites are used as demonstration sites for the wise use principle. Every project undertaken in these sites is covered by TV, radio and the press. These sites are widely used to facilitate the involvement of children and youth in the conservation process and CEPA promotion.

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

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

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

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PRIORITY:	C	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	C	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To ensure that CEPA work plans are incorporated into Ramsar Site Management Plans.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To develop a management plan manual.	

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

1. CEPA expertise has been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management tools	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Belarus does not use the river basin management system.		

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

1.- CEPA strategies and actions have been incorporated into the management plans of Ramsar sites (if available, please include number of sites)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 3/2
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the actions taken, the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
CEPA strategy and action plan became a component of the Management Plans of Ramsar Sites Zvanets, Sporovsky and Dikoe Mire.			

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

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

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PRIORITY:	B	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	D	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To incorporate into the GEF/UNDP Polesie Project an objective to establish education centres at Mid-Prpyat and Sporovsky Ramsar sites.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To identify activities and required funding.	

⁹ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

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Action r9.viii.i.- Seek to establish education centres at Ramsar and other wetland sites to provide focal points for local and national CEPA activities.

1.- Education centres have been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of centres and sites)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<u>N° centres</u> <u>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</u>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the centres established and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
3.- Additional education centres are planned for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of centres and sites)	F	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<u>N° centres</u> <u>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</u> <u>0\2</u>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the centres planned and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
The GEF/UNDP Polesie Project is expected to establish education centres at Mid-Pripyat and Sporovsky Ramsar sites as one of the subobjectives.			

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

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

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

1.- Places of learning, education and training (museums, zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens, etc.) are involved in national CEPA efforts and activities (if available, please include number of facilities)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	<u>N° facilities</u>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the facilities involved in national CEPA efforts and activities, and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]			

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To ensure the application of the Convention's guidelines for expansion of the list of Ramsar sites	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To make and approve a list of potential Ramsar sites and a shadow list of potential sites that need additional research. To give priority to peatlands, floodplain meadows, wetlands that support globally endangered species when selecting and designating Ramsar sites. To consider designating the following transboundary Ramsar sites (Kotra-Chepkelyay, Lithuania; Prostyr-Pripyat-Stokhod, Ukraine).	

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

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

1. A strategy and priorities have been established for further designation of Ramsar sites, in application of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
By mid-2005, an inventory of the transboundary Ramsar site Prostyr is to be completed and communicated to the Ramsar Bureau.		

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

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

Research was undertaken and a list of 11 potential Ramsar sites was prepared.

Action r10.1.ii.- Use the appropriate 1% thresholds contained in *Waterbird Population Estimates 3rd Edition* in identifying and designating *Wetlands of International Importance* under Criterion 6 of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VIII.11). (Resolution VIII.38)

1.- The appropriate 1% thresholds contained in *Waterbird Population Estimates 3rd Edition* have been used in identifying and designating Ramsar sites under Criterion 6 (*if applicable, please include number of sites designated under Criterion 6*)

B

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites
3**

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

In line with the appropriate 1% threshold, 3 Ramsar sites were designated: Mid-Pripyat (6 species), Zvanets (1 species) and Sporovsky (1 species).

Action 10.1.2.- In undertaking Action 10.1.1, give priority attention to the designation sites for each representative, rare or unique wetland types present in the territory of a Contracting Party, as well as to wetland types currently under-represented in the Ramsar List, including, inter alia, karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, salt marshes, tidal flats, peatlands, wet grasslands, temporary pools, arid-zone wetlands and mountain wetlands (Resolution VIII.12), and in so doing apply the guidelines so far approved by the COP to assist in the designation of some of these wetland types (Resolutions VIII.11 and VIII.33), and report on progress to COP9.

See action 1.1.2

1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of representative, rare or unique wetland types present in the territory has been done (*if applicable, please include number of sites designated*).

B

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites
4**

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

Four Ramsar sites are rare wetland types: floodplain meadows, open fen mires, floodplain forest.

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

B

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites
2**

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

Zvanets and Sporovsky (Ramsar sites) are representative mesotrophic fen mires under-represented in the Ramsar List.

Action 10.1.3.- Give priority to the designation of coastal and marine Ramsar sites, as a contribution to the WSSD target of establishing representative networks of marine protected areas by 2012.¹⁰

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

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>			
1.- Designation of coastal and marine Ramsar sites has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			

Action 10.1.4.- In addition to the priority established in 10.1.2, also assign priority to the designation as Ramsar sites of wetlands hosting globally threatened species and species that are unique or endemic to the territory of a Contracting Party or for which the territory supports a significant proportion of the global extent of the species.

<i>See action 1.1.2</i>			
1.- Designation of Ramsar sites supporting globally threatened species and species that are unique or endemic, or for which the territory supports a significant proportion of the global extent of the species, has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 4
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
4 Ramsar sites support a significant proportion of the global extent of globally endangered wetlands birds. Zvanets and Sporovsky support more than 40 percent of the global population of the globally endangered Aquatic Warbler.			

Action r10.1.iv.- Collaborate in the identification and designation as Ramsar sites of national and international site networks for migratory species, including migratory waterbirds, as a contribution to other initiatives under related international and regional environmental conventions and programmes, including, *inter alia*, the *Convention on Migratory Species* and its Agreements such as the *African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA)*, and other existing arrangements such as the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan*, the *Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network*, and the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy*. (Resolution VIII.10)

<i>See action 12.2.2</i>			
1.- Designation of Ramsar sites that form part of networks for migratory species has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 3
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
Three Ramsar sites Mid-Pripyat, Osveya and Yelnya are stopover points of international importance for migratory birds.			

Action 10.1.5.- Designate, as a priority, those eligible sites that are not under any form of protective or sustainable use management regime, including those utilised for agriculture, as the basis for accelerating the establishment of such regimes, and ensure that this is done soon after designation.

1.- Designation of Ramsar sites that are not under any form of protective or sustainable use management regime, including those utilised for agriculture, has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			

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

1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of the national area of transboundary wetlands has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 1
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
One transboundary Ramsar site was designated between Belarus and Lithuania – Kotra-Chepkelyai.			

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

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

Action r10.1.xi.- Develop, for consideration by COP9, additional Criteria and guidelines for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites concerning their socio-economic and cultural values and functions that are relevant to biological diversity, as listed in Annex 1 of the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, which would be applied on each occasion in conjunction with one or more existing Criteria for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites; and include in this work a full analysis of the implications for Contracting Parties of the implementation of such Criteria for the management of Ramsar sites, including Contracting Party obligations and responsibilities for maintaining the ecological character of any sites so selected in order to ensure that the coherent national networks of Ramsar sites fully incorporate all relevant aspects of the biological diversity of wetlands. (Resolution VIII10)

1. The Party has contributed to the elaboration of additional Criteria and guidelines concerning socio-economic and cultural values and functions that are relevant to biological diversity	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

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

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

1. Contributions have been made to the updating of the 1% thresholds for waterbird populations

B

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contributions made.]

Belarusian ornithologists updated populations information on birds of Belarus, which were included in “The Birds of Europe-2004” and used to calculate the 1% thresholds.

3. Populations information for wetland-dependent taxa other than waterbirds have been provided to Wetlands International

B

Choose an answer

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

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information provided.]

Populations information was provided to BirdLife International at their request as a contribution to “The Birds of Belarus-2004”.

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

1. Population data on waterbirds is collected regularly

D

Choose an answer for each indicator

2. The population data on waterbirds collected has been regularly provided to Wetlands International

D

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

3. The population data on waterbirds collected and supplied to WI included information on globally threatened species and species with deficient data

B

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

Population data on selected wetlands birds and three globally endangered species is collected with the financial support of BirdLife International, OMPO and is regularly communicated to these organizations.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To ensure that descriptions of Ramsar sites are in full compliance with the Convention's guidelines set forth in the Updated Handbook.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 10.2.2.- Ensure that the social and cultural values and features of listed sites are fully recognized in the descriptions of Ramsar sites in the *Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*, as the basis for their incorporation in site management planning.

1. Special care has been taken to include the social and cultural values and features in the 'Information Sheets on Ramsar Wetlands' submitted for inclusion in the Ramsar Database	B	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
All RIS include information on the social and cultural values		

Action 10.2.3.- Submit missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of listed sites as a matter of utmost urgency, and also ensure that all previously submitted site descriptions are in the format of the approved *Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*.

1. All missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of Ramsar sites have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau	B	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
All RIS contain site maps.		

Action 10.2.4.- Fully update and submit revised *Ramsar Information Sheets* as frequently as necessary to record changes in the status of sites, and at least at intervals of not more than six years, so that they can be used for reviewing change in ecological character and progress in achieving the Vision and Objectives of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Handbook 7) at each COP.

1. All required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau	B	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
No more than 5 years passed since site description		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To define and apply the measures to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites, especially those that need urgent interventions. To ensure that by 2005 management plans for three Ramsar sites are developed and launched.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To develop and implement Management Plans for Zvanets and Sporovsky (Ramsar Sites). To define and implement urgent measures to prevent fire at the Yelnya Mire. To raise funds to support the management planning of Mid-Pripyat (Ramsar Site).	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1.- The measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been defined and applied (if available, please include number of sites where measures have been applied).	D	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F = Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° Ramsar sites 3
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of sites involved and any additional comments on the implementation of this action that you consider relevant.]			
As part of the management planning, measures designed to maintain the ecological character of Zvanets and Sporovsky (Ramsar Sites) were developed and partially carried out. With regard to Yelnya, a special hydrological regime restoration project was developed and implemented.			

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

1. The New Guidelines for management planning have been used in the development of management plans or strategies	B	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F = Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the way the guidelines have been used.]			
New Guidelines were applied in developing Management Plans for two sites.			
MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES			N° Ramsar sites
3.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place			2
4.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place and being fully applied			
5.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being prepared			3

MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES	N° Ramsar sites
6.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being revised or updated	
7.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites whose management plans fall under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>	
Management plans for Zvanets and Sporovsky (Ramsar Sites) are in place and partially implemented. With regard to Yelnya, a hydrological regime restoration project was developed and implemented.	

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

MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES (CONT.)	N° Ramsar sites
1.- Ramsar sites in which management plans developed under other processes (e.g., Biosphere Reserves) are being applied	0
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites under this category, and any other comments you consider relevant.]</i>	

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

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

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

1. All stakeholders have been fully involved in the management planning processes	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Local authorities and people have been fully involved in the management planning process of Ramsar sites.		

Action r11.1.iv.- Take into account, when planning the management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, the wider management implications of activities within river basins and other catchments, which duly acknowledge the need for appropriate implementation of agricultural practices (Resolution VIII.34), applying Resolution VII.18 on *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Ramsar Handbook no. 4), and the guidance adopted by COP8 on integrated coastal zone management (Resolution VIII.4) and on the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1). (Resolution VIII.14)

1. The wider management implications (e.g., agricultural practices, river basin management, coastal zone management) have been taken into account in preparing the management plans for Ramsar sites

B

Choose an answer

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

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

In preparing projects for optimization of the hydrological regime, the river basin principle was applied with calculations of water consumption by different wetland users, as well as regional land and forest use plans.

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

1.- Measures to maintain ecological character have been incorporated into the site management plans (if available, please include number of sites)

B

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites
3**

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

Measures to maintain the mire ecosystem in optimal condition through the restoration of natural hydrological regime were developed and implemented.

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

1. The need to increase wetland resilience to climate change and extreme climatic events has been taken into account in management planning

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

1. Waterbird data and analysis derived from them have been used in management planning

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Detailed research into the globally endangered Aquatic Warbler and population factors provided a basis for

recommendations contained in the Management Plans for key fen mires of the Polesie Region – Zvanets, Sporovskoe and Dikoe.

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

1. Assistance has been provided to the Ramsar Bureau in the identification of agriculture-related management practices developed for areas that include Ramsar sites

C

Choose an answer

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

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

Ramsar sites in Belarus do not include a lot of agricultural land.

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

1.- Best-practice examples of effective management of Ramsar sites have been identified for possible nomination to the San José Record (if applicable, please include number of sites)

C

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites**

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites identified and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Belarus does not have Ramsar sites listed on the Montreux Record.

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

1.- Zoning measures have been established for larger Ramsar sites (if available, please include number of sites)

C

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites**

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with zoning measures, and additional comments you consider relevant.]

All Ramsar sites are reserves to which, under the national laws, zoning measures cannot be applied.

3.- Strict protection measures have been established for Ramsar sites of small size and/or particular sensitivity (if available, please include number of sites)

C

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites**

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with strict protection measures, and any additional comments you may consider relevant.]

All Ramsar sites in Belarus are large SPAs.

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

			N° Ramsar sites
1.- Site management committees have been established at Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<u>1</u>
2.- Cross-sectoral site management committees established at Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	B		<u>1</u>
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites with management committees under each category, and additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
Various local organizations regularly meet to agree management activities for the Ramsar site Sporovsky.			

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

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

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

1. Project proposals to support management planning of Ramsar sites have been submitted to the Small Grants Fund	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Project proposal “Restoration of the Ecosystem of the Ramsar Site Osveysky” was submitted to the Small Grants Fund in 2004.		

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

1.- Article 2.5 of the Convention has been invoked to reduce the area of Ramsar sites and/or to delete sites from the List, and Article 4.2 (compensation) has been applied <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>			

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To establish effective monitoring of the most important Ramsar sites	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To integrate Ramsar sites into the national biodiversity monitoring network To design programmes to monitor water level, vegetation, bird species population and composition at Zvanets and Sporovsky Ramsar sites To notify the Ramsar Bureau of any changes to the ecological character of Ramsar sites.	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

			N°Ramsar sites
1.- Monitoring programmes have been established at Ramsar sites (if available, please include number of sites)	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	5
2.- Monitoring programmes are part of the site management plan (if available, please include number of sites)	B		2
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites falling under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant about monitoring programmes.]			
Certain types of monitoring are regularly undertaken at 5 sites (water level and quality, numbers of bird species). Regular and integrated site monitoring is undertaken as part of the implementation of the Management Plans of two Ramsar sites Zvanets and Sporovsky.			

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

1.- Ramsar sites are used as baseline and reference areas for national environmental monitoring (if applicable, please include number of sites)	D	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° Ramsar sites 3
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and any additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
Monitoring stations at three sites (Mid-Pripyat, Zvanets, Sporovsky) are included in the national monitoring system.			
3.- Status and trends on the loss of biological diversity, climate change and the process of			

desertification *[Please include a summary of the cited issues and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]*

Environmental monitoring at Ramsar sites has not been carried out for a long time. Over this period, no loss of biological diversity, climate change and land degradation was detected at these sites.

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

See action 2.2.3

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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

All Ramsar sites are IBAs, for which IBA officers were appointed from among local people. When a problem occurs, an IBA officer communicates it to the BirdLife Belarus Secretariat which decides on adequate response. For Ramsar sites with a management structure, a director is responsible for the current condition of a site.

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

1.- Changes or likely changes (both positive and negative) in ecological character at Ramsar sites have occurred or may occur (Art. 3.2) *(if applicable, please include number of sites)*

B

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites
4**

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

B

3.- Ramsar sites were included in the Montreux Record since COP8 *(if applicable, please include number of sites)*

C

**N°
Ramsar
sites**

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include information on the changes or likely changes in ecological character, and list the sites affected.]*

Owing to the implementation of management plans, the ecological situation has improved at three sites. One of the Ramsar sites – Osveya displayed the deterioration of the ecological situation: a water level in the lake

dropped due to the poor condition of water control facilities.

5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the steps followed to include sites in the Montreux Record since COP8.]

Ramsar sites were included in the Montreux Record

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

1. Actions have been taken to address the problems that have originated a report to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2

C

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the actions taken.]

Belarus does not have Ramsar sites with major negative changes in ecological character, for which special reports on the status and trends are required.

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

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

1.- Ramsar Advisory Missions have been requested to review the problems at Ramsar sites included in the Montreux Record, if any (if applicable, please include number of sites)

A

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites**

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

Belarus does not have Ramsar sites with major negative changes in ecological character, for which a Ramsar Advisory Mission can be requested. Local problems of Ramsar sites are addressed at the regional and national levels.

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

(For CPs with sites in Montreux Record and RAMs made)

**N°Ramsar
sites**

1.- Actions have been taken to implement the recommendations of Ramsar Advisory Missions (if applicable, please include number of sites)

A

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

2.- Actions have been taken to address the issues for which the site(s) was/were listed in the Montreux Record (if applicable, please include number of sites)

A

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, comments on RAM missions, results of the actions taken, including possible removal of sites from Montreux Record.]

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

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

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To undertake an inventory of transboundary wetlands, identify management needs. As part of the GEF/UNDP Project on the Ecological Rehabilitation of the Dnieper, to establish a tripartite Board on Dnieper Basin.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To complete an inventory of wetlands shared with Lithuania, develop a plan to promote co-operation in their management.	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1.- All transboundary/shared wetland systems have been identified (<i>if applicable, please include number of sites</i>)	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands/ wetland systems 7
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [<i>Please list the transboundary wetlands identified and provide any other additional comments you consider relevant.</i>]			
An inventory of the most important wetlands was completed on the Belarus/Lithuania border. 7			

transboundary sites were identified and described. Materials and recommendations were provided to the relevant ministries to ensure protection of these wetlands.

Potential transboundary sites of Belarus and Ukraine are identified, inventory planning effected.

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

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

1. Cooperative management of shared wetland systems has progressed

D

Choose an answer

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

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

As part of the GEF/UNDP Project on the Ecological Rehabilitation of the Dnieper, the International Board on Dnieper Basin was created. It includes representatives of three countries: Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

Action r12.1.i.- Cooperatively apply the *Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands* (Resolution VIII.1) within the context of the management of water allocations in shared hydrological systems, making use of the *Ramsar Guidelines for international cooperation under the Convention* (Resolution VII.19).

1. The guidelines for allocation and management of water have been applied in the context of shared water systems

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Allocation of transboundary water between Belarus and Ukraine is addressed at regular meetings. More specifically, they are discussing water re-distribution in the Pripjat upstream to ensure that Ramsar sites of Ukraine Pripjat-Stokhod and of Belarus Zvanets maintain their ecological functions and the Dnieper-Boug Canal is navigable.

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

See action 2.2.3

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Joint impact assessment processes were initiated by and carried out with the involvement of NGOs in the Pripjat upstream (Belarus-Ukraine). There is lack of cooperation in this area between authorities of Belarus and Lithuania with regard to the construction of a hydroelectric plant on the Neman.

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

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

1. Actions have been taken to ensure accessibility of information, analysis, good practice examples, etc., on integrating wetlands and biodiversity issues into river basin management	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	When identifying Ramsar sites, give priority to sites that are of special importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, especially those that are globally endangered. To explore opportunities of Belarus' engagement in creating regional networks to conserve migratory species.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	When identifying sites, pay special attention to Criteria 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. To support the initiative to sign the International Memorandum on the Conservation of Aquatic Warbler. Before 2005, introduce changes to the National Hunting Regulations to satisfy the wise use concept and delete from the hunting list globally endangered species and European declining species	

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

1.- Wetlands which satisfy Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species have been designated as Ramsar sites <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites designated)</i>	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 6
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>			
6 out of 7 Ramsar sites support large populations of migratory waterbirds, including the globally endangered Aquatic Warbler, Great Snipe, Bittern, etc.			

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

<i>See action r10.1.iv</i>		
1. New regional site networks and initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species have been developed	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Belarus created a network of 50 IBAs that are of special importance for migratory waterbirds.		

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

1. National hunting legislation is consistent with wise use principle for wetland-dependent species, including waterbirds	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Proposals were made to delete globally endangered species and European declining species from the hunting list of the National Hunting Regulations. At the moment, the National Hunting Regulations and the Hunting Species List are under discussion. Unfortunately, the national legislation does not forbid to hunt migratory species in spring so far.		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	C	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To discuss creating a regional initiative on the Dnieper basin with stakeholders.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Party has been involved in the development of a regional initiative in the framework of the Convention	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Ministers of Environment of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine signed a tripartite declaration on cooperation in the field of ecological rehabilitation of the Dnieper basin at the Fifth Pan-European Conference of Environment		

Ministers. The declaration was initiated by the GEF/UNDP Dnieper Project.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	<p>To continue strengthening cooperation with Conventions on Biodiversity and Desertification.</p> <p>To develop rapport with the MAB to implement different projects related to wetlands of international importance.</p>	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<p>When preparing National Work Plans in fulfillment of international conventions, conduct joint meetings of the National Committees to agree similar activities and projects.</p> <p>Make sure that protection of wetlands of international importance is harmonized with the UNESCO project on building the Polesie ecological network.</p>	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

See action 18.1.1

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Mechanisms for collaboration between the focal points of MEAs are in place. But there is still no centre to support environmental conventions which would foster synergies and harmonization when planning and implementing conservation activities.

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

<i>See action 18.1.2</i>		
1. Amongst other efforts to increase collaboration at the national level between the institutions and focal points responsible for the implementation of MEAs, focal points of other MEAs have been encouraged to participate in the National Ramsar / Wetland Committee	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the MEAs whose focal points participate in the Ramsar Committee and additional comments you consider relevant.]		
Most of the focal points of different conventions are members of the National Ramsar Committee.		

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

1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the National Committees and contacts of UNESCO MAB Programme	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the relevant mechanisms.]		
The Focal Point of the Ramsar Convention and the MAB representative keep in touch on a regular basis. A project to build the Polesie eco-network is being developed jointly.		

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

1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of the applicable regional seas conventions	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the relevant mechanisms.]		

Action 13.1.5.- Develop closer working relationships with appropriate regional bodies or programmes which have an interest in wetland conservation and wise use, including the *Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)*, the *Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)*, the *European Union (EU)*, the *Council of Europe*, the *Southern African Development Community (SADC)*, the *African Union (AU)*, and the *Organization of American States (OAS)*.

1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and regional bodies or programmes which have interest in wetland conservation and wise use	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the mechanisms in place.]		

Action 13.1.6.- Support and contribute to the development and implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement Africa's Wetland Management Strategy under the Environmental Initiative of NEPAD, *the New Partnership for Africa's Development*.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: NEPAD's Action Plan to have fully incorporated Ramsar issues and mechanisms, and being implemented by relevant CPs, in lines with WSSD targets.

1. The Party has participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD

A

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

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

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

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

1. The Party has participated in wetland-related activities within the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

A

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

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

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

1. The Party has participated in the implementation of the Ramsar/SPREP Joint Work Plan

A

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

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

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

1. The Party has made use of the UNEP guidelines in relation to Ramsar

F

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14.1. Promote the sharing of expertise and information

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To ensure sharing of expertise and information in wetland conservation methods and technologies	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To include in the national CEPA Focal Point ToR an item on sharing of information on recently derived methods of wetland conservation. To identify training needs and potential experts that need such training. To consider setting in place a mechanism of shared knowledge on wetland management using the example of the Kotra-Chepkelyai transboundary site.	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Actions have been taken to share knowledge at the global and/or regional and/or national level	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The sharing of methods and information in the field of wetland conservation and restoration is continual. In particular, RSPB transfers its wetland management expertise to national experts. In turn, Belarus transfers its expertise in peatland restoration to Eastern European countries. In October 2004, a field seminar was held to share expertise in the restoration of degraded peatlands.		

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

1. The Party has engaged in international cooperation activities related to training on wetland issues	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Belarusian experts used a number of training opportunities in England and Germany in the restoration of degraded mires.		

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

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

1.- Networks among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the wetland networks established and other comments you consider relevant.]</i>		
3.- Twinning arrangements among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites involved)</i>	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
		N° wetlands / Ramsar sites 2
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the twinning arrangement, the sites involved and other comments you consider relevant.]</i>		
There is continued sharing of knowledge between managers of Sporovskoe and Zvanets Ramsar sites. One of the methods allows to monitor the status of fen mire ecosystem, there are also joint projects to improve their ecological status.		

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

1. Internet-based resource kits for knowledge and information sharing on wetland issues have been developed	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
National experts continually track new and advanced expertise in the wise use of wetlands and the bulk of information is derived from Internet resources.		

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

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

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	C	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To establish and maintain good relations with various conservation foundations	

	to ensure sustainability of wetland management
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To include in the international project pipeline projects on the management planning of Ramsar sites, restoration of disturbed wetlands, national mire inventory. To prepare a project to implement the Management Plans of Polesie Fen Mires and submit it to the Michael Otto Foundation for review .

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 15.1.1.- Mobilize direct funding support from multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies in order to assist developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition in the conservation and wise use of wetlands and in implementation of the present Strategic Plan. (Based on Section E1 of the Guidelines).

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Each CP with a bilateral donor agency to have encouraged it to give priority for funding for wetland conservation and wise use projects in relation to poverty alleviation and other WSSD targets and priorities.

1. (For CPs with development assistance agencies) Funding support has been mobilized from development assistance agency for wetland issues	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Other forms of funding support have been mobilized for wetland issues	D	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
In recent year, funding support of various agencies was allocated for wetland issues: GEF/UNDP – Dnieper Project, Polesie Project, TACIS Project on the Pripyat Basin. Other organizations provide substantial support to Belarus in conserving wetlands: UNDP in Belarus, RSPB, Michael Otto Foundation (Germany), OMPO (France), DEFRA (GB), etc.		

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

1. The Party has worked with bilateral and multilateral donors to mobilize funding support for wetland inventories	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The first stage of wetland inventory and structures to support inventory and monitoring was completed in Belarus with the financial support of Wetlands International.		

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

1.- The Party has worked with donors to mobilize resources for implementation of Ramsar site management plans (if applicable, please include number of sites)	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites 4
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the sites involved and include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
With the financial and organization support of RSPB, Darwin Initiative, Michael Otto Foundation and UNDP in Belarus, management plans for two Ramsar sites were developed and started to be implemented. It is planned to develop a management plan for another Ramsar site Mid-Pripyat with the GEF/UNDP			

financial support.

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

1. The Party has worked with donors to mobilize support for the establishment of coherent national and international networks of Ramsar sites and their effective management

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

The TACIS Pripyat Basin Project and UNDP/GEF Dnieper Project focused on allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of the wetlands.

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

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

A

Choose an answer

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

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

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

(For CPs with development assistance agencies)

1. Work has been done with the development assistance agency in relation to Ramsar's *Guidelines for international cooperation* (Res. VII.19)

A

Choose an answer

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

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

(For CPs with development assistance agencies)

Action 15.1.4.- Pursuant to 15.1.3, urge all Parties with bilateral development assistance agencies to report on their performance with regard to wetland-related activities at each COP. (Based on Section E5 of the Guidelines)

(For CPs with development assistance agencies)

1. The performance of the development assistance agency in relation to wetland issues has been assessed

C

Choose an answer

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

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

Action 15.1.5.- For those Parties involved in the priority-setting for, and the determining of, the *modus operandi* of the multilateral development and environment-related assistance agencies, seek to ensure that wetland conservation and wise use is afforded due attention and priority.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Relevant CPs to report to COP9 on ensuring that multilateral donor agencies afford priority to wetlands within poverty alleviation schemes.

1. The Party has worked with multilateral agencies to ensure that wetland issues receive due attention

A

Choose an answer

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

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

Action 15.1.6.- Provide financial support, preferably on a medium and/or long-term basis, to the operations of the *Ramsar Small Grants Fund* and its *Endowment Fund*, and the *Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, seeking to have available a minimum of one million US dollars annually for the former and half a million US dollars for the latter. (Based on Sections E4 and E9 of the Guidelines.)

See action 16.1.2

1. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund

C

Choose an answer for each indicator

2. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Endowment Fund

C

A = Not applicable; B = Yes;

3. Contributions have been made to the Ramsar Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme

C

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

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on contributions made to support the funds and services indicated above.]

Action 15.1.7.- Mobilize resources to support the development of wetland training and education centres at Ramsar sites and the training of wetland educators in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

1. Actions have been taken to mobilize resources to support wetland training and education centres at Ramsar sites in developing countries and countries with economies in transition

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to development assistance agencies

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Several wetland project proposals were submitted to UNDP related to management planning and wise use.

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

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

1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Two project proposals were submitted to GEF: "Renaturalization and Sustainable Management of Degraded Peatlands in Belarus to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Mitigate Land Degradation and Conserve Biodiversity" and "Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Polesie Region through Integration of Global Biodiversity Concerns into Economic Practices at Key Sites".

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

1. Steps have been taken to involve the private sector and private-sector funding in wetland projects

D

Choose an answer

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

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

The private sector is underdeveloped in Belarus. However, financial assistance of the private company Zhdanovichi Market was used to develop a management plan of the Lebyazhy protected area.

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

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

F

Choose an answer

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

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

This issue is expected to be included in the Work Plan under the CITES

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	C	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To ensure in the project planning process that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	When undertaking an environmental review, pay attention to the presence of sections on environmental security and EIA. To study the current legislation to see how environmental security and EIA requirements are reflected in it.	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

When preparing and implementing all the projects, assessment of their possible impacts on wetlands was made.

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

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

A

Choose an answer

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 16. FINANCING OF THE CONVENTION

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To ensure that annual contributions to the Convention's core budget are paid promptly.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Ramsar dues have been paid in full and in a timely manner	B	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Contributions to the Convention are paid promptly.		

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

In addition to any contributions listed under Action 15.1.6 above, voluntary contributions have been made:

1. to the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. to support regional initiatives under the Convention	C	
3. for Ramsar Advisory Missions related to Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record	C	
4. towards the development and maintenance of logistics of the San José Record	C	
5. to support the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)	C	
6. to expand the internship programme at the Ramsar Bureau	C	
7. in relation to COP9	C	
8.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contributions made to support the services indicated above.]		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE CONVENTION

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To nominate STRP and CEPA Focal Points in accordance with the Convention's guidelines	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 17.1.6.- Ensure that each Contracting Party has nominated a national focal point for the work of the STRP (as called for by Resolutions VII.2 and VIII.28) and two focal points (one government, one non-government) for the *Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme* (as called for by Resolutions VII.9 and VIII.31)

See also Action r9.iii.i. concerning CEPA national focal points.

1. The National Focal Point for the work of STRP has been nominated	B	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the STRP National Focal Point and other comments you consider relevant.]		
The Ministry of Environment issued a special order appointing one STRP Focal Point and two Focal Points for CEPA (one government, one non-government).		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	To establish the National Committee with government and NGO representation as well as bodies responsible for land planning and management. To seek to cooperate under different Conventions to build harmonized approaches. To ensure that all organizations engaged in conservation and wise use of wetlands use the format of the National Report of the Ramsar Convention as a planning and monitoring tool.	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<p>When preparing wetland projects, to analyze activities of organizations involved in conservation and wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>To continue to cooperate with organizations involved in wetland protection and management (BelGiproVodkhoz, NGO BirdLife Belarus, Polesie Fund, etc.).</p> <p>To identify staffing and training needs to support the implementation of the Convention.</p> <p>To review performance of Focal Points including against the involvement of all institutions related to wetland conservation and wise use in the Convention implementation.</p>
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 18.1.1.- Encourage the review of existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and on the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:

a) increase cooperation and synergy among institutions with direct or indirect responsibility for wetland issues, especially those responsible for the management of water resources and for biodiversity and wetland conservation and management;

b) promote enhanced cooperation, and where appropriate integrated approaches, among the national focal points of environment-related conventions, and consider establishing a coordinating committee to ensure that integrated approaches are taken;

c) promote enhanced contact, and where appropriate close coordination, between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and national professional, technical, scientific and educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including those involved in social and cultural heritage issues; and

d) provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, to enable these institutions to implement the Convention to full effect.

1. A review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been completed	D	<p><i>Choose an answer</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the review and other comments you consider relevant.]		
When implementing several projects, national organizations involved in wetland-related activities were reviewed.		
<i>See action 13.1.1</i>		
3. A coordinating committee among focal points of environment-related conventions is in place	D	<p><i>Choose an answer</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the coordinating committee and other comments you consider relevant.]		
Cooperation between convention focal points in place, although a formal coordinating committee is missing.		
5. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other national institutions directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues, in particular water and biodiversity	D	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable;</i></p> <p><i>B = Yes;</i></p> <p><i>C = No;</i></p> <p><i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i></p> <p><i>E = In progress;</i></p> <p><i>F= Being planned;</i></p> <p><i>G = Being updated;</i></p> <p><i>H = Other status (explain below);</i></p> <p><i>I = No answer</i></p>
6. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and relevant professional, scientific or educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including social and cultural heritage issues	D	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i></p> <p><i>A = Not applicable;</i></p> <p><i>B = Yes;</i></p> <p><i>C = No;</i></p> <p><i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i></p> <p><i>E = In progress;</i></p> <p><i>F= Being planned;</i></p> <p><i>G = Being updated;</i></p> <p><i>H = Other status (explain below);</i></p> <p><i>I = No answer</i></p>
7.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant cooperation mechanisms and any other comments you consider relevant.]		

Mechanisms of collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other national institutions exist and are put into use during the implementation of state programmes and international projects. The cooperation should be enhanced once the Ramsar Committee becomes fully operational.

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

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

I

Choose an answer

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

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

Action 18.1.2.- Establish National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, relevant government agencies, including national water management ministries and/or agencies, where appropriate, and non-governmental organizations, STRP and CEPA National Focal Points, key stakeholders, indigenous people and local communities, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). When in place, ensure the proper functioning of these Committees.

See actions r3.4.iii, r13.1.iii

1. A National Ramsar / Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body) is in place

B

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

2. If a Ramsar Committee exists, it is cross-sectoral (relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, key stakeholders, local communities, private sector, etc.)

D

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

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

The Ramsar Committee was approved in December 2004. Cross-sectoral cooperation will be enhanced between the Committee and institutions involved in wetland-related activities.

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

The Convention Focal Point was reviewed and conclusions were made as to how to improve some areas of activities, especially the CEPA work.

Action 18.1.4.- Assist in achieving a cohesive and coordinated national effort towards the implementation of the Convention, using Ramsar's national planning tool (based on the National Report Format) as an ongoing planning and monitoring mechanism. Ideally, this tool should be used by all relevant government departments/agencies and include input from National Ramsar/Wetland Committee members and other stakeholders as appropriate.

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20. TRAINING

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	D	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	C	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	To disseminate materials of the Ramsar Wetland Training Service. For CEPA focal points, to study resources available at http://ramsar.org/wurc_index.htm and http://ramsar.org/wurc_training_directory.htm and design a dissemination plan. To share experience in fen mire management between Belarus and Poland. To continue to expand training cooperation with UNDP, World Bank, UNESCO, etc.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	To identify the training needs of organizations concerned with the wetland use. To disseminate information about training opportunities in the conservation and wise use among national and regional organizations. To translate into Russian and make generally available educational materials, especially those published in Ramsar Handbooks	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. The Party has participated in the development and use of the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
A national expert took a training course in MedWet inventory data base usage.		

Action 20.1.2.- Identify at national, provincial, and local levels the needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the Convention and, in particular, use of the *Wise Use Guidelines and Ramsar Handbooks*.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: At least half of CPs to have assessed national and local training needs.

1. An assessment has been completed of national and local training needs in the implementation of the Convention and use of the Wise Use Handbooks	F	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
No special work to identify the training needs was done.		

Action 20.1.3.- Identify and disseminate, nationally, regionally and globally, information describing the current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the further development of the *Bureau's Ramsar Wise Use Resource Centre* (http://ramsar.org/wurc_index.htm) and the *Directory of Wetland Management Training Opportunities* (http://ramsar.org/wurc_training_directory.htm).

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

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

- a) wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring;
- b) national wetland policies and plans;
- c) integrated catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning and management;
- d) integrated site management planning at the local, provincial or catchment/river basin level;
- e) wetland restoration and rehabilitation;
- f) invasive alien species;
- g) agricultural impacts on wetlands and water resources;
- h) impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment;
- i) impacts of climate change, and adaptive management and mitigation of such impacts
- j) economic valuation of wetlands;
- k) communication, education and public awareness techniques.

1. Training modules and materials on wetland-related issues have been developed	F	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the development of training modules and materials for the issues listed above, and additional comments you consider relevant.]		
Developing methods for the restoration of degraded peatlands are planned.		

Action 20.1.6.- Provide opportunities for manager training by:

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

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

Zvanets and Sporovsky (Ramsar sites) managers were engaged in expertise sharing with RSPB on wetland management, ecotourism development, participation of indigenous people in site management.

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

1. Training-related projects have been submitted to the Small Grants Fund

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

1.- Support has been provided to the development of regional wetland training and research centres *(if applicable, please include number of centres)*

C

Choose an answer

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

**N°
centres**

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

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

1. The Party has participated in exchanges of information and expertise related to wetland training issues

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Belarus hosted an international field expertise-sharing seminar on the restoration of degraded peatlands.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21.1. Secure the universal membership of the Convention

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 21.1.1.- Recruit new Contracting Parties through:

- a) seeking direct contact with non-Contracting Parties to provide information on the benefits of membership and advice or assistance in overcoming obstacles;
- b) intensifying contacts with the diplomatic representatives of non-Contracting Parties;
- c) seeking assistance from the secretariats of other conventions, including the Regional Seas Conventions, and in-country offices of the *United Nations Development Programme*, the *World Bank* and others;
- d) organizing subregional workshops involving Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties;
- e) providing assistance for the identification of *Wetlands of International Importance* that could be listed as Ramsar sites upon accession;
- f) encouraging attendance by observers from non-Contracting Parties at regional meetings and meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and
- g) publishing and disseminating an accession kit to assist countries in the Oceania region (and Small Island Developing States more generally) through the accession process. (Resolution VIII.42)

1. Actions have been taken to encourage the adherence to the Convention of new Contracting Parties

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

FEEDBACK ON COP9 NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

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Please include additional comments on the COP9 National Planning Tool, National Report Format. (For instance, adequacy of the questions, the difficulties in completing them, and any further recommendations on how these reporting guidelines could be improved)

The National Report Format clearly assists not only in preparing, but also in planning of the implementation of the Convention.

Over-complexity and attention to detail of this Format should be mentioned, which is a result of the complexity of the overall Strategy.

In case a specific working group would be created, will you be interested in participating in the preparation of the COP10 National Report Format?

C

Choose an answer

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

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