

**Implementation of the
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance**

**National Report submitted to the
8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties,
Valencia, Spain, 2002**

Contracting Party : United Kingdom

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The report covers the period between July 1998 and 28 February 2002. The cut-off for data for the site supplement is those sites which have been classified and designated by 31 December 2001.

Foreword

The UK has long been a member of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, designating more than 160 sites over the last 25 years, for the list of wetlands of international importance. But our membership involves more than just these sites. Water is the staff of life: and wetlands are amongst the most productive of the world's ecosystems. It is essential we encourage appropriate recognition of their value, in providing goods and services as well as supporting the diversity of species which makes them such special places. I strongly commend the Ramsar Convention for its work in publicising, and supporting the wise use of, this precious asset.

I believe that this report fully demonstrates the UK's commitment to the principles embodied in the Convention. We are taking forward a wide range of activities which will result in benefits for wetlands, both within and beyond those sites on the list of wetlands of international importance. And in our Overseas Territories we see continued interest in conserving and enhancing the huge range of biodiversity, including wetlands species and habitats. The Environmental Charter signed in September 2001, will encourage and support further action.

There will be significant challenges for the Convention to face in the 21st century. To take just one example, we are already noting the effects of climate change on some of our most valued wetlands. We have just completed a review of current knowledge about the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in the UK, and the implications for nature conservation policy. The emerging evidence challenges the site-based approach to nature conservation: designated sites must continue to be protected, but their biodiversity may change in response to climate change. We need flexible new approaches to deal with these new challenges. Through mechanisms such as its Scientific and Technical Review Panel, the Convention is well placed to co-ordinate both scientific and practical views on how we should respond.

The next Conference of the Parties, in Valencia in November, will be another milestone for Ramsar. Contracting Parties and partner organisations have been asked to set national targets which will identify the key areas in which the members intend to make progress. We will take full account of the views of the National Ramsar Committee in identifying targets for the UK.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Meacher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP,
Minister for the Environment.

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National planning tool for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

(And the approved format for National Reports to be submitted for the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Spain, 2002)

Institutional Information

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Note – Not all actions from the Convention Work Plan 2000-2002 are included here, as some apply only to the Bureau or Conferences of the Contracting Parties. As a result, the numbering system that follows contains some gaps corresponding to those actions that have been omitted.



General Objective 1

To progress towards universal membership of the convention

Operational Objective 1.1: To endeavour to secure at least 150 Contracting Parties to the Convention by 2002.

Actions – Global Targets
1.1.1 Recruit new Contracting Parties, especially in the less well represented regions and among states with significant and/or transboundary wetland resources (including shared species), [CPs, SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The gaps remain in Africa, central Asia, the Middle East and the Small Island Developing States. Refer to Recommendation 7.2 relating to Small Island Developing States.• Global Target - 150 CPs by COP8• These are the countries which at present are not CPs of the Convention: Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.
Is your country a neighbor of, or does it have regular dealings or diplomatic-level dialogue with, one or more of the non-Contracting Parties listed above? (This list was correct as of January 2000. However, accessions to the Convention occur on a regular basis and you may wish to check with the Ramsar Bureau for the latest list of non-CPs.) Yes If No , go to Action 1.1.2.
If Yes , have actions been taken to encourage these non-CPs to join the Convention? Yes
If Yes , have these actions been successful? In addressing the UK's own participation in the Convention, UK ratification was extended to cover Guernsey, Sark and Alderney (in January 1999) and to cover British Indian Ocean Territory (also in January 1999). In addition, there have been informal contacts (and encouragement to join) from non-governmental organisations in the UK and its overseas territories to non-party countries in the Caribbean, for example the Ramsar / Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) workshop below. The UK delegation to COP7 included two delegates from the British Virgin Islands. The UK non-governmental organisation grouping also included representatives from overseas territories. It is anticipated that the UK delegation for COP8 will include representatives from overseas and dependent territories.

The UK hopes to provide a significant sum to support developing countries' attendance at COP8. £10,000 was provided to support attendance at the European Regional Meeting in Slovenia.

Ramsar / Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, Caribbean Training Workshop - Port of Spain, Trinidad, 11-15 Dec 2000.

The workshop was intended to serve as an impetus for the non-Parties present to accede to the Convention. Attendees included: 18 representatives from Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, 12 representatives from non-Contracting Parties, a representative from the Nature Conservancy, a representative from the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute and a delegate from the United Nations Environment Programme and two delegates from the Ramsar Bureau. Belize sent its apologies.

John Bothwell from the Cayman Islands Department of Environment, representative of the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories in the Caribbean, made a presentation about Cayman's Ramsar site at the above event. Participation by Cayman at this meeting was facilitated by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office through the payment of room charges and as the primary point of contact with the Ramsar Bureau.

If **No**, what has prevented such action being taken?

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

1.1.2 Promote membership of Ramsar through regional meetings and activities, and through partners' regional offices. [SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]

- **These efforts are to continue and to focus on the above priority regions and the Small Island Developing States.**
- **The current member and permanent observer States of the Standing Committee are Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Costa Rica, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago and Uganda**

Is your country a member of the Standing Committee? ? **No** If no, go to Action 2.1.1.

If **Yes**, have actions been taken to encourage the non-CPs from your region or subregion to join the Convention? **No Reply**

If **Yes**, have these actions been successful?

If **No**, what has prevented such action being taken?

Proposed national actions and targets:

The UK has attended regularly as an observer and aims to continue to do so in the future.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



General Objective 2

To achieve the wise use of wetlands by implementing and further developing the Ramsar wise use guidelines

Operational Objective 2.1: To review and, if necessary, amend national or supra-national (e.g., European Community) legislation, institutions and practices in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the Wise Use Guidelines are applied.

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.1.1 Carry out a review of legislation and practices, and indicate in National Reports to the COP how the Wise Use Guidelines are applied. [CPs] <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ This remains a high priority for the next triennium. <i>The Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions</i> (Resolution VII.7) will assist these efforts.▪ Global Target – For at least 100 CPs to have comprehensively reviewed their laws and institutions relating to wetlands by COP8.
Has your country completed a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? Yes/No
If No , what are the impediments to this being done?
If a review is planned , what is the expected timeframe for this being done? The Department of Environment in Northern Ireland is currently undertaking a review of legislation governing the protection and management of Areas of Special Scientific Interest. It is anticipated that new legislation will be on the statute book within the next 2-3 years.
<u>Water Framework Directive</u> The purpose of the EC Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is to prevent deterioration and protect, enhance and restore the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem. The implementation of the Directive will prove beneficial for all wetlands. In particular, the provisions in the Directive for the identification of ‘protected areas’ will ensure that the water needs of wetlands that are designated for nature conservation interests under Community legislation will be given high priority within the implementation of the Directive. These requirements will be transposed into UK legislation by December 2003. Revisions to the 1994 Habitat Regulations will also be carried out.
If the review has been completed , did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to these amendments being completed?
If Yes , and changes to laws and institutional arrangements were made, please describe these briefly. Reviews of legislation and practices in the UK have covered a broad spectrum of nature conservation interests. The UK is confident that its nature conservation legislation, which has been recently amended, is compatible with the principles of wise use. Policy statements on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention have been published for England and Wales. These are appended to this report as appendices 1 & 2. All government agencies exercising executive functions are subject to regular Financial Management and Policy Reviews (FMPR) which, among other things, look at the way their

powers are exercised and the policy framework within which they operate. FMPRs are currently in train for the Countryside Council for Wales, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the Environment Agency and National Park Authorities.

A number of the UK Overseas Territories have reviewed or revised their conservation legislation, for example, the Falkland Islands and Montserrat (although the recent volcanic emergency has impeded implementation). In addition, some other territories are considering whether reviews of legislation are necessary.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act

The nature conservation legislation in England and Wales has recently been enhanced through the passage of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. (Consultation on possible new legislation is being separately undertaken for Scotland and Northern Ireland). In England and Wales, the provisions of the new Act applies to all Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) - which are nationally important areas of biological or geological importance - and hence to all listed Ramsar sites. The provisions improve the protection and management of SSSIs. They include:

- New powers for English Nature and Countryside Council for Wales to refuse consent for damaging activities; to develop management schemes which will to help combat neglect, and to serve management notices to require positive actions. These are accompanied by new appeal procedures.
- Additional powers to enter land, and more flexible powers to purchase land compulsorily;
- a statutory duty on public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs, both in carrying out their operations and exercising their decision-making functions.
- a statutory footing to biodiversity through a general duty on Government to further the conservation of habitats and species of principal importance for biodiversity, and to keep under review and re-publish any revised list of species and habitats, published by the appropriate conservation body (English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales).
- increases in offences and penalties for deliberate damage to SSSIs, and powers to order restoration of the damaged special interest where this is practicable.

The Act provides, for the first time, statutory recognition of the listing of Ramsar sites. These must be notified in England and Wales to local authorities, statutory agencies such as the Environment Agency, landowners and tenants, and every relevant undertaker whose works, operations or activities may affect the wetland. This is also done as a matter of policy in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Local authorities and other bodies are already consulted administratively on Ramsar status prior to designation, and then informed of status at designation. Local officers of the statutory nature conservation agencies work with local authority staff to ensure that Ramsar sites are included in all planning documents.

For proposed sites, the statutory conservation agencies carry out public consultation on behalf of Government on the basis of a map of the site and a citation listing the qualifying features. Comments are invited on the proposed boundary and qualifying features of the site. These are then forwarded to Government for consideration.

The Nature of Scotland

The Scottish Executive policy statement '*The Nature of Scotland*' proposed measures to increase

protection and improve the management of SSSIs in Scotland, including sites which are also designated as Ramsar sites. These measures include a new power for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to refuse permission for damaging operations on SSSIs, improved protection from the action of third parties, reserve powers which will require the carrying out of action to ensure management which maintains the conservation interest and increased fines for offences against SSSIs. No timescale has yet been set for the introduction of the legislative measures proposed in the 'Nature of Scotland', but the Scottish Executive is committed to introducing legislation as soon as possible.

'The Nature of Scotland' also proposed increased resources to provide incentives for the positive management of SSSIs through, for example, SNH's recently introduced Natural Care programme. Natural Care is a programme of measures to secure the positive management of designated sites through the use of positive management incentives. These will mainly be delivered through the use of Management Schemes which set out standard management requirements and offer standard payments.

Abstraction Licensing System

The UK government has carried out a review of the licensing system for water abstraction in England and Wales. Its decision document, *Taking Water Responsibly*, sets out Government's plans to develop the abstraction licensing system through increased flexibility whilst ensuring that the environment is adequately protected. Some developments will require new legislation to change the regulatory system, but other developments can be carried out under the existing regime. Aspects of the review that will have particular relevance to the protection of wetlands are:

- The standard authorisation threshold will be 20 cubic metres per day (m³/d). The Environment Agency will be able to set different thresholds in order to meet the needs of different catchments.
- All forms of irrigation will need to be authorised. Spray irrigation is currently the only form of irrigation for which a license is required.
- All new licenses will be issued on a time limited basis.
- A draft Water Bill containing these provisions was published for consultation in November 2000.
- The development of Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS), by the Environment Agency, which identify environmental requirements of surface and ground waters. These strategies will describe the water resources position in each catchment and will set out a strategy for sustainable management. Interested parties will be fully involved in the production of CAMS at a local level.

See also the statement on the third Asset Management Plan under question 2.8.1.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Publication of revised planning policy guidance in England and Wales to ensure the provisions of the CRoW Act are incorporated into local planning decisions (if not done prior to COP8).

Complete review of conservation law in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Transposition of the Water Framework Directive into UK Law by December 2003.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, National Assembly for Wales, Scottish Executive, Northern Ireland Executive

2.1.2 Promote much greater efforts to develop national wetland policies, either separately or as a clearly identifiable component of other national conservation planning initiatives, such as National Environment Action Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies, or National Conservation Strategies. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **The development and implementation of National Wetland Policies continues to be one of the highest priorities of the Convention, as does the integration of wetland conservation and wise use into broader national environment and water policies. *The Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies (Resolution VII.6)* will assist these efforts.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, at least 100 CPs with National Wetland Policies or, where appropriate, a recognized document that harmonizes all wetland-related policies/strategies and plans, and all CPs to have wetlands considered in national environmental and water policies and plans. *The Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (Resolution VII.18)* will assist these efforts.**

Does your country have **in place** a National Wetland Policy (or similar instrument) which is a comprehensive statement of the Government's intention to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being put in place?

Whilst the UK does not have a national wetland policy, the Ramsar policy statements referred to in answering question 2.1.1 encourage the application of the Wise Use principles.

Since the UK acceded to the Ramsar convention in 1976 it has listed 168 sites covering 857,952 hectares (figures as at 31 December 2001, including those in the UK Overseas Territories). All of the sites receive protection through the planning system, domestic wildlife legislation, and through other regulatory systems addressing air, water and soil quality. A wide range of strategies, policies and plans are used to deliver objectives relating to the wide use of wetlands alongside, and in combination with, the achievement of other key goals such as promoting wider participation. The Government is committed to the aim of sustainable development through policies based on the objectives of social progress, environmental protection, prudent use of natural resources, and economic growth and employment. Wetlands are safe-guarded in a holistic manner through a balance between the use of partnerships and regulation.

Mechanisms used include:

- The protection of significant areas of wetlands throughout the UK within the network of 6,573 sites of special scientific interest in Great Britain and 182 Areas of Special Scientific Interest in Northern Ireland (figures as at 31 March 2001).
- The protection of certain wetland flora and fauna (and other species) under the schedules of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and the 1985 Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order.
- The encouragement of environmentally friendly farming and land use through agri-

environment schemes such as Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Countryside Stewardship, Tir Gofal and Rural Stewardship.

- Implementation of the EC Habitats Directive through the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1995, which give additional protection to those Ramsar sites which are also candidate Special Areas for Conservation or Special Protection Areas.
- The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994), involving action on a wide range of habitats and species.
- Progress towards implementation of integrated management plans for wetland units, including Local Environment Agency Plans, Water Level Management Plans, Estuary Management Plans, Shoreline Management Plans, etc.

The UK Government's White Paper of 1999 on its relationship with its Overseas Territories announced the concept of Environment Charters between UK and each Territory. On 26 September 2001 the Environment Charters for the Overseas Territories were signed by Baroness Amos and senior elected representatives of Overseas Territories present in London for a Consultative Conference. The intention is that these will relate action plans to wide participation in real measures on the ground. The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum is helping explore the needs for help in this. In parallel, Montserrat, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands are participating (with independent states in the region) in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States' environment charter.

Other relevant work in the UK includes assessment of the licensing system for water abstraction, amendment of the policy guidance relating to planning legislation, forestry policies which take account of wetlands, assessment of the effectiveness of species licensing provisions and development of policy on managing invasive species. In addition, a forthcoming review of marine nature conservation will look at inter-tidal and coastal habitat issues, extending to the 12 mile limit.

If the development of such a Policy is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done?

Has your country taken its obligations with respect to the Ramsar Convention into consideration in related policy instruments such as National Biodiversity Strategies, Natural Environmental Action Plans, Water Policies, river basin management plans, or similar instruments? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to doing so?

If **Yes**, please provide brief details.

Ramsar is a central plank of UK nature conservation policies and, through its approach to protection of biodiversity and the principles of sustainable development, is incorporated into many strands of UK sectoral policies.

Work is currently in progress by Turks & Caicos National Trust, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and CABI, in collaboration with local communities, to develop effective management of the large Ramsar site of North, Middle and East Caicos and adjacent areas, by helping local people generate employment through this work, eco-tourism and traditional skills utilizing natural materials. The work is supported by UK and Turks and Caicos Governments amongst others.

Section 74 of the new Countryside and Rights of Way Act places duties upon Ministers of the Crown, Government Departments and the National Assembly for Wales, *'in carrying out his or*

its functions, to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in accordance with the Convention'. 'The Convention' means the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity. This means that all Ministers, Departments, etc, must have due regard for nature conservation objectives; so these are, in effect, integrated with other management issues.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

The Convention on Biological Diversity requires each contracting party to prepare a national biodiversity strategy. In response to this requirement, UK Government published *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan* in 1994. This describes an ambitious programme of measures for the conservation and sustainable use of the UK's biodiversity.

A fundamental component of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is the preparation of targeted action plans for habitats and species which are considered to be most at risk in the UK ('priority' habitats and species). The first set of plans was published in 1995, and several further volumes were added over the next four years. By 1999, 45 Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and 391 Species Action Plans (SAPs) had been published. A substantial proportion of these plans are relevant to wetlands, e.g. 27 of the 45 HAPs cover, at least in part, wetland habitats as defined under the Ramsar Convention.

Each HAP and SAP contains costed targets. Typically these cover both maintenance of the existing resource and more ambitious objectives for the enhancement and re-creation of habitats and the expansion of species populations. Each plan also describes a series of actions required to achieve these targets, covering policy and legislation, site safeguard and management, species management and protection, advisory activities, research, monitoring, communications and publicity.

Implementation of each action plan has encouraged collaboration between Government, statutory agencies and non-governmental organisations, and has proved to be a powerful catalyst for wetland conservation in the UK. '*Sustaining the variety of life*': 5 years of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (DETR, 2001), which reviews progress towards implementation of species and habitat action plans is available on the UK BAP website (www.ukbap.org.uk). It is clear that the action plans have stimulated activity in key areas such as enhancing water quality and reducing water abstraction.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan initiatives, such as the series of dedicated action plans for priority habitats, make significant contributions to floodplain, riparian, wet woodland and blanket/raised bog conservation. Guidance has been prepared on a country-level breakdown of all action plan targets. For example, the Forestry Commission have completed a draft first-cut of targets for the wet woodland habitat action plan, with guidance on a country level breakdown. In addition, a Forestry Practice Guide to wet woodlands has been produced detailing history, values, policy and operational guidance for wet woodland. At the local level in Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales has developed guidance for use by local BAPs on setting targets for priority habitats. This has produced indicative maintenance and restoration targets for all relevant local BAPs in Wales.

In 2000 the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), in association with English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment and Heritage Service Northern Ireland, published *Greenshoots*. This is a Biodiversity Action Plan for sporting shooting which documents specific tasks and objectives through which sporting shooting is helping deliver UK BAP targets, including those for wetland habitats. *Greenshoots* makes particular reference to BASC's commitment to the aims and objectives of the Ramsar Convention.

Water Framework Directive

The EC Water Framework Directive's 'no deterioration' provisions should prove beneficial for existing wetland sites of high nature conservation value. Moreover, provisions exist to designate waters as 'Protected Areas' in order to permit a higher level of protection for nature conservation interests and/or economically important aquatic species. Protected Areas must achieve 'good status' by 2015, with this definition being linked to the ecological requirements of wetlands.

Has your government reviewed and modified, as appropriate, its policies that adversely affect intertidal wetlands (COP7 Resolution VII.21)? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening?

If **Yes**, what were the conclusions of this review? and what actions have been taken subsequently?

The UK has identified the importance of Ramsar sites in its development of coastal planning policy, of which the key instruments are Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs). The first round of SMPs considered the role of Ramsar sites in conjunction with other designated sites, when evaluating the existing natural features along the coastline. Due to continuing loss of inter-tidal habitats, the effectiveness of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) has been reviewed, on Ramsar sites, European candidate Special Areas of Conservation (Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (Birds Directive). The losses may be due to a number of factors, including: dynamic coastlines being constrained by existing flood and coastal defence policy; coastal squeeze as a result of sea level rise; and aggregate extraction.

To address these issues the government has introduced Coastal Habitat Management Plans (CHaMPs), to evaluate the future impacts of SMP policies and sea level rise on inter-tidal habitats, including Ramsar sites, and to provide a framework for managing sites on, or adjacent to, dynamic coastlines. CHaMPs will then inform the first review of SMPs of the policy changes needed to avoid continued damage, or how to compensate for losses where continued coastal defence is of overriding public interest.

The 'Living with the Sea' LIFE Nature project (Environment Agency, European Union, English Nature, National Environmental Research Council) is piloting the introduction of CHaMPs, with a programme to complete seven pilot plans by November 2002. The production of CHaMPs has been set as a government high-level target for English Nature and the Environment Agency.

In addition to the above, please also note the work being undertaken to review the UK Ramsar sites and the UK Special Protection Area review (question 6.1.1).

Proposed national actions and targets:

See text above for work that is ongoing.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Devolved Administrations and their agencies.

Operational Objective 2.2: To integrate conservation and wise use of wetlands in all Contracting Parties into national, provincial and local planning and decision-making on land use, groundwater management, catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning, and all other environmental planning and management.

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>2.2.2 Promote the inclusion of wetlands in national, provincial and local land use planning documents and activities, and in all relevant sectoral and budgetary provisions. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achieving integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to managing wetlands within the broader landscape and within river basin/coastal zone plans is another of the Convention's highest priorities in the next triennium. ▪ Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be promoting, and actively implementing, the management of wetlands as integrated elements of river basins and coastal zones, and to provide detailed information on the outcomes of these actions in the National Reports for COP8.
<p>Is your country implementing integrated river basin and coastal zone management approaches? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done?</p>
<p>If integrated management approaches are being applied in part of the country, indicate the approximate percentage of the country's surface area where this is occurring and to which river basins and coastal areas this applies.</p> <p>In Scotland, there are a wide range of catchment based water management initiatives. A formal system of integrated river basin management planning will be introduced by means of the Water Environment and Water Services Bill, which Scottish Ministers will put before the Scottish Parliament during 2002. Further details are given in the recent consultation paper issued by Scottish Ministers: <i>Rivers, Lochs, Coasts: The Future for Scotland's Waters</i>.</p> <p>Under the Water Framework Directive, improvements in wetlands' water status are to be achieved through a system of analysis and planning based upon the river basin, called River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). This approach accords closely with the Environment Agency's established practice in England and Wales; in particular integrating existing management plans such as Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies and Local Environment Agency Plans.</p> <p>The Environment Agency's Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) are a step towards integrated river basin management. They consider both surface water and groundwater. Although their main focus is water resources there will also be some consideration of water quality, fisheries and conservation. CAMS are developed at a local level which allow more information on water resources allocation to be made publicly available and allow the balance between the needs of abstractors and the aquatic environment to be determined in consultation with the local community and interested parties. There are 129 CAMS areas. The first strategies were begun in April 2001. Once the first round has been completed in 2007/8 the Environment Agency will begin an ongoing six year cycle of review.</p> <p>Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) were developed from the Catchment Management Plans of the National Rivers Authority. Based on river catchments, LEAPs set out the Environment Agency's view of the local environment, the pressures acting upon it, actions needed to address local issues and help to consult local communities on the improvements the</p>

Environment Agency should deliver together. Since 1996 the Environment Agency has consulted on and started implementation of 130 LEAPs covering the whole of England and Wales. About 30,000 local organisations have been consulted, ranging from environmental organisations and voluntary bodies to local authorities, trade associations and industry. Through LEAPs the Environment Agency has identified over 12,000 actions costing around £420 million that would improve local environments. Many of these actions will be implemented in partnership with other local organisations.

The Environment Agency is developing new sector strategies for catchment management of the water environment. Preparatory work on large scale Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans, which will tie together the interlinked issues of water quality, quantity, water use and biodiversity, is in progress. Catchment based LEAPs will continue to be valuable in engaging local communities on integrated catchment issues, possibly via the Community Strategies which local authorities are required to prepare; to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Habitat Enhancement Initiative aims, through promotion of best practice guidance, to encourage the use of demonstration sites and the development of local partnerships, to secure measurable improvements in the management and quality of Scotland's aquatic environments.

Focus on Firths is a project launched by Scottish Natural Heritage in 1993, to enhance the co-ordinated management in Scottish firths (major estuaries and their associated sea areas) to achieve a more sustainable approach to their use and development. From wide expanses of mudflats and saltmarsh in the estuaries to sand dunes, beaches, rocky shores and cliffs at their outer edge, firths contain some of Scotland's most valuable and unique natural sites. The project aims to assist in the development of a management strategy for each firth that will consider the whole range of activities which will have an impact on the site, at an ecosystem level. A forum is formed for each firth which will enable all interests to have a voice: the local community, statutory authorities, local industries and voluntary bodies. Taking into account the whole community, each strategy will make proposals and recommendations on how the firth and its environmental resources can be protected and used in a more sustainable way. Encouragingly there are now partnerships actively working towards publication and implementation of a management strategy for each of the Clyde, Solway, Tay, Forth, Cromarty and Moray firths. In addition, the Scottish Coastal Forum has begun to develop a Scottish coastal strategy.

In England, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan set a target for the production of management plans for 27 key estuaries by 1997. At the time of writing, approximately 40 plans have been written or are being prepared. However, this has been somewhat superseded by the requirements to produce advice under Regulation 33 and management schemes under Regulation 34 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), for all European marine sites. As all estuarine Ramsar sites in England are also Special Protection Areas (and many are also candidate Special Areas of Conservation), these Regulations provide the most robust means for ensuring integrated coastal zone management.

If **Yes**, are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done?

Wetlands are given appropriate consideration in such schemes.

Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (COP7 Resolution VII.18).? **Yes**

If **Yes**, please describe them briefly.

The UK has approached the management of water resources and water quality through integrated catchment management. The EU Water Framework Directive, which the UK, in common with other Member States, is now committed to implementing, builds upon the concept of integrated management. For instance, the UK encourages those with an interest to manage coastlines by addressing all the different environments in the region, including salt marsh and managed retreat sites. While not all coastal areas are subject to coastal zone management initiatives, many bodies are working in partnership to conserve and recreate wetland environments that can be managed as part of the wider coastline.

Many of the UK's coastal systems are subject to pressures such as urbanisation, recreation, agriculture and industrial activities. Sea level rise due to climate change will be a further factor in future. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is an approach to managing these pressures, usually involving local and regional authorities and other organisations producing a joint plan for a particular estuary or stretch of coast. These non-statutory plans cover issues such as recreation, conservation, flood and coastal defence, water quality, fisheries and landscape. The Government supports this approach and was closely involved in a recently completed EU Demonstration Programme on ICZM which included projects in Devon / Dorset, the Firth of Forth and Bantry Bay.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 2.3: To expand the Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use to provide advice to Contracting Parties on specific issues not hitherto covered, and examples of best current practice.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.3.1 Expand the Additional Guidance on Wise Use to address specific issues such as oil spill prevention and clean-up, agricultural runoff, and urban/industrial discharges in cooperation with other bodies. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - Following COP7, the Bureau, with other appropriate collaborators, will produce a series of Wise Use handbooks, based on the outcomes of Technical Sessions at COP7.**
- **(added by the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Resolution VII.14 *Invasive Species and wetlands*) CPs are requested “to provide the Ramsar Bureau with information on databases which exist for invasive species, information on invasive species which pose a threat to wetlands and wetland species, and information on the control and eradication of invasive wetland species.”**

Does your country **have** resource information on the management of wetlands in relation to the following which could be useful in assisting the Convention to develop further guidance to assist other CPs :

- oil spill prevention and clean-up? **Yes**
- agricultural runoff? **Yes**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes**
- invasive species? **Yes**
- relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **Yes** Please see below for details

In each case, if the answer was **Yes**, has this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre (see 2.3.2 below)? **Yes/No**

If the Bureau wishes for specific documents, please contact the UK national STRP focal point who will be pleased to facilitate their provision.

Oil spill prevention and clean-up

The statutory conservation and environment bodies in the UK are statutory consultees on oil spill prevention & clean up measures. A National Contingency Plan exists to provide rapid response and environmental advice for major pollution incidents. For example, oil spill contingency plans have been developed for coastal areas around Scotland. These are updated each year and provide procedures for statutory authorities to follow in the event of an oil spill.

Subsequent to the UK's co-ordinated response to the Sea Empress major oil spill off the West Wales coast in 1996, a number of reports were produced. *The Sea Empress Environmental Evaluation Committee report*, outlined the environmental impact of the oil spill. *The Sea Empress Incident - Operational response* report by the Marine Pollution Control Unit (now Maritime Coastguard Agency) collated the practices of pollution prevention and mitigation employed by the Environment Agency, e.g. marine boom deployment at environmentally sensitive estuary sites; water quality, toxicity and sediment monitoring and analysis; aerial observation and remote sensing of the coastline; collection of salmonid fish for tissue analysis for the fishery closure orders; major contribution to the management of, and numerous research projects for, the independent committee established to assess the environmental impact of the spill; and contribution to large-scale shoreline clean-up.

Agricultural runoff

Examples include:

Code of Practice on Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity. Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Forestry Department. 1997.

Targeted Inputs for a Better Rural Environment (TIBRE): Agricultural Engineering and Pollution Control Aspects. Silsoe Research Institute. 1994.

Urban/industrial discharges

In England and Wales, the Environment Agency writes an Environmental Action Plan (EAP) for all schemes that are likely to result in substantive impacts on the environment. The EAP provides a mechanism to facilitate delivery of environmental objectives and targets identified during an environmental impact assessment, including mitigation or compensation measures

that should be undertaken. The EAP uses post-project appraisal and audit as key tools to monitor delivery of the objectives and learn from successful and unsuccessful practices. Indicators that are particularly important for a specific site may also be monitored.

Examples of documents include a variety of Environment Agency leaflets and booklets on issues such as: oil care code; spray irrigation best practice; controlling ecotoxicology; sustainable urban drainage.

In Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is promoting the creation of ponds and other wetlands as part of the development of sustainable urban drainage schemes (SUDS) in Scotland. Details are available in the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) Manual (Scottish Environment Protection Agency). SEPA strongly discourages the use of existing wetlands in SUDS sites.

Invasive species

The UK Government has established a working group to carry out a fundamental review of UK policy on invasive species. The review will evaluate the effectiveness of current statutory or non-statutory procedures for dealing with the introduction and establishment of non-native species and identify examples of current best practice within the UK and abroad. It will identify the main vectors for the introduction and spread of non-native species and will put forward costed proposals for improving measures to limit the ecological and economic impact. The review will also identify appropriate organisations to take forward any measures recommended.

The New Atlas of the British and Irish flora, due to be published in May 2002, will provide a distribution map and accompanying text for 2,412 flowering plants and ferns in Great Britain and Ireland. Along with all native species, introduced species are also covered. The distribution maps are based on a database of over 9 million records, including nearly 5 million records that have been collected since 1987. The accompanying text describes the habitat of the plant, summarises changes in its distribution, including the dates of introduction of alien species, briefly outlines its European and wider distribution and provides key references for further reading. The records and text for the mapped species, and over 900 additional rare aliens, are summarised on a CD-ROM which will accompany the book.

English Nature is currently managing a contract being undertaken by Liverpool John Moores University to develop a database of all UK invasive alien species. This database will cover the terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments in the UK, but will not cover species that only cause economic damage, genetically modified organisms or micro-organisms. The database available should be completed in May 2002.

Examples of existing documents include:

- *An audit of alien species in Scotland*, published by Scottish Natural Heritage in 2001 - report No.139.
- The Environment Agency's leaflet on invasive riparian weeds and a leaflet on invasive aquatic plants.
- The Highways Agency's *Trunk Road Maintenance Manual* provides guidance on controlling noxious weeds within the highway estate.
- In Northern Ireland, the Environment and Heritage Service have produced leaflets/factsheets on Zebra Mussels *Dreissena polymorpha*, *Spartina* and *Sargassum muticum*.

- A number of the UK's Overseas Territories, particularly Bermuda, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension and Pitcairn have developed expertise in dealing with invasive species.
- The Isle of Man is developing a strategy for recording and controlling invasive species under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Highway designs:

The Highways Agency, through its *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges*, provides a number of important elements of advice to design and management organisations for highways. These include methods for predicting the potential impact of the operation of a proposed road scheme on the aquatic environment. New design advice, published in August 2001, deals with the selection, design and installation of vegetative systems for highway run-off.

In relation to nature conservation, advice is provided on how a range of effects on habitats and species can be mitigated. This is of particular relevance to Ramsar sites. Halcrow (UK) have completed a report for the Highways Agency which looks at effects of roads on international and European designated sites, including 10 Ramsar sites in England. This work forms the basis for new advice on the management of trunk roads within or adjacent to designated sites which will be issued in early 2002.

Aquaculture:

The Scottish Executive produced planning guidance in 1999 entitled *Locational Guidance for the Authorisation of Marine Fish Farms in Scottish Waters, Environmental Impact Assessment (Fish Farming in Marine Waters) Regulations 1999: A guide*.

SEPA have produced *Regulation and monitoring of marine cage fish farming in Scotland: a procedures manual* (1998 plus web updates).

Relevant information can also be found in *Environmental Assessment Guidance Manual for Marine Salmon Farmers*, CEC (2000), and *The Regulation of marine fish farming in Scotland: a guide*, CEC (2001).

Forestry:

The Forestry Commission's *Forests and Water Guidelines* includes best practice for planning and management of forest operations in floodplain and riparian areas. The guidance includes best practice management for ground preparation, road construction and maintenance, harvesting and use of pesticides, fertilisers and the storage/handling of chemicals/fuel oils near water. An updated version will be available in 2002.

The Forestry Commission's *Forests and Peatland Habitats Guideline Note* sets out policy and practice relating to peatland habitats including information on new woodland on bogs; conserving and restoring bogs in existing forests; and information on the management and restoration of peat bogs.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.3.2. Publicize examples of effective application of existing Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Promoting and improving the availability of such resource materials is a priority under the *Convention's Outreach Programme (Resolution VII.9)***
- **Global Target - By COP8, to have included in the Wise Use Resource Centre 500 appropriate references and publications as provided to the Bureau by CPs and other organizations.**

Further to 2.3.1. above, has your country, as urged by the Outreach Programme of the Convention adopted at COP7 (Resolution VII. 9), **reviewed** its resource materials relating to wetland management policies and practices? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this being done?

The UK manages natural and semi-natural habitats in an integrated manner and does not concentrate on wetlands alone.

Several of the UK Overseas Territories have made major progress in raising awareness of wetlands.

Key examples are:

- The Turks & Caicos National Trust's environmental education curriculum programme *Our Land, Our Sea, Our People*, adopted in all the local schools, and including strong elements on wetlands.
- The Cayman Islands National Trust's programme on wetlands awareness, leading to major public participation in planning consultations particularly on the Central Mangrove Wetland.
- The participation of Turks & Caicos and the Cayman Islands National Trusts in the regional wetland educational initiative based on the endangered West Indian Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arborea*. The production of a work-pack on this was supported by the UK Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).
- A display board/booklet/web-site (www.ukotcf.org) awareness programme *Promoting biodiversity conservation in the UK's Overseas Territories* has been produced by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, supported by FCO and others. Material on every Territory is presented, with wetlands usually as a lead item.

If **Yes**, have copies of this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau? **No Reply**

If **No**, what has prevented this being done?

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 2.4: To provide economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands for environmental planning purposes.

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>2.4.1 Promote the development, wide dissemination, and application of documents and methodologies which give economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Given the guidelines available for this activity (see below: <i>Economic Valuation of Wetlands</i> handbook), this will be an area of higher priority in the next triennium. ▪ Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be incorporating economic valuation of wetland services, functions and benefits into impact assessment and decision-making processes related to wetlands.
<p>Does your government require that economic valuations of the full range of services, benefits and functions of wetlands be prepared as part of impact assessments and to support planning decisions that may impact on wetlands? No</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done?</p>
<p>If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases?</p> <p>In the UK planning system, the role of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) is to identify developments that are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Whilst these in part will consider the losses of functions and benefits from wetlands, wider economic issues and competing future uses of land are balanced in the development control system when decisions are made on individual proposals. Where an EIA has been required, this will inform that decision making process.</p> <p>The requirement for an EIA is triggered by the type and size of development. Generally, there are <i>de minimus</i> levels of development where an EIA is not normally required (though in these cases environmental issues may still be a material factor in any decision). In sensitive locations, including in or near all Ramsar sites, these thresholds do not apply and <u>all</u> development proposals are screened. Any proposal which may have a significant effect will then be subject to a full EIA.</p>
<p>If Yes, has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. No Reply</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>Continue to provide key examples of best practice to the Ramsar Bureau.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p> <p>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</p>

Operational Objective 2.5: To carry out environmental impact assessments (EIAs) at wetlands, particularly of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, notably at Ramsar sites, whose ecological character “is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference” (Article 3.2 of the Convention).

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>2.5.2 Ensure that, at Ramsar sites where change in ecological character is likely as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, EIAs are carried out (with due consideration of economic valuations of wetland benefits and functions), and that the resulting conclusions are communicated to the Ramsar Bureau and fully taken into account by the authorities concerned. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Target - In the next triennium, CPs will ensure that EIAs are applied to any such situation and keep the Bureau advised of the issues and the outcomes of these EIAs.
<p>Has an EIA been carried out in all cases where a change in the ecological character of a Ramsar site within your country was likely (or possible) as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use? Yes/No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from occurring?</p> <p>The Environment Charters being developed for UK Overseas Territories and signed in September 2001 strongly encourage EIAs for all major developments. Within metropolitan UK screening should only exclude those cases where there will be no change in ecological character as a result.</p> <p>Within Northern Ireland, EIAs have been undertaken for the following developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water extraction from Lough Neagh ▪ Sea defences in Strangford Lough ▪ Housing development at the Comber Estuary, Strangford Lough ▪ Access route at East Down Yacht Club, Strangford Lough <p>EIAs have been carried out in all cases where changes in the ecological character of a Ramsar site within Scotland was possible as the result of proposed developments. EIAs may be carried out in relation to non-wetland interests within a site, or be initiated as a consequence of a particular type of proposed development, and in either case might not be directly relevant to the protection of wetlands.</p> <p>If a project is in a ‘sensitive area’ (defined as including a Ramsar site), it must be screened to determine whether an EIA is required. Projects in other areas only need screening if they exceed specified thresholds. The screening criteria used to determine whether an EIA is needed in a particular case include the location of the development, and wetlands are explicitly mentioned as a factor to be taken into account. However a range of different competent authorities are involved, and there is no central register of screening decisions for projects. The Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) have recently commissioned research to examine how well screening procedures are operating.</p>
<p>If Yes, has this EIA, or have these EIAs, given due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See also 2.4.1 above) Yes/No</p>

AND: Have the results of the EIA been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau? No
<p>If No, what has prevented this from occurring?</p> <p>The consideration of full range of wetland values is implicit within the planning framework (cross reference to 2.5.1).</p> <p>EIAs are held centrally and placed on deposit in England but no special arrangements exist to differentiate between those affecting Ramsar sites, other wetland sites and non-wetland sites. EIAs are public documents and made available for inspection locally by any interested person.</p> <p>The results of EIAs for the whole of the UK are not held centrally and there is no requirement on the authorities commissioning EIAs to forward them to the Bureau.</p>
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

<p>2.5.3 Carry out EIAs at other important sites, particularly where adverse impact on wetland resources is likely, due to a development proposal or change in land/water use. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to require EIAs under legislation for any actions which can potentially impact on wetlands and to provide detailed reports on advances in this area in their National Reports for COP8.
<p>Are EIAs required in your country for all cases where a wetland area (whether a Ramsar site or not) may be adversely impacted due to a development proposal or change in land/water use? No</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this occurring?</p> <p>An EIA is required for proposed development which would have an adverse impact on a wetland area provided (i) the development is one to which the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC as amended) applies, (ii) the development meets the <i>de minimis</i> threshold referred to in 2.4.1 above or (iii) is in a sensitive area, and the environmental impact is likely to be significant. An EIA is not required when a development does not directly or indirectly affect designated areas. However, in such cases, planning policy will still require the existence of, protected species and key biodiversity issues to be considered in reaching a decision on a development proposal.</p> <p>The <i>de minimus</i> thresholds are aimed at helping competent authorities determine whether an EIA is needed for a particular project. They establish a presumption of not requiring an EIA if the project falls below the threshold, but enable a competent authority to require an EIA for these projects if the particular circumstances indicate that there should be one.</p>
<p>If Yes, are such EIAs required to give due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See COP7 Resolution VII.16, also 2.4.1 & 2.5.2 above.) Yes/No</p>
<p>Are EIAs “undertaken in a transparent and participatory manner which includes local stakeholders” (COP7 Resolution VII.16)? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this occurring?</p>
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.5.4 Take account of Integrated Environmental Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment (at local, provincial and catchment/river basin or coastal zone levels) when assessing impacts of development proposals or changes in land/water use. [CPs]

(Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country **undertaken** a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring?

If **Yes**, has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) **No**

Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? **Yes/No**

UK Government policy is to incorporate environmental considerations into decision-making at all levels. Local authorities are required to carry out an environmental appraisal of their development plans (land use plans at county and local levels). Manchester University EIA Centre have just started research (funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Royal Town Planning Institute) to assess the effectiveness and quality of environmental appraisal of development plans. Environmental appraisals of all policies, plans or programmes should take account of any implications for wetlands where these are a relevant factor. The statutory conservation agencies are consultees both for strategic plans and for individual local developments which may impact on conservation sites.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments are already heavily used when assessing coastal development, and are used to inform planning decisions. With the advent of the European Union Integrated Coastal Zone Management recommendations it is likely that this approach will be developed further. In addition, Regulations were laid before Parliament in December which will extend EIA in England to cover changes in use of uncultivated and semi-natural areas of land. Equivalent regulations will be made in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

In addition, all legislative proposals are subjected to a Regulatory Impact Assessment which forms part of the draft legislative package. The assessment provides a comprehensive evaluation of the implications, costs and benefits of the proposal. Legislative proposals are also required to be subject to environmental appraisal.

EC Directive on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (2001/42/EC)

In common with other European Union States, the UK will be implementing the 'strategic environmental assessment' or SEA Directive. The Directive will require a formal environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Authorities will have to prepare a report on the significant environmental effects of a plan or programme, consult environmental authorities and the public, and take the results into account. The Directive will also require monitoring of the implementation of plans and programmes to identify unforeseen effects and to enable remedial action to be taken.

The UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) has already invested in developing Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA) techniques. Increasingly, social and economic impacts are also covered by SEA, creating a more comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal. Consideration of potential environmental, social and economic impacts at the earliest possible stage allows exploration of mitigation measures and alternatives before a proposal or development becomes too advanced, and early input can steer a project away from sensitive sites. In March 2000, the

MoD completed a Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA) of the Strategic Defence Review. In June 2000 the Secretary of State for Defence published a safety and environmental protection policy statement which included the following commitment: *'Within the United Kingdom, the Ministry will carry out environmental policy appraisal of all new or revised policies and equipment acquisition programmes, and environmental impact assessments of all new projects and training activities'*.

The MOD is leading the way amongst UK Government departments on SEA development. The Defence Estates agency has a team of trained professionals producing a comprehensive handbook on Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA), testing SEA methodologies on a selection of pilot studies, providing advice to project managers, and developing awareness and training programmes.

Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive requires for each River Basin District an analysis of its characteristics, a review of the impact of human activity on the status of water bodies within it and an economic analysis of water use to be carried out according to the technical specifications set out in the Directive. The results will be used to set appropriate objectives for ground and surface waters within the river basin. The result of the analyses, the objectives set and the programme of measures established to achieve them will be set out in a River Basin Management Plan. The plan will include a register of areas designated under specific Community legislation as requiring special protection for the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection, including relevant international sites.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Implement the new EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive prior to COP9.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions

Operational Objective 2.6: To identify wetlands in need of restoration and rehabilitation, and to implement the necessary measures.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.6.1 Use regional or national scientific inventories of wetlands (Recommendation 4.6), or monitoring processes, to identify wetlands in need of restoration or rehabilitation. [CPs, Partners]

- **The completion of such inventories is a continuing area of priority for the Convention.**
- **Global Target - Restoration/rehabilitation inventories to be completed by at least 50 CPs by COP8.**

Has your country **completed** an assessment to identify its priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation? (COP7 Resolution VII.17) **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from being done?

A project to review the UK Ramsar series is underway (see the response to question 6.1.1).

Work undertaken through the UK's implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (The UK Biodiversity Action Plan) will contribute to restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands

through a number of action plans focussed on wetland habitats and species. All the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitat action plans are available on the UK BAPAP website (www.ukbap.org.uk).

In England, a formal Government target has been adopted by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) should be in favourable condition by 2010. This target is helping to focus efforts on improving the condition of designated sites, including wetlands.

There has been a great deal of work within the UK to develop detailed habitat classifications and to create lists of the locations of different habitat types, but as yet there is no overview of the work undertaken and gaps to be addressed.

Water level management plans

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, through the Water Level Management Plan initiative, is encouraging flood management operating authorities to ensure they have appropriate water level management for Ramsar sites (amongst other designated sites). The operating authorities must prepare plans, which include a programme for implementation, in consultation with English Nature. Guidance issued in October 1999 states that '*For Ramsar sites, the operating authorities should ensure water level management is compatible with wise-use*'.

Review of Consents

In England, Scotland and Wales, the environmental protection agencies have commenced reviewing licenses and consents to comply with the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994. Sites which are both Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar sites will benefit from this review. Additionally, in England and Wales, Ramsar Policy Statements (Appendices 1 and 2) require that Ramsar sites which are not within the Natura 2000 network are subject to the same process. The order in which sites will be subject to this review process will be determined according to the perceived risk of damage or deterioration to the special interest of the sites.

Abstractions

A number of initiatives are driving the Environment Agency's review of abstractions in wetland sites, including: the Habitats Directive; a joint Environment Agency / English Nature review of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England; and the National Environment Programme of sites funded by water companies through the review of their customer prices. These initiatives have been collectively titled the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Programme. The Environment Agency has prioritised the sites to ensure that the most urgent and important sites are reviewed first so action to restore water levels favourable for wetland wildlife can be taken.

Environment Agency strategy on aquatic eutrophication

The Environment Agency's national strategy on aquatic eutrophication was published in August 2000 (www.environment-agency.gov.uk). It is being progressed through a partnership approach and priority will be given to waters of high conservation status. A suite of 11 pilot Eutrophication Control Action Plans (ECAPs) were introduced during 2000/01 to test and refine methods of assessing and controlling eutrophication at a local level. Five of these sites are lakes or reservoirs.

Implementation of the eutrophication strategy will focus on the reduction of nutrient inputs to water (nationally) from the key sources (sewage effluents and agriculture), complemented by the local pilot ECAP initiative referred to above. Guidance for operational staff on the development of local eutrophication action plans, including computer models and other methods for assessing eutrophication problems in different water body types, will be issued and

refined. Methods for measuring eutrophication will be reviewed. See also the statement on the third Asset Management Plan under question 2.8.1.
If this has been done for only part of the country, please indicate for which areas or river basins. Wetlands in North Wales have been assessed for their restoration potential in relation to their conservation status. A programme of acquisition, survey and site management costing £4.8 million has been approved. Several Ramsar sites within the project will benefit from funding. It is proposed to extend the project to the whole of Wales; new sites will be incorporated on a prioritised basis. See also the statement on Wetlands for Wales in 2.6.2.
If Yes (that is, an assessment has been completed), have actions been taken to undertake the restoration or rehabilitation of these priority sites? No Reply
If No , what has prevented this from being done?
If Yes , please provide details.
Proposed national actions and targets: Public Service Agreement target for English SSSIs is for 95% to be in favourable condition by 2010.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, English Nature

2.6.2 Provide and implement methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is considerable information resource on this subject, although it is not as readily accessed as desirable. ▪ Global Target - The addition of appropriate case studies and information on methodologies, etc., to the Convention's Wise Use Resource Centre (refer to 2.3.2 above also) will be a priority in the next triennium.
Refer to 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. Does your country have resource information on the restoration or rehabilitation of wetlands? Yes
If Yes , has this been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre and for consideration by the STRP Expert Working Group on Restoration? No
If this material has not been forwarded to the Bureau, what has prevented this from occurring? The UK has produced numerous reports and studies which include information about wetland requirements and restoration. The following documents are examples of work where the Environment Agency has produced information relating to wetland restoration and management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland Framework Study that has identified water supply mechanisms as a basis for describing, evaluating and maintaining wetlands. • Northern England Lowland Wetland Project This study has prioritised and compiled an inventory of suitable sites for wetland creation and rehabilitation for a full range of succession wetland types.

- Midlands Wetland Framework

Identified different wetland types in the Midlands region detailing the Agency's involvement in them, including a guide to monitoring water levels and flows to assist monitoring.

- Grazing Marsh assessment

This is a feasibility study of grazing marsh creation as part of managed retreat on the River Camel floodplain.

- Culm Grassland (fen/rush pasture)

The Agency has co-funded a doctoral student to identify site criteria needed for restoration of culm grassland which include fen and rush pasture.

- Anglian Region Joint Study on Water resources availability for Wetland Creation

The study has investigated the availability of surface water as an opportunity or constraint to the creation of priority Biodiversity habitats including coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, reedbed, fen and wet woodland. The study also identified soil, landuse and water requirements for the creation of these habitat types.

As part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan process, the Wetland Habitat Action Plan Steering Group has collated information relating to wetland restoration into a report: '*Information Review for Wetland Habitat Action Plans*'.

Some examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects are given below. Currently ongoing EU LIFE funded projects on the restoration of Rivers and Wet Woods are also expected to produce outputs which will have relevance for wetland restoration.

Border Mires Active Blanket Bog Rehabilitation Project, Northumberland (1999-2002)

The project was funded in part by EU LIFE and initiated by Forestry Commission and several partners. The project achieved the following:

- Restoration of 1,600 hectares of mire including 6 Ramsar sites;
- Main management activities included 200 hectares of exotic conifer removal;
- 3,000 dams installed; and
- 100 pools constructed for wading birds.

Lowland valley mire and bog woodland habitat restoration in the New Forest, Hants/Dorset.

The project was initiated in 1997 as part of a wider initiative to rehabilitate important habitats in the forest. The initiative was funded in part by EU LIFE II. The lowland valley mires and bog woodland habitats had become degraded due to fluctuating water levels and becoming enclosed in plantations. A partnership was established between the Forestry Commission and a range of other agencies and non-governmental organisations. The following has been achieved so far:

- 238 hectares of lowland valley mire are in the process of being restored in 19 mire systems. Repair of erosion, raising water levels, slowing watershed rates, infilling drains and ditches.
- Significant species discovery – black bog ant *Formica candida*.
- Heath/mire restoration/recreation from enclosure plantation: approximately 50 hectares of ploughed/conifer plantation cleared of trees, plough and drains infilled, water levels

raised to re-create wet heath, mire and alder carr.

- Bog woodland: 1.5 hectares restored from conifer plantation in 2 sites. Removal of conifer and blocking of drains.
- Next phase of the project will involve the targeting of water catchment implementation plans throughout the New Forest, with a view to restoring canalised section of rivers, riverine woodland, further lowland valley mires, wet grasslands etc.

Wetlands for Wales

A joint Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Environment Agency, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Wildlife Trusts initiative, Wetlands for Wales has obtained a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to contribute towards the purchase of various sites in Wales including substantial areas of former estuarine marsh on the Dyfi Estuary (Cors Fochno & Dyfi Ramsar site) with the aim of restoring wet grassland and marsh. Further land purchase and management agreements are being sought to facilitate mire rehabilitation, and a study is to be commissioned to determine the best options for wetland restoration and management across the Cors Fochno and Dyfi estuarine unit. The RSPB, part funded by CCW grants, have completed 2 major purchases on the Dyfi and detailed management plans are being prepared. See also 2.6.1.

Bermuda

In the UK Overseas Territories, ongoing restoration work includes some of Bermuda's sites - which are small but important refuges of endemic wildlife. Further work is needed to restore both the water-table, and important cave sites, which have suffered from severe oil pollution from the now abandoned US military bases.

Wicken Fen

The National Trust, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, is implementing a policy of land acquisition. It is part of a longer term strategy to raise water levels on farmland to the south of Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire, and revert 3,700 hectares of extensively managed arable land to fenland habitat. The 324 hectares of Wicken Fen Nature Reserve (Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area, and Ramsar site) represents 0.08% of the once massive Cambridgeshire fens that existed before the land was drained in the 17th century. The nature reserve exists as a result of 54 separate conveyances which began in 1899. Its ancient landscape has great diversity – including sedge beds, reed communities, fen meadows and aquatic habitats such as dykes and pools - but there are many difficulties in maintaining a variety of species in an isolated fen. The project will not only have significant landscape benefits, but will also provide recreational opportunities for the growing population of Cambridgeshire.

Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands Restoration Project (1995-1998)

This project was funded in part by EU LIFE and undertaken by a partnership of organisations led by the RSPB. Work was carried out to restore specimen areas of damaged blanket bog and to protect adjacent areas of intact blanket bog. A number of different restoration techniques were tried in order to evaluate the costs and ecological success of different treatments.

Achievements include:

- Restoration work completed on 7 areas of drained peatland, 7 areas of afforested peatland, and one area of peatland damaged by all terrain vehicles;
- Over 1,200 dams installed along nearly 10km of hill drains;
- Over 1,400 dams installed in forestry furrows to raise the water table where trees had been

felled; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees removed from over 200 hectares of afforested peatland.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

<p>2.6.3 Establish wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in association with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value (Recommendation 4.1). [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Convention will continue to promote the restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands, particularly in situations where such actions will help promote or retain the ‘health’ and productivity of waterways and coastal environments. <p>Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to have identified their priority sites for restoration or rehabilitation and for projects to be under way in at least 100 CPs.</p>
Refer to 2.6.1 above.

Operational Objective 2.7: To encourage active and informed participation of local communities, including indigenous people, and in particular women, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions – Global and National Targets
<p>2.7.1 Implement Recommendation 6.3 on involving local and indigenous people in the management of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Target - In the next triennium, the implementation of the Guidelines on local communities’ and indigenous people’s participation (COP7 Resolution VII.8) is to be one of the Convention’s highest priorities. By COP8, all CPs to be promoting local stakeholder management of wetlands.
Is your government actively promoting the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the management of wetlands? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
<p>If Yes, describe what special actions have been taken (See also 2.7.2, 2.7.3 and 2.7.4 below) (COP7 Resolution VII.8).</p> <p>The UK has a well established system of public consultation and participation which applies to all significant public proposals, including environmental matters. The UK encourages local communities, including indigenous peoples in the Overseas Territories, to take an active part in the management of wetlands. This includes representation on local management fora; ownership and management of protected sites by community groups, non-governmental organisations and individuals; practical site management work, such as that by local conservation groups, landowners and managers; transparent decision making through the UK's planning process from a parish level upwards; and a broad based membership of the UK's National Ramsar Committee which includes non-governmental organisations largely funded by public subscription.</p> <p>A number of examples of local consultation and involvement in wetland management are given</p>

below:

Local Environment Agency Plans

Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) set out the Environment Agency's view of the local environment, the pressures acting upon it, actions needed to address local issues and help to consult local communities on the improvements the Environment Agency should deliver together. Since 1996 the Environment Agency has consulted on and started implementation of 130 LEAPs covering the whole of England and Wales.

About 30,000 local organisations have been consulted, ranging from environmental organisations and voluntary bodies to local authorities, trade associations and industry. Through LEAPs the Environment Agency has identified over 12,000 actions costing around £420 million that would improve local environments. Many of these actions will be undertaken in partnership with other local organisations.

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) will be developed through consultation with key stakeholders and the local people in each CAMS area. This involvement is in the form of a stakeholder group and consultation through a document distributed to a wide audience.

Wise Use of Floodplains

Across England and Wales the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards and local authorities have prepared Water Level Management Plans (WLMPs) for over 350 designated wetland Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Approximately 200 further WLMPs are being prepared. These involve landowners and managers, local communities and relevant government bodies – the aim is to produce a management plan to protect the nature conservation interest of the site; for example within Environmentally Sensitive Areas through agri-environment support schemes. This often involves prolonged negotiations to secure the support of local landowners.

One such major initiative has been running over the past 3 years on the Somerset Levels and Moors, a designated Special Protection Area and Ramsar site covering 27,000 hectares in South West England. The project has brought together over 80 local groups to review and discuss the future management of the wetland. The process of engaging local communities has been time consuming but has achieved an unprecedented level of consensus, and has therefore proved to be of great benefit. This consensus building will enable a management plan to be implemented to safeguard this wetland's future.

Wildlife Habitat Trust

Formed by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) in 1986, the Wildlife Habitat Trust (WHT) acts as the UK's Sporting Shooting Conservation Fund - facilitating the acquisition and management of habitats by the shooting community. Money is raised through the WHT's UK Habitat Conservation Stamp Programme - used by many waterfowl hunting clubs to collect an annual £5 conservation levy from their members. During the reporting period the WHT assisted the acquisition of five sites within important wetlands:

- 25 hectares at Upper Priestsides on the Solway Estuary.
- 123 hectares of saltmarsh and foreshore on the North Lincolnshire coast.
- 10 hectares on the Cam Washes.
- 213 hectares of sporting rights on Lough Beg. This project was grant aided by the

Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland) with the area subsequently being declared a National Nature Reserve in 1999.

- 10 hectares of grazing marsh adjoining Hamford Water National Nature Reserve. This project was supported by WHT in partnership with English Nature and The Heritage Lottery Fund.

In addition, the Wildlife Habitat Trust, working in partnership with Wetlands International, awarded a further grant of £15,000 over 3 years to assist the maintenance and rehabilitation of the Ramsar site at Lake Engure in Latvia. This project was included in the list of important 'International Co-operative Programmes' at the first Meeting of Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species African-European Waterbirds Agreement in November 1999.

Crown Estates

The reporting period has also seen considerable activity within the Crown Estates Joint Tidal Group (comprising the Crown Estate, BASC, English Nature and Countryside Council for Wales) in bringing wildfowling over Crown foreshore under the local control of wildfowling clubs through properly constituted shooting leases and management plans. This process has successfully brought waterfowl shooting over some 30,000 hectares of coastland (made up of some 70 sites) under local regulation and management.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.7.2 Encourage site managers and local communities to work in partnership at all levels to monitor the ecological character of wetlands, thus providing a better understanding of management needs and human impacts. [CPs]

- **The Convention's Outreach Programme (COP7 Resolution VII.9) seeks to give such community participation higher priority as an education and empowerment tool of the Convention.**

Does your government **actively encourage or support** site managers and local communities in monitoring the condition (ecological character) of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? (Also refer to Operational Objective 5.1.) **Yes**

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring?

If **Yes**, does this include both site managers and local communities, where they are not the same people? **Yes**

The UK is currently developing a major nation-wide monitoring programme to assess the status of the habitats and species for which UK statutory designated sites have been notified. The programme - known as common standards monitoring - will include Ramsar sites. It is currently in its early days. Assessments will be undertaken either directly by the staff of the UK statutory conservation agencies (Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, Environment and Heritage Service) or under contracts directed by them. The first six year cycle commenced in 1999. Assessments of all the UK's Ramsar sites should be available in 2005/6, and the UK hopes to be able to provide information to the Bureau and other interested parties in the next national report. Information on the programme is available from the JNCC website (www.jncc.gov.uk).

The amount of involvement in site monitoring by site managers and the public varies on a site by

site basis. The UK has a rich history of natural history observations. It is hoped that these data can be harnessed to provide important context information within the common standards monitoring programme of assessments, for example through the provision of observations of species into the National Biodiversity Network (see www.nbn.org.uk for more information on the NBN).

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) currently co-ordinates all waterfowl hunting returns on Crown foreshore leases as well as on key wetlands such as Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve. The National Trust manages the Wildfowling Scheme and organises wildfowl counts at Strangford Lough.

BASC is working closely with Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust to provide the necessary information on the hunting utilisation, and related aspects, of migratory waterfowl populations. The organisations have presented to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee an Integrated Population Management Programme as a means of addressing and delivering on the key requirements for waterfowl management under the African Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement and other national and international obligations.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK Government has recently provided support to the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum to enable site-monitoring information to be collated in a website database (www.ukotcf.org).

AND, where such monitoring occurs, are the findings being used to guide management practices?
Yes

If **No**, what prevents this from happening?

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.7.3 Involve local communities in the management of wetlands by establishing wetland management committees, especially at Ramsar sites, on which local stakeholders, landowners, managers, developers and community interest groups, in particular women’s groups, are represented. [CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - Ramsar site management committees operating in at least 100 CPs, and including non-government stakeholder representation.**

Are there wetland site management committees **in place** in your country? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such being established?

If **Yes**, for how many sites are such committees in place?

There many routes for consultation and decision making within the UK, which may relate to site management more generally rather than just to wetlands. Due to the number of such routes for consultation within the UK it is not possible to answer this question numerically without disproportionate effort. Key examples include:

- Site based consultation groups, for example for producing reserve management plans.
- Representation of local user-groups such as fishermen, on Management/Advisory committees.
- Regional Flood Defence Committees – with executive powers who direct the Environment Agency’s work.

- Internal Drainage Boards – who oversee and implement local flood defence works.
- Area Environment Groups and special interest fora, for example, fisheries committees, who advise on local issues, which may relate to wetland site management.
- Firths fora - developed as a result of the Focus on Firths initiative (see question 2.2.2), these are a prime example in Scotland of community involvement in the management of wetlands.

A survey of the UK’s Ramsar sites has produced the statistics in the following boxes.

AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? **76**

AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? **70**

AND: Of these, how many have women’s groups represented?

The participation of women in decision making is supported by equal opportunities legislation which outlaws discrimination. Women can and do hold positions of responsibility on such committees. Within the UK, although women’s groups tend not to be represented specifically as such on management committees, there is no cultural bar to womens’ involvement and representation is not decided on a gender basis.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.7.4 Recognize and apply traditional knowledge and management practice of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]

- **Refer to 2.7.1 above.**
- **Global Target - This will be addressed in the next triennium, possibly in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention to Combat Desertification, which have already initiated work in this area.**

Has your government **made any special efforts** to recognize and see applied traditional knowledge and management practices? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring?

If **Yes**, please provide details of how his traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice.

The landscape of the UK has been shaped by centuries of agriculture, forestry, riparian and other land uses, and is thus very dependent on the application of traditional land management practices. These still continue in many places. For example, traditional management of peatlands by the local community continues within the Lewis peatlands management scheme and the Caithness and Sutherland peatlands management scheme, and traditional management of reed beds within the Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary.

Land Management practices are supported and implemented in a variety of ways, for example:

- grant support to local land managers and non-governmental organisations through agri-environment schemes (such as countryside stewardship and environmentally sensitive areas);
- wildlife enhancement grants made available by the statutory conservation agencies;
- voluntary management work by non-governmental organisations such as the British Trust for

Conservation Volunteers, Wildlife Trusts, and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation;

- through local planning guidance;
- stringent local planning regulations, especially in areas of outstanding natural beauty and national parks.

Waterfowl hunting acts as a strong and proven incentive for safeguarding (often through acquisition; see question 2.7.1) and sympathetic management of wetland habitats. Local waterfowl hunting groups currently own and manage land within 3 wetland National Nature Reserves, namely, Hamford Water, the Ribble Marshes, and Lough Beg.

A major objective of the current Darwin Initiative project run by the Turks and Caicos National Trust, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and CABI is to integrate local traditional crafts based on sustainable use of natural resources with the management of the reserve, to generate further employment, educational, conservation and appropriate tourism activities.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 2.8: To encourage involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.8.1. Encourage the private sector to give increased recognition to wetland attributes, functions and values when carrying out projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, the efforts to work in partnership with the private sector will be further increased and the Bureau will seek to document and make available case studies on some of the more effective and innovative approaches. By COP8, the target is to have private sector support for wetlands conservation in more than 100 CPs.**

Have **special efforts been made** to increase the recognition of wetland attributes, functions and values among the private sector in your country? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening?

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts.

Some examples are given below:

London Wetland Centre

Through its consultancy arm, the Wetlands Advisory Service, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) works with a range of industries in achieving sustainable development that benefits wetlands. An example of this is the new Wetland Centre in London, created at Barn Elms in partnership with Thames Water plc. and Berkeley Homes plc. Work commenced on the creation of this 40 hectares visitor and nature reserve facility in 1995. It was opened to the public in May 2000. An integrated housing development on the north of the site was built by Berkeley Homes on land owned by Thames Water – a sum of £11 million was generated from profits enabling the ground works and basic visitor facilities to be built to a WWT design.

Housing Award

Since 1992, WWT and the New Homes Marketing Board have sponsored the special wetlands award in the Greenleaf Housing Award scheme. This encourages wetland and water sensitive approaches to development within the housing sector.

Pevensey Bay

The Pevensey Bay Sea Defences extend for 9 km between Eastbourne and Bexhill in East Sussex. Any breach in the shingle bank forming the existing coastal defences would result in the flooding of a 50 square kilometre area, the majority of which constitutes the freshwater Pevensey Levels Ramsar site, plus over 10,000 properties, road and rail links.

In May 2000 the Environment Agency and Pentium Coastal Defence Limited signed a £30 million, 25 year, public private partnership contract for the Pevensey Bay Sea Defences. Pentium will carry out improvement works and maintain the sea defences in return for a monthly fee, thereby ensuring the maintenance of the Ramsar interest of the Pevensey Levels Ramsar site.

This was the first such contract to be awarded in the environmental and flood defence sectors. The procurement of public services/infrastructure using public private partnerships is radically different from the traditional approach of only hiring the private sector to build an asset. Experience to date has shown the process to be very successful in forging common interests between the private sector and environmental organisations.

Broadland Flood Alleviation Project

The Broadland Flood Alleviation Project has been set up to deliver a programme of flood defence improvements over a period of twenty years throughout Broadland. The project area corresponds closely with the Broads Authority executive area, which has National Park status. It includes both open water and low lying marshland and is one of Britain's finest wetlands; designated as an Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Ramsar site of 4,622 hectares.

A review process links to an update of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, which will consider the opportunities for achieving more sustainable use of wetlands in the project area, where this can be delivered through flood alleviation measures.

Through a public private partnership, the contractor, Broadland Environmental Services Limited (BESL), will undertake a comprehensive programme of environmental assessment, including appropriate assessment where the proposed works will impact on the SAC / SPA / Ramsar site. Both English Nature and the Broads Authority will be working closely with BESL, and a small team of Environment Agency staff has been appointed to oversee delivery of the programme. The long term nature of this contract provides an ongoing opportunity for raising awareness of wetlands in the private sector.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

Working in partnership is an essential element of the UK approach to the biodiversity process. Each of the individual species and habitats for which Action Plans have been prepared as part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) have a recognised Lead Partner from either the statutory agencies or the voluntary sector NGOs. Lead Partner is encouraged to find a Champion from the private sector to contribute to the partnership.

Though there has only been limited success in attracting Champions for BAP species associated with wetlands, there has been some good news. An example is the Otters and Rivers Project,

which has seen Water UK, an umbrella organisation representing the water industry, team up with The Wildlife Trusts in working to restore the otter *Lutra lutra* population and to improve wildlife habitats associated with rivers. Water UK's financial commitment to the project has helped release further funding through Landfill Tax Credits from Biffaward.

Other wetland BAP species which have attracted private sector champions include the depressed river mussel *Pseudanodonta complanata* (Thames Water, Anglian Water) and the medicinal leech *Hirudo medicinalis* (Glaxo Wellcome).

Most of the major water companies in England have developed company biodiversity action plans for land within their management. Such plans recognise the value of wetlands and aim to achieve improvements for biodiversity and sustainable use of resources. Wessex Water BAP, for example, has three major components:

- Improvements to land management on the company's own land;
- the mitigation of new infrastructure development, including the creation of wetland habitat; and
- Working with partners, including the Wessex chalk rivers project which works with landowners and the Wildlife Trust to carry out river restoration measures.

Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation

The Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation (2000) encourages the increased recognition of the value of wetland attributes through the provision of guidance to the Environment Agency (EA), and water and sewage undertakers (WSUs). The Code places a duty on the relevant bodies for the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the conservation of flora, fauna, and geological and physiographical features of special interest. In carrying out their duties they should seek to contribute to the overarching objective of achieving sustainable development and should conserve and where practicable enhance biodiversity.

The code requires the EA and the WSUs to apply their conservation duties to land they own and areas in which they exercise functions. They should also assess the potential impact of any proposals on biodiversity and avoid damage to flora and fauna. The Code sets out a range of general practices which are likely to be relevant to all aspects of management and use of the water environment. These include practices to retain river flows and water tables at levels sufficient to protect associated habitats; retain flood plains and allow them to function naturally where this does not conflict with the need to protect life or valuable natural or manmade assets; and retain landscape features such as ponds, brackish lagoons, fens, water meadows and bogs.

Woodland Grant Schemes

When providing grant aid through the Woodland Grant Scheme, Forestry Commission personnel work closely with the private sector to ensure important wetland habitats are taken into account in the overall scheme proposals.

Agri-environment schemes

When drawing up agreements under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme, DEFRA personnel work closely with farmers and land managers to ensure that, where possible, appropriate management of wetlands is part of the management plan.

Asset Management Plan schemes and Ramsar sites

Water companies produce five-year business plans which include the environmental improvements to water quality and water levels and flows that are needed to meet the

requirements of European Directives and UK legislation. These plans are known as Asset Management Plans (AMP). The Environment Agency and Scottish Environment Protection Agency work with British water companies in the production and scope of these plans.

There are two types of scheme in the 3rd round Asset Management Plan (2000-2005); those aimed at addressing abstraction issues and those targeted at reducing nutrient loading from sewage effluent. In AMP3 abstraction schemes apply to thirteen English Ramsar sites and sewage effluent schemes to nine. In all, nineteen Ramsar sites in England are directly the subject of AMP3, with three sites receiving both abstraction and sewage effluent schemes.

AMP3 as a whole should make a considerable contribution to the ecological restoration of the Ramsar sites involved. Future rounds of AMP and new initiatives on non-domestic discharges, abstractions and diffuse pollution will build upon the substantial improvements currently being initiated.

The Environment Agency has worked closely with English Nature and water companies to restore wetland sites damaged by abstractions and discharges, with recent success in getting investigations and solutions funded by the companies in the 3rd round Asset Management Plan. Some £5.4 billion was allocated for environmental improvements in water quality and water resources in rivers and wetlands in England and Wales. Furthermore, all applications for new abstraction licenses must take into account all water features that might be affected by the proposed abstraction.

Through the third Asset Management Plan (AMP3) environmental improvement programme, and partly as a result of the requirements of the European Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, there will be strict standards for the treatment of sewage – such as the requirement for phosphate stripping – which will significantly reduce eutrophication, modernise combined stormwater and sewage outfalls and rectify low-flow problems in rivers. A major programme to review those Environment Agency authorisations (for discharges, air emissions and water abstractions) which are likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites has also been started. This will ensure that as far as possible the risks of damage as a result of statutory consents is removed for the most sensitive wildlife sites. In Scotland the water authorities are investing £18bn over the next 2 years to meet the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is also playing an important part in this process by advising on Natura 2000 issues affecting discharge consents. Wide-ranging consideration is also being given to the Scottish Water Authorities' overall investment needs to 2006.

Wise Use of Floodplains

The involvement of the private sector is a routine part of the Environment Agency's work, particularly through development control where developers are actively encouraged to conserve and/or create wetlands. The Environment Agency also supports some targeted projects for example, restoration of Redgrave and Lopham Fen in conjunction with the local Wildlife Trust and the Water Company. The Wise Use of Floodplains project (a multi-partnership project between RSPB, Environment Agency and English Nature) seeks to involve private landowners, leisure and tourism enterprises in the future management of the Somerset Wetlands and Anglian Fens. Engaging the private sector is crucial to the success of this project both to secure support from landowners to change land use, and also to provide alternative income through tourism and leisure.

AND: Have these efforts been successful? **Yes/No**

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, how do you judge this success? Financial support for management or monitoring? Active involvement in management or monitoring? (Refer to 2.8.3 below) Application of Ramsar's Wise Use principles by private sector interests? (Refer to 2.8.2 below)? Other criteria?

The success of these initiatives is difficult to assess. In some cases it is too early to make an assessment. Overall, private sector involvement has been un-coordinated and in some instances where it is important for it to be involved, the private sector is not fully represented. For example, there are no private sector representatives on the Wales Biodiversity Group. Other initiatives have proved successful, and still others have an uncertain prognosis. An example of the last category is the Severn Estuary Strategy which raised awareness and understanding of the estuary in the private sector (e.g. Hyder paid for 3 newsletters, Dow Corning hosted meetings). However, there was only a limited response to targeting the private sector and the future of strategy is uncertain.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Review the degree of success of private sector involvement in the biodiversity process and make recommendations to increase involvement.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

2.8.2 Encourage the private sector to apply the Wise Use Guidelines when executing development projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium the application of this tool for promoting Wise Use will be a priority under the Convention. By COP8, the target is to have more than 50 CPs which have completed reviews of their incentive measures.**

Refer to 2.8.1 above. Has your government **completed** a review of its "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" (COP7 Resolution VII.15)? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has been the impediment to this being done?

A number of aspects of the UK's policy, legal and institutional frameworks have been assessed to identify and promote measures to facilitate appropriate management of wetland resources. The process of review is seen as ongoing, as policies are always tested for their impact on the environment.

The UK is committed to improving the environmental performance of its Government Departments. The 1990 White Paper *This Common Inheritance* and subsequent reports introduced several institutional reforms, including the appointment of Green Ministers. The new Government has gone further: setting up a new Sustainable Development Unit to service the new Cabinet Committee on the Environment, planning a powerful new Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee to scrutinise Government Departments' policies and operations and strengthening the role of Green Ministers. Each government department has a Green Minister who champions sustainable development and environmental matters in their own departments. They collectively work to: promote the integration of sustainable development across Government and the wider public sector; encourage the use of environmental appraisals as part of policy making; and continue to improve the environmental performance of departments in managing their buildings and facilities (otherwise known as 'greening

operations'). *Making Biodiversity Happen Across Government: the Green Ministers Checklist* advocates that all policies and programmes should be screened to ascertain the likely impacts of policy shifts on biodiversity and that assessments should be carried out where impacts are likely to be significant. It requires that any adverse effects should be avoided, mitigated or offset by equivalent gains elsewhere. Guidance to public bodies incorporated within Ramsar Policy statement encourages them to build Ramsar considerations into their planning and operations.

The recently published Ramsar Policy Statements for England and Wales and planning policy guidance, which is currently in the process of revision, promote the conservation of wetlands and wise use principles by discouraging inappropriate development.

The Wales Ramsar Policy statement was issued in February 2001 to organisations throughout Wales including all Local Authorities. The current *Planning Guidance (Wales): Planning Policy and Technical Advice Note (Wales) 5* extends the same protection at a policy level to listed Ramsar sites in respect of new development as that afforded to sites which have been designated under the Birds and Habitats Directives as part of the European Union Natura 2000 network.

If **Yes**, what actions have been taken to introduce “incentive measures designed to encourage the wise use of wetlands, and to identify and remove perverse incentives where they exist” (COP7 Resolution VII.15).

AND: Have these actions been effective? **No Reply**

If **No**, why not?

If **Yes**, please describe how.

AND if **Yes**, COP7 Resolution VII.15 requested Parties to share these “experiences and lessons learned with respect to incentive measures and perverse incentives relating to wetlands, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources generally, by providing these to the Ramsar Bureau for appropriate distribution and to be made available through the Wise Use Resource Centre of the Convention’s Web site”. Has this been done? **No Reply**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.8.3 Encourage the private sector to work in partnership with site managers to monitor the ecological character of wetlands. [CPs]

- **This action will be promoted further in the next triennium.**

Refer to 2.7.2 above. In addition, have **any special efforts** been made to encourage the private sector involvement in monitoring? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening?

There are very few examples of private sector doing monitoring, except some individuals as volunteers or environmental consultancies on contracts in connection with development proposals. A more likely scenario, but not common, is for the private sector to contribute funds towards monitoring projects, not necessarily restricted to their sites. A few examples of private sector input to monitoring work undertaken on wetlands are:

- British Gas provision of financial support to *Zostera* mapping in Walney Channel, Morecambe Bay Ramsar site.

- ICI support for monitoring work in Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar site.
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) has received funding for monitoring newly created wetland at Barn Elms in London (The Wetland Centre). As well as part-funding from English Nature, WWT received monitoring and research money from the British Airports Authority and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The main efforts to secure private sector involvement have been in seeking sponsorship funding for particular monitoring projects. This has been of mixed success. Where private corporations own or are otherwise responsible for management of wetland sites, they are often (not always) supportive of monitoring, but don't necessarily see it as their responsibility to carry it out, or to contribute financially to its completion. There is wariness that restrictions on their activities may be imposed in the light of the results of monitoring and survey.

Involvement of the private sector in monitoring probably requires further effort to encourage 'ownership' and direct participation or responsibility.

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts.

The various consents, licences and permissions issued by the Environment Agency (EA) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) contain standard or special monitoring conditions to which licence holders, including many in the private sector, must comply. These relate to monitoring based on the type of activity, risk to the environment and/or harm to human health. Monitoring by licence holders may, for example, include the amount of emissions for chemical or radioactive substances to air or water; the sampling of incoming waste substances; the amount of gas and leachate expulsion or aerial emissions including dust by landfills. Licence holders are generally required to undertake frequent monitoring of the required parameters and are also required to submit reports of these data to the regulatory authority for scrutiny on a regular basis, which can be annually, quarterly or monthly.

AND: How successful has this been?

Audit monitoring by EA and SEPA is also undertaken to check that terms of licences have been complied with. The regulatory bodies have powers to require clean-up or mitigation of pollution events, and in certain circumstances prosecute offenders for breaches of licences.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

2.8.4 Involve the private sector in the management of wetlands through participation in wetland management committees. [CPs]

- **Global Target - As indicated under 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 above, the establishment of cross-sectoral and stakeholder management committees for wetlands, and especially Ramsar sites, will be a priority in the next triennium.**

Refer to 2.7.3 above



General Objective 3

To raise awareness of wetland values and functions throughout the world and at all levels

Operational Objective 3.1: To support and assist in implementing, in co-operation with partners and other institutions, an international programme of Education and Public Awareness (EPA) on wetlands, their functions and values, designed to promote national EPA programmes.

Actions - Global Targets
3.1.1 Assist in identifying and establishing co-ordinating mechanisms and structures for the development and implementation of a concerted global programme of EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below

3.1.2 Participate in the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for resource development. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Has your country taken any action to help with the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for information/education resource development? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening?
<p>If Yes, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland Communications, Public Awareness, and Education (CEPA) (COP7 Resolution VII.9).</p> <p>An Education and Public Awareness Sub Group of the UK Ramsar Committee was established in late 2000 to '<i>encourage an increase in the knowledge and understanding of wetland values and benefits in the UK and so act as a catalyst for the development of action towards the conservation and sustainable management of wetland resources</i>'.</p> <p>The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) has been carrying out a review of needs particularly targeted at the formal schools sector during 2000-1. A study carried out by the Council for Environmental Education (commissioned by WWT) concluded that wide range of resources exist to support wetlands education. However, there is also a need to develop new and targeted ones linked to the agenda of 'education for sustainable development' – the report concluded that wetlands are an ideal vehicle for its delivery. The report has informed the priorities for programmes for WWT and will be presented to the EPA sub-group of the UK Ramsar Committee.</p> <p>WWT is now implementing its WISE Up to WEBs programme (Wetlands In Sustainability Education... Wetlands, Ecology, Biodiversity, Sustainability) with substantial support from HSBC plc. This will include the development of targeted programmes at WWT's nine centres throughout the UK, the development of resources for use in schools and the expansion of on-line resources for learning.</p> <p>The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) supported the development of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) web-site (www.ukotcf.org) and two international conferences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>A Breath of Fresh Air</i> (London, June/July 1999) organised by FCO with support from

UKOTCF. This has formed the basis of an educational video/DVD and support pack aimed at teenage school students in UK OTs, currently being distributed.

- *Calpe 2000: Linking the Fragments of Paradise* (Gibraltar, Sept/Oct 2000) sponsored by the Government of Gibraltar and organised by the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society with the support of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. The proceedings are available on www.ukotcf.org. This meeting involved also overseas territories of other states and several small island states. UKOTCF is working with Bermuda organisations to plan a further conference there in late 2002 or early 2003.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Establish a forward work plan for the EPA subgroup of the National Ramsar Committee

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

National Ramsar Committee

3.1.3 Assist in the development of international resource materials in support of national EPA programmes [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.1.2 above also. Has your country **taken any action** to assist with the development of international wetland CEPA resource materials? **Yes**

If **Yes**, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9).

Grants have been provided through the UK Darwin initiative for the production of CEPA materials in three cases:

1. Conserving Vietnam's Biodiversity Through Improved Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring. Objective: To support training and education in the use of biological indicator groups for water quality monitoring. Materials: Identification keys and training manuals. Project no: 162/06/014.
2. Bogs of Tomsk Province: Inventory, Assessment and Biodiversity Action Plan. Objective: To carry out detailed surveys and evaluations of the wetland resources of the province with the aim of producing a Habitat Statement and Biodiversity Action Plan. Materials: Habitat Statement and Biodiversity Action Plan. Project no: 162/6/081.
3. Effective management for biodiversity conservation in coastal wetlands in Sri Lanka. Objective: To weigh the benefits of restoring wetlands against other development options. Materials: Website. Project no: 162/09/002.

A newsletter on the Darwin Initiative project on the Turks and Caicos Islands Ramsar site is available as a .pdf file on www.ukotcf.org (select Territories; select Turks & Caicos).

Through its Wise-up to Webs programme resources from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust will be available internationally on-line from mid 2002.

Through its Wetland Link International programme and Wetlands Advisory Service, WWT has been very active in assisting overseas agencies and NGOs in the development of materials, programmes and facilities. These include CEPA linked projects in Hong Kong, South Korea, Belgium, USA and Ghana.

If No , what has prevented this from happening?
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

3.1.4 Support international programmes that encourage transfer of information, knowledge and skills between wetland education centres and educators (e.g., Wetland International's EPA Working Group, Global Rivers Environment Education Network (GREEN), Wetland Link International). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.2.4 also. Does your country support any international programmes that encourage transfer of information, knowledge and skills among wetland education centres and educators?
Yes

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring?

If **Yes**, please provide details.

The UK Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) supports the Convention on Biological Diversity by promoting scientific and technical co-operation and information exchange through the provision of access to relevant information, knowledge and expertise. The UK is developing a website (www.chm.org.uk) which will publicise the information, skills and knowledge available within the UK. The UK has also contributed to policy and technical developments for the European Commission CHM website (<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/>)

Darwin Initiative

The Darwin Initiative supports collaboration between UK biodiversity institutions and developing country partners, to help the latter implement the Convention on Biodiversity. In 8 years it has funded over 200 projects involving over 80 British institutions and with links to around 80 countries. On 23 March 2001 a ninth round of funding was announced, adding another 31 projects totaling £3.5m. Projects so far have involved the major British biodiversity institutions such as the Natural History Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew as well as many of the universities, research institutes and other educational bodies. They have ranged from the sustainable use of seahorses in the Philippines, via an inventory of a nature reserve in Paraguay, to helping the establishment of the Tropical Biology Association to train biodiversity practitioners in Africa. The focus of much of the project work covers the more minute forms of life which are integral to the survival of the larger and more visible species such as apes. Details of projects can be found on the website at www.nbu.ac.uk/darwin.

Darwin projects in wetlands habitats supporting Conservation and Management

- Conservation and Management of Wetlands and their Biodiversity in Cambodia. To undertake inventories of wetlands and develop a national wetland plan of Wetlands and their Biodiversity. (Cambodia) (162/03/198).
- Elasmobranch Biodiversity Project: A study into the problems facing elasmobranchs in rivers estuaries and inshore waters of Sabah. (Malaysia) (162/04/082).
- Conserving Vietnam's Biodiversity Through Improved Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring. To support training and education in the use of biological indicator groups for water quality monitoring. (Vietnam) (162/06/014).

- Bogs of Tomsk Province: Inventory, Assessment and Biodiversity Action Plan. To carry out detailed surveys and evaluations of the wetland resources of the province with the aim of producing a Habitat Statement and Biodiversity Action Plan. (Russia) (162/06/081).
- Management planning for conservation of fen mire biodiversity in Belarus. To prepare management plans for the conservation of mesotrophic fen mire biodiversity at three key sites in Belarus. (Belarus) (162/08/220).
- Effective management for biodiversity conservation in coastal wetlands. To weigh the benefits of restoring wetlands against other development options. (Sri Lanka) (162/09/002).
- Building capacity in wetlands biodiversity in the Central European and Baltic States. To assist selected Central European and Baltic States to meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity with regard to the conservation of wetland biodiversity. (Poland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) (162/10/008).

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology have been supported by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum to produce an educational and awareness programme about the West Indian Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arborea* throughout much of the Caribbean. Details are available on www.ukotcf.org.

Is your country specifically supporting the Wetlands Link International initiative (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? **Yes**

If **No**, what is preventing this from happening?

If **Yes**, please provide details.

The Wetlands International EPA Specialist Group is co-ordinated by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT), who also operate the global Wetland Link International programme. In 1997 WWT found that it could no longer support the programme from its limited core funds and the post of Co-ordinator was lost. The Programme has been kept alive during the intervening years but with greatly reduced outputs. No financial support for the programme has been forthcoming from any contracting party despite strong endorsement at COPs.

WWT plans to re-establish an electronic network in the autumn of 2001 and has consulted widely through the Ramsar CEPA mini-website and other vehicles on the future of the programme. This consultation has resulted in extremely strong endorsement for the continuation and expansion of the programme.

AND indicate which Wetland Centres (refer 3.2.3 below), museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and educational environment education centres (refer 3.2.4) are now participating as part of Wetlands Link International.

WWT plans to carry out a full review of wetland education centres in the UK during 2002 and establish a UK-based national WLI network.

The following WWT centres are currently participating in WLI: Slimbridge, Llanelli, Castle Espie, Martin Mere, Welney, Caerlaverock, Arundel, Washington, London Wetland Centre (Barnes).

<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>Continue to support the development of international wetland CEPA materials through the UK Darwin Initiative</p> <p>Continue to develop the UK CHM website as a means of exchanging experience on sustainable use of natural resources.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p> <p>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Joint Nature Conservation Committee</p>

Operational Objective 3.2: To develop and encourage national programmes of EPA on wetlands, targeted at a wide range of people, including key decision-makers, people living in and around wetlands, other wetland users and the public at large.

<p>Actions - Global and National Targets</p>
<p>3.2.1 Encourage partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations capable of developing national EPA programmes on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Target - By COP8 to see the global network of proposed CP and non-government focal points for Wetland Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) in place and functioning effectively in the promotion and execution of the national Outreach Programme
<p>Did your Government inform the Ramsar Bureau by 31 December 1999 of the identity of its Government and Non-Government Focal Points for wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from occurring?</p> <p>The focal point was not decided by this deadline. The UK subsequently informed the Bureau of the identity of its focal points. Due to staff changes, this role is currently vacant, but will be filled again before COP8.</p>
<p>Has your country established an “appropriately constituted Task Forces, where No mechanism exists for this purpose (e.g., National Ramsar Committees), to undertake a review of national needs, capacities and opportunities in the field of wetland CEPA and, based on this, to formulate its National Wetland CEPA Action Plans for priority activities which consider the international, regional, national and local needs” (COP7 Resolution VII.9). Yes</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from occurring?</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force.</p> <p>A subgroup of the UK national Ramsar Committee has been set-up to develop and implement a national EPA action plan.</p>
<p>AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from occurring?</p> <p>This is a significant area of work which requires full consideration and careful planning. Work to develop an Action Plan is in progress, but is unlikely to be progressed quickly.</p>

If Yes , is the Action Plan being implemented effectively? No Reply
If No , what is preventing this from occurring?
If Yes , what are the priority target groups of the Action Plan and the major activities being undertaken?
AND: Has a copy of this plan been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? No Reply
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

3.2.2 On the basis of identified needs and target groups, support national programmes and campaigns to generate a positive vision of wetlands and create awareness at all levels of their values and functions. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - see 3.2.1 above.**

3.2.3 Encourage the development of educational centres at wetland sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - The Convention will aim to have more than 150 active education centres (and similar venues - see 3.2.4 below) promoting the principles of the Convention by COP8 and to ensure that all CPs have at least one such centre.**

Has your country **encouraged** the establishment of educational centres at wetland sites? **Yes**

If **No**, what has been the impediment to such action being taken?

If **Yes**, how successful has this been?

The UK encourages the provision of visitor facilities where this is not inconsistent with the nature conservation objectives for the site. For example, the Ynyslas Visitor Centre (run by Countryside Council for Wales - CCW) and the visitor centre at Ynys-hir Reserve (run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) both at Cors Fochno & Dyfi Ramsar site; and the Crymlyn Centre (run by CCW in partnership with Swansea Environment Centre) at Crymlyn Bog Ramsar site. All three have significant educational functions.

The Wildfowl and Wetland Trust's (WWT) nine Centres now welcome over 600,000 visitors annually – six of the centres are on or adjacent to Ramsar sites. All Centres support activities that promote World Wetlands Day and the Ramsar Convention (all have exhibits on the Convention on site).

During the period 1998-2002 there was substantial development of facilities within WWT including the creation of the £16 million urban Wetland Centre at Barn Elms in London, the completion of the £6 million Slimbridge 2000 project and the multi-million expansion of facilities and reserve area at WWT Llanelli as part of the Millennium Coastal Park in South Wales. WWT is also involved in the design and development of educational and interpretative facilities for other NGOs and agencies e.g. on the Gwent Levels Wetlands Reserve for CCW.

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites?

A survey of the UK Ramsar sites revealed that **55** have educational centres on or adjacent to them. A list is provided in Appendix 3.1.

<p>In addition, there are many educational centres at non-Ramsar sites. It was not possible to create an exhaustive list without disproportionate effort, but a few examples are given below.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland, there is also an educational centre at the Roe Valley Country Park (River). There is a visitor centre and extensive educational programme at Kenfig National Nature Reserve run by Bridgend County Borough Council in Wales; this site has a significant wetland element including flooded dune slacks and a pool. There is also a visitor centre in the Elan Valley (wet upland, blanket bog etc) run by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.</p> <p>In the Overseas Territories, much of the Bermuda Aquarium is devoted to educational work on the coral reef system which it ajoin.</p> <p>In the Isle of Man there are visitors centres which fulfil an educational role at three non-Ramsar wetland sites. The Ballaugh Currags is interpreted at the Isle of Man Government's Wildlife Park, and the non-governmental Manx Wildlife Trust runs coastal site centres at the Ayres and Scarlett.</p>
<p>How many centres are being established? And at what sites? 2</p> <p>A list is provided in Appendix 3.2.</p> <p>The only Ramsar site in the UK Overseas Territories where an educational centre exists or is being implemented at present is the big North, Middle and East Caicos Ramsar site in Turks & Caicos. One of the results of the current Darwin Initiative being run by Turks and Caicos National Trust (TCNT) and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum is the transfer of a disused school on the edge of the site from the TCI Government to TC National Trust to provide such a centre. TCNT is currently raising funds and support in kind to renovate and fit this out.</p>
<p>How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? 5</p> <p>A list is provided in Appendix 3.3.</p>
<p>Of the sites in place, how many are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and at which sites are they?</p> <p>All nine Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust centres are participating in WLI – see 3.1.4 above.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

<p>3.2.4 Work with museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and environment education centres to encourage the development of exhibits and programmes that support non-formal EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Target - see 3.2.3 above
<p>Do all museums, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities in your country have exhibits and/or programmes that support non-formal wetland CEPA? Only for some facilities</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this occurring?</p> <p>Specialist museums will not necessarily be able to develop links to wetland educational issues.</p>
<p>If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they?</p>

There is no centralised tracking of these initiatives which are the responsibility of individual institutes. Exhibits change to reflect a number of topical issues, including wetlands.
If Yes , how many facilities does this apply to and how many of these are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and which facilities are they? See response to question 3.1.4 above.
Proposed national actions and targets: Review of provision in zoos, museums, etc. within the U.K. from 2002 onward.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

3.2.5 Encourage the inclusion of modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Target - By COP8, to see wetland issues incorporated into curricula in over 100 CPs.
In your country are there modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses? Yes
If No , what is preventing this from occurring?
<p>If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details.</p> <p>Conservation issues are incorporated within the sustainable development element of the National Curriculum. Wetlands issues are included in curricula at all levels up to 16 years, but they are not specifically mentioned as such, but rather are incorporated within other topics related to water, biodiversity, sustainable development, citizenship, etc.</p> <p>See 3.1.2. above – the Council for Environmental Education review on behalf of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Resources are to be developed in 2001-2 and beyond.</p> <p>The Turks & Caicos National Trust's <i>Our Land, Our Sea, Our People</i> programme is targeted at primary schools, and the FCO's <i>Breath of Fresh Air</i> video is targeted at secondary schools.</p>
If Yes , have samples of this curriculum material been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? No
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 3.3: To improve the Ramsar Bureau’s communications activities and to develop a Convention Communications Strategy, capable of further promoting the Convention and its wider application, and of raising awareness of wetland values and functions.

Actions - Global and National Targets
3.3.1 Review the Bureau’s communications activities, especially those related to the creation and functioning of regional and national communication networks; develop new material and use of technology, and improve existing material. [Bureau]
Refer to 3.2.1 “To secure the resources to increase the Bureau’s capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.”. Has your government provided any voluntary contributions to increase the Bureau’s capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme? No
If Yes , please provide details.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

3.3.4 Seek the support of an electronic communications carrier to provide and maintain an electronic mail network and electronic bulletin board/ mailing lists linking the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee members, the STRP, the Bureau, and partner organizations. [All]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Target - By COP8, to gain a sponsor(s) for the Convention’s Web site, to ensure that all CPs have Internet access, to increase the use of French and Spanish in the Ramsar Web site, and to see over 300 Ramsar site managers also communicating with the Bureau, and each other, via the Internet.
<p>The Standing Committee and Bureau will consider the issue of a sponsor for the Convention’s Web site, and increased presence of French and Spanish materials on the Web site.</p> <p>With respect to Ramsar site managers, has your government taken steps to provide for Internet links for these people? No</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this action being taken?</p> <p>A very wide range of people in both the statutory and non statutory sectors are involved in managing Ramsar sites in the UK. The organisations involved make decisions on whether to provide internet access to individual members of staff. All those involved in the public sector will normally have internet access, but it would take disproportionate resources to answer the question in detail.</p> <p>In addition to providing access to the internet for staff, many organisations make information available to land managers available through the internet.</p>
If Yes , how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access?
AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility?

Proposed national actions and targets:

To assess mechanisms by which links can be made with site managers as a key group for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention within the UK.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



General Objective 4

To reinforce the capacity of institutions in each contracting party to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands

Operational Objective 4.1: To develop the capacity of institutions in Contracting Parties, particularly in developing countries, to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions – Global and National Targets
4.1.1 Review existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]
Has your country reviewed the national institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise use and the “designated national Administrative Authority for the Convention to ensure [that] these have the necessary resources to support the increasing demands being placed upon them by the growing expectations of the Convention” (COP7 Resolution VII.27)? Yes
If No , what is the impediment to this being done?
If Yes , what were the conclusions and outcomes of the review? (Refer to 4.1.2 also). The UK has a long standing system of public expenditure reviews whereby the allocations given to statutory bodies, including central Government Departments, are decided upon. However, given the complex and often overlapping nature of international, European and national nature conservation obligations, it is difficult to isolate the Ramsar elements of funding settlements. Following the UK General Election in June 2001 a number of central government ministries have been reorganised. A new department, for environment, food and rural affairs (DEFRA) brings together those policy areas relating to environmental protection and wildlife and countryside conservation, and those covered by the former Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. DEFRA has been established with the crucial aim of promoting sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life. The new department retains good links with planning, transport and local government, in the new Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR), and, while DEFRA has overall responsibilities for integrating the environment with other policy areas across Government, sustainable use is a key aim for the new DTLR.
Proposed national actions and targets: The UK will continue to regularly review nature conservation budgets and will include within these reviews consideration of its obligations under the Convention.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

4.1.2 On the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:

- **increase cooperation and synergy between institutions;**
- **promote the continued operation of these institutions;**
- **provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, for these institutions. [CPs]**
- **Global Target – By COP8, to see coordinating mechanisms in place in all CPs, and more particularly to see National Ramsar Committees including government and non-government stakeholder representatives, in place in more than 100 CPs. In addition, by COP8, all CPs that have reported the existence of NRCs at COP7 to have evaluated their effectiveness (COP7 Resolution VII.27).**

Refer also to 8.1.9. Does your country have a National Ramsar Committee or similar body? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented the establishment of such a committee?

If **Yes**, is the committee cross-sectoral, including representatives of appropriate government ministries and non-government expert and stakeholder groups? **Yes**

What is the composition of this Committee?

The following organisations are represented:

- Countryside Council for Wales
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- Environment and Heritage Service
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- National Assembly for Wales
- Ramsar Bureau
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Scottish Executive
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
- Wetlands International
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
- Wildlife and Countryside Link
- World Wide Fund For Nature

The list above is based upon the initial membership of the committee when it was restructured in 1999. Membership of the committee may change over time as additional organisations join or participate. There are also corresponding members who receive papers etc.

Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee? **No**

<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening?</p> <p>This long-standing committee was restructured in 1999 as part of a continuing review of its effectiveness. It is considered too early for a formal review.</p>
<p>If Yes, did the review show the Committee was proving to be effective? No Reply</p>
<p>If No, why not?</p>
<p>Refer also to 7.2.1 with reference to coordinating the implementation of international conventions.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p> <p>Review the effectiveness and make-up of the UK Ramsar Committee before COP 9.</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p> <p>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</p>

Operational Objective 4.2: To identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries, and to implement follow-up actions.

<p>Actions – Global and National Targets</p>
<p>4.2.1 Identify at national, provincial and local level the needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have training needs analyses completed in more than 75 CPs.
<p>Has a training needs analysis been completed? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening?</p> <p>Training needs are predominantly identified at the individual / local level and are consequently absorbed within the broad training programmes of the institutions concerned.</p> <p>The UK implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive may identify a need for expansion of specific training on wetlands and wise use principles.</p>
<p>If Yes, have the results of this analysis been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? No Reply</p>
<p>If No, why not?</p>
<p>If Yes, how has this been done?</p>
<p>AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort?</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

<p>4.2.2 Identify current training opportunities in disciplines essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8, to have reviews of training opportunities completed in more than 75 CPs.
<p>Has your country completed a review of the training opportunities which exist therein? No</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being done?</p> <p>No comprehensive review has been completed for the UK as a whole. However, training reviews (and training) form part of the Darwin Initiative supported projects relating wholly or partly to wetlands in: British Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos, and Anguilla. Other projects coordinated by UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and its member organisations in Montserrat, St Helena, Ascension, Pitcairn, and the Falkland Islands have also included training reviews.</p>
<p>If Yes, have the results of this review been used to provide direction for training priorities in the future? No Reply</p>
<p>If No, why not?</p>
<p>If Yes, how has this been done?</p>
<p>AND: What impact has this had on the national training effort?</p>
<p>Has this information on training opportunities been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities? (Refer to 4.2.3 below also) No</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

<p>4.2.3 Develop new training activities and general training modules, for application in all regions, concerning implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines, with specialised modules covering [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target – To launch a major wetland manager training initiative under the Convention, possibly in partnership with one or more of the Convention’s International Organization Partners, which can promote and take advantage of these new training tools. Refer also to 4.2.4 below regarding the <i>Wetlands for the Future Initiative</i>.
<p>Following its review of training needs and opportunities, has your country developed any new training activities, or training modules? Yes/No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details.</p> <p>Although the UK has not carried out a review of training needs and opportunities, a programme of career development and in-service training ensure that staff within the country conservation agencies and non-governmental organisations maintain an up-to-date perspective on issues relating to the conservation and management of wetlands in the UK. For example, the Countryside Council for Wales has a number of issue based workshops planned for the future which will focus on habitat recognition, the restoration of drained wetlands and the use of conservation prescriptions in Environmental Land Management Schemes. Most of these courses will be supported by in-house documentation, such as that produced to guide the work of Project Officers implementing the Welsh agri-environmental scheme Tir Gofal.</p>

AND: Has information on these training activities and modules been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for inclusion in the Directory of Wetland Manager Training Opportunities and the Wise Use Resource Centre? (Refer to 4.2.2 above also) **No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

4.2.4 Provide opportunities for manager training by: personnel exchanges for on-the-job training; holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar Sites; siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites; obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers around the world. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target – refer to 4.2.3 above. Also to seek the resources from donors and interested CPs to establish *Wetlands for the Future Initiatives* for the Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, and African Regions.**

Refer to 4.2.1, 4.2.2, and 4.2.3 above. Has training been provided for wetland managers:

- Through personnel exchanges for on-the-job training?, **Yes**, The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) has set up an exchange programme with the Everglades National Park (USA) as a training opportunity to share experience and expertise.
- Holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites?, **Yes**, Darwin Initiative projects have involved training at Ramsar sites in British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos.
- Siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites?, **No**,
- Obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers? **Yes**, Staff of statutory and non-governmental bodies regularly attend training courses, including those on wetland and habitat management issues, as part of their continuing professional development. Some of these are provided in-house, others by training providers such as the Field Studies Council and Loose Hill Hall.

Has your country provided resources to support the establishment of *Wetlands for the Future* style programmes in any part of the world? (COP7 Recommendation 7.4) **No**

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

4.2.6 Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about the conservation and wise use of wetlands, also with regard to South-South cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 4.2.1-4 above. Has your country specifically undertaken activities as indicated here which could be deemed to be South-South cooperation? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening?

UK development aid provided through the Department for International Development (DfID) has

no specific programme to encourage South-South co-operation; DfID encourages lesson learning activities essentially of a development, not conservation, focus. There is some collaboration at the project level between Tanzania and Uganda in the wetland programmes. A table of wetland related projects supported by DfID is appended to this report as Appendix 6. In addition, the Darwin Initiative (see section 3.1.4) has provided support, for example the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew has carried out 6 small scale projects to give training to professionals from different parts of the world.

If **Yes**, please provide details.

The initiation of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) database is a response to requests from widely dispersed Overseas Territories (OTs) for this facility for this purpose (as indeed are the existence and activities of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum itself). It is notable that both NGO and government personnel from OTs have remarked that this has been effective in encouraging previously rare OT-OT links. Both Netherlands and French OT personnel have used the UKOTCF database and enquired about the applicability of similar models. Some specific examples of such co-operation are :

- The two conferences noted in 3.1.2.
- Attendance of OT personnel at regional conferences and workshops, such as those of National Trusts and the Society of Caribbean Ornithology.
- The Darwin Initiative project in Turks & Caicos has utilised some Cayman expertise.
- UKOTCF has recently facilitated proposals for a joint project on seabird conservation between Bermuda and Anguilla.
- *Forum News* is also an active vehicle in this regard.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:



General Objective 5

To ensure the conservation of all sites included in the list of wetlands of international importance (Ramsar List)

Operational Objective 5.1: To maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites

Actions – Global and National Targets
5.1.1 Define and apply the precise measures required to maintain the ecological character of each listed site, in the light of the working definitions of ecological character adopted at the 6th COP (1996) and amended by Resolution VII.10 of COP7. [CPs] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global Target – By COP8, each CP will seek to ensure that the measures required to maintain the ecological character of at least half of the Ramsar sites have been documented.
5.1.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites in your country been documented? Yes
If No , what has prevented this being done?
If Yes , has this documentation been developed as part of management planning and associated action at the sites? Yes
AND: Has a copy been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? No
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
5.1.2 Conduct regular internal reviews to identify potential changes in ecological character, with input from local communities and other stakeholders; take remedial action and/or nominate the site for the Montreux Record. [CPs] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to 2.5.2 – in the COP7 National Reports, 35 CPs reported Ramsar sites where some change in ecological character had occurred or was likely to occur in the near future. This was true for 115 sites in 33 CPs, and two other CPs stated that changes had occurred to all or some of their sites. In COP7 Resolution VII.12, these CPs were urged to considering nominating these sites to the Montreux Record.• Global Target – In the period up to COP8, promote the application and benefits of the Montreux Record as a tool of the Convention through disseminating reports and publications on the positive outcomes achieved by a number of countries which have now removed sites from the Record.
Refer to 2.7.2 and 2.8.3 also. Are regular internal reviews undertaken to identify factors potentially altering the ecological character of Ramsar sites? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
If Yes , have these reviews detected situations where changes in ecological character have occurred or may occur? Yes/No
If Yes , for how many sites was this case, which sites were they, and what actions were taken to address these threats?

Regular site supplement reports covering the whole UK Ramsar series are prepared every three years prior to the COP and form part of the UK National Reports. In addition, all UK sites are routinely assessed as part of a programme of monitoring by the four statutory conservation agencies (English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage and Environment and Heritage Service) of sites designated at national level to common standards agreed through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and published on its web site (www.jncc.gov.uk; see also 2.7.2). The first full report of this more comprehensive monitoring programme, set up in 1999, will not be available until 2005/6. After this, the programme will provide a readily accessible source of data on all UK designated sites. In England, Government has a target of bringing 95% of all sites of special scientific interest into favourable condition by 2010. Priority will be given to sites which are also Ramsar, special protection areas or special areas for conservation in reaching that target.

Data relating to ecological changes to UK Ramsar sites (and the causes of change) is set out in the site supplement to this report. Positive management measures on Ramsar sites effectively address many apparent threats so that the potential for harm is not realised. In those cases where adverse ecological change has taken place, this is being addressed by the four statutory conservation agencies either through liaison with the relevant statutory bodies responsible for regulating activities or through the management plans for those sites. Revisions to the management regimes for designated sites in England and Wales (and those planned for Scotland and Northern Ireland) provide greater powers to address deterioration through inappropriate management by landowners and managers. In addition, on some sites, positive ecological change has occurred since COP7 as positive management of sites has resulted in enhancements to, for example, bird numbers and habitat quality. Examples of such improvements include:

- In Wales, on the Cors Fochno and Dyfi Ramsar site there are indications that recent management is encouraging local re-activation of the raised mire surface.
- In Northern Ireland at Ballynahone Bog, Co. Londonderry the site had a network of drainage ditches developed in anticipation of commercial peat extraction. Planning permission was rescinded and the site acquired for conservation. All active drains were blocked leading to enhanced site water retention. This should ultimately lead to ground flora and peat mass reflecting the improved hydrological integrity.

The UK has considered carefully the case for adding sites to the Montreux Record, in accordance with the Guidelines adopted at COP6, where adverse ecological change has occurred. The Ouse Washes has, as a result, been added to the Record since COP7. A Ramsar Advisory Mission to this site was carried out in November 2001. It is anticipated the report of this Mission will be available through the Convention's website prior to COP8. The UK will continue to consider the case for adding other sites to the list if that appears appropriate, but has reservations about the value of adding sites to the Record where the causes of adverse ecological change have been identified and appropriate measures are planned or are being implemented.

AND: Were these sites where change in ecological character was detected, or may occur, added to the Montreux Record? **Yes**

If **No**, why not?

Proposed national actions and targets: Continue to monitor sites and to consider listing of sites in the Montreux Record if appropriate.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Devolved Administrations and their agencies

5.1.3 Review and regularly update the Montreux record (Resolutions 5.4, 5.5, and VI.1). [CPs, STRP, Bureau]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target – CPs with Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record, and for which Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) have been completed prior to COP7, are expected to have taken the actions necessary to warrant their removal from the Record before COP8.
For those CPs with a site, or sites, included in the Montreux Record, and for which RAMs (previously Management Guidance Procedures, MGPs) have been completed, have all actions recommended by the RAM been undertaken for each site? Yes/No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring?
If Yes , have these actions resulted in a restoration of the ecological character? Yes/No
AND: If Yes , has the site been removed from the Montreux Record following the completion of the necessary Questionnaire (COP6 Resolution VI.1)? Yes/No
A review of the status of the Dee Estuary is in progress.
Proposed national actions and targets: Removal of the Dee Estuary from the Montreux Record.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, National Assembly for Wales

Operational Objective 5.2: To develop and implement management plans for all Ramsar sites, consistent with the Convention’s Guidelines on Management Planning and emphasizing involvement of local communities and stakeholders.

Actions - Global and National Targets
5.2.3 Ensure that, by the 8th COP (2002), management plans or other mechanisms are in preparation, or in place, for at least half of the Ramsar sites in each Contracting Party, beginning with pilot programmes at selected sites with input from local communities and other stakeholders. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - By COP8, management plans will be in preparation, or in place, for at least three-quarters of the Ramsar sites in each CP and all CPs will seek to ensure that these are being implemented in full.
Do all the Ramsar sites in your country have management plans in place ? No

<p>If No, how many sites do not have management plans in place and which sites are they? 24</p> <p>A list is provided in Appendix 4.1.</p>
<p>If plans are being prepared for some sites, please indicate which sites these are. 42</p> <p>This is a higher number than that for which there are no plans, as some plans are being revised.</p> <p>A list is provided in Appendix 4.2.</p>
<p>For those sites where management plans are in place, how many of these are being implemented fully, and which sites are they? 116</p> <p>A list is provided in Appendix 4.3.</p> <p>A subset which might be considered as providing good/best practice is provided in Appendix 4.4.</p>
<p>Where plans are not in place, or not being fully implemented, what has prevented this from being done?</p> <p>For some sites that do not have management plans in place, plans are in preparation. For some sites, plans are in place but are only partially implemented and therefore it was not considered appropriate to label them as ‘fully implemented’. It is anticipated that such plans will be consistent with the international best practice guidance contained in the Ramsar Toolkit. The development and implementation for full management plans is resource intensive, and has to be prioritised alongside other objectives of the statutory conservation agencies (see also the Ramsar Policy Statements for England and Wales in Appendices 1 and 2).</p> <p>Most of the UK's Overseas Territories do not currently have a management plan in place. The reasons for this are mainly lack of capacity, which is a significant problem. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has an Environment Fund for Overseas Territories of about £500,000 per year.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

<p>5.2.4 Promote the establishment and implementation of zoning measures related to larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves and other wetlands (Kushiro Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]</p>
<p>For those sites where it is warranted, are zoning measures being used to regulate the activities allowed in different parts of the wetlands? Yes/No</p>
<p>If No, what is preventing these from being implemented?</p> <p>In the UK, Ramsar sites are fully incorporated into the land use planning system. Site specific issues are dealt with through the site protection framework and more general issues through the general environmental policy framework. These take account of both direct and indirect potential impacts without the need for buffer zones as defined by Kurshiro Recommendation 5.3. However, zones are used as a tool to manage sites, in particular with respect to access or wildfowling (see below for some examples).</p>
<p>If Yes, for which sites are these in place?</p> <p>Some examples of the implementation of different usage zones in Ramsar sites are given below.</p>

Though the Ramsar site series in Northern Ireland has not undertaken a programme of comprehensive zoning as a whole, at Lough Neagh, local zoning has been undertaken in relation to the separation of selected wildfowl refuges and watersports activities. In addition, other wildfowl refuges have been established in the context of wildfowling and these have proven to be very successful. A similar situation exists on Upper Lough Erne where the relevant Area Plan includes a zoning policy for tourism and recreational development. This has been helpful in regulating development adjacent to the Lough.

In England many National Trust sites are effectively zoned by limits on public access. These may be direct, through closure or the prevention of access, or indirect, through the provision of access routes. Some examples include:

- Wicken Fen: a board walk results in majority of visitors not venturing into heart of reserve. Water barriers prevent access to other major parts of the site.
- Malham Tarn: a board-walk on the mire restricts public access to a sensitive habitat.
- Strangford Lough: Non-shooting zones are a long standing feature of the site. Some research from Queen's University Belfast indicate that non-shooting areas are used more by some species, but other forms of disturbance (eg dogs, horse riding) can negate impact of reserve areas.

AND: Are they proving a successful management tool?

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases of zoning for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

5.2.5 Promote the establishment and implementation of strict protection measures for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

- **This aspect of Ramsar site management was not considered in the COP7 National Reports and will have to be reviewed in time for COP8.**
- **Global Target – Provide for consideration at COP8 detailed information on the implementation of strict protection measures at small and/or sensitive sites.**

For those sites where it is warranted, are strict protection measures being used to regulate the activities allowed in different parts of the wetlands? **No**

If **No**, what is preventing these from being implemented?

In the UK the highest level of protection is afforded to all Ramsar sites regardless of size and/or sensitivity.

If **Yes**, for which sites are these in place?

AND: Is this proving to be a successful management tool?

Have you provided the Ramsar Bureau with information regarding such cases for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 5.3: To obtain regularly updated information on wetlands of international importance, in accordance with the approved standard format.

Actions – Global and National Targets

5.3.1 Ensure that the maps and descriptions of Ramsar sites submitted to the Ramsar Database by the Contracting Parties at the time of designation are complete, in the approved standard format of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, and provide sufficient detail to be used for management planning and monitoring of ecological character. [CPs, Bureau, Wetlands International]

5.3.2 Ensure that missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of listed sites are submitted as a matter of priority and in the shortest possible time, as a means to enhance the relevance and use of the Ramsar Database. [CPs]

- **Global Target – By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites for which appropriate sites descriptions and maps are still required.**

If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided a Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet in the approved format, with a suitable map, in one of three working languages of the Convention, has this now be rectified? **Yes**

If **No**, what is preventing this from being done?

Please see response to question 5.3.3

5.3.3 Ensure that data sheets on Ramsar Sites are regularly updated, at least every second meeting of the COP, so that they can be used for reviewing the achievements of the Convention, for future strategic planning, for promotional purposes, and for site, regional and thematic analyses (Resolution VI.13). [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]

- **Global Target – By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites designated before 31 December 1990 for which updated site descriptions are still required.**

If yours is one of the CPs referred to in COP7 Resolution VII.12 as not having provided an updated Ramsar (Site) Information Sheet for sites designated before 31 December 1990, has this now be rectified? **Yes**

If **No**, what is preventing this from being done?

The last part of the fieldwork necessary to produce a site map for the Turks and Caicos Islands site is in progress. The UK expects that this map will be provided to the Bureau in advance of COP8.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Update Ramsar Information Sheets and provide a site supplement for the UK National Report to COP9

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment and Heritage Service, English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage

Operational Objective 5.4: To keep under review the content and structure, as well as the hardware and software, of the Ramsar Database, in order to ensure that it retains its relevance in light of evolving information and communication technology.

Actions – Global and National Targets

5.4.1 Assess data currently available in the database and identify any gaps in the data provided by Contracting Parties. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]

Refer to 5.2.2, 5.2.3, and 5.2.4 above.

5.4.4 Support the establishment of national wetland databases compatible with the Ramsar Database and develop a common protocol to facilitate exchange and interaction. [CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland databases in over 50 CPs which are accessible globally.**

Refer also to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Does your country have a national wetland database? **No**

If **No**, what is preventing such a database being established?

The UK is in the process of integrating a number of separate projects which provide the pieces of the jigsaw necessary to create a UK wide wetland database. These pieces include:

The UK's international designations database (maintained by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee - JNCC) is a facility which stores information about the UK's network of Ramsar sites. JNCC is working to make information on the international designations within the UK available online through the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), and is developing a program to facilitate access to existing wetland information. A process of cross-matching available information with site boundaries is being used as part of the Ramsar site review (see question 6.1.1).

The NBN is a union of like-minded organisations that are collaborating to create an information network of biodiversity data that is accessible through the Internet. By providing easy access to the information people need about wildlife, wise and informed decisions can be made to ensure the natural environment is diverse, rich and sustainable now and for future generations.

A comprehensive census of the land cover of the UK is provided by Land Cover Map 2000. This is a geographic information system database which has been developed by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Using satellite imagery the land surface of the UK has been divided into parcels, each of which is assigned to one of 24 land cover types; these are broadly equivalent to the broad habitats defined under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Some types of wetland (e.g. saltmarsh, bog) can be related to the land cover categories, but others cannot be distinguished. Further information on Land Cover Map 2000 are available from the Centre of

<p>Hydrology and Ecology, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon PE28 2LS.</p> <p>MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside), is a project which aims to bring together existing data on site designations and other countryside information in England into a single, accessible Geographical Information System (GIS) that will act as an agreed, definitive source of rural and countryside information. Summary data will be made available to the public using the Countryside Information System. Further information is available on this project from (www.magic.gov.uk).</p> <p>The Countryside Information System (CIS) is a Microsoft Windows-based program developed to give policy advisers, planners and researchers easy access to spatial information about the British countryside. A wide range of environmental data is available for use in CIS - including landscape features, vegetation habitats and topography for each one kilometre square of Great Britain.</p> <p>Summary information from the Countryside Survey 2000 (CS2000), a major audit of the British countryside, which has involved both detailed field observations and satellite imagery to provide a complete land cover census for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is also available in CIS format and can be downloaded from www.cis-web.org.uk. Details of CS2000 are available from www.cs.2000.org.uk.</p>
<p>If Yes, is this database generally available for reference and application by all ministries and stakeholders? No</p>
<p>If No, why not?</p> <p>Different parts of the UK information resource are available to each stakeholder. At present all stakeholders do not have access to all information. The UK is working to broaden access to biodiversity data, and, through the National Biodiversity Network (www.nbn.org.uk) plans to make information available to all stakeholders in due course.</p>
<p>AND: Is it available through the Internet? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details.</p> <p>www.nbn.org.uk www.cs2000.org.uk www.magic.gov.uk www.cis-web.org.uk</p>
<p>If No, why not? The action is planned, but not yet implemented.</p>
<p>AND: Is it available on CD-Rom? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) Yes/No</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide details.</p> <p>Details of the UK International Designations database are available on request from: International Designations Unit, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough. PE1 1JY. UK.</p> <p>Further information on Land Cover Map 2000 is available from the Centre of Hydrology and Ecology, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon PE28 2LS.</p> <p>Details of CS2000 are available from: Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Merlewood, Windermere Road, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, La11 6JU.</p>
<p>If No, why not?</p>

Proposed national actions and targets:

Further develop access to wetland information through the National Biodiversity Network.

Make the UK International Designations Database available on the Internet.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee, National Biodiversity Network



General Objective 6

To designate for the Ramsar list those wetlands which meet the convention's criteria, especially wetland types still under-represented in the list and transfrontier wetlands

Operational Objective 6.1: To identify those wetlands that meet the Ramsar Criteria, and give due consideration to their designation for the list.

Actions – Global and National Targets
6.1.1 Develop, regularly update – especially in the case of Africa – and disseminate regional wetland directories, which identify potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Partners]
Refer to 6.1.2 and 6.2.1. Does there exist for your country a directory or similar listing of sites which are potential Ramsar sites? Yes/No
If No , what are the impediments to such a list of sites being prepared? <u>Review of UK Ramsar site series</u> Ramsar site designation in the UK has previously focused on identifying important localities for waterbirds. There has not been a systematic approach to the selection of sites for wetland habitats and non-avian species. For this reason, the UK Ramsar Committee agreed in November 2000 that the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) should co-ordinate a review of the UK site series, with the aim of achieving a more balanced representation of wetland interest features. The objectives of the review are: <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. To relate all existing Ramsar sites to the revised selection criteria (agreed at COP7 in 1999).ii. To evaluate the representation of wetland habitats and selected non-avian species within existing and candidate Ramsar sites in the UK and Overseas Territories.iii. To identify any significant gaps in coverage and make recommendations for additional sites. The first objective has been completed. All UK sites can now be related to the revised selection criteria. Work on the second and third objectives is currently being undertaken by JNCC. Two main approaches are being used for this phase of the review. For habitats and species considered to be of European importance (i.e. those listed on the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive), comparisons will be made between the Ramsar site series and the proposed UK list of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). For selected habitats and species this approach will be complemented by overlaying electronic distribution data with Ramsar site boundaries, using a geographic information system. The review is not currently intended to cover all wetland interests in the UK. For habitats it will be reasonably comprehensive; particular attention will be paid to habitats considered to be under-represented either at global or national level (e.g. coral reefs, mangroves, sea grass beds, peatlands, and wet grasslands). A more selective approach will be adopted for species, focusing on fish (which have specific selection criteria) and other groups for which distribution data are readily available (e.g. dragonflies and vascular plants). Decisions on recommendations made by the review will be discussed through the UK Ramsar Committee. If it is felt necessary to designate any additional sites to fill gaps in

representativity, the target for their designation will be prior to COP9.

Special Protection Area (SPA) network review

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is currently co-ordinating a major review of the UK network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Directive on the conservation of wild birds (Council Directive 79/409/EEC). The early phase of this work resulted in agreement (by the statutory agencies and Government Departments, following consultation with non-governmental organisations) of guidelines for the selection of terrestrial SPAs (JNCC 1999).

The guidelines have been applied to data on sites of importance for birds in the UK, in the context of species-specific conservation needs for all the Annex I or migratory bird species that regularly occur within the UK. This has led to the development of a series of species-related SPAs that comprise the most-suitable sites in the context of Article 4 of the Birds Directive. The combination of the sets of sites for single species and those with more than one feature form the UK SPA network. Many of the SPA sites are estuaries or other coastal habitats, and the series thus forms an important part of the protection given by the UK to intertidal wetlands. The list of sites forming the majority of the UK SPA network was published by government departments in March 2000 and comments were invited from non-governmental organisations and others. The results of the review went public on the JNCC website in September 2001 and became available in hard-copy in December 2001.

Marine SPAs

In addition to the terrestrial SPAs referred to above, the UK is reviewing the potential for creating marine SPAs. For site selection purposes marine SPAs are defined as those with no dry land at any state of the tide. Three categories of marine SPAs may be envisaged:

- a) extensions of existing SPAs at bird colonies to encompass nearshore resting and feeding areas
- b) regular occurring concentrations of waterbirds in nearshore areas
- c) offshore concentrations of birds

Information to define the boundaries of all marine SPAs is relatively scarce compared with landward sites. However, enough information exists covering the first two categories to enable proposals to be put forward relatively soon for a number of sites. Further survey work to define areas in category (b) is underway. Category (c) is more problematical, as predictable concentrations can only be found at a large scale. For instance a large part of the north-western North Sea is known to hold internationally important concentrations of birds in the early autumn, but the precise location of these birds within this area can vary widely between years.

If **Yes**, when was it prepared and was it prepared taking into consideration the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (COP7 Resolution VII.11)?

A list of the sites designated since 1 July 1998 (i.e. since the UK national report to COP7), is provided in Appendix 9. The list of candidate sites submitted as part of the site supplement to the UK national report to COP7 will be updated. It is planned to publish a revised list of candidate sites on the conclusion of the site review (mentioned above) and to designate sites on the revised list by COP9.

It is expected that at least one Ramsar site for Guernsey, Sark and Alderney will be designated within the medium term.

Designation of Ramsar sites continues to be a long term goal for the Isle of Man. Manx National Heritage has identified its land at the Ballaugh Curraghs and The Ayres as potential candidates for Ramsar designation.

No such directory is currently in place in Jersey, but it is almost certain that the intertidal areas within St Ouen's Bay and the offshore reefs of Les Ecrehous and Le Plateau des Minquiers would qualify for Ramsar status. Additionally, adjacent to the existing SE Coast of Jersey site, St Aubins Bay to the west and St Catherines Bay to the North merit inclusion in the earlier designation. It is intended that, in time, the first Jersey site will be expanded and further survey work undertaken in order that further designation can be progressed.

In Northern Ireland, it is anticipated that additional Ramsar sites will be created for those sites which have been put forward as wetland candidate Special Areas of Conservation under the Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) and which are not already Ramsar sites.

Yes/No

AND: How many potential Ramsar sites are identified within the important sites directory for your country?

Proposed national actions and targets:

Implement the recommendations of the UK Ramsar review.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Joint Nature Conservation Committee

6.1.2 Establish, update and disseminate national scientific inventories of wetlands which identify potential Ramsar sites and wetlands of provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party. [CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to have national wetland inventories completed by over 50 CPs and the information housed in databases (Refer to 5.4.4) which are accessible globally**

Does there exist a comprehensive national inventory (as opposed to a directory of important sites; see 6.1.1 above) for your country? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to such an inventory being prepared?

The UK has a large number of survey projects, but these have not as yet been fully integrated. It is hoped that one of the developments from the UK's implementation of the Convention on

Biological Diversity - the National Biodiversity Network - will in time provide a gateway to the disparate datasets involved. Please also see the answer to question 5.4.4.

At a detailed level, there are various databases and GIS-based inventories holding information on terrestrial, freshwater and coastland wetlands. Several of these have been developed in response to the requirements of the UK BAP. For example, the UK Native Woodland Group is developing an inventory system for all the native woodland Habitat Action Plans including wet woodland, and a joint English Nature / Forestry Commission pilot project is underway in SW England to classify, identify and map wet woodlands onto a geographic information system (GIS).

Work is underway to develop a co-ordinated approach to the production of habitat inventories in the UK, including the full range of wetland habitats. This will provide information on the extent and condition of wetland habitats which can be reassessed at appropriate intervals. It will therefore facilitate:

- Effective reporting on the status of wetland habitats;
- Identification of future conservation priorities;
- Assessment of the impacts of wide-scale environmental changes, e.g. climate change.

Some examples of individual inventory projects are given below:

- Scottish Natural Heritage have put a great deal of effort into documenting lowland raised bogs and blanket bogs. This information is stored in GIS format.
- A comprehensive GIS based floodplain and coastal grazing marsh inventory is available for England and Wales
- An inventory of Welsh fens is being developed collaboratively by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the University of Sheffield.
- CCW's lowland grassland survey programme holds extensive information for wet grassland habitats across Wales.
- In the Overseas Territories, the Bermuda Biodiversity Project is developing a very comprehensive database, the most important sites for which are wetlands.

UK BAP Habitat Action Plans for Mesotrophic Lakes and Eutrophic Standing Waters

The joint steering group for the Habitat Action Plans for mesotrophic and eutrophic standing waters has been working on criteria for identifying and prioritising standing waters and creating an inventory of sites, building on initial work done for mesotrophic lakes. Progress has been affected by the technical difficulties in attempting to place waters into the trophic categories, 'eutrophic' and 'mesotrophic'. As a result the UK group is developing, through collaborative research and development, a risk/harm-based protocol for prioritising standing waters (regardless of trophic category). The project will also create an inventory of standing waters. The outcome of the work will provide a firm basis for the subsequent targeting of actions to protect and/or rehabilitate priority waters through a range of national and local measures. The inventory will be produced during 2001, together with an initial set of priority waters for more detailed assessment.

Countryside Survey 2000 – audit of the UK Countryside

In November 2000, the UK Government published results from a major national audit of the habitats, plants, landscape features and land types of the British countryside to mark the end of the Millennium (DETR 2000). Countryside Survey 2000 (CS2000) undertaken in 1998, repeated and extended previous surveys undertaken in 1978, 1984 and 1990. It provides measures of the current state of the countryside and indicators describing the changes which have taken place. The survey was a partnership between Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions; Natural Environment Research Council; Ministry of Agriculture,

Fisheries and Food; Environment Agency; National Assembly for Wales; Countryside Council for Wales; Scottish Executive; and Scottish Natural Heritage, in the form of a jointly funded research programme.

CS2000 combined observations from space with field survey of habitats. The latest techniques for analysis of satellite imagery were employed to complete a land cover census for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Detailed field observations (collected in tandem with the satellite imagery), were made in a random sample of one kilometre grid squares across Great Britain. Collection of data on habitat types, hedgerows, plant species and freshwater invertebrates complemented the satellite imagery and enabled a deeper level of ecological understanding. Many of the sample sites were first visited in 1978 and subsequently in 1984 and 1990, providing a time series of changes in the countryside. Together, these two strands of data provide a comprehensive audit of the British countryside.

CS2000 will provide information necessary for reporting on biodiversity in the wider countryside, measuring progress towards sustainable development and detecting the impacts of human activities and global environmental change. See also text on CIS in question 5.4.4.

In Northern Ireland this work has been complemented by the Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (Cooper & McCann 2000) - a series of landscape ecology studies for Northern Ireland. This project has created a baseline for monitoring and comparing land use change and ecological landscape impacts. This has been based on two earlier studies in 1992 and 1997 (Murray *et al.* 1992 and Cooper *et al.* 1997). Comparison with Great Britain data is possible through the development of the Countryside Information System.

If only some parts of the country have had inventories completed, please indicate which parts these are.

The UK's approach tends to be to produce surveys and inventories for particular habitat types rather than on a regional (geographic) basis.

AND: What is the likely timeframe for completing the national inventory?

It is hoped that substantial progress can be made before COP9.

If a national inventory has already been completed, when was it finalized?

AND: Is the information housed where it is accessible to stakeholders and the international community? (COP7 Resolution VII.20) **No Reply**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring?

Has national/subnational inventory information been provided to the Ramsar Bureau (if it is not accessible through the Internet)? **Yes/No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Further develop access to wetland information through the National Biodiversity Network.

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee, National Biodiversity Network

6.1.4 Support the work of Wetlands International and IUCN in updating information on population sizes of waterfowl and other taxa, and utilize these data in identification of potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Does your country regularly gather waterbird population data? Yes
If No , what prevents this from happening?
If Yes , is this information provided to Wetlands International? Yes
If No , why not?
Proposed national actions and targets: Continue to support the collection of waterbird population data
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: British Trust for Ornithology, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Operational Objective 6.2: To increase the area of wetland designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, particularly for wetland types that are under-represented either at global or national level.

Actions - Global and National Targets
6.2.1 Promote the designation for the Ramsar List of an increased area of wetland, through listing by new Contracting Parties, and through further designations by current Contracting Parties, in particular developing countries, in order to ensure the listing of a representative range of wetland types in the territory of each Contracting Party and in each Ramsar region. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - As proposed in the Strategic Framework, the short-term target of the Ramsar List should be to achieve the designation of 2000 sites, in accordance with the systematic approach advocated therein, by the time of COP9 in the year 2005. In addition, by COP8 the target is to have at least 20 CPs that are applying a systematic approach to site selection nationally.
Refer also to 6.1.1, 6.1.2, and 6.2.3. Has your country taken a systematic approach to identifying its future Ramsar sites (as promoted in the <i>Strategic Framework for the List – COP7 Resolution VII.11</i>)? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done?
If Yes , has this included considerations to ensure the designation of a representative range of wetland types? Yes/No
If No , why not? The UK Ramsar Review is currently in progress (see question 6.1.1). Without wishing to pre-empt the conclusions of the review, it is likely that further work on Ramsar sites will be necessary. It is possible that the recommendations may include giving consideration to designating further sites for a broader range of wetland types than are currently covered by the UK Ramsar series.
If Yes , has this resulted in the designation of a representative range of wetland types? No Reply

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

6.2.3 Give priority attention to the designation of new sites from wetland types currently under-represented on the Ramsar List, and in particular, when appropriate, coral reefs, mangroves, sea-grass beds and peatlands. [CPs]

- **Global Targets - The long-term targets are set by the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (COP7 Resolution VII.11)*. Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived [by the STRP].**

Further to 6.2.1 above: If your territory includes under-represented wetland types, has special attention been given to identifying suitable sites for designation? **Yes/No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring?

Prior to COP7, the UK announced its intention to list a site at the Chagos Archipelago in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) for its coral reef interest. At that time, the only issue of substance to be resolved was that of a suitable site boundary. However, before that issue could be satisfactorily resolved, the UK High Court ruled that the former inhabitants of BIOT, the Ilois, who are resettled in Mauritius, have a legal right to return to the outer islands of the territory, though not to Diego Garcia. In these circumstances, the UK Government has concluded, with regret, that it would be premature to finalise the listing of its original proposal until such time as the full implications of this judgement are apparent, though it recognises the value of the original proposal. The UK has since designated a smaller site around Diego Garcia and, in the longer term, will revisit the original proposal, hopefully prior to COP9.

Much of the land in the Little Sound Mangrove Wetland area (Cayman Islands) remains in private ownership and is still unprotected after an unsuccessful attempt by the government's Planning Department to have the area zoned Environmentally Protected and Environmentally Sensitive as part of the 1997 Development Plan Review. A Wetlands Committee established by the Central Planning Authority (CPA) has recently concluded a series of consultations with all relevant stakeholders (landowners, Department of Environment, National Trust, etc) and a report recommending strategies for the protection of the Central Mangrove Wetland has been presented to the CPA. The report, which also takes a broad look at wetland protection, is still under active consideration. At present designation can only be made in accordance with very strict usage guidelines which were not acceptable to private owners. A Development Plan Review has just been initiated by the Planning Department as the law requires a review of the Plan every five years. A special issues committee focussing on environmental issues and coastal zone management has been established and will be chaired by the Department of Environment. It is anticipated that wetlands protection will be one area covered by the committee.

The Environmental Protection fees which are collected from visitors to Cayman have in previous years been used for government projects unrelated to Ramsar. This year the money has not been allocated and there is hope that it still may be available to purchase areas of environmental importance, including land in the Central Mangrove Wetland as set out in the joint Department of Environment/National Trust's originally proposed strategy. In recent meetings between the Cayman Islands Minister for Environment and various environmental agencies and groups in the UK, the Minister gave an undertaking to introduce legislation which

will separate funds collected as Environmental Protection Fees from central government funds, as well as set up mechanisms for the management and disbursement of these funds.

The UK has designated a number of sites for priority habitat types since 1998. Details are provided in the table below, and in Appendices 7 and 8.

Habitat	Sites	Hectares habitat designated	Appendix
Peatlands	14	191844.1	7
Coral Reefs	1	2713.5	8
Mangroves	2	52.3	8
Seagrass Beds	4	4303.1	8

The review of Ramsar sites which is currently underway in the UK (see question 6.1.1), may identify additional sites in Great Britain and Northern Ireland for under represented wetland habitat types.

If **Yes**, has this included designations of wetlands including:

- coral reefs ? **Yes**
- mangroves ? **Yes**
- seagrass beds ? **Yes**
- peatlands ? **Yes**
- intertidal wetlands ? (COP7 Resolution VII.21) **Yes/No**

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

6.2.4 Pay particular attention to the designation of new sites currently enjoying no special conservation status at national level, as a first step towards developing measures for their conservation and wise use. [CPs]

- **This question was not considered in the National Reports for COP7. It will be included for consideration in the NRs for COP8.**
- **Global Target - All CPs to consider this approach to ensuring the long-term conservation and wise use of wetlands that are subject to intense human use.**

Has your country designated wetland sites for the Ramsar List which previously had no special conservation status? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening?

If **Yes**, please provide details.

Although nearly all Ramsar sites are notified under domestic legislation before Ramsar designation, this is not universally the case. Lewis Peatlands is an example where the vast majority of the site is not underpinned by a SSSI, but rather by positive management arrangements, which deliver substantially the same level of protection.

AND: Are there plans for further such designations? **Yes/No**

If No , why not?
If Yes , please elaborate. Such an approach might be considered again in the future should individual site circumstances merit it. However, the normal procedure continues to be domestic notification to underpin the Ramsar designation. The primary protection given to nature conservation sites in the UK arises from the UK's strong domestic legislation, but in any case, one would expect a site of international importance to merit some type of national designation.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

6.2.5 Consider as a matter of priority the designation of transfrontier wetland sites. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of transfrontier or shared wetlands is addressed in the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (COP7 Resolution VII.19) and the Guidelines for integrating wetlands into river basin management (COP7 Resolution VII.18). • Global Target - By COP8, for there to be over 50 transfrontier wetland sites designated under the Convention.
For those CPs which 'share' wetlands with other CPs, have all suitable sites been designated under the Convention? Yes/No
If No , what has prevented this action being taken? Those Northern Ireland Ramsar sites that adjoin the international border are listed in Appendix 5. To date Duchas, the government body responsible for natural heritage in the Republic of Ireland, has only designated SPAs as Ramsar sites. They have indicated that in the long term, qualifying SACs will also be proposed and there will be an emphasis on ensuring, as appropriate, matching designations, including Ramsar designations on cross-border sites.
If Yes , are there arrangements in place between the CPs sharing the wetland for the cooperative management of the site? Yes/No
If No , what has prevented such arrangements from being introduced?
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

* * *

General Objective 7

To promote international cooperation and mobilize financial assistance for wetland conservation and wise use in collaboration with other conventions and agencies, both Governmental and Non-governmental

Operational Objective 7.1: To identify international and/or regional needs for managing shared wetlands and shared catchments, and develop and implement common approaches.

7.1.1 Identify transfrontier wetlands of international importance (including those within shared catchment/river basins), and encourage preparation and implementation of joint plans for such sites, using a “catchment approach” (Recommendation 5.3). [CPs, Partners]

Refer to 6.2.5 above.

7.1.2 Encourage twinning of transfrontier wetlands, and of other wetlands with similar characteristics, and use successful cases for illustrating the benefits of international cooperation. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- Both the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (COP7 Resolution VII.19)* and the *Convention’s Outreach Programme (COP7 Resolution VII.9)* promote site twinning as a mechanism for accelerating the flow of knowledge and assistance and promoting training opportunities.
- **Global Target - By COP8 to have in place over 100 Ramsar site twinning arrangements. The Bureau will keep a record of which sites are twinned and make this available through the Convention’s Web site.**

Does your country have Ramsar sites twinned with those in other CPs? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening?

If **Yes**, please note how many such twinning arrangements are in place and indicate which sites are involved.

The Wash is twinned with the Waddensee.

AND: Do these arrangements involve:

- sharing of information resources? **Yes**
- transfer of financial resources? **No**
- exchanges of personnel? **No**
- other activities?

Twinning came about as a result of a Ministerial declaration in Esbjerg in 1991. Two joint three-year work programmes have been agreed and implemented, the last of which finished in 1998. It has been decided that there will be no further programmes but that work will be focussed on specific projects. The work programmes and projects are centred on areas of joint interest, with workshops to discuss common information needs and potential areas of research.

In October 2000, at the Waddensee Scientific Symposium, English Nature and the Waddensee Secretariat identified potential for a joint project to restore natural mussel *Mytilus* beds. English Nature is in the process of funding a Ph.D. at Hull University to

investigate aspects of mussel settlement and expand studies conducted originally in the Netherlands by Altera. This work will form the first stage in the joint project with Waddensee partners.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 7.2: To strengthen and formalize linkages between Ramsar and other international and/or regional environmental conventions and agencies, so as to advance the achievement of shared goals and objectives relating to wetland species or issues.

Actions - Global and National Targets
7.2.1 Participate in, or initiate, consultations with related conventions to foster information exchange and cooperation, and develop an agenda for potential joint actions. [SC, Bureau]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention to Combat Desertification which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.
Refer also to 4.2.1. Does there exist a mechanism (such as an inter-ministry committee) at the national level with the charter of coordinating/integrating the implementation of international/regional conventions/treaties to which your country is a signatory? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such a mechanism being introduced?
<p>If Yes, describe the mechanism and the conventions/treaties it is expected to consider.</p> <p>Apart from the World Heritage Convention (the lead for which lies with the Department of Culture Media and Sport, DCMS), most of the environmental conventions/treaties listed in section 7.2 are the responsibility of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Normal internal liaison procedures are used to ensure co-ordination takes place. In particular, there is regular liaison with those dealing with the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) provides advice to Government as a whole on the UK's implementation of these obligations, and support to reporting implementation of them to convention secretariats.</p> <p>The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has responsibility for UK Overseas Territories foreign affairs. Full details of government commitments on Overseas Territories environmental policy are set out in the Environment Charter for the Overseas Territories. Co-ordination on Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements is ensured through liaison with DEFRA and the Overseas Territories governments.</p> <p>The UK welcomes the emphasis on synergies and co-operation represented by the targets in this section, as there are clear overlaps between the species and habitats covered by, for example Ramsar and the Convention on Migratory Species. Co-operation should lead to concerted and concentrated effort being focussed on key international priorities, better use of resources, improved cost-effectiveness and less duplication. It is important that Memoranda of Understanding between the Conventions are backed up with practical joint work programmes and that they do not remain quasi-legal documents gathering dust on the shelf.</p>
AND: Has the mechanism proven to be effective? Yes
If No , why not?

<p>If Yes, please elaborate.</p> <p>Officials from DEFRA, together with English Nature and JNCC are represented on a DCMS Steering Group which considers the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This has proved to be an effective arrangement.</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

<p>7.2.2 Prepare project proposals together with other conventions and partner organizations, and submit them jointly to potential funding agencies. [CPs, SC, Bureau, Partners]</p>
<p>For eligible countries, have there been project proposals prepared and submitted to funding agencies which were intended to assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening? The UK is not eligible.</p>
<p>If Yes, were such proposals successful in gaining funds? No Reply</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

<p>7.2.3 Strengthen cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular as regards inclusion of wetland concerns in national biodiversity strategies, and planning and execution of projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - To see the Joint Work Plan implemented in full and resulting in cooperative implementation of both Conventions at the international, national and local levels.
<p>Further to 7.2.1 above: Has there been a review completed of the Joint Work Plan between Ramsar and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish the areas of priority for cooperative implementation of these Conventions? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented such a review being done?</p> <p>The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is only a partial implementation of the CBD, but is reasonably complete in areas of overlap between Ramsar and CBD.</p>
<p>If Yes, what are the areas established as priorities for national cooperation between Ramsar and CBD implementing agencies/focal points?</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets:</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:</p>

7.2.4 Develop cooperation with the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO's Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), especially as regards wetlands designated as World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and/or Ramsar sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with the Man and the Biosphere Programme, leading to Joint Work Plans with the MAB Programme and with the World Heritage Convention which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local, levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.5 Enhance Ramsar's contribution to international cooperation on shared wetland species, notably through cooperative arrangements with the Convention on Migratory Species, flyway agreements, networks and other mechanisms dealing with migratory species (Recommendation 6.4). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **The *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* propose an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CMS (COP7 Resolution VII.19)**
- **Global Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, regional and national and local levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.6 Develop Ramsar's contribution to wildlife trade issues affecting wetlands, through increased interaction with CITES. [Bureau]

- **The *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* propose an increase in the joint efforts between Ramsar and CITES (COP7 Resolution VII.19)**
- **Global Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with CITES, leading to a Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which sees cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above

7.2.7 Initiate links with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in view of the potential impacts on wetlands of climate change. [CP, Bureau]

- **Global Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with UNFCCC, leading to a Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which encourages cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.8 Extend cooperation with conventions and agencies concerned with conservation and wise use of wetlands at regional level, and in particular: with the European Community, as regards application of its Habitats Directive to wetlands, and adoption and application of measures like the Habitats Directive for wetlands outside the states of the European Union; with the Council of Europe (Bern) Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats as regards the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy; with the Barcelona Convention and Mediterranean Action Plan in relation to the MedWet initiative; with the Western Hemisphere Convention; with UNEP programmes, in particular the Regional Seas Conventions; and with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). [CPs, Bureau]

- **Global Target - With the European Commission and SPREP, develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation and prepare and implement a Joint Work Plan. For Medwet, secure the long-term funding base for this important initiative and continue to develop new programmes of regional action. For the others referred to, and others which are appropriate, develop an appropriate working relationship.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

7.2.9 Develop relationships with other specialized agencies that deal with wetland-related issues, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the World Water Council (COP7 Resolution VI.23). [Bureau]

- **Global Target - To progress to closer working relations with these and other relevant initiatives, as appropriate.**

Refer to 7.2.1 above.

Operational Objective 7.3: To ensure that the development assistance community, and multinational corporations, follow improved wetland practices such as the Wise Use Guidelines in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition.

Actions - Global and National Targets

7.3.2 Work with multilateral and bilateral development agencies and multinational corporations towards a full recognition of wetland values and functions (Recommendation 4.13), and assist them to improve their practices in favor of wetland conservation and wise use taking account of the *Guidelines for Aid Agencies for Improved Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Wetlands*, published by OECD's Development Assistance Committee (Recommendation 6.16). [Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - At the Bureau level, to consider ways and means to increase its ability to work more systematically in this area, so as to increase the level of donor agency support for wetland conservation and wise use activities, and to see an increasing number of multinational corporations adopting voluntary codes of conduct for protecting wetlands.**

While this action is directed at the Bureau principally, CPs also have a role to play in this area; refer to 7.4.2 below with respect to bilateral development agencies. For the multilateral donors: Is your government represented on the governing bodies or scientific advisory bodies of the multilateral donors, or the GEF? **No**

If **Yes**, has this person/agency/ministry been briefed on the obligations of your country under the Ramsar Convention, and the relevant expectations raised of each CP by the Strategic Plan and

COP decisions? **No Reply**

The UK Department for International Development (DfID) works with a number of development agencies and multinational corporations throughout the world on development activities but does not specifically target areas for wetland conservation. In situations where livelihoods can be improved through the sustainable use of wetland resources DfID may be found working on such projects and programmes in collaboration with other donors. DfID provides the GEF with funding thereby benefiting GEF wetland projects. DfID has directly supported a GEF project in Lake Malawi by providing resources to assist biological and limnological surveys. For details of the process for prioritisation of funding please see 7.4.2.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is responsible for applications for funding for Darwin Initiative projects.

7.3.3 Interact with multilateral development agencies and through bilateral development programmes, to assist developing countries in meeting their Ramsar obligations, and report on actions taken and results achieved (Recommendation 5.5). [CPs]

Refer to 7.4.2 to 7.4.6 below.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 7.4: To obtain funds to fulfil obligations contracted under the Convention, notably for developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition.

Actions - Global and National Targets

7.4.1 Allocate funds for conservation and wise use of wetlands in the budget of each Contracting Party. [CPs]

- **Global Target - By COP8, to see allocations for wetlands made by all CPs and also for specific wetland programmes in more than 40 CPs.**

Does your government allocate funds for wetland conservation and wise use activities? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this happening?

If **Yes**, is this:

- As a separate allocation to a Wetlands Programme (or similar)? **No**
- As part of a broader allocation for the environment? **Yes**
- As part of the programmes maintained by a range of Ministries? **Yes**

AND: What mechanisms are in place for determining priorities and coordinating the expenditure of these funds?

The delivery of much of the statutory work on Ramsar in the UK is undertaken by a number of non-departmental public bodies rather than directly by Government. These bodies, which include the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment and Heritage Service, English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, have a key role in identifying Ramsar sites and liaison on site management issues at a local level. A broad range of non-governmental organisations contribute to all aspects of Ramsar work,

especially site management, research, education and public awareness.

The National Ramsar Committee includes representatives from both the statutory and non-governmental sectors (see question 4.1.2), thereby providing a useful forum to exchange views and inform decisions on priorities for work to implement the Convention in the UK.

The UK has a long standing system of public expenditure reviews, whereby the allocations given statutory bodies, including central Government Departments, are set within three yearly comprehensive spending reviews for the whole of Government. Individual Departments and public bodies are required to produce formal bids for resources within this review process. See also the process for drawing up asset management plans for water companies under question 2.8.1.

Is it linked to a National Wetland Policy, Biodiversity Plan, Catchment Plan or something similar? **Yes/No**

Funding of international obligations such as Ramsar is accorded priority within the review process.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

7.4.2 Include projects for conservation and wise use of wetlands in development plans funded by development assistance agencies, and ensure the latter consult the Ramsar administrative authority in each Contracting Party. [CPs]

- **Global Target - To see this trend continue such that all eligible CPs are receiving donor support for a range of major wetland-related projects by the time of COP8. In particular, to see this support being provided, as appropriate, for the priority areas of policy development, legal and institutional reviews, inventory and assessments, the designation and management of Ramsar sites, training and communications.**

If your country has a bilateral development assistance programme, does it allocate funds for wetland-related projects on a regular basis? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring?

Generally the UK, through the Department for International Development (DfID), does not allocate funding on a sector or activity basis. All DfID programmes and projects relate to meeting the objectives of the International Development Targets with the overall goal of reducing extreme poverty by at least one half by 2015. Wetland projects (such as those listed in Appendix 6) will normally only be supported if they improve the livelihoods of the poor.

Prioritisation of projects and programmes relates to meeting the objectives of the country strategy paper, the Public Service Agreement and are in accordance with the International Development White Papers, the Target Strategy Papers and the Institutional Strategy Papers. The Country Strategy Paper is produced with country governments and forms the basis of work in a country. Individual projects are assessed through wide consultation with civil society, businesses, government and other stakeholders.

The projects and programmes supported are based on improving livelihoods of the poor through the sustainable use of the wetland resources and therefore relate to article 3.1 of the Ramsar Convention; 'the wise use of wetlands in their territory'. A number of research projects (see Appendix 6) have also been initiated that aim to address management strategies with the

involvement of local communities of wetlands or related sites in order to benefit poor people.
If Yes , are these projects subjected to rigorous impact assessment procedures, which take account of the full environmental, social and economic values of wetlands? No Reply
If No , why not?
If Yes , is the Ramsar Administrative Authority consulted during the screening and assessment phases of the projects? No Reply
If No , why not?
AND: Is there a formal consultative process in place (such as a National Ramsar Committee) which ensures that the development assistance agency is fully aware of the Ramsar Convention obligations of the country with respect to international cooperation? No Reply
If No , why not?
If Yes , please elaborate.
Proposed national actions and targets:
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

7.4.4 Mobilize direct funding support from multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies to assist developing countries and countries whose economy is in transition, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands and in implementation of the present Strategic Plan. [CPs. Bureau]

- **Global Target - By COP8 for all the bilateral donors from appropriate CPs to have funds earmarked for wetland projects, and for all of these CPs to have in place mechanisms for consultation between the development assistance agency and their Ramsar Administrative Authority.**

Refer to 7.4.2 above



General Objective 8

To provide the convention with the required institutional mechanisms and resources

Operational Objective 8.1: To maximize achievement of Ramsar's mission and objectives by evaluating and, if necessary, modifying the Convention's institutions and management structures.

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.1.9 Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, governmental and non-governmental organizations, key stakeholders, indigenous people, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to 4.1.2.
8.1.10 Review the designated national focal point in each Contracting Party, with a view to increasing involvement in the work of the Convention from all agencies concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]
Refer to 4.1.1

Operational Objective 8.2: To provide the financial resources required to carry out Ramsar activities.

Actions - Global and National Targets
8.2.1 Pay invoiced contributions to the Convention's core budget in full, and promptly at the beginning of each calendar year. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Global Target - During this triennium to achieve full and timely payment of all dues by all CPs. The SC to prepare a proposal on sanctions for non-payment for consideration at COP8 (COP7 Resolution VII.28).
Is your country completely up to date with its annual contributions to the core budget of the Convention? Yes
If No , what is the impediment to this being done?
Proposed national actions and targets: Continue to pay annual contributions promptly.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

8.2.4 Give priority to funding for training programmes, education and public awareness work, development of the Ramsar Database, and the Convention's Communications Strategy. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - To secure the resources needed to establish regional training initiatives (like *Wetlands for the Future*) in other regions, to allow the Bureau to progress the implementation of the Outreach Programme, and to support the proposed developments for the Ramsar Sites Database into a fully online and Web-based promotional and planning tool of the Convention.**

Refer to 3.3.1 (Convention Outreach Programme), 4.2.4 (Wetlands for the Future).

Operational Objective 8.3: To maximize the benefits of working with partner organizations.

Actions – Global and National Targets

8.3.1 Strengthen cooperative planning mechanisms with the partners and improve communications and information exchange, including exchange of staff. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.2.1 and 4.1.2. Does your country include representatives of the Convention's official International Organisation Partners (BirdLife International, IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International) on its National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies, where they exist? **Yes**

If **No**, what prevents this from occurring?

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Operational Objective 8.4: To secure at least one million US dollars per annum for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use (Resolutions 5.8 and VI.6) and to allocate these funds effectively.

Actions – Global and National Targets

8.4.1 Develop a strategy for securing at least one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, to be approved by the first full meeting of the Standing Committee after the 6th COP (1996) and proceed immediately to its implementation. [Bureau, SC, CPs, Partners]

- **Global Target - To establish a mechanism to ensure one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (COP7 Resolution VII.28).**

Refer also to 8.2.4. For developed countries, do you provide additional voluntary contributions to support the Small Grants Fund? **Yes**

If **No**, what prevents this from happening?

If **Yes**, is an irregular or regular voluntary contribution? **Regular**

The UK has made voluntary contributions totaling £42,074 to the Small Grants Fund since COP7.

Proposed national actions and targets:

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

