



**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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SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION (OPTIONAL)	

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

- 26 new Ramsar sites in the Netherlands have been formally added to the Ramsar list in 2003.
- In the Netherlands wetland policy is a prominent but integrated part of general nature and biodiversity policy.
- The Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality has developed a new Nature Protection Law; this law has been approved by the Parliament in 2005. In this law the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive is implemented. All Ramsar wetland sites will fall under this new Nature Protection Law and this will give them legal protection. The national Nature Protection Law wil for example demands for every new plan or project in a protected areas an appropriate assessment of its implications and there are obligations for monitoring the ecological status of the protected areas.
- Integrated Water Recourse Management is more and more included in the water management practise in the Netherlands. This is reflected in the policy developments in for example at national level (The Water Policy for the 21st Century) and at EU level (the EU Water Framework Directive). At this moment in the Netherlands the implementation and the transposition of the WFD is in full

progress. In the WFD water management is based on river basins, "combined approach" of emission limit values and quality standards, getting the prices for use of surface and groundwater right and getting the citizen involved more closely.

- In the Netherlands the national and European nature and biodiversity policy developments are an ongoing process. The national Nature Protection Law and the EU WFD and EU Bird and Habitat Directive provide a better legal basis for protection of protected areas, including all Ramsar sites. It follows that in the Netherlands the nature policy development has a strong focus at these national and European policy developments. The principles of (new) Ramsar resolutions are sometimes widely implemented in the Netherlands, even ahead of the formal adoption in Ramsar resolutions. The resolutions are then completely embedded already in the existing national laws. New guidelines (on CoP8) e.g. on wise use or public participation are not always leading to the development of wetland management policies.
- The Government of the Netherlands and FAO organized an International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, from January 31 - February 5, 2005 in the Hague <http://www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005/>. The conference provided a high level platform for over 600 participants around the globe, including a ministerial segment. The prime objective of the WFE Conference was: to help governments identify management practices, practical lessons learned and the necessary enabling environments that lead to sustainable water use at the river-basin level and the harmonization of food production and ecosystem management with a view to implementing already internationally agreed commitments.
- The Netherlands will establish a Fund of approximately 500 mln Euro for nature development, management and sustainable economic development in the Wadden Sea area. The fund will be filled from the benefits of future gas production and exploration in the Wadden Sea area.
- In the Netherlands many restoration and rehabilitation projects of wetlands are implemented. Particularly in the field of tackling the problems associated with lowered ground water tables in peat land and reducing the impacts on the ecological functions of the wetlands of dams for coastal protection.
- The Netherlands actively supports international cooperation through bilateral support to partner countries and through international organizations who work in water related fields such as: Global Water Partnership (GWP), World Water Council (WWC), Water Aid, International Water Management Institute (IWMI). Also support is being given to different initiatives which were presented during the third World Water Forum like: Dialogue on Water for Food and Environment, Dialogue on Water and Climate, Water for Peace Many projects have been developed to support management plans for Ramsar sites under the inter ministerial programs Partners for Water, PIN MATRA and the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity of the Netherlands (2002-2006). Furthermore support is given to Wetlands International which head quarter is hosted by the Netherlands.
- The Netherlands is giving strong support to capacity building and training in international programmes and projects. The Training of Trainers on Wetland Management course. http://www.medwetcoast.com/article.php3?id_article=326 and the International Course on African Wetland Management (ICWM) (<http://www.kws.org/kwsti-wetlands.html>) were organized and co-organised by institutes from the Netherlands. Furthermore the Netherlands is hosting the Ramsar advisory board on capacity building.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION		
PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national wetland inventory is in place; inventory was completed in 1998. • Review of Ramsar site information (RIS) for submission to COP9. • Wide availability of data for all stakeholders. • Web-based database available on all protected areas, including wetlands, in 2006.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national wetland inventory is in place; inventory was completed in 1998. • Review of Ramsar site information (RIS) for submission to COP9. • Coordination of data (e.g bird) with data-owners (Government and non-Government); including “LNV-loket” (see Natuur loket). • Information on wetland data and inventories available on website.

CO P9 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 (if inventory exists, please include the number of sites)	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites 43 in the Netherlands and 6 in the Netherlands Antilles
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.]			
<p>The inventory of wetlands was begun in 1996 and completed in 1998. In 1999 the results were published in the “National Inventory of Ramsar sites in the Netherlands” by E.R. Osieck and C.A. Borggreve. 100 % of the country is covered in the inventory and 58 wetlands have been identified, of which 43 have already been designated as Ramsar sites.</p> <p>The application of standard wetland inventory methodologies is in progress. In the last three years the intention was to standardise the information about all wetlands in the inventory. For the EU Bird and Habitat Directive all inventory data will be updated every 3 years. All Ramsar sites are protected areas under this Directives.</p> <p>The development of a geographic GIS database is completed for all Ramsar sites.</p> <p>The above mentioned inventory does not cover the Netherlands Antilles. In this group of islands another 6</p>			

sites are designated as Ramsar sites.

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.

See actions 3.2.1, 3.3.1, r4.1.1, and Operational Objective 10.1

Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:

			<u>N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites</u>
1. The inventory assesses and documents potential Ramsar sites	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>	<u>58</u>
2. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands of national, provincial or local importance	D	<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>	=
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	C	<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	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>	=
7. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of flood defense	C	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i>	=
8. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of food security	A	<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	D	<i>H = Other status (explain below);</i>	=
11.- The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research	D	<i>I = No answer</i>	-

12.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Comments on the information included in the wetland inventory in light of the items indicated above]

For all the 43 Ramsar sites in the Netherlands the updated Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) are available. This set of information sheets documents whether restoration and rehabilitation is needed and if a Ramsar site is of special significance for reasons of scientific research.

In relation with the so-called Belvedere project of the Ministry, it has been decided that 20 'National Landscapes' (Nationale landschappen) will be designated. The Belvedere is a strategy in which the cultural history is the main point for spatial plan shaping processes. The aim is improvement of the quality of the environment and conservation of the cultural heritage. Five Ramsar sites are part of the designated 'National Landscapes'.

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

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

1. National arrangements established for the custodianship, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data and information, including metadata	B	<i>Choose an answer</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.]		
All 43 Ramsar sites in the Netherlands are also designated under the EU Bird Directive or EU Habitat Directive. Data of these sites are collected in the EU-natura2000-database, which is managed by the National Reference Centre for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (EC-LNV), until 2004. At the moment negotiations are going on to make this task a part off the work of Wageningen University and Research Centre (Alterra). The 'Nature Counter' (Natuurloket) http://www.natuurloket.nl/ offers a free and direct insight into the occurrence of protected species. Interactive maps at the website show the occurrence of protected species in each square kilometre. You can also obtain information about the relevant laws concerning these animal and plant species, such as the "Flora- en Faunawet" (Act on flora and fauna) and the EU Bird and Habitat Directive. The 'Nature Counter' is an independent information broker improving the accessibility of data on protected species. These data are provided by specialized organisations, united in VOFF (Society for Research on Flora and Fauna).		

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	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The Ministry Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality maintains a website (http://www.natuurloket.nl/) (see 1.1.3) with information (in Dutch) about all Ramsar sites situated in the Netherlands. This is done in combination with information about all sites under the EU Bird and Habitat Directive.		

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

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

1. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among decision makers	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C =
2. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among wetland managers	B	No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;
3. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among other wetland users	B	G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer

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

The Survival Plan for Woodland and Nature (OBN) was drawn up in 1989. The OBN is the execution of effect oriented measures, i.e. for shallow raised bogs, fens and poorly buffered surface waters. A well thought-out plan in which researchers, policy makers and site managers work together closely is an important result from the OBN.

The "Nature Balance" (Natuurbalans) (<http://www.rivm.nl/en/milieu/>) is an annually assessment of the natural environment and landscape in The Netherlands. It monitors policy developments in the field of landscape and natural environment and gives a view on emerging perspectives. It is produced by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP). The conclusions of the annual Nature Balance Reports are taken into account when drafting new nature and water related policy documents.

The Commission on Integral Water Management published in 2002 the monitoring report "Water in the Picture" (Water in Beeld) <http://www.waterinbeeld.nl/wib2002/>. This report presents an overview of the progress of water management in the Netherlands in the year 2002.

The website <http://www.h2overheid.nl/> is the portal for water managers at the Netherlands government. The aim of H2overheid.nl is to bundle information over water and water management related subjects for governments at one portal to improve the quality and to improve information exchange. Moreover H2overheid.nl functions as an communication medium on water related topics. Besides daily news coverage there are extensive dossiers on subjects and there are possibilities for the exchange of good practises and communication on actual policy developments.

Many local and regional studies are conducted in the process of spatial and land use planning and nature management policies of wetlands.

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

1. Wetland inventory project proposals were submitted to the Small Grants Fund and were funded	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Wetland inventory project proposals were submitted to the Small Grants Fund and were not funded	A	

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

Not applicable

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry is working on the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitat Directive. In this framework the Ministry is developing a database for the assesment of the changes in the sustainable conservation status of the sites. The database will be available in 2006 and will include all Ramsar sites.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of data (e.g. bird) with data-owners (Government and non-Government).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information used by “<i>wetland-watchers</i>” (wetland wachten) by Birdlife-NL for status of wetlands in the Netherlands. Research by DLO-Textel on vulnerability (modeling) of Dutch wetlands by climate change (especially flyways) .
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Contribution made to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project (MA)	B	<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 contribution made to the work of the MA.]		
The RIVM contributes to the working group Responses and is chairman of the technical support unit. Furthermore, the RIVM contributed to the scenario development of the MA.		

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	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at regional (supranational) scale	E	
3. MA guidance and methods used for ecosystem assessment at local scale	E	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the use of MA guidance and methods.]		
In 2005 a synthesis report on MA in relation to wetlands for Ramsar will be published.		

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

1. Repository of assessments of changes in wetland status established	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the repository of assessment of changes in wetland status, its contents and uses.]		
The Ministry is working on the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitat Directive. In this framework the Ministry is developing a system for the assesment of the changes in the sustainable conservation status of the sites. A major project “ <i>Legal Research Tasks</i> ” (WOT Wettelijke Onderzoeks Taken) is in progress on the moment (started in 2004).		
Information on monitoring of the nature policy and management and status of wetlands (and other nature areas) ordered thematically and geographically (regional, national, european and global) with over 1300 links		

can be found at http://www.wwvim.nl/indx_eng.htm

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	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. The assessments include impacts of climate change	B	
3. The assessments include impacts of sea-level rise	B	

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessments undertaken.]

In order to meet the Natura 2000 criterum of “good conservation” also vulnerability assessments have taken place for the Ramsar sites.

Secretariat Dialogue on Water and Climate <http://www.waterandclimate.org/> universally accessible knowledge base and information system. The Dialogue on Water and Climate aims to improve the capacity in water resources management to cope with the impacts of increasing variability of the world's climate, by establishing a platform through which policymakers and water resources managers have better access to, and make better use of, information generated by climatologists and meteorologists. The contact person is Henk van Schaik hvs@ihe.nl form Unesco-IHE.

In 2003 the theme of the annual nature assesment “Nature Balance” (Natuur Balans) was Climate and Nature. Information can be found on http://www.rivm.nl/en/milieu/natuurbalans_verkenning/NB2003_climate.jsp

The Netherlands has several relevant climate change research programmes. The inter ministerial climate change research programmes specifically addresses Dutch vulnerability (and mitigation and adaptation options) to climate change in spatial planning (www.klimaatvoorruijmt.nl) and <http://www.kennisonline.wur.nl/Program.aspx?Site=http://137.224.17.134/SITES/LNVWEB/T10/C20/421>).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been established by WMO and UNEP to assess scientific, technical and socio- economic information relevant for the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. In the IPCC programme an assessment of the current state of knowledge on technology transfer for coastal adaptation to climate change is preformed. It aims to inform coastal managers, planners, scientists and other interested actors of the process of technology transfer in coastal zones and of its importance when seeking to reduce coastal vulnerability to climate change. The coordinating lead auteur is from a Dutch university see website <http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc/tectran/290.htm>

International Conference "Climate change: a challenge or a threat for water management"
September, 27-29, 2004 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands <http://www.ecrr.org/>

Major institutions in the Netherlands who have done research on the effects on climate change and sea level raise are: Alterra is the research institute for our green living environment. <http://www.alterra.wur.nl/UK/organisatie/>, The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) <http://www.rivm.nl/en/>, the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad http://www.riza.nl/index_uk.html, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft <http://www.ihe.nl/>, as part of Rijkswaterstaat, the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management/RIKZ <http://www.rikz.nl/home/EN/index.html>.

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	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 conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands.]		
This is done according the EU Bird and Habitat Directive. A specific research about the effects of shellfish fishery on the ecosystems of the Dutch Wadden Sea and Oosterschelde (EVA II) has recently been done by Alterra (see 1.2.5.)		
3.- Summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands [Please provide here a summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands and provide reference citation to any relevant publication, reports or analysis.]		
As part of Rijkswaterstaat, the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management/RIKZ http://www.rikz.nl/home/EN/index.html provides advice and information on: 1) coastal flood protection; 2) the sustainable use of coasts and seas. For this purpose, the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management/RIKZ organizes a knowledge and information infrastructure.		

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	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. Information on conservation status of mangroves has been compiled	D	
3. Information on levels of use of mangroves has been compiled	D	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information compiled related to mangroves.]		
For the Ramsar Site; Lac Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, a management plan has been completed.		

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

1.- The impacts of dams on wetlands have been assessed (if available, please include number of sites affected)	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 16
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the impacts of dams on wetlands, sites affected, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
For most people, the large engineering works built in the south west of The Netherlands to protect the region from flooding, represent the proud heritage of Dutch water engineering: the eighth wonder of the world! Nevertheless, since their construction, new insights into natural processes and safety have developed which have shown that the consequences for the morphological and ecological characteristics of the system have also been enormous. Society has changed too: agriculture is no longer the most important economic activity and nature is more highly valued now than fifty years ago. The report `Changing estuaries changing views` (Saeijs, H.F.L. 2004) studies the cahnging views of impacts on dams with the aim to contribute to management that are adapted to new preferences and priorities. See website https://ep.eur.nl/bitstream/1765/1850/2/ESM-2004-			

[005.pdf](#)

In the area of the brackish Haringvliet tidal wetlands used to occur at large scale. During last centuries these wetlands were turned into polders and used for agricultural purposes. To manage flood risks the Haringvliet sluices were build in 1970 as a part of the Deltaworks and the Zuiderdiep (a former part of the Haringvliet) became an important part of the fresh water supply for the polders. Again large areas of tidal wetlands disappeared in the Haringvliet because of the absence of water table fluctuations on regular daily basis. Recovery of tidal wetlands is an important topic in Dutch nature management and the possibilities of the recreation of tidal wetlands in the Zuiderdiep area are explored. Partial reopening of the Haringvliet sluices will create opportunities for brackish tidal wetlands (model Brakke getijdenkreek) and using the pumping engine at the North Sea site for the inlet of salt water in the Zuiderdiep will create opportunities for saline tidal wetlands (model Zoute sluffer).

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

The barrier dam that separated the former Zuiderzee from the Wadden Sea / North Sea in 1930 completely changed the ecosystem. It also caused ecological fragmentation and adverse impact of large and sudden freshwater outlet to the Wadden Sea. In the near future measures will be taken to (partly) restore fish migration and more natural gradients between salt and fresh water ecosystems on both sides of the dam. For more information on the barrier dam: <http://www.rdlj.nl/>

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).

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

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.]

In the extreme dry summer of 2003 fen peatlands were drying out. From lake IJsselmeer brakish water was transported to this peatland area (Wieden, Weerribben en Vechtplassen) to raise the groundwater table.

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.

<p>1. The contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries has been assessed</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below) ;I = No answer</p>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]

A specific research about the effects of shellfish fishery on the ecosystems of the Dutch Wadden Sea and Oosters Scheldt (EVA II) has recently been done by Alterra (<http://www.alterra.wur.nl/UK>)

<p>Futhermore research has been done on the subject of benefits for fish from coral reef in the Netherlands Antilles.</p> <p>WNF living waters report assesses the total value of the Wadden Sea http://www.panda.org/downloads/freshwater/wetlandsbrochurefinal.pdf</p>		
3. Recommendations on sustainable management practices of fish stocks in wetlands have been transmitted to relevant authorities/stakeholders	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the recommendations and their transmission to relevant authorities/stakeholders.]</p>		
<p>The EU member states do not have the jurisdiction to establish fishery policies by themselves. However, the member states will continue to explain the implications of the Common Fishery Policy 'at home'. In 2002 Common Fish Policy was changed to get an better balance between ecology and economy.</p> <p>The North Sea Member States have already experimented with transboundary co-operation in the field of control and enforcement in critical fisheries. All authorities involved in control and enforcement of these measures co-operated actively together as part of the temporary closure of a large area in the North Sea to the fishing of cod in 2001. This co-operation included the use of means of inspection in waters of neighboring states (UK, Netherlands and Norway carried out aerial surveillance in the eastern part of the southern North Sea, in German and Danish waters, and a German surveillance vessel with Dutch inspectors on board patrolled the northern part of Dutch waters).</p>		

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	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned;G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]</p>		
<p>The EU Water Framework Directive was published and entered into force in December 2000. At this moment in the Netherlands the implementation of this Directive is in full progress. The Water Framework Directive directly contributes to achieving "good status" for all waters by a set deadline.</p> <p>The "Nature Balance" (Natuur Balans) 2004 shows that the picture of ecosystem quality in the Netherlands is a varied one, with large differences between ecosystem types and between species. The target dates for achieving environmental and water quality objectives in protected areas have been pushed back and progress has been slow, particularly in tackling the problems associated with lowered ground water tables.</p>		

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

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):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Netherlands there is no special wetland policy; wetland policy is an integrated part of a more general nature and biodiversity policy (including wetlands). The implementation of EU Water Framework Directive. 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. A National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) is in place	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
2. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible	B	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>
3. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporates WSSD targets and actions	B	<i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>

4- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the status of the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument, its contents, and any other information you consider relevant.]

In the Netherlands wetland policy is a prominent but integrated part of general nature and biodiversity policy.

National Wetland Policy is the chapter "Water Programme" in the second Nature Policy Document (Nature for People, People for nature, 2000) (<http://minlnv/policy/green/pna>), that includes a national biodiversity strategy.

The Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality has developed a new Nature Protection Law; this law has been approved by the Parliament in 2004. In this new law the sustainable use of the protected areas (including the wetlands of international importance) is stated.

The water policy of the Netherlands' Government is described in the "Fourth National Policy Document on Water Management". This policy sets out a new strategy under the name of *integrated water management* and includes flood protection, agriculture, ecology, public water supplies, transport, recreation and the fishing industry. In 2003, the national government, provincial authorities, municipal councils and water boards signed the National Administrative Agreement on Water (NBW). This agreement sets out how and by what means, and according to which timetable, those involved would organise Dutch water management between now and 2015. This covenant supports the implementation of the Water policy for the 21st Century by 2015. Sustainable water management to achieve safe and healthy water systems in the perspective of climate change is the main goal of the 'Waterpolicy for the 21th Century'

<http://www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/?lc=uk&page=5>. The implementation of this policy will also be a joint effort of national, regional and local authorities (ministries, provinces, water boards and municipalities). For this reason a covenant was signed in 2003. The covenant also elaborates on the relation with the EU Water

Framework Directive.

In 2000 the European Water Framework Directive (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/>) entered into force. The transposition of this legislation to national level took place in 2003. In the EU Water Framework Directive objectives for the protection of the aquatic ecology, specific protection of unique and valuable habitats, protection of drinking water resources, and protection of bathing water are integrated at an European level for each river basin. The Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water management is the main responsible organisation for the implementation, but the Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality is working close with them on the implementation.

The “*National Spatial Strategy*” (Nota Ruimte) (<http://www2.vrom.nl/notaruimte/engelsesamenvattingnr.pdf>) contains the government’s views on the spatial development of the Netherlands and the most important objectives associated with that development. In addition to the National Spatial Strategy regional strategies will be drawn up for the Wadden Sea and the area covering the major rivers: the national spatial planning key decisions (PKB in Dutch) Third Policy Document on the Wadden Sea and the PKB ‘*Room for the Rivers*’ (Ruimte voor de Rivier) Information in Dutch can be found at <http://www.ruimtevoorderivier.nl/>. To ensure the integration of water aspects into the spatial planning process, the ‘*Water Assessment*’ (Watertoets) has been introduced in 2001. A Water Assessment is a process in which water managers are involved actively in the development of any spatial plan from the earliest stages on. The results of this recently introduced instrument are promising.

For the Netherlands Antilles a policy is set out in “Nature Conservation Policy of the Netherlands Antilles— At the dawn of a new millennium. 2000-2005”, which aims to protect and conserve the biological diversity of the islands and their surrounding seas. <http://www.mina.vomil.an/Beleid/NBP-NedAnt.html> - Summary)

Wetlands are an important issue for integrated water management, both in the national and international policy field of the Netherlands. In the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity of The Netherlands (2002-2006) (<http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org/index.php?menuid=4800&lang=en&cl=blue&q=>) special attention is being paid to coastal areas, marine wetlands, wetlands and fresh water ecosystems.

WSSD targets have been translated into a national action program called “Sustainable Action” and are taken into account in the nature and environmental policies. See <http://www.minbuza.nl/> (see also 2.2.1).

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> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; 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. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies	B	
3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans	B	
4. Wetland issues (conservation, wise use, restoration/ rehabilitation) have been integrated into other sectoral strategic or planning processes and documents at any of the following levels: national, regional, provincial, and local	B	

5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the incorporation of wetland issues into other sectoral strategic or planning processes.]

See also implementation progress under Action 2.1.1.

The conclusions of the annual “Nature Balance” (Natuur Blans) Reports are taken into account when drafting new Nature Policy Documents (every ten year).

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

1. Wetland tenure systems and user rights have been considered in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management

B

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 consideration of wetland tenure systems and user rights in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management.]

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

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 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.]

Not applicable

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

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 Government of the Netherlands and FAO organized an International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, from January 31 - February 5, 2005 in the Hague <http://www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005/>. The conference provided a high level platform for over 600 participants around the globe, including a ministerial segment. The prime objective of the WFE Conference was: to help governments identify management practices, practical lessons learned and the necessary enabling environments that lead to sustainable water use at the river-basin level and the harmonization of food production and ecosystem management with a view to implementing already internationally agreed commitments. The best practices in the cases database which

contributed to the e-forum discussion are available on the FAO website.

Research about the effects of shellfish fishery on the ecosystems of the Dutch Wadden Sea and Oosterschelde (EVA II) has recently been done by Alterra (<http://www.alterra.wur.nl/UK>)

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIA is part of Bird Directive implementation. EIA in place for major projects.

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	I	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
2. A review of legislation and institutions to promote the wise use of wetlands has been completed	I	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i>
3. Legislation and institutional procedures have been modified to preclude unwise use of wetlands	I	<i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the review of legislation and institutions and the amendments made to preclude unwise use of wetlands.]*

The Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality has developed a new "Nature Protection Law" (Natuur Beschermingswet); this law has been approved by the Parliament in 2004 and will be come in to force probably this year. In this new law article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive is implemented. This means that if a new plan or project starts in a protected area appropriate assessment of its implications for the site is necessary. This means that if a new plan or project starts in a protected area appropriate assessment of its implications for the site is necessary. Evaluation and notification of Nature Protection Law is legally binding for all Ramsar sites. (see also 3.1.3.)

"Water Impact Assessment" (watertoets) has become mandatory since 1 November 2003 to ensure that a 'water paragraph' is included in spatial plans, describing how the consequences of these plans affect water management. Apart from safety and flooding, the water paragraph must address the effects on water quality and desiccation. The way in which areas have been urbanized or otherwise developed (e.g. glasshouse areas) is one of the causes of flooding. Spatial plans and decisions may lead to flooding, a deterioration of water quality, the desiccation of nature areas, etc. The Water Impact Assessment is designed to prevent these negative

effects.

<http://www.watertoets.net/>

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

I = No answer

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

In the Netherlands, international biodiversity policy is shaped by the relevant ministries: the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BuZa) through the Director-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) and the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (V&W). In addition, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OC&W), the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ) and the Ministry of Interior (BZK) and Kingdom Relations play important roles.

(see <http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org/index.php?menuid=4800&lang=en&cl=blue&q=>)

On all levels within the government there are regular dialogues between the different ministries.

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

See action r3.3.iii

1. Cultural and heritage values related to wetlands have been incorporated into existing heritage protection, legal frameworks and policies

B

Choose an answer

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

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

In the so-called Belvedere project of the Ministry of Agriculture, nature and Food Quality, it has been decided that 20 “*Nationale Landschappen*” (National Landscapes) will be designated. Five Ramsar sites are part of these national landscapes.

Information about the Belvedere project in Dutch is available at <http://www.belvedere.nu/index.php?pID=1>

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

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

2. A review of legislation, policies and practices that may be impacting negatively on mountain wetlands has been completed

A

D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

3. Actions have been taken for stopping and reversing impacts on mountain wetlands

A

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

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

Not applicable

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

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 application of the Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (annex to Resolution VIII.9).]

The Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality has developed a new “Nature Protection Law” (Natuur Beschermingswet); this law has been approved by the Parliament in 2004 and will be come in to force probably this year. In this new law article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive is implemented. This means that if a new plan or project starts in a protected area appropriate assessment of its implications for the site is necessary. This means that if a new plan or project starts in a protected area appropriate assessment of its implications for the site is necessary. Evaluation and notification of Nature Protection Law is legally binding for all Ramsar sites. “Water Impact Assessment” (Watertoets) has become mandatory since 1 November 2003 to ensure that a ‘water paragraph’ is included in spatial plans, describing how the consequences of these plans affect water management. Apart from safety and flooding, the water paragraph must address the effects on water quality and desiccation. The way in which areas have been urbanized or otherwise developed (e.g. glasshouse areas) is one of the causes of flooding. Spatial plans and decisions may lead to flooding, a deterioration of water quality, the desiccation of nature areas, etc. The Water Impact Assessment is designed to prevent these negative effects. More information can be found at <http://www.watertoets.net/>

The legal need of an EIA depends on type and size of projects. In practice most interventions need impact assessments. Some and specific interventions are founded by specific law and not subject to the standard EIA. Publications can be found on : <http://www.eia.nl/eia/commission/publications.htm>

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

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 involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in impact assessment processes.]

The EIA commission consists of one chairman and three or four independent experts; process and input is open to all stakeholders.

The Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality has developed a new “Nature Protection Law” (Natuur Beschermingswet) in this law the participation of local communities in impact assessments is arranged.

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

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

B

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

See also 2.2.iv

To ensure the integration of water aspects into the spatial planning process, 'Water Assessment' has been introduced in 2001. Water Assessment is a process in which water managers are involved actively in the development of any spatial plan from the earliest stages on. When Environmental Impact Assessment or Strategic Environmental Assessment (as prescribed by the EU) has to take place as well, both assessments partly take place parallel and provide each other with information.

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

B

Choose an answer

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

5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the way Strategic Environmental Assessment practices have been applied while reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands.]

see 2.2.2.

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

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: All CPs to have required EIA, as appropriate, for proposed projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands.

1.- Legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applicable to wetlands is in place

B

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.- EIA is carried out for projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands (if available, please include number of sites)

B

**N°
wetlands
/Ramsar
sites
several**

3.- EIAs have included full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts

D

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include comments on Environmental Impact Assessment implementation at national level.]

The Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality has developed a new "Nature Protection Law" (Natuur Beschermingswet); this law has been approved by the Parliament in 2004 and will be come in to force probably this year. In this new law article 6 of the Habitats Directive is implemented. This means that if a new plan or project starts in a protected area appropriate assessment of its implications for the site is necessary. This means that if a new plan or project starts in a protected area appropriate assessment of its implications for the site is necessary. Evaluation and notification of "Nature Protection Law" is legally binding for all Ramsar sites.

Action r2.2.vi.- Establish contact with the relevant national contact points from within the networks of the *International Association for Impact Assessment* with a view to identifying sources of expertise and advice for assisting with wetland-related impact assessment. (Resolution VIII.9)

1. Experts from the International Association for Impact assessment have been involved in EIA processes in the country

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 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

B

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

B

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

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

The Government of the Netherlands and FAO organized an International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, from January 31 - February 5, 2005 in the Hague <http://www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005/>. The prime objective of the WFE Conference was: to help governments identify management practices, practical lessons learned and the necessary enabling environments that lead to sustainable water use at the river-basin level and the harmonization of food production and ecosystem. A database for cases with practical implementation lessons on the theme "A new Economy for Water for Food and Ecosystems" was established. The results of the e-forum and the cases in the database can be viewed on the website.

The Platform for Economic Valuation of Nature (<http://www.fsd.nl/naturevaluation/uk/>) consists of a network of experts on socio-economic valuation of nature and landscape, including cultural heritage and environmental aspects. It is an initiative of four Dutch scientists who are convinced that nature not only has an intrinsic value, but also a high socio-economic value. The socio-economic value, however, still does not receive sufficient attention in the public decision making process, which is an important cause of unsustainable use of our natural and cultural environment.

Decision-making on transport infrastructure projects in the Netherlands includes an Overview Effects Infrastructure (OEI). It has been initiated by the Ministries of Transport and Economic Affairs after discussions on the benefits of various major transport infrastructure projects. In the year 2000 the OEI method was introduced. The aim is for transparency and active actor involvement in the evaluation and decision process for the larger infrastructure projects; OEI has become highly successful. The Cost Benefit Analysis includes costs and benefits, e.g. road safety, travel time and effects nature. In 2002 an evaluation of the OEI concluded that nature effects were not sufficiently incorporated in the the cost benefit analysis. In December 2004 guidelines for the inclusion of costs and benefits for nature, water and soil were presented and included in the OEI, see

website (information in Dutch only)

http://www9.minlnv.nl/servlet/page?_pageid=112&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30&p_item_id=96362

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	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):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active support of International Cooperation; See chapter 15.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of economic use being monitored (EVAII). Results to be used for future management planning and legislation. Essential element in bilateral and multilateral cooperation; see chapter 15.

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	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work to review and update the guidance on the wise use concept, including the ecosystem approach	B	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the revision of the wise use concept and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]		
Research about the effects of shellfish fishery on the ecosystems of the Dutch Wadden Sea and Ooster Scheldt (EVA II) has recently been done by Alterra (http://www.alterra.wur.nl/UK)		

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	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 wise use principle and the ecosystem approach are part of the Trilateral Cooperation for the Protection of the Wadden Sea which is established between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.		

The inter ministerial Dutch 'Partners for Water' programme is meant to strengthen Dutch international activities in the field of water management and supply by combining knowledge, expertise and financial resources. Keywords of this programme are Integrated Water Resources Management, sustainability and strengthening of the institutional and legal aspects of water-related issues and the making available of knowledge and experience for the international water sector. Following its success, the Program has recently been prolonged until 2009. Projects with a special focus on Water for Food and Ecosystems are available on the website www.waterfoodecosystems.nl/

The OBN (Survival Plan for Forest and Nature) expertteam "peatland waters" is one of way's to compiled and distributed this kind of information to wetland managers

See also the dutch website on nature restoration (information in Dutch only)
<http://www.natuurherstel.nl/index.jsp>

See also action 3.1.4

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

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.]

According to the Nature Conservation Act management plans are compulsory for all natura 2000 sites, this includes all Ramsar sites.

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

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.]

See answer to action 3.1.2 the Programme Partners for Water aided in the development of decision support systems of various wetlands.

The Government of the Netherlands and FAO organized an International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, from January 31 - February 5, 2005 in the Hague <http://www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005/>. The conference provided a high level platform for around 600 participants around the globe, including a ministerial segment. The prime objective of the WFE Conference was: to help governments identify management practices, practical lessons learned and the necessary enabling environments that lead to sustainable water use at the river-basin level and the harmonization of food production and ecosystem management with a view to implementing already internationally agreed commitments. A database for cases was introduced at the website for the sharing of experiences, innovative solutions/approaches and best practices in managing water for food and ecosystems, in a harmonious, efficient and sustainable manner. This database contributed to finding

practical, workable and effective solutions to sharing scarce water resources among multiple and conflicting needs and demands of agriculture and nature and combining productive and income generating activities with biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources conservation functions.

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; 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 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	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</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.]		

A management plan, with the involvement of local stakeholders has been completed for Lac Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles.

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	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):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peatlands part of national Ecological Network (to be completed 2018); available resources for management and acquisition of land.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of conservation and restoration projects (EU LIFE projects) • National report on the progress in implementing the Guidelines for global action on peatlands

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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.]		
<p>Funding for the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), which was formed in response to the Ramsar Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP), was obtained from The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS). The GPI steering committee includes representatives of IMCG, IPS, the IUCN-Netherlands Committee, Wetlands International (WI), and Alterra (Wageningen-UR). An overview of the results of partnership for the period 2001-2003 are published at http://www.peatlands.org/docs/tamp223.htm Over 50 projects are launched under the GPI initiative. GPI is also involved with and contributes to the Ramsar Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands (CC-GAP)</p>		

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

1. Action has been taken to implement at national level the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)	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.]		
<p>Through initiatives in the Baltics and in the Netherlands (facilitated by GPI phase 1 funding) the possibilities to promote wise use through certification of peat products was discussed with the (Dutch) peat extracting industry. These discussions are still continuing. Various GPI projects have had their impact at the national</p>		

policy level, enabled through existing networks from IMCG and Wetlands International. The GPI thus has contributed to capacity building at the national, regional and global levels, strengthening its individual partners and local collaborating agencies, but particularly enabling enhanced results through cooperation.

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

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 Phase 1 of activities (2001/2002) projects were funded for a total of Euro 700,000 to assist key peatland projects in Africa, Russia, South-east Asia Under Phase 2, over 20 new projects are supported, amounting to another Euro 750,000

But also projects under the different programs of the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity of the Netherlands support the Global Action Plan on Peatlands: like the project Air Hitam Laut
www.waterfoodecosystems.nl/

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

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.- 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.]

The major part of the wet nature areas in the Netherlands is situated on fen peatland. For these peatlands the monitoring obligations under the EU bird Directive and EU habitat Directive are in place. The total area of peatland in the Netherlands is about 210 000 ha. The larger part of these peatlands are meadows for dairy farms and for this purpose dewatered. Because of oxidation the ground level lowers 2 to 25 mm each year. This ongoing process causes problems with the desiccation of adjacent nature areas. Information can be found partly in English on:

http://www.alterra.wur.nl/NL/cb/Onderzoek/Bodemdegradatie/ST_4_veengebieden.htm

The Nature Balance, an annual assessment of the natural environment and landscape in The Netherlands, monitors policy developments in the field of landscape and natural. The Nature Balance reports the effects of ground water lowering on nature areas. <http://www.rivm.nl/en/milieu/>

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High priority in national and international policy.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated in all relevant policy plans (e.g. nature management plan, water management plans and spatial planning). Many actions of water institutes on all levels. Special attention is paid to the potential role of wetlands in sustainable flood prevention.

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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	<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.]*

In 2001 a covenant was signed between the national government, provinces and waterboards for common efforts to establish more resilience in regional watersystems in the perspective of the effects of climate change. Wetlands will play an important role in achieving the covenants goals. In some cases more resilience will be established through the creation of new wetlands. An obligatory water assessment for plans affecting watersystems, to strengthen sustainable use of water systems and wetlands, is part of the implementation of the covenant. The covenant goals will have to be achieved in 2015

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	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The social and cultural heritage of wetlands is being taken into account in their wise use and management	B	A = Not applicable; B = Yes; 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 on recognition of social and cultural heritage of wetlands.]*

See action r3.3.iii

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

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	B	<u>Choose an answer for each indicator</u> <i>A = Not applicable;</i>
2. Actions have been taken to promote the appreciation and revitalization of cultural values related to wetlands and water	B	<i>B = Yes;</i>
3. All relevant aspects of cultural heritage have been incorporated in the design and implementation of wetland management	D	<i>C = No;</i>
4. Cultural values of wetlands have been used as a tool to strengthen involvement of local stakeholders, particularly in wetland planning and management	B	<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>
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the actions made to take into consideration cultural heritage and values of wetlands.]</i>		
<p>In relation with the so-called Belvedere project of the Ministry of Agriculture, nature and Food Quality, it has been decided that 20 “National Landscapes” (Nationale Landschappen) will be designated,. Five Ramsar sites are part of the National Landscapes.</p> <p>Information about the Belvedere project in Dutch is available at http://www.belvedere.nu/index.php?pID=1</p> <p>One of the projects under Belvedere is a Masterclass Water and Cultural Heritage given in 2004. In this Masterclass Cultural History was taken as an inspiration source for water managers dealing with the policy programme Water Management in the 21 Century.</p> <p>In 2004 a Landscape Advisor to the National Government is appointed.</p>		

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	B	<u>Choose an answer</u> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Special attention is given to poverty reduction in most of the projects in developing countries under The		

International Policy Program on Biodiversity of the Netherlands. It is recognized that poor populations are often dependent for their survival on the use of natural resources without having the policy environment and means necessary to achieve sustainable use.

Different projects with a focus on the relations between poverty alleviation and food and water security plans are, amongst others:

- Partners for Water programme -Water for Food and Ecosystems www.waterfoodecosystems.nl/
- Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems <http://www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005/>.
- Wise use of four ecological regions in Africa
- Through embassies on request, for example support to the Asian Wetland Bureau.

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

The website <http://www.h2overheid.nl/> is the portal for water managers at the Netherlands government. The aim of H2overheid.nl is to bundle information over water and water management related subjects for governments at one portal to improve the quality and to improve information exchange. Moreover H2overheid.nl functions as an communication medium on water related topics. Besides daily news coverage there are extensive dossiers on subjects and there are possibilities for the exchange of good practises and communication on actual research and policy developments.

There are ample research institutes in the Netherlands in particular based at Universities and specialised institutions that deal with the role of wetlands in one of the mentioned areas. Major institutions in the Netherlands are: Alterra is the research institute for our green living environment. <http://www.alterra.wur.nl/UK/organisatie/>, The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) <http://www.rivm.nl/en/>, the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad http://www.riza.nl/index_uk.html, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft <http://www.ihe.nl/>, the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC, Enschede) <http://www.itc.nl/> and the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen (<http://www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl/>).

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	<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.]		
Temporary pools are no major type of waterbody in the Netherlands		

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

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

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#)

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland conservation is ensured through Nature Policy Planning, Water management planning, Bird Directive and Water Framework Directive. Establishment of national Water Link as part of Ecological Network (Room for rivers; use of floodplains for nature and water retention) Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive. The principle of integrated water management is already widely accepted and practiced in water management plans on national and regional level.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition of agricultural land in floodplains for nature and water storage purpose near rivers. Active participation in International River Commission (Rhine, Scheldt, Meuse). Integration of wetland conservation and restoration in coastal zone management plans on national and regional level.

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. The <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) have been used/applied	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on application of the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management.</i>]		
The EU Water Framework Directive will support the objectives of these Ramsar guidelines		
The “Room for Rivers” approach to combine flood protection and restoration of natural floodplains to create an ecological network.		

3. The Party has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative	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>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the participation in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.]		
The Government of the Netherlands and FAO organized an International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, from January 31 - February 5, 2005 in the Hague http://www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005/ . During this conference a side event was organized for participants who represented the RBI.		

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> <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.]		
Not applicable		

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

1. Wetland values and functions have been taken into account in decision-making on large dams	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</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.]		
<p>In the area of the brackish Haringvliet tidal wetlands used to occur at large scale. During last centuries these wetlands were turned into polders and used for agricultural purposes. To manage flood risks the Haringvliet sluices were build in 1970 as a part of the Deltaworks and the Zuiderdiep (a former part of the Haringvliet) became an important part of the fresh water supply for the polders. Again large areas of tidal wetlands disappeared in the Haringvliet because of the absence of water table fluctuations on regular daily basis. Recovery of tidal wetlands is an important topic in Dutch nature management and the possibilities of the recreation of tidal wetlands in the Zuiderdiep area are explored. Partial reopening of the Haringvliet sluices will create opportunities for brackish tidal wetlands (model Brakke getijdenkreek) and using the pumping engine at the North Sea site for the inlet of salt water in the Zuiderdiep will create opportunities for saline tidal wetlands (model Zoute sluffer). In 2004 it was decided by the government that this inlet of seawater will be realized in 2008.</p> <p>Many other projects have been established to restore the ecological functions of wetlands in wetland areas with dams (see also 3.4.iii).</p>		

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	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.]		
Gradual transitions between fresh and salt water, wet and dry and sand and silt have become rare in the Dutch delta. Many projects aiming at restoring these gradients have been initiated, varying from salt water marshes to restoring dune valleys with occasional intrusion of salt water. Several projects have been realized. For example; the Directorate IJsselmeer Area has changed its sluice management in the Barrier Dam to improve fish migration from the Wadden Sea into the IJsselmeer. (http://www.rdi.nl/UK) . Also a large number of fish ways are realized at dams in rivers. (http://www.riza.nl/index_uk.html)		

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	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 assessments of environmental flow undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams.]		
No large dams have been constructed since Cop 8.		
3.- Centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation have been encouraged (<i>if available, please include number of centres</i>)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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.]		
http://www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/?lc=uk		

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	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.]		
Coastal zones are an extremely important part of the Dutch Ramsar sites. The management policy is in accordance with the guidelines.		

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

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

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</i> (Resolution VIII.1) have been used/applied in decision-making related to freshwater	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>		
Allocation and management of water is the basis off the intergrated water management in the Netherlands		

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

See action 18.1.2		
1. Representatives of national water management ministries and/or agencies are included in National Ramsar/Wetland Committee	B	<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>		
In 2004 the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management formally joined the NRC as an observer.		

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	<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 relevant projects.]		
See answer to action 3.1.2 and 3.1.4		
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.]		
see websites under action 3.1.2 and 3.1.4		

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

1. Efforts have been made to maintain continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands in situations of drought	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
See answer to action 3.1.2 and 3.1.4 some of the projects are located in (semi) arid regions In the Netherlands during the drought summer of 2003 water from lake IJsselmeer has been transported to the Ramsar sites in the north east of the Netherlands.		

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	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.]		
In 2000 in the Netherlands, almost 500,000 hectares of nature areas are water depleted to a lesser or greater extent. This is 12% of the total land area. Because of falling groundwater levels, plant roots can no longer reach the groundwater. In addition, as the composition of the water changes, certain plant species find it difficult to survive. There are three causes of water depletion: 60% is caused by dehydration and accelerated drainage for agriculture; 30% is due to the extraction of groundwater for drinking water, industrial water and irrigation. An increase in paved surfaces, a forestation and sand extraction account for the remaining 10%.		

Water depletion is tackled in a number of ways as result from interdisciplinary study, including the restoration of the original groundwater level or percolation pressure. This is done, for example, by stopping or reducing groundwater extraction in the area, or by ceasing to drain an area by means of deep ditches and canals. Groundwater levels in a nature area can also be raised by converting adjoining agricultural land into a buffer zone and maintaining a higher water level in the ditches. Apart from intervention in groundwater levels, water depletion can also be tackled through management measures. An example of such a measure is the removal of mowings, which also removes nutrients. This makes the area less fertile and consequently more attractive for unusual vegetation. Another example is agricultural nature management, whereby a farmer agrees to a lower agricultural output and is paid for his efforts to reclaim and maintain the original ecological values of the countryside. A databank with good practices to restore groundwater tables can be found at (Dutch only) <http://www.verdroging.nl/>

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

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.]

As a regular part of the work of provincial governments.

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

E

Choose an answer

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

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

The Netherlands has not formulated domestic measures for implementing the Kyoto Protocol which effect wetland conservation. The rules and modalities for using Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanisms contain criteria for assessing environmental impacts.

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

E

Choose an answer

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

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

see 3.4.9.

The national legislation and policies for environmental impact assessments apply for all domestic climate change implementation measures. The Netherlands has not formulated specific measures for the land use activities of the Kyoto Protocol.

The Dutch government has formulated Terms of Reference for the use of the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol (Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation). These Terms of Reference prescribe that activities may not cause significant environmental and social impacts.

There are on going studies on impact of climate change; particularly on coastal zones and rivers. Sealevel rise might need several changes in management strategies.

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.]

Information can be found at <http://www.klimaatvoorruijnte.nl/>

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.]

The Netherlands has about 200.000 hectare fen peatland. Lowering of the grund watertable for the agricultural sector causes extra CO2 emission. It has been decided to restore the watertable for 40.000 hectare nature.

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

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.]

A management plan, involving all stakeholders, has been completed for Lac Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles,

however this management plan does not include mitigation for climate change and sealevel rise as yet.

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

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.]

Under the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), which was formed in response to the Ramsar Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP), Over 50 projects are launched under the GPI initiative some in relation to carbon storage and sealevel rise. An overview of the results of partnership for the period 2001-2003 are published at <http://www.peatlands.org/docs/tamp223.htm>.

Major institutions in the Netherlands are: Alterra (part of the Wageningen University and Research Centre)Wageningen UR <http://www.alterra.wur.nl/UK/Home.htm>, the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad http://www.riza.nl/index_uk.html, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft <http://www.ihe.nl/>, the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC, Enschede) <http://www.itc.nl/> and the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen (<http://www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl/>). Information can be found on their websites.

Also within the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Programme the consequences of four scenarios of sea level rise were studied.

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

E

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

In cooperation with the FAO a international conference was held; Water for Food and Ecosystems. The results and casestudies are reported to CSD, WWF and the Ramsar-bureau.

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):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the potential role of existing and restored wetlands in decision making on long term flood prevention schemes for Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain research, monitoring and evaluation programs on wetland restoration. • Dissemination of results on restoration and rehabilitation to relevant originations. • Exchange of knowledge and experience through the European Centre for River Restoration.
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

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.

1. Wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects have been developed	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>Wetland restoration and rehabilitation programmes have a high priority in the Netherlands. For the ecological restoration of water systems that began with the Third Water Management Memorandum, the Fourth Water Management Memorandum states that it will be beneficial to make further investments in physical restoration measures. In these measures, safety and nature development follow from each other, with safety as a precondition.</p> <p>In 2001 167 projects with the aim to restore fresh salt water transitions were started. A number of good practices are available at www.zoetzout.nl and http://www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/en/oi/nod/onderzoek/OND1289453/ (most information in Dutch only).</p> <p>The <i>Delta Plan for the Major Rivers</i> brought forward the planned reinforcement of the dikes, but more will be needed to ensure flood protection along the major rivers. In its position paper <i>Room for the River</i> (2000), the Dutch government chose a new direction for the area around the major rivers of the Netherlands. The river water should be given more room by, for example, lowering the flood plains, moving dikes further back from the river or finding places where water can be temporarily stored. Many projects developed under <i>Room for the River</i> combine flood protection and biodiversity objectives. An example can be found at: http://www.ecologisch-herstel-maas.nl/en/big/default.html</p> <p>The Scheldt Estuary Development Project (ProSes), a joint initiative of Flemish and Dutch governments, will make a solid, broadly supported Development Plan to guarantee sustainable development in the Scheldt estuary. The Scheldt Estuary Development Plan 2010 focuses on three ambitions Safety against flooding, Accessibility of Flemish and Dutch Ports in the region and naturalness of the delta http://www.proses.nl/indexProses.php.</p> <p>The Survival Plan for Woodland and Nature (OBN) was drawn up in 1989. The OBN is the execution of effect oriented measures for special nature types, i.e. for shallow raised bogs, fens and poorly buffered surface waters. The OBN network develops a well thought-out plan in which researchers, policy makers and site managers work together closely. In 2005, the results of this knowledge network OBN were bundled in a booklet “15 years nature restoration in the Netherlands” (15 jaar natuurherstel in Nederland). This booklet will be translated in English.</p> <p>Information about wetland restoration and rehabilitation can be found at the websites of the major knowledge institutes in the Netherlands: the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad http://www.riza.nl/index_uk.html, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft http://www.ihe.nl/, the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC,</p>		

Enschede) <http://www.itc.nl/> and the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen (<http://www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl/>) and Wageningen University and Research Centre <http://www.wur.nl/>.

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

See action 1.1.2

1.- Actions have been taken to restore / rehabilitate those wetlands defined as priority for restoration (if available, please include number of sites)

B

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
All

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

see 4.1.2

In different wetlands restorations projects are (or has been) going on. For example in Alde Feanen, Bargerveen, Nieuwkoopse plassen and Ilperveld are LIFE Nature projects (nature project co-financed by the European Commission) going on. Most restoration projects are concentrating on restoration of the water system, especially to decrease the dehydration. Knowledge has been exchanged on this restoration through internet, symposia and knowledge networks.

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.]

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

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.]

see 4.1.2

In the Netherlands a co-operation between the major developers and users of expertise in the area of rivers, 'The Netherlands Centre for River Studies (NCR)' exists. The tasks of this network could easily be expanded to include the Dutch River Restoration Network as NCR aims to provide an open platform for all people interested in scientific research and communication on River issues. The combination of similarities and differences make NCR and European Centre for River Restoration are highly complementary. NCR therefore now also functions as the Dutch river restoration network under the ECRR umbrella facilitating the exchange of information between the Netherlands and other European countries. In this way, NCR and ECRR support each other and create a win-win situation for integrated river basin management. Using an already existing

network can prove an advantage as many formal matters are already in place. The NCR homepage will be used for dissemination of information <http://www.ncr-web.org/>

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	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
2. Information on new research and methodologies for wetland restoration/rehabilitation has been compiled and disseminated	B	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H</i> <i>= Other status (explain below); I = No</i> <i>answer</i>
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information on restoration/rehabilitation of wetlands and its dissemination.]		
<p>see 4.1.2</p> <p>The “<i>Survival Plan for Woodland and Nature</i>” (Overlevingsplan Bos en natuur OBN) was drawn up in 1989. The OBN is the execution of effect oriented measures for different nature types, i.e. for shallow raised bogs, fens and poorly buffered surface waters. Within the OBN network a plan in which researchers, policy makers and site managers work together closely is made. In 2005, the results of this knowledge network OBN were bundled in a booklet “<i>15 years nature restoration in the Netherlands</i>” (15 jaar natuurherstel in Nederland). This booklet will be translated in English.</p> <p>A database is available for projects with the aim to restore groundwater tables (in Dutch only) http://www.verdroging.nl/rubrieken/index.projectendatabank.html and www.natuurherstel.nl</p> <p>By contributions to the European Centre for River Restoration http://www.ecrr.org/</p>		

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

See action 3.4.9

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

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

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

See action r3.]

3.iii

1. Cultural and archaeological heritage significance of wetlands has been considered in restoration actions

D

Choose an answer

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

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

In the Veluwe during a brook restoration project the watermills in the area have been restored and information signs were posted in front of centuries old trees. See also Belvedere (1.1.2).

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)

See action 20.1.5

1. Training needs in relation to wetland restoration have been assessed

B

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

2. Training opportunities and expertise in relation to wetland restoration have been identified

B

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on training needs and opportunities in relation to wetland restoration.]

The Survival Plan for Woodland and Nature (OBN) was drawn up in 1989. The OBN is the execution of effect oriented measures for special nature types, i.e. for shallow raised bogs, fens and poorly buffered surface waters. Under the OBN a knowledge exchange programme has started in 2004 focusing on restoration, information will be placed on a website.

Every year since 1994, the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA), part of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management in The Netherlands, has hosted the International Course in Wetland Management at the Wetlands Advisory and Training Centre (WATC) in Lelystad, which has benefited some 180 wetland managers active in the sustainable management of wetlands. In 2004 the fifth International Course on Wetland Restoration was held at the RIZA. This 4-week, certificate-granting courses are organized according to approved Ramsar Convention principles and guidelines (the Ramsar Secretary General serves as chair of the Advisory Board), and many graduates from 40 countries have returned to their own countries with a thorough experience of the Convention's work both in theory and practice. http://www.ramsar.org/watc_course_2004.htm

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

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.]

Through Development assistance implemented on international level.

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 *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* have been disseminated to community stakeholders

C

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

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

F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H

= Other status (explain below); I = No

answer

2. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in wetland restoration activities

B

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the dissemination of the Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration and the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in wetland restoration.]

Many local restoration initiatives seek active participation of volunteers. There is a website in which volunteers and volunteer seeking organization can match their offers and needs. (Dutch only)

<http://www.natuur.nl/cat5.html>

In national, provincial and local land use planning stakeholders (like farmers and other citizens) are actively involved in wetland restoration and management of wetlands and other natural area.

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

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 use of Ramsar web site on wetland restoration and the materials provided to it, if applicable.]

The RIZA training centre is mentioned on the Ramsar website.

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

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.]

Compensation off nature loss is binding in "Nature Protection Law" (Natuur Beschermingswet) of the Netherlands. Compensation measures have to be developed in the planning phases of projects.

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

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):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no overgrown of water/wetlands by Hydrocotyle ranunculoides. investigate/ scientific advice on potential exotic species on EU level, including (if necessary) listing for trade restrictions on EU level.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> management measures by Waterboards on Hydrocotyle ranunculoides prohibition on sale of Hydrocotyle ranunculoides. support with (scientific) advice and/or decision making on national level (in Species Act).

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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	F	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</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>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i>
3. Actions related to invasive species have been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organizations/processes	F	<i>F= Being planned;</i> <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>Inventarisation of invasive species in land, fresh water and sea is in progress. Inventarisation of the required legislation to implement the guiding principles has been carried out. A management plant to deal with invasive alien species will be finished within three months.</p> <p>Since 2001 trade in Hydrocotyle ranunculoides (grote waternevel) is forbidden. Best management practices for pest control and information on legislation can be found at http://www.stowa.nl/waternavel/</p>		

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

1. Risk assessments of alien species that pose a threat to wetlands have been undertaken	D	<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.]		
An overall inventarisation of invasive alien species in the Netherlands and the economic damage of these species is in progress and this will be the base for the management plan. For some species in wetlands the economic damage will be specified (e.g. musk rat, Japanese oyster)		

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 (<u>if applicable, please include number of sites</u>)	E	<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	<u>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</u>
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.]			
State and possible threats of invasive species is not fully known.			

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 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:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation and strengthening op public in decision making process on nature management policy and site-designation and (on regional and local level) management of areas. 	

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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	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Active outreach and information in nature management and perception and implementation of land use plans and rural development plans. Farmers and local organizations actively involved in nature management.		

In our national legislation is public participation is included. Also in our new “*Nature protection law*” public participation is embedded.

In the Water Management Policy of the 21st Century it is stated that the Cabinet would like to better inform individuals and social interest groups about the risks and opportunities of living in a river delta area. In 2001 under the management of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, the Cabinet established a national communication plan. Provincial authorities, water boards and municipal authorities will see to its continued implementation at the regional and local level. A ‘water platform’, as recommended by the Water Management in the 21st Century

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

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

D

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.]

Farmers actively involved in management of certain wetlands

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.]

The public participation has been promoted in various forms a few examples are:

District Water Boards are among the oldest Dutch democratic organizations based on the need for local water resource management and safety. Dutch water boards are local authorities. Their functioning is based on the principle that those who have benefit in local water management, pay for it and have a say in the execution of tasks of the water authority (the water board). More information:

http://www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005/docs/Application_Dutch_H2Oboard_en.pdf

Many wetlands in the Netherlands are owned and managed by NGO’s which represent, through membership, a large portion of the Netherlands population.

In the Water Management Policy of the 21st Century it is stated that the Cabinet would like to better inform individuals and social interest groups about the risks and opportunities of living in a river delta area. In 2001 under the management of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, the Cabinet established a national communication plan. Provincial authorities, water boards and municipal authorities will see to its continued implementation at the regional and local level. A ‘water platform’, as recommended by the Water Management in the 21st Century

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) is an independent platform of stakeholder groups in the trilateral Wadden Sea area. The WSF will develop proposals for sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region, to be submitted to the 10th Governmental Wadden Sea Conference in 2005. The stakeholder groups are at

government level, Wadden Sea municipalities, experts and representatives from the harbor and industry, tourism, recreational and agricultural sector. <http://www.Waddenzee-forum.org/Forum/forum.htm> In the forum not only the Wadden Sea area is discussed but also the coastal zone and the inhabitants of this area and possibilities for sustainable development.

3.- Local stakeholders have been involved in the selection of new Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites)	A	<u>Choose an answer</u> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
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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.]

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

1. Local stakeholders have been involved in wider issues related to water resources management at basin level	B	<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
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

see 6.1.4

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

River Dialogue <<http://www.riverdialogue.org/index.php?mid=intro>> is an international research project

launched in the beginning of 2003 aimed at identifying the best approaches to increase public participation in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, including preparation and implementation of river basin management plans. The IJssel Lake is a case study.

Towards sustainable use of the Wadden Sea a Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) was formed in 2001. The members of the WSF are representatives of local and regional user groups and local and regional governmental organizations. The WSF members develop proposals for sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region.

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

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.- 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.]

See 6.1.4 and at a local level there a far more participatory management strategies applied for example:

Many wetlands in the Netherlands are owned and managed by NGO's which represent, through membership, a large portion of the Netherlands population.

The "Landschapsbeheer groepen" (Landscape Management Groups) at local level are succesfull in attracting volunteers and donors for enironmental management activities.

Over hunderd "Farmers' Assosiations for nature management" are active in the Netherlands.

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

Choose an answer

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

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

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guiding Principles on cultural values.]

3. Resource information and case studies on cultural aspects of wetlands have 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

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

The Coastal Guide offers information to the visitor of coastal areas in Europe. Special attention is given to the history of the landscape, wildlife, nature and recreation areas and cultural heritage (historical cities, buildings and museums). A pilot web site is available <http://www.coastalguide.to/>

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

1. Educational and training activities have been developed in relation to cultural aspects of wetlands	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <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.]		
Within the Belvedere project special trainings are organised. For more information (in Dutch) see at http://www.belvedere.nu/index.php?pID=1		

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 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

1.- Cultural values of wetlands have been incorporated into the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites all
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>			

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the involvement of agricultural sector in management of nature (and wetland) areas. • Integration of biodiversity in economic sector- agreements with sectors on implementation of nature policy. • Review work and composition of National Ramsar Committee • Sustainable level of harvest of (shell)fish species (e.g. cockles, mussels) and other animal and plant species (e.g. in Wadden Sea and South west delta). 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidies and funds for management of certain wetlands by agricultural sector and agriculture-associations and other private agencies and individuals. • e.g. Wadden Sea Forum with participation of private sector, local governments and public. • Involvement of private sector in investments, also for wetlands and nature • In 2003 a review of Wadden Sea policy on fisheries. 	

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

1. The private sector has been encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; 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>		
see also 3.2.1 A few examples of the encouragement of the application of the wise use principle by the private		

sector are mentioned but many more can be found.

The International Policy Programme of the Netherlands <http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org/index.php?menuid=4800&lang=en&cl=blue&q=> defines three priority programme components for the period 2002 – 2006. One of them is the reduction of negative impacts of Dutch actions on biodiversity in other countries. Close collaboration with the private sector for example Public Private Partnerships is seen as the most viable way to reduce the negative impacts. The private sector has been encouraged in many ways to adopt the wise use principles in their activities and investments.

Through initiatives of the Global Peatland Initiative the possibilities to promote wise use through certification of peat products were discussed with the (Dutch) peat extracting industry. These discussions are still continuing.

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) is an independent platform of stakeholder groups in the trilateral Wadden Sea area. The WSF will develop proposals for sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region, to be submitted to the 10th Governmental Wadden Sea Conference in 2005. The stakeholder groups are at government level, Wadden Sea municipalities, experts and representatives from the harbor and industry, tourism, recreational and agricultural sector. <http://www.waddensea-forum.org/Forum/forum.htm>

The decision by the Dutch Parliament to support the Cabinet allowing gas production under the Wadden Sea under strict conditions as well as further exploration activities makes it possible for the NAM (Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij) to explore gas production in the Wadden Sea. The benefit for the Wadden Sea itself, is the intend of the Cabinet to invest a half Billion Euro in nature development and sustainable economic development in this tidal area.

In the end of 2004 is decided to further develop 'line of actions' (guidelines/ code of conduct) for good practise/ sustainable use of nature. Since 2003 the Forestry sector has used this with good results, so other sectors, such as the agriculture and the recreation sector, are developing a comparable approach for other their sector. The 'line of action' or guidelines has official to be approved by the Minister before it can be used.

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

see 1.1.6 OBN and 7.1.1 Wadden Sea Forum and Wester Scheldt

Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) (information sharing between government, private sector) is an independent body set up jointly by the Dutch private and public sector to act as a national coordination and information point in relation to water activities overseas. The organization will become a focal point for the exchange of information related to activities and services of government bodies, knowledge and research institutes and businesses involved in the water sector.

<http://www.nwp.nl/handler.cfm?event=showabout&ID=1>

The Scheldt Estuary Development Project (ProSes), a joint initiative of Flemish and Dutch governments, will make a solid, broadly supported Development Plan to guarantee sustainable development in the Scheldt estuary. The Scheldt Estuary Development Plan 2010 focuses on three ambitions Safety against flooding, Accessibility of Flemish and Dutch Ports in the region and Naturalness of the delta

<http://www.proses.nl/indexProses.php>.

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> <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 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	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. Legal, institutional and administrative measures are being implemented to ensure sustainable harvesting of wetland products	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the measures taken to ensure sustainable harvesting and trade of wetland products.]		
Shellfish fisheries in Wadden Sea and Zeeland has been assessed to develop new management measures, including the halt to cucklefiseries in the Wadden Sea. The (EVA II) report summarizes the results the scientific evaluation of the Dutch shellfish fishery policy and relates these findings to the results of other studies on the ecological impacts of shellfish fisheries in the Wadden Sea and elsewhere. All reports are available from the internet site http://www.eva2.nl/ .		

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

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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	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. Actions have been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands	B	
3. Actions have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands	B	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the promotion and implementation of incentive measures and removal of perverse ones.]		
A review of agri-environmental measurements at EU level and at the national level in the Netherlands is completed.		

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; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on agriculture subsidies and incentives and their impacts on water resources and wetlands.]		
see 8.1.1.		

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	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.]		

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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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):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEPA is an integrated part of the broader oriented nature and biodiversity awareness programs 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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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 A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
See the developments of NL Clearing House Mechanism website http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org/index.php?menuid=9500&lang=en Almost all relevant information for watermanagers is brought together ad a special (dutch) website: http://www.h2overheid.nl/		

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

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

³ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

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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

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.]

River Dialogue <http://www.riverdialogue.org/index.php?mid=intro> is an international research project launched in the beginning of 2003 aimed at identifying the best approaches to increase public participation in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, including preparation and implementation of river basin management plans. For the IJssel Lake a case study has started.

Other examples are Long term vision Scheldt Estuary <http://www.mungo.nl/LTV.htm>

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

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. Lessons learnt in implementing CEPA programmes have been documented

C

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

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:	C	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):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEPA is an integrated part of the broader oriented nature and biodiversity awareness programs.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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).

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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	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. A National NGO Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed	C	

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

On the national level there is no need for separate CEPA focal point for wetlands. CEPA is an integrated part of the broader oriented nature and biodiversity awareness programs.

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

1. A National wetland CEPA Task Force has been established	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.]

A special communication programme has started on the EU Bird and Habitat Directive in the Netherlands, including wetlands.

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

A broad nature and biodiversity awareness programme has been set up; as well as special communication programme on the implementation of the EU Bird and habitat Directive.

Many projects can be mentioned for example:

Information on nature policy and management, monitoring, ecosystems, actualities and more ordered thematically and geographically with over 1300 links can be found at http://www.wwwim.nl/indx_eng.htm

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

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

1. Actions have been taken in relation to communication and information-sharing on wetland issues between relevant ministries, departments and agencies	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>The interdepartmental International Policy Programme for Biodiversity is an example of close collaboration of the relevant ministries. Also the Partners for Water programme is an collaboration of the relevant Ministries. For the implementation of the Birds Directive (and Habitats Directive) there is regular communication and information sharing on wetlands. Especially regarding the implementation of the new Nature Protection Law there are quite often meetings, workshops and/or symposia together with other Ministries (such as the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affaires and the Ministry of Defense.</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	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>CEPA is a cross-cutting element in Netherlands funded wetlands programmes world wide (Development Co-operation), notably in Central and Eastern Europe, West Africa and globally in the Global Wetlands Programme by Wetlands International. It is also a regular subject of small Embassy funded projects and the small grants wetland scheme run by the Netherlands Committee IUCN. The international courses on wetlands organised by RIZA in Lelystad and the Training for Trainer Course, with participants from all over the world and the twinning operations from these courses in Kenya.</p>		

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	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; 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>List of education centres on wetlands is available and communicated to the Ramsar bureau.</p>		

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	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	B	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications on information on (wetland)management by Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries (EC-LNV, Wageningen University Research) and nature management organizations (NGO's) • Further development of NL Clearing House Mechanism website.

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

1. Materials to support wetland CEPA have been produced and distributed	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
see r. 9.3.2. see objective 20 Further development of NL Clearing House Mechanism website http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org/ There are ample institutes in the Netherlands with publications of CEPA materials. Many NGO's have their own programmes to support CEPA. Major institutions in the Netherlands are: the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad http://www.riza.nl/index_uk.html , the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen (http://www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl/),		

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

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

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

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

1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are part of the Wetland Link International Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)	I	<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° centres
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are part of the Wetland Link International Programme, and any other comments you consider relevant.]			

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

1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are twinned with similar facilities in other countries (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)	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° centres
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.]			
The actual number of wetland centres that is twinned with similar facilities in other countries is not registered			

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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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):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development of NL Clearing House Mechanism website http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org/ 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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).

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

1. A review of needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA has been completed	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.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	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.]		
see operational objective 20		

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

1. Resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA have been sought	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i>
2. Progress in obtaining resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA has been made	B	<i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
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;</i>
2. Changes in the formal educational curricula to incorporate wetland-related issues have been effected	B	<i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on 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:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publications and information on (wetland) management by Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries (EC-LNV, Wageningen University Research) and nature management organizations (NGO's)

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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

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 part from many projects, programmes and websites a public awareness campaign "The Netherlands Lives with Water" (Nederland leeft met water) was developed. In February 2003 the multimedia public awareness campaign was launched and the campaign will last five years. The campaign aims to explain the government's policy of 'giving water more room' and encourage support for it. The campaign will inform the Dutch inhabitants with cartoons, television and radio broadcasting about the new measurements water managers will have to take (due to the consequences of climate change) to keep the Netherlands dry and safe in the future. Information is available at <http://www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/object/?lc=uk&tb=Object&id=152>

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.]

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

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).

1. Collaboration with the media has been systematically used to convey the wetland message	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 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 (<i>if available, please include number of sites</i>)	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>	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [<i>Please include information on the actions taken, the Ramsar site(s) equipped, and any other additional comments you consider relevant.</i>]			
<p>On 21th of April 2004 the Minsitery of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality (ANF) organised a national Wetland Day or symposium in the Netherlands on ‘wise-use’ of wetlands. The title of the conference was ‘Wetlands een collectief bezit’ or ‘Wetlands, a collective ownership’. The conference was organised close by a wetland of international importance: the Veluwemeer. (The public could see the lake from the windows of the conference building.) Different stakeholders were asked to give their opion regarding the use of wetlands and as example the developments in the Veluwemeer was used as reference. Speakers were Directors from other governmental organisations (such as the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water management, the provincial government (Provincial Executive), municipalities), private organisations (the recreation sector), NGO’s and volunteers (the wetlandwachten). At the end of the day a panel discussion was organised and the Director General of the Ministry of ANF gave a concluding statement. (http://www.natura-2000.nl/main_2-5-2.php)</p>			

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

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

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

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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.

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).

1. CEPA expertise has been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management tools	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>		
River Dialogue http://www.riverdialogue.org/index.php?mid=intro is an international research project launched in the beginning of 2003 aimed at identifying the best approaches to increase public participation in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, including preparation and implementation of river basin management plans. The IJssel Lake is a case study.		

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

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:	C	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):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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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 <i>(if available, please include number of centres and sites)</i>	12	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres N° wetlands/Ramsar sites 12
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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).

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.]		
Current Education centres at Ramsar sites Oosterschelde (2), Wieden, Weerribben, Verdrongen land van Saeftinghe, Wadden Sea together with Waddeneilanden / Noordzee kustzone / Breebaart (location Schiermonnikoog, Texel, Terschelling, Vlieland, Ameland), Biesbosch (3), Alde Feanen, Lauwersmeer, Groote Peel, Grevelingen, Oostvaardersplassen.		
3.- Additional education centres are planned for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of centres and sites)	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
		N° centres N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the centres planned and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]		
The number of education centres that is planned in the near future is not centrally registered		

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

Action r9.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> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
		N° facilities -
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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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):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate more Ramsar sites in NL-Antilles (possibly under-represented types; coral reefs, mangrove and karst) • Transboundary wetlands like Wadden Sea, Wester Scheldt and Gelderse Poort are part of National Ecological Network.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish procedures to designate 26 Ramsar sites in the Netherlands (1999-2002) • Study for possible additional sites/qualifications in NL-Antilles.

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

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

1. A strategy and priorities have been established for further designation of Ramsar sites, in application of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List	C	<i>Choose an answer</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.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)

See action 1.1.2

1. All potential Ramsar sites have been identified and targets for future designations have been defined.	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The inventory of wetlands was begun in 1996 and completed in 1998. In 1999 the results were published in the "National Inventory of Ramsar sites in the Netherlands" by E.R. Osieck and C.A. Borggreve. 100 % of the country is covered in the inventory and 58 wetlands of international importance have been identified, of which 43 have already been designated as Ramsar sites.		

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)

<p>1.- The appropriate 1% thresholds contained in <i>Waterbird Population Estimates 3rd Edition</i> have been used in identifying and designating Ramsar sites under Criterion 6 (<i>if applicable, please include number of sites designated under Criterion 6</i>)</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° Ramsar sites</p>
<p>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.]</p>		
<p>No because the inventory was completed before the 3rd Edition was available, the identifying and designation of Ramsar sites is based on criteria of the second edition. There is no reason to change this realised designation of sites.</p>		

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.

<p>See action 1.1.2</p>		
<p>1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of representative, rare or unique wetland types present in the territory has been done (<i>if applicable, please include number of sites designated</i>).</p>	<p>B</p> <p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p>N° Ramsar sites 9</p>
<p>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.]</p>		
<p>9 Ramsar sites representing rare or unique wetland types; Wadden Sea, Verdrongen Land van Saftinghe, Voordelta, Voornes Duin, Ooster Scheldt, Oostvaardersplassen, Weerribben, Wieden, Oostelijke Vechtplassen No progress in designation of new sites since COP 8</p>		
<p>3.- Designation of wetland types currently under-represented in the Ramsar List has been done (<i>if applicable, please include number of sites designated</i>).</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° Ramsar sites</p>
<p>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.]</p>		
<p></p>		

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

<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).	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 21
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
21 Marine and Coastal Ramsar sites: Boschplaat, Griend, Waddenzee (Wadden Sea), Oosterschelde & Markiezzaatmeer, Zwanenwater, Wester Scheldt en Verdrongen Land van Saeftinge, Veerse Meer, Waddeneilanden/Noordzeekustzone/Breebaart, Grevelingen, Voordelta, Voornes Duin, Het Spaans Lagoen, Het Lac, Het Pekelmeer, Klein Bonaire Island and adjacent sea, Het Gotomeer, De Slagbaai No progress in designation of new sites since COP 8			

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
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
In 2002 26 new Ramsar sites have been subscribed at the Ramsar bureau. This designation is primary based on migratory species.			

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

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.”

In 2002 26 new Ramsar sites have been subscribed at the Ramsar bureau. This designation is primary based on migratory species.

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.

<p>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 (<i>if applicable, please include number of sites designated</i>).</p>	<p>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;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p><u>N°</u> <u>Ramsar</u> <u>sites</u></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</p>		
<p>All Ramsar sites are designated under the EU Bird and Habitat Directive</p>		

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

<p>1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of the national area of transboundary wetlands has been done (<i>if applicable, please include number of sites designated</i>).</p>	<p>B <i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p><u>N°</u> <u>Ramsar</u> <u>sites</u> 4</p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</p>		
<p>4 transboundary Ramsar sites: Waddenzee (Wadden Sea), Westerschelde en Verdrongen Land van Saeftinge, Waddeneilanden/Noordzeekustzone/Breebaart , Bargerveen No progress in designation of new sites since COP 8.</p>		

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

<p>1.- High Andean wetlands have been designated as Ramsar sites (<i>if applicable, please include number of sites designated</i>).</p>	<p>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></p>	<p><u>N°</u> <u>Ramsar</u> <u>sites</u></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</p>		
<p></p>		

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
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	<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 contributions made.]		
Every year a mid winter count of water fowls is established by Sovon and send to Wetlands International.		
3. Populations information for wetland-dependent taxa other than waterbirds have been provided to Wetlands International	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information provided.]		

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

1. Population data on waterbirds is collected regularly	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The population data on waterbirds collected has been regularly provided to Wetlands International	B	
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 <i>[Please include additional comments on the information available about population data on waterbirds.]</i>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	B	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	B	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		
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	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>		
Only information on land use is included in the RIS.		

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*.

<p>1. All missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of Ramsar sites have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau</p>	<p>D</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i></p>		
<p>For the 26 Ramsar sites that were designated in 2000 and subscribed to the Ramsar bureau in 2002, the approved Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands inclusive maps of the sites have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau in 2002 / 2003. For the 17 sites in the Netherlands that already belonged to the Ramsar sites before 2000 updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands have been made and will be sent to the Ramsar Bureau probably later this year (first some official procedures within the Netherlands must be finished).</p>		

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.

<p>1. All required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i></p>		
<p>see 10.2.3</p>		

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

<p>PRIORITY:</p>	<p>A</p>	<p><i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i></p>
<p>RESOURCING:</p>	<p>A</p>	<p><i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i></p>
<p>TARGETS (text answer):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of Ramsar sites in The Netherlands are part of the National Ecological Network (NEN). The core area of this network consists of the current nature conservation areas, including the Ramsar sites. To these have been added a large number of 'nature development areas': areas that are to be turned into nature reserves by ecological engineering and management, this includes wetlands. The government aims to have this National Ecological Network in place by 2020. The methods and strategy to achieve these objectives were published in 1995, (Bal et al. and totally revised in 2001 Ecosystems in the Netherlands, Policy for Nature and Environment, Handbook of Nature Target Types). Wetlands are an integral part of this policy; can not be separated from the overall policy. An important aim of the Netherlands is to support the development of large scale areas, at least thousands of hectares, in which abiotic and biotic processes are relatively undisturbed by humans. Again, this includes wetlands and Ramsar sites. By doing so, the current ecological character of wetlands 	

	<p>and Ramsar sites, a large part being more or less controlled ecosystems with manipulated abiotic and biotic processes, can be changed and thus the maintenance of the current ecological character affected. In line with the policy objectives outlined above (restore natural processes) and as a result of the improvement of water quality (decrease eutrophication) the ecological character of Ramsar sites is likely to change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extensive and relevant monitoring systems in the Netherlands (abiotic and biotic) are currently in a process of being tailored to the demands of the EU Bird Directive, Habitat Directive and Water Framework Directive. By doing so the demands of the Ramsar Convention will be fully covered. • Zoning larger Ramsar sites for all sorts of interventions is one of the tools to support the nature management objectives, including wetlands.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	

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).	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- 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.]			
The Netherlands is working on the implementation of the EU Birds Directive and Habitat Directive. For these Directives the Netherlands is defining the ecological conservation status of the wetlands. When this is finished for all the wetlands the measures to reach the sustainable conservation status will be analysed.			

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	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 way the guidelines have been used.]			
MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES			N° Ramsar sites
3.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place			43
4.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place and being fully applied			43
5.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being prepared			-

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>	

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

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

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	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Management plans are obligatory under the “Nature Protection Law” for all protected areas including all Ramsar sites. The ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality (ANF) prescribes terms of reference for the management plans. Provinces and the ministry of Public Work Transport and Water Management, the ministry of Defence and the ministry of ANF acknowledge the management plans. The Ramsar Tools are not used separately but are an interwoven part of national policy and legislation.		

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

1. All stakeholders have been fully involved in the management planning processes	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
see operational objective 9 Public participation and 11.1.5.		

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)

<p>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</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>see operational objective 9 Public participation</p> <p>In the Netherlands a co-operation between the major developers and users of expertise in the area of rivers, "The Netherlands Centre for River Studies (NCR) exists. The NCR has a homepage (http://www.ncr-web.org/), and works in close collaboration with the ECRR.</p>		

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)

<p>1.- Measures to maintain ecological character have been incorporated into the site management plans (if available, please include number of sites)</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p><u>N°</u> <u>Ramsar</u> <u>sites</u></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>			
<p></p>			

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)

<p>1. The need to increase wetland resilience to climate change and extreme climatic events has been taken into account in management planning</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>		
<p>Water & Climate issues are recognized on a national policy level. The Dutch policy vision for water management in the 21st century emphasizes that Integrated Water Resource Management is needed, and this should take into account climate change and climate variability.</p> <p>A study on the effects a sealevel rise on the Dutch wetlands has been published by the RIKZ</p>		

<http://www.netcoast.nl/publications/sealevel.doc>

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

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

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

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

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

3.- Strict protection measures have been established for Ramsar sites of small size and/or particular sensitivity <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites with strict protection measures, and any additional comments you may consider relevant.]</i>			

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;	
2.- Cross-sectoral site management committees established at Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	B	H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
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>			
In some cases like the Wadden Sea and the Ooster Scheldt an cross-sectoral advisory board is established. Within the local waterboards all sectors (like nature and agriculture) can participate.			

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

Action 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:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See operational objective 11.1 • All Ramsar sites are Special Protected Areas the obligation of an impact assessment and monitoring of ecological change are therefore covered by the requirements of the EU Bird Directive. 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a monitoring system for the EU Directives in such a way that it is in line with the Ramsar Convention. • Link the reporting requirements for the EU Bird Directive with those for the Ramsar Convention. 	

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

			N° Ramsar sites
1.- Monitoring programmes have been established at Ramsar sites <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;	43
2.- Monitoring programmes are part of the site management plan <i>(if available, please include number of sites)</i>	B	G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	43
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites falling under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant about monitoring programmes.]</i>			
All Ramsar sites are Special Protected Areas. In these areas the monitoring of ecological change is covered by			

			<u>N° Ramsar sites</u>
the requirements of the EU Bird and Habitat Directive			
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)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and any additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
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.]			
See the developments of NL Clearing House Mechanism website under the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity the chapter ecosystems Desserts http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org/index.php?menuid=9500&lang=en see for climate change action 1.2.5 desertification is not relevant in the Dutch situation but research is being done abroad.			
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	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.]			
Ramsar has been updated on status of studies in Wadden Sea in relation to fisheries (see also particular references to this item in this report)			
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	<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.]*

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

1.- Changes or likely changes (both positive and negative) in ecological character at Ramsar sites have occurred or may occur (Art. 3.2) <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	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° Ramsar sites 0
2.- Changes or likely changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites have been reported to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2	C		
3.- Ramsar sites were included in the <i>Montreux Record</i> since COP8 <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	C		N° Ramsar sites 0
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the changes or likely changes in ecological character, and list the sites affected.]</i>			
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include information on the steps followed to include sites in the Montreux Record since COP8.]</i>			
Not applicable			

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

1. Actions have been taken to address the problems that have originated a report to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; 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 actions taken.]</i>		

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

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

1.- Ramsar Advisory Missions have been requested to review the problems at Ramsar sites included in the <i>Montreux Record</i> , if any <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 you consider relevant.]</i>			

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

<i>(For CPs with sites in Montreux Record and RAMs made)</i>			N°Ramsar sites
1.- Actions have been taken to implement the recommendations of Ramsar Advisory Missions <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</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 address the issues for which the site(s) was/were listed in the Montreux Record <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	A	H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, comments on RAM missions, results of the actions taken, including possible removal of sites from Montreux Record.]</i>			

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;	
2.- Actions taken to address issues at Montreux Record Ramsar sites have been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau	A	H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned and results of the actions taken.]</i>			

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of all shared wetland systems is in place, implementation of ICZM and River basin management is ongoing concern, e.g. the Wadden Sea.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi- or multi lateral management commissions in place (Rhine, Scheldt, Meuse), implementation and development is going concern.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work in trilateral agreement on the Wadden Sea with Germany and Denmark. • Continue and enhance existing international cooperation on river management (Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt) also covering ecological aspects. • Scientific cooperation and experience-sharing within the framework of existing international cooperation in shared river basins and coastal zones • Bilateral cooperation with institutes, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. • Continuation of knowledge dissemination, communication of results and experience-sharing amongst others by research institutes, universities and the European Centre for River Restoration.

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

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

1.- All transboundary/shared wetland systems have been identified (if applicable, please include number of sites)	D	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</i>	N° wetlands/ wetland systems 4
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the transboundary wetlands identified and provide any other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
Four Ramsar sites: Wester Scheldt ; Wadden Sea, North Sea Coastal Zone, and Bargerveen Rivers: Rhine, Scheldt and Meuse			

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	B	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</i>	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
The EU Water Framework Directive was adopted in 2004. The Directive concerns the management by river basin - the natural geographical and hydrological unit- the best model for a single system of water management. For each river basin district - some of which will traverse national frontiers - a "river basin management plan" will need to be established and updated every six years, and this will provide the context for the co-ordination requirements. For our large rivers Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt initiatives have been			

taken in cooperation and joint objective-setting across Member State borders, or in the case of the Rhine even beyond the EU territory. The EU Water Framework Directive also encounters all shared wetland systems including the Wadden Sea and Bargerveen.

Towards sustainable use of the Wadden Sea a Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) was formed in 2001. The members of the WSF are representatives of local and regional user groups and local and regional governmental organizations. The WSF members develop proposals for sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region. The 10th Governmental Wadden Sea Conference in 2005 will be held in Schiermonnikoog, the Netherlands.

The Scheldt Estuary Development Project (ProSes), a joint initiative of Flemish and Dutch governments, will make a solid, broadly supported Development Plan to guarantee sustainable development in the Scheldt estuary. The Scheldt Estuary Development Plan 2010 focuses on three ambitions Safety against flooding, Accessibility of Flemish and Dutch Ports in the region and Naturalness of the delta
<http://www.proses.nl/indexProses.php>.

The European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR) is presently being formed as a non-profit organization. The participants of the organization will be primarily from the European Continent, although participants from other countries are welcome. ECRR fosters communication between people working with river restoration in Europe. <http://www.rws.nl/rws/riza/home/ecrr/>

More information can be found for the divers rivers at

Rhine : IRC Homepage <http://www.iksr.org/> IRC

Meuse : International Commission for the Protection of the Meuse <http://www.cipm-icbm.be/>

Scheldt: International Commission for the Protection of the Scheldt <http://www.icbs-cipe.com/>
or at the Information centre <http://www.scheldenet.nl/>

Eems Dollard: Commission Eems-Dollard <http://www.interwad.nl/>

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

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.]

All shared river basins will fall under the EU Water Framework Directive. This Directive will provide a legal basis for cooperation. The Rhine and Meuse treaties are examples where the guidelines for allocation and management of water have been applied in the context of shared water systems

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.]

The Scheldt Estuary Development Project (ProSes), a joint initiative of Flemish and Dutch governments, will make a solid, broadly supported Development Plan to guarantee sustainable development in the Scheldt

estuary. The Scheldt Estuary Development Plan 2010 focuses on three ambitions Safety against flooding, Accessibility of Flemish and Dutch Ports in the region and naturalness of the delta
<http://www.proses.nl/indexProses.php>.

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

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

1. Actions have been taken to ensure accessibility of information, analysis, good practice examples, etc., on integrating wetlands and biodiversity issues into river basin management

B

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 EU Water Framework Directive has a website to ensure accesibility of information, analysis and good practices examples on integrating wtlands and biodiversity issues into River Basin Management.
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/information.html>

The Government of the Netherlands and FAO organized an International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, from January 31 - February 5, 2005 in the Hague <http://www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005/>. The conference provided a high level platform for around 600 participants around the globe, including a ministerial segment. The prime objective of the WFE Conference was: to help governments identify management practices, practical lessons learned and the necessary enabling environments that lead to sustainable water use at the river-basin level and the harmonization of food production and ecosystem management with a view to implementing already internationally agreed commitments. A cases database was established at the website were over 80 cases describe experiences with integrating wetlands and biodiversity issues in river basin management..

see also action 12.1.2

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of wetland sites has been completed (see operational objective 1). • 26 Ramsar sites added to the Ramsar list. • Continue to support the development and implementation of flyway networks as part of the working plan with the International Programme Biodiversity (2002-2006). • Cooperation on shared hydrological basins is in place; implementation is going concern (e.g. Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt). • Hunting regulation is in place; implementation is an ongoing concern.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the work of AEWA by support in development of Actions

(text answer):	Plans and its implementation; also in (West)Africa region through W.I. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting regulated/restricted in Ramsar sites under new Flora and Fauna Act (April 2002). • Enforcement of hunting regulations.
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Action 12.2.1.- Identify and designate as Ramsar sites all wetlands which satisfy the relevant Ramsar Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species, giving priority in the first instance to waterbirds, fish, and marine turtles, especially those that are globally threatened. (Section B1 of the Guidelines)

1.- Wetlands which satisfy Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species have been designated as Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites designated)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <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° Ramsar sites 49
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3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]

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

See action r10.1.iv

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

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.]

The Netherlands is still the lead country for supporting the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) (<http://www.unep-aewa.org/>) under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention).

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

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

B

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

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

Hunting is regulated/restricted in Ramsar sites under new Flora and Fauna Act (April 2002)

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:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of a flyway agreement of the America's and Central Asia.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		

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

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

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:	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):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-operation and strengthening synergy between MEA's. The Ramsar Convention continues to be an important vehicle for international cooperation, esp. outside EU. International targets set in the International Policy programme Biodiversity 2002-2006, which includes an Action Plan for Central and Eastern Europe (www.biodiversity-chm.nl). In general support for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention continues to be an important objective of the nature management policy of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, with support of the Netherlands.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased co-operation between EC and Ramsar on e.g. Waterbird estimates/numbers (for Ramsar criteria and Bird Directive criteria) by Wetlands International.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support CBD work, e.g. guiding principles on ecosystem approach, biodiversity monitoring. Support work for Joint Work plan CBD-Ramsar. Implementation of nature management policy, including wetlands, coral reefs, mangrove and species protection. Attendance and support to regional meetings of the Cartagena Convention. Approach EC for support to work of W.I. on water bird census (also for Bird Directive use).

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)

B

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

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

Close contact with focal point of CITES, CBD, CMS (including AEWA), Bern; good use of focal point experiences in reporting formats for CITES and Ramsar.

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

See action 18.1.2

1. Amongst other efforts to increase collaboration at the national level between the institutions and focal points responsible for the implementation of MEAs, focal points of other MEAs have been encouraged to participate in the National Ramsar / Wetland Committee

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 whose focal points participate in the Ramsar Committee and additional comments you consider relevant.]

Close contact with CBD-CITES focal point

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

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 relevant mechanisms.]

No progress

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Close link between Ramsar and focal point for Cartagena Convention (in Netherlands Antilles); also link with focal point for OSPAR.

In general support for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention continues to be an important objective of the nature management policy of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, with support of the Netherlands.

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

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 mechanisms in place.]

Close contact in organization and person between Ramsar focal point and NL-focal points for relevant EU – Directives (Bird, Habitat, Water Framework);

All taking part in national Ramsar committee (NGO's and government).

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

Support of bilateral water projects, for example in the Niger Delta ecoregion.

See information at <http://www.minbuza.nl/>

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

Action 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	<p><u>Choose an answer</u> <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>
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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	C	<p><u>Choose an answer</u> <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>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14.1. Promote the sharing of expertise and information

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using mechanisms such as the national focal points for communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) and for the STRP, promote the sharing of knowledge at the global, regional, and national levels is going concern. Training of wetland managers is part of the International Policy Programme Biodiversity 2002-2006 (see 13.1.1) aiming at support of capacity building programmes /projects. Continuation of existing and further development of international training opportunities.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support/contribution to the development of an international coordinated network of wetland training opportunities facilitated by the Ramsar Training Service.

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

In the European Union for the EU Water Framework Directive, EU Bird Directive and the EU Habitat Directive websites are established for monitoring data and information exchange.

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

Choose an answer

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

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

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

See answer to action 20.1.1.

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	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 wetland networks established and other comments you consider relevant.]			
3.- Twinning arrangements among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training (if applicable, please include number of sites involved)	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 5
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the twinning arrangement, the sites involved and other comments you consider relevant.]			
<p>The following Ramsar sites are twinned through the EUROSITE project:</p> <p>"De Boschplaat" (part of "Wadden Sea" site) to "Spiekeroog Ostplate" (Germany);</p> <p>"Dollard" (part of "Wadden Sea" site) to "Elisabeth-Außengroden" (Germany);</p> <p>"Zwanenwater" to "Titchwell Marsh" (UK) and "Platier d'Oye" (France);</p> <p>"Schiermonnikoog" (belongs partly to "Wadden Sea" and partly to "Waddeneilanden/Noordzeekustzone/Breebaart ") to "Slowinski National Park" (Poland);</p> <p>"De Weerribben" to "Ranworth Staite" (UK) and "Le Marais Audomarois" (France)</p> <p>"Bargerveen" to "Clara Bog" (Ireland) and</p> <p>"Lake Ijssel" to Lake Peipsi (Estonia/Russia)</p>			

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

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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	<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):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve a structural reversal of worldwide loss of biodiversity through international cooperation. • Integration of biodiversity in development cooperation and support on development of Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) and pre-accession countries. • Capacity building of organizations and support to wetland planning and management through support to small wetland projects in developing countries.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize funding support is occasionally done by Royal Netherlands Embassies through bilateral aid within the framework of the Sectoral Approach. • Council of the GEF. • Partnership Programs with WB, UNEP, UNDP, FAO • Support of Programmes/Projects in Middle and Eastern Europe (PIN-MATRA)- Programme on "Water and Ecosystems" in seven river basins with involvement of Dutch water sector and bilateral cooperation • Wetland training through RIZA-WATC; support of participants. • Neth. Antilles: support of Netherlands for study on the establishment of nature-fund (or funding mechanisms) for nature management. • Report to CoP9 in national report. • Through Council of the GEF. Partnership Programs with WB, UNEP, UNDP, FAO. • Support to Wetlands Small Grants Fund of IUCN-NL.

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	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. Other forms of funding support have been mobilized for wetland issues	B	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
Funding of partnerships, i.e. a “Wetlands Poverty Reduction” program of €6 million out of the theme based co-financing program.		

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	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.]		

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

1.- The Party has worked with donors to mobilize resources for implementation of Ramsar site management plans <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>	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 I
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the sites involved and include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
Several projects have funding from GEF and PIN MATRA and through bilateral funding, for example in Mali and the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.			

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	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The Netherlands actively support international organizations that work in water related fields such as: <u>Global Water Partnership (GWP)</u> , <u>World Water Council (WWC)</u> , <u>Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council</u>		

(WSSCC., [Water Aid](#), [International Water Management Institute \(IWMI\)](#)).

Also support is being given to different initiatives which were presented during the third World Water Forum like: [Dialogue on Water for Food and Environment](#), [Dialogue on Water and Climate](#), [Camdessus Finance Panel](#), [Water for Peace](#)

Many projects have been developed to support management plans for Ramsar sites under the inter ministerial programs Partners for Water, PIN MATRA and the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity (BBI). Some of these projects have been in cooperation with other donors.

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

see also 15.1.ii

In many of the programs and projects mentioned in 15.1.ii the ecological functions of wetlands play an important role for the development of decision support systems. For example the project in the Inner Niger Delta in Mali see <http://www.waterfoodecosystems.nl/content.php>.

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

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.]

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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)

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 guidelines are promoted as an integral part of aforementioned activities.

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

<i>(For CPs with development assistance agencies)</i>		
1. The performance of the development assistance agency in relation to wetland issues has been assessed	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.]		
<p>The Proforis database contains information on Netherlands Government funded programmes and projects in the areas of international nature, forest, water and biological diversity. In April 2004, the Proforis database lists about 1800 projects. This website is used to inform the general public on the Netherlands government's worldwide support in these areas. For nearly 800 of the more relevant projects, detailed information can be accessed through this website. This information can help to get an overview, assist in planning, coordinate action, access contacts or learn from experiences. http://www.proforis.nl/</p> <p>For the execution of the International Policy Programme on Biodiversity of the Netherlands (BBI) working groups of all relevant actors within the Netherlands are established. Twice a year meetings are organized to monitor the progress of the projects and identify possibilities for cooperation. One of the working groups is on the theme water.</p> <p>The Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) is an independent body set up jointly by the Dutch private and public sector to act as a national coordination and information point in relation to water activities overseas. The aim of the NWP are to harmonize the activities and initiatives of the Dutch water sector overseas. The organization will become a focal point for the exchange of information related to activities and services of government bodies, knowledge and research institutes and businesses involved in the water sector. More information can be found at: http://www.nwp.nl/handler.cfm?event=showabout&ID=1 .</p> <p>Information about the water related programmes of the ministry of Foreign Affairs is available on http://www.minbuza.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=03BA33FE44274131B29B2F88D9233FDFX3X37714X36</p>		

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	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.]		
<p>The Government of the Netherlands and FAO organized an International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, from January 31 - February 5, 2005 in the Hague http://www.fao.org/ag/wfe2005/.</p>		

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.)

<i>See action 16.1.2</i>		
1. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund	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. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Endowment Fund	C	
3. Contributions have been made to the Ramsar Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme	C	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on contributions made to support the funds and services indicated above.]		
NL committed financial support to wetland projects through small grant programme of IUCN-NL committee and PIN-MATRA		

Action 15.1.7.- Mobilize resources to support the development of wetland training and education centres at Ramsar sites and the training of wetland educators in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

1. Actions have been taken to mobilize resources to support wetland training and education centres at Ramsar sites in developing countries and countries with economies in transition	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
See operational objective 20		
Training is seen as an integral part of projects. Specific support has been given to the Wetland Advisory and Training Centre in Kenya.		

Action 15.1.8.- For those Parties eligible for development assistance, include projects for conservation and wise use of wetlands in national portfolios and plans for consideration by development assistance agencies, and give priority among these for projects to build institutional capacity. (Based on Sections E8 and E12 of the Guidelines)

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

Action 15.1.9.- For eligible Contracting Parties of both the *Ramsar Convention* and the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, develop wetland conservation and wise use projects suitable for consideration by the *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*, as part of the implementation of the Joint Work Plan with the CBD and in accordance with paragraphs 6 and 7 of Decision IV/4 of CBD's COP4 relating to inland water ecosystems.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Assistance provided to at least 15 countries in preparing projects for submission to the *Global Environment Facility*.

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

Action 15.1.12.- Pursue involvement of the private sector (including corporations and foundations) in wetland conservation and seek opportunities for private sector funding of wetland projects under Ramsar.

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

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

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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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):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NL promotes biodiversity in programmes of organizations such as the UN, WB, and FAO. Domestic laws and regulations for environmental impacts are in place. Study possibilities to have red developments (housing, industry) hand in hand with development/financing green and blue functions. 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council of the GEF. Partnership Programs with WB, UNEP, UNDP, FAO ensure that proposed grants, loans and development projects include environmental assessments including impacts on wetlands as appropriate. 	

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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.]

The Global Action Plan for Peatlands is in close contact with the peat industry in the Netherlands for more sustainable forms of peat land extracting.

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

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.]

One example of the use of benefits is the tourists fees from excursions in the Veluwe National Park flow back for the support of management of the park.

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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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):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual contributions is, as always, paid at beginning of each calendar year. Allocate voluntary budget for priority task and activities on wetlands and/or other MEA's (see 15.1.1.).
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See also 15.1.

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Action 16.1.1.- Pay annual contributions to the Convention's core budget in full and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year.

1. Ramsar dues have been paid in full and in a timely manner	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; 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 16.1.2.- Consider providing additional voluntary contributions to the Convention to support the *Small Grants Fund* and its *Endowment Fund*, the *Voluntary Fund for the Convention’s Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, and the *Training Service*, regionally-based initiatives such as *MedWet*, the undertaking of *Ramsar Advisory Missions* for sites included in the *Montreux Record* and other Ramsar sites, and other priority activities as determined by the Strategic Plan.

<i>In addition to any contributions listed under Action 15.1.6 above, voluntary contributions have been made:</i>		
1. to the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	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. to support regional initiatives under the Convention	B	
3. for Ramsar Advisory Missions related to Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record	C	
4. towards the development and maintenance of logistics of the San José Record	C	
5. to support the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)	B	
6. to expand the internship programme at the Ramsar Bureau	C	
7. in relation to COP9	E	
8.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the contributions made to support the services indicated above.]</i>		
Ad 1: Capacity Building and training through RIZA wetland training and IAC training of the trainers and regional trainings		
Ad 2: Support for Armenia European regional meeting		
Ad 5: expertise		

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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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):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRP focal point appointed. 	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National focal point also focal point for CEPA issues. 	

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Action 17.1.6.- Ensure that each Contracting Party has nominated a national focal point for the work of the STRP (as called for by Resolutions VII.2 and VIII.28) and two focal points (one government, one non-government) for the *Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme* (as called for by Resolutions VII.9 and VIII.31)

See also Action r9.iii.i. concerning CEPA national focal points.

1. The National Focal Point for the work of STRP has been nominated

B

Choose an answer

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

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

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the STRP National Focal Point and other comments you consider relevant.]

In 2005 Andrea Almaši replaced the former focal point for the work of the STRP Vincent van den Berk.

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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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):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated / integrated policy. • Review of work and composition of existing National Ramsar Committee.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close cooperation on wetland and water issues between relevant Departments (Interdepartmental Wetland Committee and Interdepartmental Biodiversity Committee).

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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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the review and other comments you consider relevant.]		
-		
<i>See action 13.1.1</i>		
3. A coordinating committee among focal points of environment-related conventions is in place	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>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the coordinating committee and other comments you consider relevant.]		
-		
5. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other national institutions directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues, in particular water and biodiversity	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i>
6. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and relevant professional, scientific or educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including social and cultural heritage issues	B	<i>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>
7.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant cooperation mechanisms and any other comments you consider relevant.]		
-		

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	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.]		
<p>Much work has been done to address the linkages between climate change and wetlands some examples are:</p> <p>The Nature Balance (http://www.rivm.nl/en/milieu/) is an annually assessment of the natural environment and landscape in The Netherlands. It monitors policy developments in the field of landscape and natural environment and gives a view on emerging perspectives. In the Nature Balance report the theme of 2003 is Nature and Climate.</p> <p>The 7th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference was organised in Utrecht, the Netherlands in July 2004. One of the themes on this conference was Wetlands and climate change world wide. http://www.bio.uu.nl/intecol/</p> <p>The third climate report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was published in 2001. The report assess scientific, technical and socio- economic information relevant for the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. For hydrologist in the field of water management the KNMI presented a brochure with the relevant conclusions and consequences for the Netherlands, with special attention to the effects on the coastal zones.</p> <p>More information can be found at the earlier mentioned research institutes of the Netherlands</p>		

Action 18.1.2.- Establish National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, relevant government agencies, including national water management ministries and/or agencies, where appropriate, and non-governmental organizations, STRP and CEPA National Focal Points, key stakeholders, indigenous people and local communities, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). When in place, ensure the proper functioning of these Committees.

<i>See actions r3.4.iii, r13.1.iii</i>		
1. A National Ramsar / Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body) is in place	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i>
2. If a Ramsar Committee exists, it is cross-sectoral (relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, key stakeholders, local communities, private sector, etc.)	B	<i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the National Ramsar Committee].		
In the Netherlands the national Ramsar committee has delegates from different NGO's and observers from the government.		

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

Action 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	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.]		

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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PRIORITY:	A	<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:	A	<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support programmes of W.I. and RIZA/WATC on wetland training (see. 15.1.1). • Active support to the Convention's Wetland Training Service as a tool in developing a coordinated international network for wetland training opportunities. • Establishment of training module under the "Water and Ecosystems" programme with 7 global river basins (see 15.1.1), with involvement of RIZA, IAC, IHE, ITC. • See action 15.1.6. on Wetlands Small Grant Fund of IUCN-NL. • See action 20.1.11- contribution to the set up of regional training programmes by RIZA/WATC. • Contribution to the development of an international network of training centers.

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

To support regional capacity building initiatives the IAC and RIZA-WATC organized in 2004 a Training of Trainers on Wetland Management. http://www.medwetcoast.com/article.php3?id_article=326

The International Course on African Wetland Management (ICWM), formerly known as the East African Wetland Management Course is an international training initiative for Wetland Managers. It is a Ramsar Convention endorsed programme and is designed based on the Ramsar Management Guidelines. The ICAWM has been developed in conjunction with Wetland Advisory and Training Centre RIZA-Rijkswaterstaat (RIZA-WATC) of the Netherlands and the International Agricultural Centre (IAC) contributed to especially the multi-stakeholder programme of the course. Since 2001, the course has been in operation and has trained 82 participants from the following countries - Viet Nam, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, Seychelles, Djibouti, South Africa, Nigeria, Burundi, Zambia, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire and Kenya. In 2005, the course will be held between October and November. (<http://www.kws.org/kwsti-wetlands.html>)

The Netherlands is hosting the advisory board on capacity building.

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

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.]

There are ample training facilities and opportunities in the Netherlands in particular based at Universities and specialised institutions. Many NGO's have their own training programmes to support their objectives. Major institutions in the Netherlands are: the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad http://www.riza.nl/index_uk.html, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft <http://www.ihe.nl/>, EUROSITE (in Tilburg) workshops www.eurosite-nature.org, the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC, Enschede) <http://www.itc.nl/> and the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen (<http://www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl/>).

Action 20.1.3.- Identify and disseminate, nationally, regionally and globally, information describing the current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the further development of the *Bureau's Ramsar Wise Use Resource Centre* (http://ramsar.org/wurc_index.htm) and the *Directory of Wetland Management Training Opportunities* (http://ramsar.org/wurc_training_directory.htm).

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

B

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.]

International Course on Wetland Restoration by RIZA http://www.ramsar.org/watc_course_2004.htm
International Course on Wetland Management (train the trainers) by IAC/IHE/RIZA
http://www.medwetcoast.com/article.php?id_article=326

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

- a) wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring;
- b) national wetland policies and plans;
- c) integrated catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning and management;
- d) integrated site management planning at the local, provincial or catchment/river basin level;
- e) wetland restoration and rehabilitation;
- f) invasive alien species;
- g) agricultural impacts on wetlands and water resources;
- h) impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment;
- i) impacts of climate change, and adaptive management and mitigation of such impacts
- j) economic valuation of wetlands;
- k) communication, education and public awareness techniques.

1. Training modules and materials on wetland-related issues have been developed

B

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 development of training modules and materials for the issues listed above, and additional comments you consider relevant.]

To support regional capacity building initiatives the IAC and RIZA-WATC developed and organized in 2004 a Training of Trainers on Wetland Management.

Training under the “Water and Ecosystems” programme with 7 global river basins (see 15.1.1), with involvement of RIZA, IAC, IHE, ITC has been organized under the different projects of “Water for Ecosystems” <http://www.waterfoodecosystems.nl/content.php?>

Action 20.1.6.- Provide opportunities for manager training by:

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

See action 20.1.1.

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.]

See action 20.1.1.

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)

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° centres

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

The Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water management, through RIZA, has been active in supporting the KWS-training center in Naivasha (Kenya) and in the preparations for a regional wetland training center for South-east Asia.

Action 20.1.9.- Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about training for the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the *Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, the Bureau, *MedWet* and the IOPs of the Convention.

1. The Party has participated in exchanges of information and expertise related to wetland training issues	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
Support has been given to the establishment of a Ramsar Advisory Board on Training and the Wetland Professional Platform (launched at INTECOL conference July 2004 in Utrecht (Netherlands))		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21.1. Secure the universal membership of the Convention

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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):		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support activities on wetlands/AEWA in countries (e.g. Africa); encouraging being C.P.

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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	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>		
<p>The Netherlands is the lead country for the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) (www.unep-wcmc.org/aewa) under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention). The Netherlands considers the Ramsar Convention as the main instrument to achieve the goals of the AEWA on habitat conservation in the whole geographical region of the AEWA, which includes 117 countries. 23 states have ratified the AEWA: 18 from Eurasia and 15 from Africa. More initiatives, via Wetlands International, are implemented in the Central Asian Republics. Through the International Policy Programme on biodiversity (2002-2006) (http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org/index.php?menuid=4800&lang=en&cl=blue&q=) the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature</p>		

Management and Food Quality (and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) substantial support for wetland projects has been given to a number of countries such as the Baltic Republics, Ukraine, Russian Federation, countries especially in West Africa .

The accession of non CP's to join both the Convention and the AEWA has been strongly promoted throughout the wetland projects and programmes. The Netherlands has financially contributed to wetland inventory & policy work in Eastern Europe.

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 Ramsar report is very detailed with over eighty pages of questions. After answering all the questions, there is so much information that the focus of the Ramsar convention is lost and it remains unclear were the country made sufficient effort or were gaps are to be filled. For the next report a focus on four or five topics might provide more depth to the report. The topics can be changed every triennium.

In the Dutch situation all Ramsar wetland sites are also a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive or a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. This gives them a level of legal protection. These two directives also demand extensive reporting. For European countries it would be desirable when there is more harmony between the reporting necessary for the Ramsar convention and the reporting necessary for the EU Bird and Habitat Directive and obligations under the EU Water Framework Directive. The format is clear and easy to handle. The only thing that might lead to confusion is the different meaning of A's and B's under the planning tool selection and action in the report. For the Planning tool selection an A means "High priority" but an A in an action box means "not applicable". More consistency or different (A, B, C versus 1, 2, 3) is advisable.

In case a specific working group would be created, will you be interested in participating in the preparation of the COP10 National Report Format?

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