



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

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

**Final Report
May 2005**

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INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION	
CONTRACTING PARTY	
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SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION (OPTIONAL)	
<i>Please, include a summary on the implementation of Ramsar Convention in your country during the last triennium</i>	
<p>The UK has a long-established conservation infrastructure, with many policies and much legislation of relevance for wetland conservation. This report highlights the range of activities being undertaken which will result in benefits for wetlands and demonstrates the UK's continuing commitment to implementing the Resolutions agreed by the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>In developing targets for the UK for 2003-2005 we chose to target priority areas of activity, in preference to giving targets for actions where there is already well-established conservation provision. We also separately indicated priority and resource ratings against each target and action rather than collectively for each</p>	

Operational Objective. We note the potentially simplistic characterisation of actions into High to Low categories. Actions categorised as of 'Low priority' may not reflect low importance, rather a high level of past activity which has left the issue well-provided for.

The United Kingdom has made significant progress in conserving wetlands. Highlights include:

- Substantial effort is going into implementing the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The implementation of the Directive is seen as an important mechanism for securing integrated catchment management. There has been an increasing recognition that the valuable contribution made by fresh waters to the conservation of biodiversity is inextricably linked to the economic, aesthetic, and recreational services that they provide. Initial stages include characterisation of river basins and work to define good ecological status.
- An ongoing research programme is seeking to assess the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity in the UK, and is developing 'tools' to make predictions about the responses of species and their habitats under possible future climates. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) provides the framework for addressing the linkages between climate change and wetlands, and contributes to the policy framework for dealing with the implications of climate change. It will be an important factor in the continuing management of priority species and habitats and in the planning of actions to conserve them. Much of the current work in the UK is focused on considering how the effects of climate change have an influence on planning considerations. This includes consideration of the effectiveness of different 'hard' and 'soft' sea defence options, how effective they are, what are their costs and benefits, what are the impacts of management retreat and where they provide the best operational and policy considerations.
- Habitat restoration is an important part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and its implementation through country level strategies. Significant effort is being put into understanding the reasons for deterioration of habitat quality and resolving what action is needed to restore, for example, degraded peatlands.
- There are now 162 Ramsar sites in the UK (including overseas territories and crown dependencies), covering 879,298 hectares (as of 28th February 2005). The vast majority of these sites are also protected by other designations at a national level. A complete revision of the Ramsar Information Sheets for all UK Ramsar sites has been carried out. These will be published as a web-based resource on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website in parallel with submission of this report (see www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1389).
- A review has been completed on existing and potential Ramsar sites in the UK Overseas Territories (OT), including the Crown Dependencies (CD) to assist in implementation of the Convention's Strategic Framework, especially by identifying sites featuring interests that are currently under-represented in the List of Wetlands of International Importance. This contributes to the review of sites being progressed in the UK, in the context of Resolution VII.11 which calls upon Contracting Parties to apply the Strategic Framework and Guidelines for the Future Development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance.
- WWD activities across the UK continue to grow in number each year and are a good example of the UK's commitment to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of the value and benefit of wetlands. There are also many examples of activities which support wetland CEPA objectives, especially through conservation organisations and other bodies involved with wetlands.

The UK is fortunate to have good working relationships between the Government, statutory and non-governmental sectors. This does not imply that there is always agreement, but the breadth of interested parties is a significant strength of conservation in the UK.

Substantial progress has been made but the Work Plan has been challenging and the report reflects that more progress has been made in some areas than others. We will need to review our targets for the next triennium in the light of the priorities coming out of the Conference of the Parties and in consultation with the key organisations involved with wetlands in the UK.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1.- Country has a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory (<i>if inventory exists, please include the number of sites</i>)	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites
2.- Methodologies recommended in the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6) were used for National Wetland Inventory	D		
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the application of inventory methodologies, the status of the inventory - end date or expected timeframe, contents of the inventory - and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the organisational framework to create a national inventory of wetlands by 2005. [High] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a national wetland inventory via UK Ramsar Committee and National Biodiversity Network resources. [Adequate] 	

There is a large quantity of data to be integrated, but nevertheless, information is being drawn together – see 1.1.3 about dissemination of information via the National Biodiversity Network gateway (www.searchnbn.net). Examples of information available include:

- Digital data is available at Phase I level for all wetlands sites across Wales. Aspects of these data are summarised in Jones et al (2003). These data have not been translated into inventory form, but data include:
 - Dargie, T. & Dargie, J. (1998). *An inventory and conservation review of coastal grazing marshes and floodplain habitats in Wales*. Stage 1: Inventory. CCW Contract Science Report No. 274. provides polygon by polygon information on habitat cover for 371 Welsh sites.
 - Lindsay, R.A. & Immirzi, P. (1996). *An inventory of lowland raised bogs in Great Britain*. SNH Research, Survey and Monitoring Report No, 78, SNH Edinburgh, provides an incomplete inventory of current and former raised bog sites in Wales. Jones, P.S. et al (2003). Priority habitat of Wales: a technical guide. CCW Bangor, provides updated inventory data on Welsh raised bogs.
 - Information on most Welsh fens is held on v. 6 of FenBASE – an access based database developed at the University of Sheffield.
 - A detailed community-level survey of grasslands of conservation value across Wales has recently been completed. This includes information on unimproved floodplain and marshy grasslands and associated soilgenous mires which for the most part are dependent on shallow seepage processes.
- In Scotland the lowland raised bog inventory is available at <http://www.snh.org.uk/Peatlands/wc-LRBL.htm> and the Scottish blanket bog inventory is available at <http://www.snh.org.uk/Peatlands/wc-SBBI.asp>
- England has a national wetland inventory. Part of this process has been the production of England-wide inventories for the following wetland habitats: blanket bog (3,401 locations), lowland raised bogs (525 locations), fens (1,746 locations), reedbeds (1,060 locations) and coastal flood plain, grazing marsh (26,391 locations). Methodologies recommended in the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6) were used.

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

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

<i>See actions 3.2.1, 3.3.1, r4.1.1, and Operational Objective 10.1</i>			Nº wetlands/ Ramsar sites
<i>Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:</i>			
1. The inventory assesses and documents potential Ramsar Sites	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>	
2. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands of national, provincial or local importance	D	<i>A = Not applicable;</i>	
3. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands that need restoration and rehabilitation	D	<i>B = Yes; C = No;</i>	
4. The inventory assesses and documents wetland types and features under-represented in the Ramsar List	D	<i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i>	
5. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of water supply	D	<i>E = In progress;</i>	
		<i>F= Being planned;</i>	
		<i>G = Being updated;</i>	
		<i>H = Other status (explain below);</i>	
		<i>I = No answer</i>	

<i>See actions 3.2.1, 3.3.1, r4.1.1, and Operational Objective 10.1</i>		
<i>Note: if available, please indicate the number of sites under each category:</i>		N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites
6. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of coastal protection	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
7. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of flood defense	D	
8. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of food security	C	
9. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of poverty alleviation	C	
10. The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of cultural heritage	D	
11.- The inventory assesses and documents wetlands which are of special significance for reasons of scientific research	B	
12.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Comments on the information included in the wetland inventory in light of the items indicated above]		
See 10.1.1		
<p>Various databases exist, but these do not constitute a comprehensive inventory. The overview is better completed in metropolitan UK than in the Overseas Territories. Inventories tend to be developed for all habitats rather than on wetlands only. Examples of work under way at present include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inventory of groundwater dependent wetlands in Wales to support implementation of the Water Framework Directive. • Habitat/site inventories generated through activities related to site designation and local conservation area identification programmes. • The UK is reviewing the extent and representativity of its Ramsar site series • The Scottish Wetlands Archaeological Database (SWAD) which contains over 6,000 records of archaeological sites within Scottish wetlands. All of the data can be freely searched across the internet at http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/swad/ and data are compatible with GIS. It is possible to identify all scheduled ancient monuments that lie within Ramsar site boundaries. Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys covering 20% of the Scottish coastline have been commissioned. These were designed to identify features of archaeological interest as well as information on geomorphology. A number of coastal Ramsar sites have been covered and this information is now available in digital form. • The cultural heritage, and the threats to it, of England's major lowland wetlands (Somerset Levels and Moors, Fenland, Humber wetlands, North West Wetlands) have been documented. A new project concentrates on the upland peatlands of NW England. An inventory of the most important wetland monuments in England has been completed (<i>Heritage management of England's wetlands</i>). This information is generally accessible through publication and has also been incorporated into local Historic Environment Records held by County Councils. 		

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

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

1. National arrangements established for the custodianship, storage and maintenance of wetland inventory data and information, including metadata	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a catalogue of UK wetland inventories by end 2005. [Medium] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Ramsar Committee to ensure delivery and oversee development of the catalogue. (JNCC/UKRC). [Adequate]
<p>The National Biodiversity Network Gateway (www.searchnbn.net) currently holds over 17 million species observations. These include records for many wetland-based taxa, for example amphibians, aquatic heteroptera, crayfish and aquatic mammals. There is currently relatively little functionality in relation to habitats available, and whilst it is possible to relate records to protected sites, it is not yet possible to select a list of records that have been made in relation to a particular habitat parcel. However, provision of such functionality is being explored during 2004-05.</p> <p>One of the keys to the success of the Gateway is that the data owners remain in control of who can view and use the data through the Gateway and can restrict access on the basis of spatial resolution. They can also identify sensitive records and have more restricted access to these. Despite this most of the records on the Gateway have some level of public access.</p>	

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

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

1. National (including provincial) wetland inventory metadata record provided for inclusion in Ramsar's Web-based wetland inventory metadatabase	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish good web-based information interface for wetlands. [Medium] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and enhance access to wetland info on the NBN site. (JNCC, NBN). [Adequate] 	
See 1.1.3		

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

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

1. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among decision makers	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among wetland managers	D	
3. The use of relevant information from wetland inventory has been promoted among other wetland users	C	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
See 1.1.3		

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

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

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

The UK is a donor to the fund.

In addition, the Darwin Initiative supports collaboration between UK biodiversity institutions and developing country partners, to help the latter implement the Convention on Biological Diversity. Recent projects which contribute to wetlands conservation/Ramsar include:

- Monitoring biodiversity for site management in East African wetlands.
- Flamingo conservation and Ramsar site management at Lake Bogoria, Kenya.
- The Darwin South Eastern Asian wetlands restoration initiative, Vietnam.
- Conservation of wetlands and associated biodiversity in Zambia.
- Establishing biodiversity in monitoring networks to inform Estonia coastal wetland management.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1.2: Assess and monitor the condition of wetland resources, both globally and nationally (or, where appropriate, provincially), in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention and in particular the application of the wise use principle**

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

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RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Contribution made to the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project (MA)**I***Choose an answer*

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution made to the work of the MA.]

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

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

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

1. Repository of assessments of changes in wetland status established	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the repository of assessment of changes in wetland status, its contents and uses.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to provide summarized national assessments in accordance with the 6 year RIS update cycle and at other times as requested. [High] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide JNCC with relevant monitoring information as necessary to enable compiling of national summaries. (EHS, EN, CCW, SNH). [Limiting] 	
<p>See also 10.2.4</p> <p>In parallel to the production of this report, the UK is producing revised Ramsar Information Sheets. These will be made available via the web (http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1389). Within the RIS an assessment will be made of the adverse ecological factors which may be affecting each site. In the longer term, these assessments will be informed by a feature-monitoring programme (see 1.2.5 for more details).</p>		

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

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

1. Assessments of the vulnerability of wetlands to change in ecological character were undertaken	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The assessments include impacts of climate change	D	
3. The assessments include impacts of sea-level rise	D	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessments undertaken.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure an effective system is in place for detecting threats to the ecological character of wetlands. [High] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain, and where possible enhance, system of monitoring condition of SSSIs/ASSIs. (EN, CCW, SNH, EHS). [Limiting] Ensure wetland interests are considered in policy development concerning climate change and sea level rise. [Adequate] Continue with research into the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. [Adequate] 	

Monitoring of features on sites.

The UK is implementing a programme of rapid review monitoring of features of interest on nationally and internationally designated sites. Results for the first cycle will not be available in time for inclusion with this report. Details of the programme are available at www.jncc.gov.uk/csm.

Assessing the impacts of climate change

A programme of scientific research is developing 'tools' to make predictions about the responses of species and their habitats under possible future climates. Examples include:

- MONARCH (Modeling Natural Resource Response to Climate Change) is a multi-partner project coordinated by English Nature, with research led by the Environmental Change Institute, studying the impacts of climate change on a range of species and habitats in Britain and Ireland. Phase 2 of the project is being tested at four areas. These contain wetland components, but are not specific wetland 'systems' as such. For more information, see http://www.ukcip.org.uk/resources/sector/projectsdets.asp?sector=3&project_ref=8 and <http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/biodiversity/monarch.html>.
- The MarClim (<http://www.mba.ac.uk/marclim/>) project aims to assess and forecast the influence of climatic change on marine biodiversity in Britain and Ireland using long-term and current data on intertidal rocky shore indicator species.
- Two research projects at the Tyndall Centre, University of East Anglia are working to
 - assess the implications of climate change for biodiversity in UK overseas territories. The focus of the research is now on coral reef/sea grass/mangrove systems in the Caribbean and how these are being impacted by climate and other environmental/anthropogenic drivers (including El Nino events, volcanicity and ecological/socio-economic change), and
 - assess the role of nature conservation in mitigating the effects of climate change.
- A Review of Climate Change Indicators was commissioned by Defra in June 2003, and revised in January 2004. See: <http://www.edinburgh.ceh.ac.uk/iccuk>.

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

1. Past losses and current status and trends of coastal wetlands documented

D

Choose an answer

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

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

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands.]

Status assessments are made in a number of ways. Examples include:

- Coastal wetlands will be assessed as part of the work being undertaken to monitor the status of all features on designated sites (see 1.2.5 and www.jncc.gov.uk/csm), but are not regarded as a special case.
- Some assessments of coastal and transitional water bodies will be undertaken as part of the requirements of EC Water Framework Directive. An initial assessment of pressures and impacts has been carried out for the Article 5 Characterisation Report by December 2004. This includes assessment against water related objectives for candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, as well as transitional and coastal water bodies.
- The UK is making input to EUROSION coastal erosion/vulnerability programme – <http://www.euroSION.org>.
- Other data which is of relevance includes Countryside Survey 2000, <http://www.cs2000.org.uk/> and the National Countryside Monitoring Scheme 1947-1988 <http://www.snh.org.uk/index/i-frame.htm>.
- An EC LIFE Nature funded project - Living with the Sea – Managing Natura 2000 on dynamic coastlines (<http://www.english-nature.org.uk/livingwiththesea/>) has produced web resources and four CD-ROMs.

3.- Summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands [Please provide here a summary on the conservation status of coastal wetlands and provide reference citation to any relevant publication, reports or analysis.]

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan reports will include information relevant to some coastal wetlands (see www.ukbap.org.uk for details). See also 1.2.5 on the UK common standards monitoring programme (www.jncc.gov.uk/csm).

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

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

For Cayman, information on mangrove forest cover / mapping has been compiled.

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

1.- The impacts of dams on wetlands have been assessed (if available, please include number of sites affected)	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the impacts of dams on wetlands, sites affected, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
The impact of existing dams on wetland sites have not been specifically assessed other than through the Review of Consents for high priority Natura 2000 sites (many of which are co-incident with Ramsar features). River Basin Management Plans are at an early stage, so there is no progress yet as a result of Water Framework Directive other than initial characterisation work. Apart from the River Ribble pilot project this has not yet reached the public domain. Water Framework Directive assessments include assessing the impacts of impoundments and flow regulation structures on morphology and flow regimes of water bodies. Initial assessments have been carried out for candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, as well as rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waterbodies, by December 2004.			
3.-Impacts of dams on wetlands [Please provide here a summary of impacts and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]			

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. The water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands has been assessed	G	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]		
See 4.1.4		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. A National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) is in place	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) goals are explicit, comprehensive and accessible	B	
3. The National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporates WSSD targets and actions	D	
4- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the status of the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument, its contents, and any other information you consider relevant.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a summary of policy coverage regarding wetland interests. [Low] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and summarise UK policies (including those in Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies) relating to the protection and wise-use of wetlands (in matrix format) and include this in the National Report to CoP9 as a summary of current policy provision. (Defra and others). [Adequate] • National Ramsar Committee to provide comment on development of policy summary. [Adequate] • Circulate Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (and other Handbooks) to Overseas Territories governments and Crown Dependencies. (FCO/Defra). [Adequate] 	

A statement on the UK approach to wetland policy was made in the Ramsar COP 8 Report. This set out the holistic approach taken to the protection of wetlands in the UK. Since then progress has been made in implementation, for example through the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Implementation is the responsibility of the devolved administrations. For England, proposals are set out in *Working with the Grain of Nature – a biodiversity strategy for England*, published in October 2002. The Strategy reflects an integrated approach to both land and water management and includes aims, objectives and a programme of work for water and wetland management. The aim is for a whole catchment approach to the wise, sustainable use of water and wetlands. Wise Use hand books have been distributed to all UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

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

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

1. Wetland issues have been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development called for by WSSD	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies	I	
3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans	D	
4. Wetland issues (conservation, wise use, restoration/rehabilitation) have been integrated into other sectoral strategic or planning processes and documents at any of the following levels: national, regional, provincial, and local	D	

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to wetland interests, ensure that planning advice reflects current policy and legislation, and that wetland interests are highlighted where appropriate. [High] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of revised Planning Policy Guidance in England and Wales to ensure the provisions of the CRoW Act are incorporated into local planning decisions. [Adequate] • Take appropriate action following the completion of the review of conservation laws in Scotland [and Northern Ireland]. [Adequate] • Transposition of the Water Framework Directive into UK law by December 2003. (Defra, ODPM and Devolved Administrations). [Adequate] • Promote conservation of wetlands in planning sphere. [High/Adequate] |
|--|---|

In England, Government and its statutory nature conservation adviser, English Nature, have developed revised planning policy guidance. Following public consultation during autumn 2004, the final version will be issued in 2005. Planning Policy Statement 9 - Biodiversity and Geological Conservation will set out the Government's nature conservation policies for the land use planning system. It will be accompanied by a Circular containing guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation, as well as a Good Practice Guide.

Impacts of water company abstractions on wetlands, and how these are dealt with, have been considered in the company forward water resources plans for England for the period 2005-2030.

Regulations transposing the Water Framework Directive for England and Wales were laid before Parliament in December 2003. The Water Framework Directive includes important provisions to protect water quality and manage water quantity which will assist in the protection of wetlands. These provisions have been transposed in Scotland by the Water Environment and Water Services Act (2003).

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 addresses Northern Ireland's position with regard to Habitat Regulations and parallels the main aspects of site designation programme issues addressed by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

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

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

I

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland tenure systems and user rights in order to promote fair, transparent and sustainable management.]

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

1. A review of legislation, policies and incentives directly or indirectly related to high Andean wetlands has been completed

A

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

E = In progress; F= Being planned;

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

2. The conservation and wise use of high Andean wetlands has been incorporated into relevant national strategies / processes

A

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the actions taken in relation to high Andean wetlands.]

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

1. Examples of best practice related to the integration and harmonisation of policies and legislation have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau/STRP

I

Choose an answer

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

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

I = No answer

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

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. The Party is one of the 100 CPs identified by the Ramsar Bureau to initiate and if possible complete by COP9 a comprehensive review of wetland-related legislation and institutions	A	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. A review of legislation and institutions to promote the wise use of wetlands has been completed	C	
3. Legislation and institutional procedures have been modified to preclude unwise use of wetlands	D	

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise profile of EIA issues in Overseas Territories, and if resources permit, review adequacy of legislative provision for EIA. [High] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulate Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 3 (and other Handbooks) to Overseas Territories governments and Crown Dependencies. (FCO/Defra). [Adequate] |
|---|---|

Strengthening capacity and legislation for implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Overseas Territories has been highlighted as a priority in funding proposals to the Overseas Territories Environment Programme run by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Wise Use Hand books were distributed to all UK Overseas Territories in May 2004

Nationally and internationally designated conservation sites are screened for the need for EIA before development consent is granted. Details of EIA legislation and guidance on EIA procedures can be found on the Planning section of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister web site at www.odpm.gov.uk.

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, in conjunction with its member organisations and the Ramsar Secretariat, is planning the addition of a workshop on EIA to the conference for UK Overseas Territories being organised for October 2006, with the support of the Overseas Territories Environment

Programme and the Government of Jersey.

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

This is normal Government practice in the UK.

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

See action r3.3.iii

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

This is undertaken through the planning framework. English Heritage has grant-aided a project to develop a wetland GIS to assist planning departments to assess the cultural heritage potential of wetlands.

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

See action r3.1.i

1. The conservation status of mountain wetlands has been assessed

I

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

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

I

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

I

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

UK provided a thematic report to the CBD on Mountains for the discussions at SBSTTA and CBD CoP7 (see http://www.chm.org.uk/library/reports/mountain_ecosystem_thematic_report.pdf).

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

1. The Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment annexed to Resolution VIII.9 are being applied

H

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (annex to Resolution VIII.9).]

The UK has implemented EC Directive 85/337/EEC (the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive), which applies to a wide range of projects (i.e. physical interventions in the environment) through a number of sets of national regulations. For instance, the EIA Regulations apply to development projects through the planning system, transport projects, projects to introduce or remove forest, and projects to use uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agricultural purposes. The EIA Regulations establish a consent system whereby a project is not granted consent to proceed if it is likely to have 'significant effects on the environment. Among the environmental factors considered is biological diversity

The UK has also implemented the EC Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC), which requires that certain (mainly public sector) 'plans and programmes' that 'are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provision' and which 'set the framework for development consent' are made subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The owners of relevant plans and programmes must conduct an SEA, hold a public consultation, and explain publicly the reasons for taking a course of action. Among the factors looked at in the Strategic Environmental Assessment process are effects on biodiversity.

Under Regulation 48(1) of the Habitats Regulations, an appropriate assessment needs to be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which either alone or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, and is not directly connected with the management of the site for nature conservation. Appropriate assessment is required by law for all European Sites. A European Site is any classified SPA, and any SAC from the point where the Commission and the Government agree the site as a Site of Community Importance. Appropriate assessment is also required, as a matter of Government policy, for potential SPAs, candidate SACs and listed Ramsar Sites for the purpose of considering development proposals affecting them.

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

B

Choose an answer

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

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in impact assessment processes.]

Through the planning process local communities can comment on development proposals.

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

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: SC/Bureau to identify at least 50 Parties to have in place Strategic Environmental Assessment for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands.

1. The Party has been identified by the Ramsar Bureau as one having in place Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to wetlands

C

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

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

C

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas Territories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage OT governments to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes that may impact on wetlands. (FCO, Defra). [Adequate]
--	--

Sustainable development is a key focus of the planning process in both Metropolitan UK and its Overseas and Dependent Territories. A number of the Overseas Territories (OTs) have developed or are in the process of developing, sustainable development plans; for example, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands and Montserrat. Greater prominence has recently been given to these issues within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and the FCO Ramsar focal point is now located within the Natural Resources and Environmental Governance Team of the Sustainable Development and Commonwealth Group.

The FCO and DFID (Department for International Development) have established a joint programme (Overseas Territories Environment Programme) worth £3m up to March 2007 for projects that support implementation of the Environment Charters, and environmental management more generally, in the UK OTs. Progress was reviewed at the UK Overseas Territories environment conference in March 2003, organised by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and Bermuda Government and NGOs; the Proceedings are available at www.ukotcf.org.

Projects approved in 2004/05 include the establishment of a mangrove wetland interpretive centre in British Virgin Islands; Red List assessment of native flora for legislation and conservation planning on Cayman Islands; a Plan for Biodiversity Management and Sustainable Development around the Ramsar site in Turks and Caicos Islands; Environmental monitoring for improved conservation management on British Indian Ocean Territory; and a cross-Territories International Conference to develop capacity.

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

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

<p>1.- Legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applicable to wetlands is in place</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i></p>	<p>N° wetlands /Ramsar sites</p>
<p>2.- EIA is carried out for projects, developments or changes which may impact on wetlands (if available, please include number of sites)</p>	<p>B</p>		
<p>3.- EIAs have included full and appropriate consideration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts</p>	<p>B</p>		
<p>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include comments on Environmental Impact Assessment implementation at national level.]</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas Territories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that UK EIA requirements are complied with where designated wetland sites may be affected, e.g. under planning legislation and in relation to change of use of uncultivated land. Consider appropriate follow-up action, advice etc in the light of 2.2.1 and progress under the Environment Charters. (FCO, Defra). 		

An EIA is required for proposed development which could 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 a *de minimis* threshold or (iii) is in a sensitive area, and the environmental impact is likely to be significant. Where EIA is not required planning policy still requires the existence of, protected species and key biodiversity issues to be considered in reaching a decision on a development proposal.

The *de minimis* 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. EIAs are undertaken in a transparent and participatory manner which includes local stakeholders.

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

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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

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

I

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

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

I

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

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

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. Work has been done to review the wise use concept, its applicability and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development	E	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work to review and update the guidance on the wise use concept, including the ecosystem approach	F	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the revision of the wise use concept and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>See 2.1.1.</i> • Prepare paper for National Ramsar Committee on elements of the Wise Use Guidelines which are not yet fully operated in the UK by the end of 2003. (Defra/JNCC). [Medium] • Liaise with Bureau and if appropriate DEFRA/ JNCC undertake informal consultation exercise to review what ideas, experience, source materials or expertise the UK can offer to proposed review of Guidance on Wise Use. (DEFRA, National Ramsar Committee). [Medium/Adequate] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners on the National Ramsar Committee to pinpoint areas of work where the wise use guidelines apply or need to be reflected or enhanced and Committee to produce a summary by end of 2003. (National Ramsar Committee). [Adequate]

Wise use principles are incorporated into the planning policy statements and guidance, including for example, the Water Framework Directive Technical Advisory Group horizontal guidance on wetlands. These documents provide a framework within which permissions for development are granted, modified or refused. The statutory conservation agencies (Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Environment and Heritage Service and Scottish Natural Heritage) provide advice to local planning authorities on the impacts that developments may have from a conservation perspective. Increasingly in the UK, agri-environment support is targeted at achieving

positive wildlife gain rather than direct production support. For example, in Wales, Tir Gofal Management Prescriptions which have direct benefit for water quality include:

- Whole Farm Scheme (Compulsory) All ponds, rivers & streams must be bounded by a 1m wide strip of natural vegetation, increasing to 10m when using farmyard manure, slurry or other organic manures will have direct benefits.
- Stream Side Corridors (Voluntary) Establish new streamside corridor on improved land that is at least 7m wide, and exclude livestock or cropping practices until desired vegetation is established.
- Establishment of new habitats & features (Voluntary) These options include increase water levels on suitable habitats & features, establish new broadleaved woodlands and scrub, establish new reed beds and other swamps, establish heathland vegetation on acid & coastal grassland/cliff and establish heathland on improved land. All these options include to some degree extensification of the farming systems which in turn will have indirect impacts on water quality and diffuse pollution.

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

1. Advice, methods and best practice studies on the wise use of wetlands, including the application of the ecosystem approach, have been compiled and distributed to wetland managers

D

Choose an answer

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

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

- By COP9 compile [10] case study examples and widely disseminate. (UKRC)
[Medium/Adequate]

The UK has started to test ways of integrating nature conservation into key sectors in order to make an effective contribution to sustainable development on a regional basis through the Irish Sea project (<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1541>). The project aims were to

- test the framework proposed by the paper "An implementation framework for the conservation, protection and management of nationally important marine wildlife in the UK"
<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1604>
- determine the potential of existing regulatory and other systems for delivering effective marine nature conservation, and identify any gaps
- recommend measures to fill the gaps identified.

The Irish Sea area was selected for the pilot because it was considered to be one of the most ecologically-distinct regional seas around the UK. With its semi-enclosed geography and range of stakeholders and activities, it is perhaps the most recognisable and distinct of the regional seas.

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

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

1. Ramsar's new management planning guidelines (Resolution VIII.14) have been adapted and incorporated into national practice

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Most sites have some form of management plan, but these may not be unique to the Ramsar site and may be part of a plan for a NNR, SSSI or any other type of designated site. Management issues tend to be addressed

through designated site consent assessment, monitoring and management programmes, together with planning consultations and implementation of EIA regulations.

English Heritage has funded several pilot schemes to devise management plans for wetland sites which will encourage the integration of their cultural heritage with other aspects of wetland management. Monitoring techniques to assess the conditions of Scheduled Monuments in wetlands have been pioneered.

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

1. Ramsar guidance on the wise use concept and its application has been made available to appropriate decision-makers, institutions and processes

B

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

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

- Ensure that key bodies responsible for funding policies that contribute to sustainable development are aware of the Convention’s guidance on wise use of wetlands where appropriate. **[High]**

- Draw the Wise Use Guidelines to the attention of those responsible within government for strategic forward planning and sustainable development. (Defra and Devolved Administrations). **[Adequate]**

Wise Use guidelines and other relevant Ramsar guidance have been drawn to the attention of those responsible for implementation of World Summit on Sustainable Development commitments in the UK. Six plans on how the UK will deliver on commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) have been published. The delivery plan for Oceans includes a commitment to applying the ecosystem approach, promoting joint working with Ramsar and CBD on marine issues, and applying guidelines on Integrated Coastal Zone Management agreed by Ramsar COP 8.

Government cross-compliance procedures are implemented together with widespread consultation on relevant departmental capital expenditure programme, for example by Environmental Officers in major regional funding programmes.

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

See action r2.2.iii		
1. Actions have been taken to improve the awareness and understanding of values and functions of mountain and high altitude wetlands	I	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Information, expertise and experience concerning the study, conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been shared with other interested Parties	I	
3. National, regional or local strategies and plans for the conservation and wise use of mountain and high altitude wetlands have been developed	I	
4. Ramsar work on mountain wetlands has been coordinated with other environment-related and mountain-related agreements and institutions	I	
5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on information available and strategies developed concerning mountain and high altitude wetlands.]		

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

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

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

1. Information relating to the conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems, especially in relation to the participation of local communities and indigenous people, has been exchanged with other Parties and institutions	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The management plan of the large Ramsar site of North, Middle and East Caicos, recently developed by the Turks & Caicos National Trust, the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, and the local communities, brings together these issues (available on www.ukotcf.org). It was presented to a regional Caribbean meeting in 2003. Information and advice was provided to countries (including Cuba and Puerto Rico) which expressed interest in using it as a model.		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. The Party has participated in the Ramsar Bureau-led process to establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

1. Action has been taken to implement at national level the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)

D

Choose an answer

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

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UK Ramsar Review (see 1.1.2) to consider peatlands in the context of their status as an under-represented habitat on the Ramsar List of sites. (Ramsar Review Steering Committee). [High] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Ramsar Committee to consider <i>Guidelines for global action on peatlands</i> in 2003 and agree priorities and mechanisms for UK implementation. (National Ramsar Committee). [Adequate] ● Report back on progress with the <i>Guidelines for global action on peatlands</i> in National Report to COP9 in the light of the implementation of actions under 3.2.1. (Defra/JNCC). [High/Adequate] ● Implement £17,000,000 agreement to transfer ownership of Thorne and Hatfield Moors SSSI and Wedholme Flow SSSI and initiate major programme of ecological restoration of sites. (Defra/EN). [High/Adequate] ● Implement £500,000 habitat restoration of Woodwalton Fen NNR and Holme Fen NNR. (EN). [High/Adequate] |
|--|--|

A number of different groups are involved in implementing components of the Ramsar Guidelines for global action on peatlands. These include the inter-agency Lowland Wetland Lead Coordination Network and the Upland Lead Coordination network, the Wetland Habitat Action Plan Steering Group, and the Uplands Habitat Action Plan Steering Group. Details about these groups can be found at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2>. A peatlands resource CD has been developed and distributed to schools throughout Northern Ireland - further details on www.peatlandsni.gov.uk.

The part of the Ramsar Review relating to UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies has identified a number of important peatland areas which may be considered for Ramsar designation.

Current targets set in the lowland raised bog Habitat Action Plan to reduce the amount of peat used in horticulture, include the aims of 40% of total amateur and professional market requirements to be peat-free by 2005 and 90% by 2010.

The transfer of ownership of Thorne and Hatfield Moors SSSI and Wedholme Flow SSSI has been completed.

- An agreement was reached in 2002 for peat extraction to cease on three of England's largest lowland raised bogs: Thorne Moors, Hatfield Moors and Wedholme Flow. Extraction ceased immediately on two sites, but continued until September 2004 on Hatfield Moors. The compensatory agreement included surface engineering of the cut-over surfaces by the extracting company to optimise the speed and quality of the restoration to raised bog. The restoration programme is progressing according to its timetable and peat-forming plants have already been re-established over much of the cut-over part of Thorne Moors.
- Large areas of scrub on Woodwalton Fen have been returned to open wet grassland and fen. Two large drainage ditches passing through Holme Fen have been re-routed so that a substantial part of this former lowland raised bog can be rewetted to provide conditions suitable for peat-forming plants.
- A further £1m project, 'Peatlands for People' produced gains for lowland raised bogs in the South Solway and Duddon Mosses, Cumbria. 152 hectares of land was brought under direct nature conservation management, with other land brought under management agreements, 281 hectares of land restored through favourable management and now steered towards achieving favourable condition public service agreement targets for sites of special scientific interest, the hydrological re-joining of two of the Duddon Mosses and the construction of two boardwalks and consultations on additional access.

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

1. Funds have been made available at national level for the implementation of the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands

C

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

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

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

1. Summary of the status and trends in national peatland resources is available

D

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

2.- Status and trends in national peatland resources [Please include information on the conservation status and trends of peatland resources and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]

Monitoring of the use of peat and its alternatives in horticulture is carried out. A recent Defra report compiled by ADAS, entitled "Peat and Peat Alternatives: their use in commercial horticulture in England and Wales in

2003" has been published and is available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/hort/peat/docs/rep_may2004.pdf.

The England Biodiversity Strategy has 9 workstreams, of which one is dedicated to water and wetlands. The aims of the workstream are to promote policies that tackle to root cause of damage to water and wetlands, achieve a whole catchment approach to land use and water managements and to promote the principle that the ecological health of the water environment is a key test of its sustainable management.

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

See action 1.1.2

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

I

Choose an answer

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

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

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

See actions 1.2.2.ii, 6.1.6

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

D

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

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

F= Being planned; G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below);

I = No answer

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

D

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

English Heritage has a published wetland strategy, the main components of which are management strategies,

outreach and education; procedure and policy; research and understanding. A widely-publicised and well-supported public seminar to raise awareness of the cultural heritage significance of wetlands was held in 2004. English Heritage has also sponsored the European Archaeological Council network of state heritage agencies and taken the lead role in developing a Europe-wide strategy for the cultural heritage management of wetlands, which was formulated in partnership with the Ramsar Bureau (*The Heritage Management of Wetlands in Europe*, B.Coles and A.Olivier, eds. Europae Archaeologiae and WARP). See also 1.1.2

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

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

I

Choose an answer

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

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

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

1. Compilation(s) and assessment(s) of both material and non-material cultural elements related to wetlands and water have been undertaken

D

Choose an answer for each indicator

A = Not applicable;

B = Yes;

C = No;

D = Partly/in some cases;

E = In progress;

F= Being planned;

G = Being updated;

H = Other status (explain below);

I = No answer

2. Actions have been taken to promote the appreciation and revitalization of cultural values related to wetlands and water

D

3. All relevant aspects of cultural heritage have been incorporated in the design and implementation of wetland management

D

4. Cultural values of wetlands have been used as a tool to strengthen involvement of local stakeholders, particularly in wetland planning and management

D

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

For 1. and 2. - see 1.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.3

For 3. and 4. - this is partly addressed through the planning process and through flood management and coastal defence strategies.

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

1. Wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and food and water security plans have been developed

I

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

See action 20.1.8

1. Research has been promoted on the role of wetlands in any of the following areas: water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, food security, poverty alleviation, and cultural heritage

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Historic Scotland is funding on-going research into various aspects of the conservation and management of the cultural heritage. This includes:

- i) experimentation with remote sensing techniques to identify archaeological remains that lie undisturbed beneath the ground surface in wetland contexts;
- ii) a survey of crannogs on the SW to determine the nature and extent of erosion and;
- iii) the Scottish Coastal Archaeology and Palaeo-environment Trust.

(ii) and (iii) have both involved local community groups extensively in the project work and have given considerable attention to raising local awareness of the results.

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

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

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

I

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

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

1. The Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) have been used/applied	F	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on application of the Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management.]		
The Ribble pilot River Basin Management Plan is testing the Water Framework Directive horizontal guidance on wetlands. This will look at issues such as: identification of water bodies and Protected Areas, historical losses, characterisation of pressures and impacts, and where wetland rehabilitation may be appropriate as primary or secondary measures to deal with these.		
3. The Party has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the participation in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop integrated plans by 2005 within England and/or Wales through the Catchment Flood Management Plan process in 3 pilot catchments containing designated Ramsar sites. [Medium] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency to lead with appropriate input from other relevant stakeholders and especially English Nature and/or Countryside Council for Wales. [Adequate] 	
River Basin Planning is a fundamental tool in delivery of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. The process will be developed and implemented over the next five years when the first River Basin Plans will be published.		

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

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

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

1. Wetland values and functions have been taken into account in decision-making on large dams

A

Choose an answer

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

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

No large dams have been built recently.

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

1. Steps have been taken to ensure that dams are not impeding the migration of indigenous fish and other species

B

Choose an answer

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

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

When capital works are planned, the regulatory authorities take measures to ensure there are no barriers to migratory fish species. For example, work is in progress to improve minor sluice barriers in Water Level Management Plans areas for which the Environment Agency bears responsibility.

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

1. Assessments of environmental flow have been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams

I

Choose an answer

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the assessments of environmental flow undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts of large dams.]

3.- Centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation have been encouraged (if available, please include number of centres)

I

Choose an answer

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

Nº centres
N/A

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [If applicable, please include information on the centres of expertise on environmental flow assessment and implementation that have been encouraged.]

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

1. The Guidelines for integrating wetlands into integrated coastal zone management (Resolution VIII.4) have been used/applied

E

Choose an answer

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

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake national stocktaking of the laws, institutions and stakeholders that influence management of the coastal zone. [Medium] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue stocktaking as part of the process for implementing the EU Recommendation on ICZM. [Adequate] |
|--|---|

Progress has been made since COP 8 with the completion of the ICZM stock take report in March 2004. The report completes the first stage in the UK's implementation of the EU Recommendation.

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

1. Case studies of good practice examples on the integration of wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management have been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

1. The *Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands* (Resolution VIII.1) have been used/applied in decision-making related to freshwater

C

Choose an answer

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

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to complete 50% of 129 Catchment Abstraction Management Plans by 2005. [Medium] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Agency to utilise CAMS as a licensing review tool when wetlands identified as being at risk from insufficient water resources. [Adequate] |
|--|--|

Actions are progressing to plan. Further water resources work is being carried out by the Environment Agency in accordance with its Competent Authority role under the Water Framework Directive.

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

See action 18.1.2

1. Representatives of national water management ministries and/or agencies are included in National Ramsar/Wetland Committee

B

Choose an answer

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

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

Representatives of a variety of stakeholders are members of the UK Ramsar Committee, including from water companies and Government officials concerned with water quality.

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

1. Projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands have been developed

D

Choose an answer

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

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

The Environment Agency's Restoring Sustainable Abstraction programme will reallocate water resources where there are impacts of existing allocations on wetlands

3.- Summary on successes achieved and lessons learned in developing this type of projects [Please provide a summary on the relevant projects, successes achieved, and lessons learned in their development.]

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

1. Mechanisms to better plan and manage the wise use of water in the Andean Region have been developed

A

Choose an answer

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

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

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

1. Efforts have been made to maintain continued allocation of water to Ramsar sites and other wetlands in situations of drought

D

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<i>See action 4.1.4</i>		
1. The implications of implementation of the Kyoto Protocol for wetland conservation have been assessed	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure appropriate consideration of wetlands interests is included in development of the Statement on Sustainable Forestry and include appropriate statement in UK Forests and Water Guidelines. [Medium] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See also 4.1.4. As appropriate, provide policy advice on wetlands interests to the Forestry Commission and Northern Ireland Forestry Service in developing the Statement on Sustainable Forestry and in subsequently considering wetland interests in promoting the Statement on Sustainable Forestry, the UK Forestry Standard and the Forestry Strategies for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. (Defra, Devolved Administrations, statutory conservation bodies). [Adequate] 	
See 4.1.4		

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

1. Efforts have been made to avoid serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands due to the implementation of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

The UK Climate Change programme (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/cm4913/index.htm>) addresses these issues.

Preparing For Climate Change Impacts on Freshwater Ecosystems (PRINCE)

The PRINCE project will involve undertaking a comprehensive review of published scientific work and commissioned research to assess which UK freshwater species and regions are potentially most vulnerable to climate change. This overview will inform the development and testing of process-based models for trial UK freshwater species, habitats or locations to evaluate climate sensitivity. These models will improve understanding of how climate change and its interaction with other drivers (e.g. land-use change, nutrient loading, acid deposition, toxic pollution etc) will change the structure and functioning of selected UK freshwater ecosystems.

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

1. The information provided in COP8 documents related to climate change has been considered and used in national policies pertaining to wetlands	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Much of the current work in the UK is focused on considering how the effects of climate change have an influence on planning considerations. This includes consideration of the effectiveness of different 'hard' and 'soft' sea defence options, how effective they are, what are their costs and benefits, what are the impacts of management retreat and where they provide the best operational and policy considerations.

The Living with the Sea project, (<http://www.english-nature.org.uk/livingwiththesea/>) an EU LIFE Natura funded partnership project aims to promote i). an understanding of long-term coastal change (30-100 years) resulting from sea level rise, ii). establish sustainable integrated coastal management policies and iii). to develop ownership of shared issues and common solutions. The project is addressing the impact of sea-level rise and the flood and coastal defence response on internationally important habitats protected by the Habitats and Birds Directives. One such response is the development of Coastal Habitat Management Plans (CHaMPs). The Environment Agency and local planning authorities are developing strategies to manage and mitigate the effects of sea-level rise by working on coastal defences and through processes such as managed retreat and river defences; for example in the Norfolk Broads.

The Inter-Agency Climate Change Group was established by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to help the UK's statutory nature conservation agencies understand and address the implications of climate change in the UK and Overseas Territories and propose actions to accommodate these, either through existing activities or new approaches. Outputs from the projects listed in Action 1.2.5 are providing the scientific basis for a complementary policy programme. This is raising awareness of climate change, and formulating advice and guidance on adapting nature conservation policies and management practices to its impacts.

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

1. Actions have been taken to minimize degradation, restore and improve management of peatlands and other wetland types that are significant carbon stores, or have the ability to sequester carbon	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
See 3.2.1		

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

1. Management planning measures have been taken to preserve the role of mangrove ecosystems in mitigating climate change and sea-level rise	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The Overseas Territories Environment programme (a fund administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) is providing support for several projects which focus either directly or indirectly on mangrove ecosystems, including one that includes the adaptation to climate change context explicitly. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANG 006 (R) Anguilla - Coastal Resource Assessment, Monitoring and Management Project (£133,000) • BIO 001 British Indian Ocean Territory - Conservation Leaflet (£1,685) • BVI 001 British Virgin Islands - Mangrove Interpretative Centre (£50,000) • CAY 004 Cayman Islands - Development of Coastal Nutrient Monitoring Capacity (£21,045) • TCI 001 Turks & Caicos Islands - Completion of initial implementation stage of Plan for Biodiversity Management and Sustainable Development around the TCI Ramsar Site (£112,557) • XOT 005 (R) Anguilla/British Virgin Islands/Cayman Islands/Montserrat/Turks & Caicos Islands - Preparing for and adapting to climate change in the Caribbean (£53,126) 		

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

1. Studies on the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration and in mitigating the impacts of sea-level rise have been undertaken	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The Inter-Agency Climate Change Group are involved with collaborative work with the Tyndall Centre, including a Ph.D. examining the role of nature conservation in mitigating climate change. This work includes an estuarine case study examining the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration.</p> <p>The Living with the Sea LIFE project is also relevant – see http://www.english-nature.org.uk/livingwiththesea/</p>		

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

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

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

1. Wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects have been developed	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the Review of Consents covering Natura 2000 sites, EA to identify sites affected by consents, plans and project it regulates. Where EA permissions/activities are found to contribute to adverse effects identify and agree responsibilities for delivery of preferred options for restoring sites to favourable condition from April 2004 onwards. This will benefit Ramsar site features coincident with urgent priority Natura 2000 site features. National Ramsar Committee to establish an overview of wetland habitat restoration processes under Biodiversity (Habitat) Action Plan and report on current UK activity to CoP9. (National 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Agency lead in collaboration with English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales and Defra, along with support of other relevant stakeholders and policy instruments. National Ramsar Committee members to positively contribute to the 2005 review of BAP wetland habitat restoration activity and achievement of proposed targets. (National

Ramsar Committee). [High]	Ramsar Committee). [Adequate]
<p>Published targets for Biodiversity Action Plans are currently being reviewed by the Biodiversity Reporting Information Group (BRIG). The aim is to improve the focus, coordination and delivery of targets (e.g. to drive restoration/rehabilitation work) over the next 10 – 25 years. Further information can be found on the UK Biodiversity Website: www.ukbap.org.uk. The Lowland wetland habitat action plan umbrella group is compiling a register of restoration projects for the habitats of grazing marsh, fen, lowland raised bog and reedbed.</p> <p>Within England and Wales a large programme of work is being undertaken by statutory agencies to review, and if necessary amend, the consents for discharges which may impact protected areas. The Review of Consents is progressing well, with appropriate assessments almost complete at high priority sites. The focus for the Environment Agency is now on making decisions over the actions to take where it is not possible to conclude no adverse effect at high priority sites and to progress appropriate assessments for medium priority sites. In Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales are also identifying sites affected by consents given under the Wildlife and Countryside, and Countryside and Rights of Way, Acts. Where consents are found to be affecting sites, plans will be drawn up to tackle them from March 2005 onwards.</p> <p>From 2003 the Government and its advisory body English Nature have been negotiating the CAP reforms to ensure that environmental concerns were clearly flagged up. A key environmental success has been the decoupling of support payments from production. Cross-compliance measures have been developed that aim to secure protection for habitats in return for continued public support to the industry in the form of a decoupled payment.</p> <p>For 2005 a new, two-tiered, agri-environment scheme has been developed in England, called Environmental Stewardship to replace the previous agri-environment schemes. The new scheme has a lower tier - Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) - which secures a good level of environmental land management from farmers in return for a standard payment per hectare; and a higher tier - Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) - of more targeted measures aimed at delivering more challenging environmental objectives. This aims to enable SSSIs that underpin Ramsar sites to be brought into favourable condition. Details can be found via: http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/es/default.htm.</p> <p>As part of Defra's targeting of the HLS agri-environment scheme, the Environment Agency are charged with identifying areas which pose the highest diffuse water pollution risk and where HLS options can offer effective solutions. This work has yet to be completed. In the interim, it has been agreed that HLS should focus on the catchments of a set of 105 designated wildlife sites identified by English Nature and Environment Agency (These are published in <i>English Nature Research Report 551 – prioritising designated wildlife sites at risk from diffuse agriculture pollution</i>).</p> <p>Although Water Level Management Plans have been agreed for wetland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and thus for many Ramsar sites, most have not yet been implemented due to funding constraints. In 2004 Defra undertook, with English Nature, a joint review of SSSIs in England which were not in favourable condition due to inappropriate water level management. This highlighted 87 priority sites, of which 26 are Ramsar Sites, and identified the measures that need to be taken to bring them into favourable condition.</p>	

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

See action 1.1.2			
1.- Actions have been taken to restore / rehabilitate those wetlands defined as priority for restoration (if available, please include number of sites)	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F=</i> <i>Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other</i> <i>status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify the sites to be given priority consideration for restoration and rehabilitation, and seek to focus efforts in that direction. [Medium] Complete investigations into adverse effects arising from EA consents on Ramsar site features coincident with urgent priority Natura 2000 site features by March 2004. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Ramsar Committee to complete work commenced in 1999 to develop a consensus short-list of wetlands in need of restoration preferably catchment-based and including wetlands where such efforts are already underway, with a statement of needs and of the rationale for prioritisation. (National Ramsar Committee). [Adequate] Committee to select new target areas from short-list and identify key elements for plans for restoration programmes. (National Ramsar Committee). [Adequate] Maintain effective collaboration between Environment Agency, English Nature and Countryside Council for Wales.
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Some form of rehabilitation/restoration is now underway or under active consideration at many sites.

Some specific examples from Wales include:

- Llyn Tegid/Bala Lake: A partnership between Snowdonia National Park Authority, Environment Agency Wales, CCW, Gwynedd Council, the Farmers' Unions and the local community relating to Blue-Green Algae problem are exploring funding for a catchment-wide initiative to combat diffuse phosphate enrichment of the lake.
- Burry Inlet: Indirect restoration has occurred as part of ongoing pipeline installation and pylon repairs.
- Fenn's Moss: A major programme is being implemented to remove non-native tree species and restore the site after peat working on Fenn's Moss which is part of Midland Mere's and Mosses.

Two examples from Scotland are the restoration of Scottish Raised Bogs project (www.swt.org.uk/documents/Information/Information_LIFE_Raised_Bog.pdf) and the restoration of wet woodlands project (<http://www.wetwoods.org/>).

In England, a two-year project, "Peatlands for People" has acquired land and managed 281 hectares of lowland raised bog in Cumbria towards favourable condition. Peat extraction has now ceased on England's three largest lowland raised bogs, and they are now under restoration management following Government intervention. The Great Fen Project in Cambridgeshire will recreate thousands of hectares of fen and wet grassland around and between Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen.

However, several issues are making more progress difficult, notably the following:

- Control of diffuse pollution arising from unregulated activities adjacent to or within the catchment of special sites.
- Resources for land purchase and land management agreements with owners/occupiers.
- Staff resources for determining and coordinating management priorities within and around sites.
- Targeting agri-environment schemes around wetland sites on all the necessary small ownership parcels of land to restore the wider hydrology.
- Tools for managing small-medium sized sites abandoned by modern agriculture.

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

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16) have been integrated into the National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument(s)	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>Restoration forms an important part of Wetland Habitat Action Plan under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Since 2002 several opportunities have been taken to integrate the principles of wetland management with other aspects of public policy. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The publication of Planning Policy Wales in 2002. This provides a framework for planning for sustainable development integrating social, economic & environmental objectives. Explicit reference to Ramsar sites is made. TAN 5 'Nature Conservation and Planning' provides detailed technical advice to implement Planning Policy Wales. TAN 5 is currently being reviewed and updated by the Welsh Assembly Government to provide detailed technical guidance on Biodiversity and Planning. • Publication of a draft Wales Spatial Plan. The final version is expected in November 2004. This provides a framework to integrate social, economic and environmental objectives sectorally and spatially, providing a geographic expression of policy in Wales. • The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive comes into effect on 21 July 2004. This will provide a high level of protection for the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation of plans and programmes, thereby promoting sustainable development. • Implementation of the Water Framework Directive will lead to evaluation of water bodies with a view to assessing their restoration needs; Natura 2000 sites are the current priority but the next stage of characterisation will consider further important smaller water bodies. The Ribble Pilot project will identify how HAP gain will be built into the process of River Basin Management Planning. • The EU wetland CIS guidance has been used to interpret the Water Framework Directive in respect of small water bodies and groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTEs). • Existing inventories, notably FenBASE, has been used to identify potential GWDTEs in England and Wales. • A GIS-based inventory of wetlands has been developed from sites listed in FenBASE and BogBASE and other sources in England as part of the south-west National Biodiversity Network pilot. • Defra's flood defence budget has recently provided new money for the implementation of Water Level Management Plans in England • The new agri-environment scheme (Environmental Stewardship) in England, launched in March 2005) has a Higher Level Scheme (HLS) with options specifically targeted at the maintenance, restoration and creation of fen, reedbed, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, and lowland raised bog. • Heritage Lottery Fund money is pledged to assist in several wetland restoration and creation schemes in England and Wales. • The UK is involved in a review of HAP targets. They will take account of past progress and the experience gained to develop a more realistic and carefully focused set of targets for each habitat type. 		

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

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

See 8.1.1

The Ribble River Basin pilot project has been set up to identify how HAP opportunities can be maximised in the preparation of river basin management plans under the Water Framework Directive.

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

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

1. Information and/or case studies on wetland restoration and rehabilitation is available	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. Information on new research and methodologies for wetland restoration/rehabilitation has been compiled and disseminated	E	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information on restoration/rehabilitation of wetlands and its dissemination.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Wetlands International to develop web-searchable database for key literature related to methodologies relevant to wetland restoration and recreation. (National Ramsar Committee/ JNCC). [High/Adequate] 		
<p>Awareness of the database for key literature is being raised within the UK, and UK wetland managers encouraged to populate with literature available from their organisations.</p> <p>Ecological criteria are being used to develop representations of the wetland potential of English regions. They have regard to topography and hydro-geology, and the proximity of existing sites requiring hydrological protection. So far, they are limited to specific regions, but an England 'vision' for wetlands is expected in 2006 as a joint project between English Nature, the Environment Agency, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.</p> <p>Generic hydrological criteria have been produced by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to identify Hydrological Protection Zones around lowland raised bogs.</p> <p>English Nature is feeding its experience into to a LIFE project co-ordinated by the University of Nijmegen to bring together the lowland raised bog restoration experience in Europe.</p> <p>The JNCC is developing remote-sensing methods to identify the extent and condition of lowland raised bogs.</p>		

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

See action 3.4.9

1. The Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration (Resolution VIII.16) have been used in the assessment of the implications of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol for wetland conservation	C	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (See 3.4.9) Disseminate the guidelines to key players involved in UK forestry practice.

Application of guidelines on wetland restoration to national policies

Guidance to ensure that afforestation, reforestation and forest management do not damage the ecological character of wetlands has been included in the 4th edition of the Forests and Water Guidelines published in December 2003. Statements covering wetlands are enclosed in Appendix 2 and those on wet woodlands are enclosed in Appendix 2 of this document. Current guidelines not only prevent ecological damage but also promote improvement of wetlands and the expansion of wet woodlands - a specific target under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The Forests and Water Guidelines were circulated free of charge to key players in the private and public sector in Britain and Northern Ireland in January 2004. Pdf versions are available from the Forestry Commission website.

Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC establishes a framework for protecting and improving inland surface waters, transitional waters, and coastal waters through a requirement to achieve 'good surface water status', a term that refers both to their chemical and ecological quality. The Directive also aims to protect the quality of groundwater (both quantitatively and chemically) and to ensure that the water needs of adjacent wetlands are adequately met. The Directive thus greatly extends the coverage of 'water quality' measurement spatially (to all surface waters) as well as incorporating other standard areas of assessment not previously covered (such as hydrology, habitat structure, fish assemblages, phytoplankton, and other aquatic plants).

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. Water Framework Directive assessments include assessing the impacts of water quality and quantity on waterbodies, against the achievement of Good Ecological Status. Initial assessments were carried out on waterbodies by December 2004. Monitoring programmes will be reviewed as a result of this assessment, and programmes meeting Water Framework Directive requirements will be in place by 2006. The Environment Agency and Scottish Environment Protection Agency routinely monitor river water quality.

Lowland waters tend to be under greater pressure as a result of agricultural, urban and industrial pollution. Forestry is generally a less intensive land-use than agriculture, and the planting of woodlands on arable land in the lowlands is likely to have advantages in terms of water quality. Trees can also play an important role in the rehabilitation of both contaminated and derelict land, including landfill sites, when planted and managed appropriately. However, the water use of some types of woodland, including short rotation coppice, can exceed that of grassland, arable crops or bare soil, and may pose a problem where there is a water shortage. On the other hand, this greater water use and the ability of woodland to delay surface run-off could help to reduce downstream flooding. The full impact of lowland land-use on aquifer recharge patterns, river flows, flooding and wetlands remains unresolved and is the subject of ongoing research.

Fresh waters are probably subject to a wider variety of human uses than any other natural ecosystem. These uses and other human activities exert pressures on fresh waters - some within the water body itself (e.g. organic pollution), some in the nearby surrounding area (e.g. removal of riparian vegetation), some as a result of catchment land-use (e.g. urbanisation and land drainage), and some that may extend well beyond the boundaries of an individual catchment (e.g. acid deposition and inter-basin water transfer). Of course, rivers and lakes fulfil a far broader role as habitats for a large range of plant and animal species. There has been an increasing recognition that the valuable contribution made by fresh waters to the conservation of biodiversity is inextricably linked to the economic, aesthetic, and recreational services that they provide. It is now widely accepted that some form of integrated catchment (or basin) management is essential in order to safeguard the natural functioning of freshwater ecosystems and thereby to enhance their value to society. This means that the uses to which they are put (e.g. water supply, power generation, navigation, fisheries) must be integrated with each other, and in a way that does not jeopardise the natural characteristics of rivers, lakes and wetlands. The implementation of the Water Framework Directive is seen as an important mechanism for securing integrated catchment management.

Wet Woodlands

Strategies for the location and management of forests are changing - changes which the Forests and Water Guidelines attempt to reflect. Until recently the creation of forests has been primarily in the uplands whereas in future more woodlands are likely to be established in the lowlands, including close to towns and cities. The

planting of new native woodlands is being encouraged through initiatives like the native pinewood grant. Many small farm woodlands have been established, in lowland arable landscapes since the 1980s. The multiple benefits of riparian native woodland are increasingly being recognised and the creation of more wet woodlands, including floodplain forests, is a specific target under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The relationship between forest and water differs from the uplands to the lowlands and between forest types; the 4th edition of the Forests and Water Guidelines addresses both traditional and new developments. Finally, restocking after felling presents an important opportunity for diversifying forests in line with current forestry objectives and management practice.

Riparian zones are frequently ecologically rich because of the variety of habitat types present, thus offering areas of refuge and migration corridors for insects, birds and mammals. Some animals require both freshwater and riparian habitats at different stages of their life cycles, so an absence of suitable riparian areas will lead to an absence of such animals in the adjacent water course. The wetness of the soils and the characteristic instability of stream banks mean that the zone is very sensitive to disturbance. In places where natural flooding occurs, large tracts of wet woodland may extend across the floodplain, though this habitat is very scarce and fragmented throughout the UK. Forest management must be directed towards protecting and encouraging the diversity of habitat types in the riparian zone, both for the benefit of the water bodies they surround and of the forests themselves. Extension and restoration of wet woodland is a target of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. See the Wet Woodland Habitat Action Plan <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=4>.

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

1. The *Principles and guidelines on wetland restoration* (Resolution VIII.16) have been applied in relation to the provision of compensation under Article 4.2 of the Convention

A

Choose an answer

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

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

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

See action r3.3.iii

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

The presence of archaeological sites is a material consideration in the UK planning process.

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

See action 20.1.5		
1. Training needs in relation to wetland restoration have been assessed	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Training opportunities and expertise in relation to wetland restoration have been identified	C	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on training needs and opportunities in relation to wetland restoration.]		
Training needs and opportunities are assessed and implemented on an organisation by organisation basis rather than centrally.		

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

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

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

1. The <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> have been disseminated to community stakeholders	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been involved in wetland restoration activities	B	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the dissemination of the <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration and the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in wetland restoration.</i>]		
.Many members of the public are involved in practical conservation work, for example through working parties organised by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, The Wildlife Trusts and British Association for Shooting and Conservation.		

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

1. The Ramsar Web site on wetland restoration has been used and materials have been provided to it	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the use of Ramsar web site on wetland restoration and the materials provided to it, if applicable.]		

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5.1. Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems

[Go to previous Operational Objective](#) [Go to next Operational Objective](#) - [Go to Table of Contents](#)

PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. National policy, strategy and management responses to threats from invasive species have been developed and implemented	E	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;
2. Prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species have been fully incorporated in national legislation and national wetland and biodiversity policies, strategies and action plans	E	D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned;
3. Actions related to invasive species have been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organizations/processes	B	G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on incorporation of invasive species matters in national legislation and policies, actions taken, and cooperation in this field.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate consideration is given to wetland interests in action to address invasive alien species. [Medium] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring the guidelines to the attention of policy contacts engaged in the review of invasive alien species issues and engage in constructive dialogue on way forward. [Adequate] 	
See 5.1.2		

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Site managers will undertake assessments for their own sites and appropriate management action if non-natives are discovered (e.g. North American Signal Crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, or New Zealand Pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii*).

Defra is also funding research to establish a standardised system for assessing the risks posed by non-native species to the environment, which will help inform future policy and operational decisions.

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

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

E

Choose an answer

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

N° wetlands / Ramsar sites 18 (see comment below)

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

As reported in the Ramsar Information Sheets submitted to CoP9, there are a total of 18 Ramsar sites for the UK for which invasion by non-native species has been reported as a problem (adverse factors) operating in Ramsar sites. 'Invasive fauna' is identified as an adverse factor operating at 7 sites and 'invasive flora' at 13 sites (of which 2 of these sites have reported both invasive fauna and flora adverse factors). Of the 7 sites reporting invasive fauna, 6 note that appropriate action is in place, but at present it is unclear if this adverse factor is under control, as there is a lag in showing if the management is successful, and for 1 site action is required as invasive fauna are not yet being managed or being managed effectively. Of the 13 sites reporting invasive flora, 9 note that appropriate action is in place, but at present it is unclear if this adverse factor is under control, as there is a lag in showing if the management is successful, and for 4 sites action is required as invasive flora are not yet being managed or being managed effectively.

Some examples of work to tackle non-native invasive species include:

- A contract to map the current extent and predict potential spread of *Spartina* is being planned, and there is an ongoing trial of alternatives to spraying as means of control. See <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/PDF/527.pdf>.
- A revised information leaflet about zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha* for water users is being produced and a control policy document is being drafted.
- The Uist Wader Project in the Western Isles is removing the introduced hedgehog population which will improve conditions at North and South Uist Machair sites. Although hedgehogs are native to the UK, Uist is beyond their natural range. See <http://www.snh.org.uk/scottish/wisles/uist.asp>.
- Extensive work to establish the feasibility of controlling the ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* has

continued: the ruddy duck poses a threat to the Spanish population of globally threatened White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* and eradication of the Ruddy Duck in Western Europe is the desired outcome.

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Issues between the UK and the Republic of Ireland are addressed through the International Designations Group and 'north-south' bilaterals. Invasive non natives are currently not a significant issue.

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

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

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

E

Choose an answer

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

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

The UK has completed a review of non-native species in all of the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, available via www.jncc.gov.uk. The review, commissioned by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee has identified that a minimum of 2,900 non-native species occur in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. The study highlighted Bermuda as having the highest number of non-native species (1,139) whereas, by contrast, the South Sandwich Islands currently have none. The audit will contribute to measures aimed at eradicating, controlling and, more importantly, preventing the future establishment of, non-native species.

A spreadsheet of all non-native species identified in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies has been created. Species can be sorted using a broad habitat classification, and hence it is possible to extract wetland occurring non-native species. This could be linked to occurrence in Ramsar sites. The audit attempts to look at the scale of the problem of non-native species and could be used to contribute to setting priorities (e.g. for funding eradication programmes). Information is provided, where available, on the date of introduction, ecological impacts (known, suspected or potential), the routes of entry into territory, modes of transmission within territory, distribution (current and potential), actions relating to control, education, research and other categories.

For Great Britain, Defra have published a Review of Non-native Species Policy (www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/non-native/index.htm) that includes recommendations by a Working Group for improving the ways in which problems arising from non-native species can be better prevented and managed in future. A similar review has been conducted for Northern Ireland in conjunction with the Republic of Ireland, which will be published in the near future. These reviews will enable the coordination and

delivery of work on non-natives to species to be improved by the Government Departments and Agencies responsible for these functions.

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

See 5.1.2.

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

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

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PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

I

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

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

1.- Public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands has been promoted	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the promotion of public participation in decision-making with respect to wetlands.]		
3.- Local stakeholders have been involved in the selection of new Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites)	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the participation of local stakeholders in Ramsar site selection, the sites involved (if applicable), and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]		

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

1. Local stakeholders have been involved in wider issues related to water resources management at basin level	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

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

1. Resource information on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management has been compiled	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the resources compiled about local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management.]		

3. The Party has contributed with case studies and other materials to the elaboration of further guidance on the participation of local communities and indigenous people in wetland management	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contribution to the elaboration of the guidance indicated above.]		

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

1. Participatory Environmental Management strategies have been applied	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Summary on progress and successes in relation to Participatory Environmental Management strategies [Please provide here a summary on progress and successes and other additional comments you consider relevant.]		

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

See action r3.3.iii

1. The guiding principles on cultural values (Resolution VIII.19) have been used or applied	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guiding Principles on cultural values.]		
3. Resource information and case studies on cultural aspects of wetlands have been compiled	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the resource information compiled.]		

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

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

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

1. Cultural values of wetlands are being used to improve local stakeholders' involvement in wetland planning and management	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

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

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RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. The private sector has been encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the degree of success of private sector involvement in the biodiversity process and make recommendations to increase involvement. (Defra/National Ramsar Committee). [Medium] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider how to increase business sector understanding and involvement in conserving biodiversity via country Biodiversity Strategies or groups. Ensure business sector partners engaged in conservation projects involving wetlands are aware of the Ramsar Handbooks. [Adequate] 	
<p>Involvement of the private sector is integral to the achievement of targets under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). See www.ukbap.org.uk for examples of implementation of local and national action to conserve, restore and enhance the biodiversity of the UK.</p>		

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

1. The private sector, academia and specialized institutions have been brought into decision-making related to wetlands	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the effectiveness and composition of the UK Ramsar Committee before COP9. (National Ramsar Committee). [High] Seek to expand UK expertise available as a resource to the Ramsar mission. [Medium] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UKRC to consider its role and to develop proposals for involving other parties that can contribute to effective delivery of its work. [Adequate] Work with Ecological Affairs Committee of British Ecological Society, Royal Geographical Society and other similar bodies to explore possibilities for their contribution to work of STRP and other Ramsar organs (e.g. Wetland 	

	Expert Database — see 14.1.5). (JNCC). [Adequate]
<p>The UK Ramsar committee has been reviewed and membership expanded. Progress has been made to integrate work on UK international protected areas by development of a Natura 2000 and Ramsar Forum and a Natura 2000 and Ramsar Steering Committee. Information about the Forum is available at http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/natura-ramsar-forum/index.htm.</p> <p>The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum has continued to bring together conservation and scientific bodies in UK and its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.</p>	

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

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

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

1. A review of domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products has been carried out	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Legal, institutional and administrative measures are being implemented to ensure sustainable harvesting of wetland products	B	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the measures taken to ensure sustainable harvesting and trade of wetland products.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Review extent of wild living resources in the UK e.g. reedbeds, sea lavender and consider the need to set targets for the potential future use of these.] [Low] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN commissioned review (JNCC). Links to AEWA hunting bag targets. Maintain appropriate liaison with policy divisions responsible for the legal and procedural instruments already in place to ensure any harvesting of native flora and fauna is sustainable and meets the relevant CITES criteria. 	[Adequate]

On behalf of Defra, Central Science Laboratory and the Game Conservancy Trust (GCT) reviewed existing UK and overseas schemes for the collection of hunting bags, and offered recommendations for monitoring UK bags in the future. Following recent discussions with Defra, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation and GCT are jointly preparing a proposal for Defra's consideration, which seeks to provide reliable estimates of the hunting kill of each of the huntable bird species in the UK on a regular basis. The aim is to provide a simple, conservation-focused, cost-effective and user-friendly prescription for the provision of bag statistics in a way that respects cultural, economic and recreational needs and ensures that such shooting is consistent with the sustainable and wise use of huntable bird populations.

The UK Committee of IUCN <http://www.iucn-uk.org/> has published a study reviewing of the use of wild

living resources in the metropolitan UK and the contribution that such uses are making to the economy, health, nutrition and enjoyment of the UK. This paper was initially prepared as an information resource and taken to the CBD's 9th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Montreal, Canada in November 2003. The summary document can be found at http://www.iucn-uk.org/PDF/wild_living.pdf and the full Wild Living Resources Review is available at: <http://www.iucn-uk.org/PDF/livingresources.pdf>.

The review has not considered who should set targets and who is responsible to carry out any appropriate legal, institutional and administrative measures (such as in accordance with CITES) related to use. For example, at present there is no specific legislation controlling the exploitation of reedbeds, but their use may be limited by land tenure or by legislation protecting sites for their nature conservation interest such as in Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The review focused on all species and did not specifically attempt to concentrate on species linked to CITES; relatively few CITES-listed species are exploited in the UK. Information is given in the Review on the export of Appendix III waterfowl species including *Anas acuta*, *A. crecca* and *A. penelope*. Information on CITES listed species suggests that trade in these species is consistent with the levels of acceptable exploitation set by CITES.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8. INCENTIVES

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

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RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

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

- Ensure appropriate consideration of wetland interests in relevant policy areas with potentially positive or negative effects on wise use and conservation. Summarise progress in National Report to COP9. (Defra and devolved administrations).

[Medium/Adequate]

- Engage policy colleagues in respect of the mid-term review of the European Common Agricultural Policy and agri-environment schemes; implementation of the Water Framework Directive; and, where appropriate, development of country Biodiversity Strategies

The UK is working within the European Community to modify agricultural regimes under the Common Agricultural Policy to become more environmentally friendly. Government regards decoupling of support payments from production as a key success with environmental benefits. Subsequently, cross-compliance measures have been developed that aim to secure protection for habitats in return for continued public support to the industry in the form of a decoupled payment. Building on that base, a new, voluntary two-tiered, agri-environment scheme has been developed for farmers who want to make a greater commitment to environmental management. Called 'Environmental Stewardship', it replaces the previous agri-environment schemes as of 2005. This scheme includes prescriptions for the management, restoration/enhancement and creation of wetlands. It has a lower tier (Entry Level Stewardship) which secures a good level of environmental land management from farmers in return for a standard payment per hectare; and a higher tier (Higher Level Stewardship) of more targeted measures aimed at delivering more challenging environmental objectives, e.g. bringing a Site of Special Scientific Interest which might be underpinning a Ramsar site into favourable condition. Details can be found via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/es/default.htm>.

Within Wales, the existing Tir Gofal agri environment scheme will be supplemented from Spring 2005 onwards by an additional entry level agri environment scheme (Tir Cynnal). The scheme will be open to all farmers and requires a basic level of environmental management work across the whole farm together with the preparation of a Farm Resource Plan (FRP) designed to deliver a greater level of protection for soil, air, water and environmental features.

The potential for the integration of agricultural, forestry and biodiversity conservation policies with flood management in England and Wales and overlaps with the Scottish frameworks have been documented in a recent report entitled '*The Integration of Agricultural, Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation Policies with Flood Management in England and Wales*'. The opportunities for integration of rural development in the UK were documented in *Europe's Rural Futures - The Nature of Rural Development II. Rural Development in an Enlarging European Union. The UK National Report*, published in 2002. Both reports are available at www.lupg.org.uk.

A paper was published in November 2003 put together by a working group with members from the Environment Agency, English Nature, Defra, the Forestry Commission with contributions from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on the links between wetlands, land use and flood management, for example through diffuse pollution in surface waters. The purpose of the paper is to explore the level of agreement and understanding of how these issues relate to each other and identify the opportunities that exist to work together on them. This is available on the Defra website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/quality/diffuse/agri/>.

A project based on the Ribble is investigating how best to integrate wetland and other water related biodiversity interests into implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The UK has also agreed to test the CIS (Common Implementation Strategy) Guidance on Wetlands in the Ribble Pilot later this year and share the results with our European colleagues in order to learn from and disseminate best practice. River Basin Characterisation (RBC) is near to completion. RBC includes an assessment of the risk of a water body failing to meet its Water Framework Directive or conservation objectives by 2009. Those water bodies at greatest risk of failing to meet their objectives will have targeted monitoring efforts and a programme of measures. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency RBC consultation report is available on the website: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/wfd-characterisation/index.htm>. The Environment Agency will be publishing the report for England and Wales on the web shortly at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/444217/444663/517208/517212/?version=1&lang=e>. The process for producing River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) is underway. These must be produced for each River Basin District by 2009. These strategic plans will be the way to implement the integrated management of water. River Basin Management Plans will have a number of functions, but are primarily intended to:

- Record the current status of water bodies within River Basin Districts

- Set out in broad terms what measures are planned to meet the objectives
- Act as the main reporting mechanism to the European Commission

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

1. Agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular have been identified	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. Actions have been taken to remove or replace agriculture subsidies or incentives having negative impacts on water resources and in wetlands in particular	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on agriculture subsidies and incentives and their impacts on water resources and wetlands.]		

See 8.1.1.

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

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

The coverage of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) under the Nitrates Directive was increased in 2002 to 55% of England and 3% of Wales. All farmers of agricultural land subsumed within these designations are required to abide by a Code of Good Agricultural Practice and implement Action Programmes in order to ensure that nitrate pollution is steadily reduced. Compliance with these farming restrictions, which include limits on the application of Nitrogen to land and increased storage facilities for slurry and manure, is regulated by Environment Agency officers. This work will in turn help protect and enhance groundwater-dependant Ramsar sites. A public consultation exercise has just been completed in Northern Ireland on a proposal to declare the whole of Northern Ireland under the Nitrates Directive. See DOE & DARD Environmental Policy Division "Nitrates Directive Second Consultation Paper – Proposal for the protection of Northern Ireland's Surface Waters and Groundwaters" from April 2004 for details <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/file/con0412.pdf>. More information about the Nitrates Directive in general can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consult/nitrate1201/index.htm>.

At an individual farm level, grants of up to 40% of costs were available from Government under the Farm Waste Grant Scheme programme to assist farmers in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones who needed to construct and upgrade manure handling and storage facilities in order to comply with the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Action Programme measures (i.e. closed periods when manures may not be spread to land). The scheme closed to new applicants on 31 August 2004. More information can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/quality/nitrate/help.htm>.

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into sectoral policies, strategies, plans and programmes

D

Choose an answer

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

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

CEPA for water and wetlands issues is now embedded in the strategy and action plan of the Education & Public Awareness cross-cutting implementation group of the England Biodiversity Strategy; this process is being encouraged within the biodiversity strategies for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Discussions are underway on how to integrate CEPA processes into Water Framework Directive implementation. Stakeholder processes are now common in the implementation of catchment and coastal zone planning; examples include the recent designation of the whole Humber Estuary as a site of special scientific interest and the coastal realignment projects in Essex (e.g. Abbots Hall Farm). In the UK Overseas Territories strategies for action are being developed under the Environment Charters agreed with UK.

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	

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

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

PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Pilot projects have been developed to evaluate different approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands

D

Choose an answer

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

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

A wide range of pilot and ongoing studies are in train at local level (primarily biodiversity related) through schemes such as English Nature's *Wildspace* (<http://www.english-nature.org.uk/about/grant5.htm>) and landscape-scale delivery projects. Ongoing visitor research is being carried out at wetland centres operated by Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) and through outreach activities. Many stakeholder projects which highlight good practice have been carried out e.g. at the Cotswold Water Park, and at the Gwent Levels.

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

1. A review of existing CEPA programmes has been completed

E/F

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

2. Lessons learnt in implementing CEPA programmes have been documented

E/F

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

Guidance on including CEPA approaches is being written by the education and public understanding group of the England Biodiversity Strategy.

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

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

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PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

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

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

1. A National Government Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. A National NGO Focal Point for wetland CEPA has been appointed	B	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information about Government CEPA and NGO CEPA Focal Points].		
<p>From: [9.1.1 Ensure that a suitable national government and non-government focal point for wetland communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) is in place and, as much as possible, with the required resources for action (Resolution VII.9). GO1 {CPs}]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify/confirm CEPA focal points [High] <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Committee to (i) identify appropriate Government focal point and (ii) provide support for CEPA sub-group. (National Ramsar Committee). [(i)Adequate/(ii) Limiting] 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NGO Focal point in place (Doug Hulyer, Director of Conservation Programmes for Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust) ● The Government Focal point is the Administrative Authority; discussions are taking place over whether country agency focal points should be appointed (thereby forming a National CEPA group). 		

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

1. A National wetland CEPA Task Force has been established	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The CEPA work of Ramsar fits within a number of existing frameworks such as national biodiversity plans and education for sustainable development. The issues of Ramsar and the Convention on Biological Diversity are similar, and are, where possible, integrated The National Ramsar Committee (Ramsar/Natura 2000 Forum) oversees the work programme; suggestions for a CEPA national team are being examined (see 9.iii.i)</p>		

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

1. A National Action Plan for wetland CEPA has been developed	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>From: [9.1.2 Ensure that, based on a review of relevant activities, target groups, and threats, a national action plan for wetlands CEPA has been formulated, has been made widely available, and is being implemented (Resolution VII.9). GO1 {CPs, CEPA}]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEPA sub-group to produce a national action plan by end 2003 to review the implementation of 9.1.3 – 9.1.13. (National Ramsar Committee CEPA sub-group). [Medium] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a forward work-plan for the CEPA sub-group. (National Ramsar Committee). [Limiting] 	
<p>A draft action plan for wetland CEPA, linking with those for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development is being discussed at National Forum level; implementation already underway through organisations such as WWT, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, and other NGOs.</p>		

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

1. Wetland CEPA has been incorporated into the business of sectoral policy and planning committees	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>Integration is taking place within biodiversity plans in England and Scotland and through the Freshwater Forum in Northern Ireland. Wetland CEPA activities underway have been targetted at forestry, fisheries and agriculture policy (through governing departments such as Defra and through NGOs).</p>		

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

1. Actions have been taken in relation to communication and information-sharing on wetland issues between relevant ministries, departments and agencies	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>From: [Action 9.1.5 Develop at the national level appropriate mechanisms for ongoing communication, exchange of ideas, and the sharing of knowledge among the actors in wetland management, in particular of Ramsar sites, and [between these actors and communication and education professionals, and] endeavour to link this national network with similar networks in other countries and globally through electronic means. GO1,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support, where appropriate, the development of wetland CEPA materials through the UK government funding sources such as funding and Defra's Darwin Initiative. (Defra, FCO). [Medium/Adequate] Assess mechanisms by which links can be made with site managers as a key group for the 	

<p>3 {CPs, CEPA, MedWet, Bureau, Ocs}</p>	<p>implementation of the Ramsar Convention within the UK. (Defra/country agencies). [Medium/Adequate]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop access to wetland information through the National Biodiversity Network. (NBN). [High/Limiting] • JNCC to develop Ramsar node within website and to make the UK International Designations Database available on the Internet. (JNCC). [High/Limiting] • Continue to develop the UK Clearing House Mechanism website as a means of exchanging experience on sustainable use of natural resources. (Defra, JNCC). [High/Adequate]
<p>There are good links between statutory agencies and non-governmental organisations. A 'Green Ministers' group has been set up by Government to facilitate sharing of issues across ministries and departments.</p>	

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

<p>1. Actions have been taken to encourage synergies on CEPA activities among international conventions and programmes</p>	<p>B <i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity has mainly been by key individuals within UK NGOs. Support has been provided by the Council for Environmental Education, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Field Studies Council and others to the Commission on Education & Communications of IUCN to seek synergies with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). • The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust has provided support to the Ramsar Bureau and Wetlands International in seeking to develop synergies with CBD and support the whole Ramsar CEPA Action Plan. 	

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

<p>1. A roster (or equivalent tool) on wetland CEPA expertise in the country is available</p>	<p>F <i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>	
<p>To be developed in 2005/6 as part of Wetland Link International UK (WLI-UK).</p>	

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

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

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PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Materials to support wetland CEPA have been produced and distributed	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The first wetland specific resource for children, students, teachers and lecturers was created and launched in 2003. WWT Learn is a free on-line resource created by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) supported by HSBC Bank plc. Visit www.wwtlearn.org.uk to view the world's largest free wetland education resource. There are plans to expand this site to supply more student level resources during 2005.</p> <p>Wetland Link International (WLI), also run by WWT, operates www.wli.org.uk; this site is in construction (again following initial support by HSBC) and will include a range of on-line training and support materials for wetlands CEPA professionals.</p>		

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

1. A national email network on wetland CEPA has been established	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The Wetland Link International programme of WWT has set up the WLI-UK network. A first meeting is scheduled for December 2004; an-elist is already set up and operating.</p>		

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

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

1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are part of the Wetland Link International Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)	B <i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H =</i> <i>Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° centres 60
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are part of the Wetland Link International Programme, and any other comments you consider relevant.]		
<p>Wetlands Link International UK was set-up in autumn 2004. 90 wetland centres were initially identified for the WLI-UK mailing list and there are many more to be included. As of February 2005, approximately 60 of these centres are now active as part of the list (of which 30 (approx.) are fully represented in the network and a further 30 (approx.) being interested in becoming part of the network). The status of other centres is under review, but the total is likely to increase. It is planned to have a comprehensive list of 'wetland CEPA centres' by time of COP 9. The National Wetland Centre for Wales is firmly established at Llanelli. Others are expected to follow.</p> <p>Sponsorship for initial work on WLI has been obtained from HSBC plc, covering the period 2004-5. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (a UK charity NGO) are covering most costs directly.</p> <p>At an international scale, a range of projects have been got underway during period of this report as part of WLI/WWT wetland centre support including projects in Hong Kong, South Korea, Italy/Slovenia, Chile, Brazil, Ukraine, Iran, Cameroon, Ghana, USA, Portugal and Belgium.</p>		

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

1.- National wetland centres (or equivalent facilities) are twinned with similar facilities in other countries (if available, please include number of centres or facilities)	B <i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° centres (see comment below)
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional information on the centres or facilities that are twinned with similar ones in other countries, and further comments you consider relevant.]		
<p>Twinning occurs as part of projects within Wetlands Link International, for example the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust centres are linked to other wetland centres, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds sites are linked through BirdLife International. Formal twinning processes will be re-examined in 2005/6 (e.g. La Brenne and London Wetland Centre).</p>		

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

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

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

PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

E

Choose an answer

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

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

A needs analysis is in progress as part of the planning stage of Wetlands Link International UK and through conservation strategy development of organisations such as the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. An ongoing project is the establishment of a network of wetland centres in the UK.

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

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

E

Choose an answer

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

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

In progress as part of the establishment of Wetlands Link International UK (WLI-UK). A core of expertise has already been identified, including key individuals from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Field Studies Council, Council for Environmental Education, Environment Agency, English Nature and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. A few individuals are used as experts by international organisation partners (IUCN and Wetlands International).

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

1. Resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA have been sought

B

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

2. Progress in obtaining resources for capacity building in wetland CEPA has been made

D

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

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the activities for resourcing capacity building in wetland CEPA.]

Examples of resource provision for the development of wetland centres includes

- a range of projects dealing with the creation and upgrade activities and facilities at existing, major wetland centres such as extension to Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Centres at Martin Mere, Welney,

Arundel, London and Castle Espie;

- creation of a major new centre at Rainham Marshes by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds;
- stakeholder processes through on local nature reserves through the English Nature *Wildspace!* Grant programme;
- Abbots Hall Farm coastal realignment (Environment Agency, Wildlife Trusts, WWF).
- Funding for social inclusion projects has also been sought to engage non-traditional audiences (e.g. those from disadvantaged and ethnic minority groups). For example, the London Wetland Centre plans to run projects in partnership with the Black Environment Network from 2005 onwards.

However, more funding is always needed for infrastructural initiatives e.g. World Wetland Day coordination, WLI-UK network, further development of on-line resources and training/capacity building.

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

1. A review of formal educational curricula in relation to wetland services and wise use has been carried out	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i>
2. Changes in the formal educational curricula to incorporate wetland-related issues have been effected	C	<i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the consideration of wetland services and wise use in the formal educational curricula.]		
<p>From: [Action 9.1.9 Review the extent to which formal education curricula include the Ramsar principles of wetland conservation and wise use and, where necessary, seek to have such information added. GO1 {CPs, CEPA, IOPs, Ocs}]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with relevant partners to promote consideration of inclusion of biodiversity concerns (including wetland issues) across the range of educational programmes, encompassing relevant curricula. (Defra, Devolved Administrations and NGOs). [Medium/Adequate] • Overseas Territories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where relevant, encourage Overseas Territories governments to include conservation and wise use of wetlands in education curricula. (FCO) [Adequate] 	
<p>A review of the National Curriculum of England and Wales carried out by Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) in 2002 (in relation to the development of its own curriculum and as part of development of www.wwtlearn.org.uk) concluded that changes to the National Curriculum to encompass the needs of all 'pressure groups' leads to curriculum overload and is self-defeating.</p> <p>The key to success lies in making wetland concerns and issues relevant to the broad curriculum. Focussed research commissioned by the WWT from the Council for Environmental Education came to the conclusion that 'wetland issues, including wise use, are a superb gateway to education for sustainable development and citizenship'.</p> <p>In the Cayman Islands, a teachers resource book <i>Wondrous West Indian Wetlands</i> (Bradley, P. et al. (2001) 276pp), compiled by the West Indian Whistling Duck Working Group of the Society for the Study and Conservation of Caribbean Birds has been produced. See http://whistlingduck.org/Workshop.Info.html</p>		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

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

1. National campaigns, programmes or projects to increase awareness on wetland issues have been launched

D

Choose an answer

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

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

- A wide variety of campaigns, programmes and projects have been organised, including *Living waters* (World Wide Fund for Nature), *World Water Year*, *Pondwatch II* (WWT) and *Green Living* in Northern Ireland.
- Partnerships have been established between NGOs and key broadcast media to develop better responses to disasters e.g. flood, drought
- The value of wetlands has been highlighted through a number of 'hot issues' including plans for airport expansion, wind farm and ports development on key wetland protected areas e.g. Cliffe Marshes, Liverpool Bay, Dibden Bay.

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

1. World Wetlands Day activities have been carried out

B

Choose an answer

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

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

From:

[9.1.6 Undertake campaigns, ideally linked to World Wetlands Day (2 February), to raise awareness of wetlands conservation and wise use issues, and seek further national and international recognition of World Wetlands Day, e.g. through the UN General

⁷ The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

<p>Assembly. GO1 {CPs, CEPA, Bureau, MedWet, IOPs}]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark WWD with specific UK activities. [Medium] Consider scope for publicising UK Ramsar site series. [High] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Ramsar Committee to co-ordinate WWD activities at annual autumn meeting. (National Ramsar Committee). [Adequate] National Ramsar Committee to consider in 2003 the opportunity for a popular publication(s) on the UK Ramsar site series, to be published in 2005, and drawing on the results of the update Ramsar Information Sheets (see 10.2.4) and the review of the Ramsar sites series (see 10.1.1.). JNCC to explore publication possibilities perhaps using various media (book + booklet + leaflets + web-products). (National Ramsar Committee/JNCC). [Good]
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The National World Wetlands Day (WWD)conference organised by Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) has been established as an annual event – London Wetland Centre (2003), School of African and Oriental Studies (2004 and 2005). WWD local events have also been organised through development of Wetland Links International-UK; for example, all Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Centres offer free admission over WWD weekend and offer range of imaginative activities and other NGOs have been showing growing interest. Major media coverage on national TV and radio was arranged for the first time in 2004. Government, industry and NGOs sponsor the WWD conference.

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

<p>1. Collaboration with the media has been systematically used to convey the wetland message</p>	<p>D</p> <p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives to increase partnership with media and conservation movement are underway under biodiversity and other strategies. Generally media representation is getting better, particularly in terms of making links between habitat degradation/ecosystem functioning and flooding, coastal and drought issues. Increasing use being made of key wetland sites by the media in the coverage of environmental stories, for example the London Wetland Centre, Somerset Levels and other well known reserves. Work has commenced in 2004 for a major collaboration with the BBC in 2007. 	

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

<p>1.- Actions have been taken to promote and equip Ramsar site(s) as demonstration sites for the wise use principle (if available, please include number of sites)</p>	<p>B</p> <p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p>N° Ramsar sites 5</p>
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the actions taken, the Ramsar site(s) equipped, and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]

The five Wildfowl and Wetland Trust centres which are also designated Ramsar sites certainly act as demonstration sites for the wise use principle.

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. CEPA expertise has been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management tools

E

Choose an answer

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

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

See 3.4.2 and 8.1.1 on catchment management plans and river basin management plans work under the Water Framework Directive.

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

1.- CEPA strategies and actions have been incorporated into the management plans of Ramsar sites (if available, please include number of sites)

D

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites
5**

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

CEPA plans are in place for some sites, for example the five Ramsar sites operated by Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

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

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1.- Education centres have been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of centres and sites)	E	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° centres 9 N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites 49
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the centres established and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<p>The nine Wildfowl and Wetland Trust centres (five of which are also designated Ramsar sites) all have established education centres. A CEPA Sites register is being developed for the Wetlands Link International-UK network (see r9.iv.v. above). It is hoped to have a list of sites, plus a number of full profiles, available on www.wli.org.uk by CoP9.</p> <p>As reported in the Ramsar Information Sheets, there are currently 49 Ramsar sites with education centres at the site. This includes facilities reported as visitor centres, education centres, interpretation centres, study and field centres. Many other sites also note the presence of other facilities such as bird hides and interpretive information boards. Permanent or seasonal site wardens are located at some sites to provide information and advice to visitors, and some sites note the provision of other forms of education activity such as guided walks.</p>			
3.- Additional education centres are planned for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (if available, please include number of centres and sites)	B	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° centres None N° wetlands/ Ramsar sites None
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the centres planned and the Ramsar site(s) involved, and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See answer above 			

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

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

1. The information provided at wetland education centres has been reviewed to ensure that it is in line with the Convention's principles and goals

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Provision of new interpretation is in progress at all Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust sites in the UK.

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

1. Places of learning, education and training (museums, zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens, etc.) are involved in national CEPA efforts and activities (if available, please include number of facilities)

D

Choose an answer

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

Nº facilities

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the facilities involved in national CEPA efforts and activities, and any other additional comments you consider relevant.]

From:

[9.1.11 Enlist a range of centres of learning (universities, museums, aquaria, botanic gardens, etc.) in promoting enhanced awareness and understanding of the importance of wetlands. **GO1** {CPs, CEPA}]

- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust to review provision of non-formal education and public awareness in zoos, museums *etc.* within the UK from 2002 onwards, reporting back to National Ramsar Committee. (WWT). **[Medium/Adequate]**

An initial review of key facilities has been undertaken, for example national centres such as Natural History Museum, Kew Gardens, London Zoo, Chester Zoo, Eden project, National Botanic Garden of Wales, SeaLife aquaria). Selected sites were invited to an inaugural WLI-UK network meeting in 2004. In due course, it is planned that the Wetlands Link International database will include all sites where wetland CEPA occurs.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. A strategy and priorities have been established for further designation of Ramsar sites, in application of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete review of UK Ramsar site series in time for submission of results to CoP9. [High/Adequate] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a mandated Steering Committee for Ramsar site series review, with agreed Terms of Reference and workplan by end of 2002. [High/Adequate]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake national strategic review of UK (including OTs) Ramsar site series, overseen by Steering Committee and submit results to COP9 as an Annex to the National report. (Ramsar Review Steering Committee). [High/Adequate] • See 9.1.6. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See 1.1.2.

In the context of the Strategic Framework and Guidelines for the Future Development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance the UK is carrying out a review of the coverage of wetland habitats and species across the existing and candidate site series to make recommendations to address any shortfall. The aim of the Review is to develop and maintain a national network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the ecological and hydrological functions they perform. In order to achieve this aim, the UK will give priority attention to the listing of wetland habitat types recognised as under-represented in the List (specifically coral reefs, mangroves, sea-grass beds, peatlands and wet grasslands) and globally threatened wetland species.

The Ramsar Review is being progressed by the Ramsar Review Steering Group (RRSG), made up of representatives from the government, devolved administrations, statutory agencies and NGOs. Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies interests are covered by membership of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF). A contract was let to the UKOTCF to undertake a review of Ramsar sites in the overseas territories and crown dependencies. The results of this project are being submitted to the Secretariat for information.

Phase 1 of the Review in the UK is being progressed. This entailed the identification of new Ramsar interest features within existing sites and also the assessment of Ramsar interests present within the Natura 2000 series which are therefore the subject of the protective and management measures contained in the EC Habitats Directive. Once completed the results of this will be submitted to the Secretariat. Avian aspects of the Review have been considered by the SPA and Ramsar Scientific Working Group. Advice has been provided to the Natura 2000/Ramsar Steering Group. Work is being undertaken to consider and make recommendations on the scope for possible revisions to the Ramsar network as a result of the 2001 SPA

Review, taking into account issues that are under review in developing the SPA network.

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

See action 1.1.2

1. All potential Ramsar sites have been identified and targets for future designations have been defined.

E

Choose an answer

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

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

See 10.1.1

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

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

E

Choose an answer

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

N° Ramsar sites 103 (see comment below)

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

The revised thresholds were implemented in the UK immediately following CoP8, and are being taken account of in revision of the UK Ramsar Information Sheets. There are two populations (Eider *Somateria mollissima* and Goosander *Mergus merganser*) which the UK is discussing in further detail with the Scientific Working Group of the ORNIS Committee to decide if separate North-West European populations exist.

103 Ramsar sites are currently designated under Criterion 6 (1% threshold).

Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under Criterion 6 are shown on the Ramsar Information Sheets.

More contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at individual sites and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Alerts report, which is updated annually. See <http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm>.

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

See action 1.1.2

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

H

Choose an answer

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

N° Ramsar sites

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

At CoP7, the UK announced its intention to designate nearly all of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), including the Great Chagos Bank, as a Ramsar site in light of its global significance as an outstanding example of an oceanic coral reef system. An initial designation of part of the Diego Garcia atoll was made in July 2001 but unfortunately, due to geographical and legal reasons the Ramsar designation of the Great Chagos Bank would not be compatible with Article 2 of the Convention. The wholly-submerged area of the Great Chagos Bank beyond the UK's territorial area is not in the UK's jurisdiction to designate as a Ramsar site.

The UK decided to establish an Environmental (Protection and Preservation) Zone under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which allows the UK to regulate activities within the area specified so as to achieve the sustainable use of living and other resources. In this way, it is aimed to promote the wise-use that would also have been the objective of a Ramsar designation, albeit through a different legal means. The precise boundaries are set out in the formal Proclamation which was deposited with the UN on 12 March 2004.

We will continue with designation of further BIOT Ramsar sites as and when circumstances permit

See also 10.1.1

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

H

Choose an answer

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

N° Ramsar sites

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

See 10.1.1

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

See action 1.1.2

1.- Designation of coastal and marine Ramsar sites has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).

H

Choose an answer

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

**N° Ramsar sites
84 (see comment below)**

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

Of the 84 Ramsar sites designated with a coastal and/or marine component, 1 site has been designated since CoP8.

See 10.1.1

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

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

See action 1.1.2			
1.- Designation of Ramsar sites supporting globally threatened species and species that are unique or endemic, or for which the territory supports a significant proportion of the global extent of the species, has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
See 10.1.1			

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

See action 12.2.2			
1.- Designation of Ramsar sites that form part of networks for migratory species has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<p>The main UK approach to site protection for the purposes of migratory birds is carried out via the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EC Birds Directive. These sites form part of the Natura 2000 network. Many of these sites (SPAs) overlap with Ramsar sites. As of 28th February 2005, the area of SPAs is 1,470,672 hectares, and of Ramsar sites 758,393 hectares (metropolitan UK only). The overlap of SPAs and Ramsar sites is 719,448 hectares.</p> <p>The culmination of a review of the UK SPA network was published in 2001. This report, undertaken by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee together with the Environment and Heritage Service of Northern Ireland, the Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage and English Nature presents the UK network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) identified to meet UK obligations under Article 4 of the Birds Directive. <i>UK SPA network: its scope and content</i> can be viewed at: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1412. The review has revised our understanding of the UK SPA network both in terms of the number of sites selected and the species that qualify within these sites. Work currently being undertaken by JNCC includes collecting and managing data and producing guidance for selection of marine SPAs.</p>			

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

1.- Designation of Ramsar sites that are not under any form of protective or sustainable use management regime, including those utilised for agriculture, has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites None
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
See 10.1.1			

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

<p>1.- Designation as Ramsar sites of the national area of transboundary wetlands has been done (if applicable, please include number of sites designated).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>	<p>N° Ramsar sites 6</p>
<p>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</p>			
<p>• Environment and Heritage Service Northern Ireland to discuss opportunities for cross-border Ramsar sites which may emerge from the UK Ramsar review with Republic of Ireland Government. (EHS). [High/Adequate]</p>			
<p>Appendix 5 of the UK Report for COP8 lists 6 transfrontier sites; no additional trans-frontier sites have been agreed since 2002.</p>			

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Contributions have been made to the updating of the 1% thresholds for waterbird populations	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contributions made.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain UK commitment to assist in the provision of expertise and information. [High] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to aid the development of the International Waterbird Census via JNCC input to IWC's Steering Committee and contract support (Defra, Devolved Administrations, JNCC). [Adequate] <p>Provide key examples of best practice to the Ramsar Bureau. (UKRC via Defra). [Adequate]</p>	
The UK has a long term contract to support the IWC. Wader population estimates have been revised through the Wader Study Group.		
3. Populations information for wetland-dependent taxa other than waterbirds have been provided to Wetlands International	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information provided.]		

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

1. Population data on waterbirds is collected regularly	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. The population data on waterbirds collected has been regularly provided to Wetlands International	B	
3. The population data on waterbirds collected and supplied to WI included information on globally threatened species and species with deficient data	B	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the information available about population data on waterbirds.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain UK commitment to assist in the provision of expertise and information. [High] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to aid the development of the International Waterbird Census via JNCC input to IWC's Steering Committee and contract support 	

	(Defra, Devolved Administrations, JNCC). [Adequate]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide key examples of best practice to the Ramsar Bureau. (UKRC via Defra). [Adequate]
<p>The UK continues to support a long term work to collate and disseminate waterbird data, for example the development of a website by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) partnership. A revised system of alert levels has been put in place (see http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm), and a major on-line report on status and trends at a national level is under preparation. The latest figures from UK bird monitoring have been taken into account in the revision of the Ramsar Information Sheets.</p>	

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

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

1. All missing or incomplete data sheets and/or maps of Ramsar sites have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to complete the request for updated maps and RIS from the Bureau by November 2002. 		

(JNCC, Defra, FCO, OT Governments, Devolved Administrations and country agencies). [High/Good]	
See 10.2.4	

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

1. All required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure every second meeting of COP is fully informed of changes in the status of UK sites. [High] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update RIS for all UK Ramsar sites and provide a site supplement for the UK National Report to COP9. Include an assessment of ecological changes and remedial actions, analysed and interpreted at the national scale. Circulate this prior to COP9 in 2004. (JNCC, country agencies, OT Governments, Crown Dependencies). [Good] See 9.1.6.
The UK is submitting a complete set of updated Ramsar Information Sheets, maps and digital boundary data for all designated sites in the UK and its Overseas Territories to the Ramsar Secretariat in advance of CoP9. These will be available on the JNCC website at http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/ramsar/uk.htm		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1.- The measures required to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been defined and applied (if available, please include number of sites where measures have been applied).	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites All
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of sites involved and any additional comments on the implementation of this action that you consider relevant.]

- See 1.2.5 and 10.2.4

For both CoP8 and CoP9 the UK has reviewed on a site-by-site basis the ecological factors assessed to be operating on Ramsar sites. Whilst these factors do not alone provide information that damage has occurred they provide a basis upon which sites can be prioritised in terms of whether they are at greater or lesser risk. 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. In parallel the UK is implementing a monitoring programme to assess the condition of features of interest on nationally and internationally designated sites. See www.jncc.gov.uk/csm and action 1.2.5 for details.

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

1. The New Guidelines for management planning have been used in the development of management plans or strategies	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the way the guidelines have been used.]

See comment below

MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES	N° Ramsar sites
3.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place	136 (see comment below)
4.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place and being fully applied	136 (see comment below)
5.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being prepared	21 (see comment below)
6.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being revised or updated	
7.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites whose management plans fall under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant.]	
	• Analyse the scope and type of management

MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES	N° Ramsar sites
	planning within the context of the process to update RIS for all UK sites in 2004. (JNCC, country agencies, Crown Dependencies, OT Governments and FCO). [Medium/Good]
<p>The UK has a range of different types of management plan in place on many Ramsar sites (for site specific information see section 25 of the updated Ramsar Information Sheets at http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1389. The UK has not analysed the type and scope of management planning for all UK sites due to other priorities. The National Ramsar Committee will decide whether to carry this target forward to the next triennium.</p> <p>As reported in the Ramsar Information Sheets submitted to CoP9, there are 136 Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place, 21 with management plans or strategies in preparation, and 5 sites with no reported information on this. It is expected that for those sites with management plans or strategies in place, these are being fully applied.</p>	

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

MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES (CONT.)	N° Ramsar sites
1.- Ramsar sites in which management plans developed under other processes (e.g., Biosphere Reserves) are being applied	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites under this category, and any other comments you consider relevant.]	
See 11.1.2.	

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

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

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

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

The involvement of stakeholders depends on the scale of complexity of the site, issues to be addressed by the management plan, and the interest(s) of those stakeholders.

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

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

E

Choose an answer

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

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

As part of UK implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the requirement to develop Catchment Level Management Plans, broad level plans are being considered as well as site specific plans where needed.

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

**N° Ramsar sites
All**

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

This is the function of the management plan.

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

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

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Where physical and social opportunities exist this is taken into account within the management plan.

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

1. Waterbird data and analysis derived from them have been used in management planning	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The UK has a wealth of waterbird data, which is used in many circumstances.		

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

1. Assistance has been provided to the Ramsar Bureau in the identification of agriculture-related management practices developed for areas that include Ramsar sites	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

1.- Best-practice examples of effective management of Ramsar sites have been identified for possible nomination to the San José Record (if applicable, please include number of sites)	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites identified and additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to submit [five] sites from throughout the UK by the end of [2003]. [High] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Ramsar Committee to establish a process for the identification of UK, OT and Crown Dependency sites for the San Jose Record. (National Ramsar Committee). [Adequate] 		
The UK Ramsar Committee has agreed to consider submitting suitable sites to the San Jose Record once the register is operational.			

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

1.- Zoning measures have been established for larger Ramsar sites (if available, please include number of sites)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with zoning measures, and additional comments you consider relevant.]			
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 Kushiro Recommendation 5.3.			
3.- Strict protection measures have been established for Ramsar sites of small size and/or particular sensitivity (<u>if available, please include number of sites</u>)	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	<u>N° Ramsar sites</u>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with strict protection measures, and any additional comments you may consider relevant.]			
In the UK the highest level of protection is afforded to all Ramsar sites, regardless of size and/or sensitivity.			

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

			<u>N° Ramsar sites</u>
1.- Site management committees have been established at Ramsar sites (<u>if available, please include number of sites</u>)	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;	
2.- Cross-sectoral site management committees established at Ramsar sites (<u>if available, please include number of sites</u>)	D	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites with management committees under each category, and additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas Territories 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked to 11.1.2. Consider scope for cross-sectoral management committees in the Overseas Territories and explore the practicalities. (FCO, OTs). 	

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

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

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

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

The UK is a frequent supporter of the fund through voluntary donations. £15,000 was donated in 2003 and in 2004.

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

1.- Article 2.5 of the Convention has been invoked to reduce the area of Ramsar sites and/or to delete sites from the List, and Article 4.2 (compensation) has been applied (if applicable, please include number of sites)

A

Choose an answer

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

**N°
Ramsar
sites**

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A = High; B = Medium; C = Low; D = Not relevant; E = No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A = Good; B = Adequate; C = Limiting; D = Severely limiting; E = No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

		N° Ramsar sites	
1.- Monitoring programmes have been established at Ramsar sites (if available, please include number of sites)	E	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F = Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	See comments below
2.- Monitoring programmes are part of the site management plan (if available, please include number of sites)	D		
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites falling under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant about monitoring programmes.]			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Common Standards Monitoring protocols for all UK ASSI/SSSI by [2003] and regularly report results of such monitoring. (JNCC, country agencies). [High/Limiting] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 1.2.2 and 1.2.5 		

N° Ramsar sites
<p>Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) covers all mainland UK Ramsar sites. For information on progress with CSM, see 1.2.5.</p> <p>The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) (http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/index.htm) is a major contributor of data for non-breeding waterbirds on Ramsar sites. The principal aims of WeBS are to identify population sizes, trends in numbers and distribution and to identify important sites for waterbirds.</p> <p>WeBS Core Counts (http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-core.htm) are made annually at around 2,000 wetland sites, including 94 Ramsar sites. These WeBS data are presented in the Ramsar Information Sheets. Monthly co-ordinated counts are made, mostly by volunteers. The principal months of data collection are from September to March although, increasingly, observations are submitted from the summer months also.</p> <p>Other specific individual biological and hydrological monitoring programmes are also reported (via the Ramsar Information Sheets) as being carried out at 105 Ramsar sites.</p>

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

1.- Ramsar sites are used as baseline and reference areas for national environmental monitoring (if applicable, please include number of sites)	C	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>	N° Ramsar sites
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned, and any additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
The UK is not convinced that Ramsar sites are the best baseline for national environmental monitoring. See http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ukbg2/monitoringschemes/default.htm for an overview of the monitoring programmes undertaken in the UK (excluding OTs and CDs).			
3.- Status and trends on the loss of biological diversity, climate change and the process of desertification [Please include a summary of the cited issues and provide reference citation to any relevant publications, reports or analyses.]			
• See 10.2.4			
The UK is working with EU and global partners to identify and develop indicators of biodiversity trends as agreed at the recent Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties (Decision VII/30).			

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

See action 2.2.3			
1. Proposed developments that may affect the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been subject to EIAs, and the results communicated to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2	B	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</p>	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
Designated sites are subject to EIA via the planning and development control process. See 2.2.3.			

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

See statement on Common Standards Monitoring under 1.2.5

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

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

I

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

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

*G = Being updated;
H = Other status (explain below);
I = No answer*

**N° Ramsar sites
63 (see comment below)**

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

C

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

C

**N° Ramsar sites
None**

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

In the last reporting period (to CoP8), adverse factors were reported as potentially or actually affecting the ecological character of 76 UK Ramsar sites. As reported in the new Ramsar Information Sheets submitted to CoP9, 29 adverse factors are reported to be potentially or actually affecting the ecological character of 63 UK Ramsar sites. For 28 of these sites, appropriate action is in place, but at present it is unclear if the adverse factor(s) is/are under control, as there is a lag in showing if the management or regulatory regime is being successful. At the remaining 35 sites the ecological factor(s) is/are not currently being managed, managed effectively, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far (NB 12 of these 35 sites also have adverse factor(s) operating where appropriate action is in place, but at present it is unclear if this adverse factor is under control). At these 35 sites, it the UK's aim that appropriate management measures will be developed by the relevant statutory authorities to address the causes of the reported ecological changes, so as to ensure the wise-use of the site, in line with the context of Article 3 of the Convention and Recommendation 4.8 (1990). These management measures will be reported to the Secretariat.

(Note that, in line with the Annex to Resolution VI.1 (1996), ecological change is defined here as the process of adverse change caused by human activities, and excludes the process of natural evolutionary change occurring in wetlands. Whilst the UK recognises that wetland restoration and/or rehabilitation programmes may lead to 'positive' human-induced changes in ecological character, such positive changes are excluded from the Convention's current definition of ecological character and thus are not reported here.)

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

No sites have been put forward since CoP8.

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

A Ramsar Advisory Mission to the Ouse Washes was held in November 2001. The recommendations of that Mission (http://www.ramsar.org/ram_rpt_49e.htm) are being taken account of through a steering group set up to oversee action to restore the conservation status of the Ouse Washes.

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

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

N° Ramsar sites
1

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

See r11.2.vi.

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

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

N°Ramsar sites

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

B

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

1

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

B

2

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

- Seek removal of the Dee Estuary from the Montreux Record. (Defra, National Assembly for Wales). **[High]**

- In liaison with National Assembly for Wales, Defra to submit relevant documents to the Bureau by 31/1/03 **[Adequate]**

The UK has worked to resolve the problems identified at the Dee Estuary. Negotiations are ongoing with stakeholders and NGOs to resolve this matter. However, even though some progress has been made the UK government considers that this site should remain on the Montreux Record at this time.

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

		N° Ramsar sites
1.- Actions have been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites were listed in the Montreux Record (if applicable, please include number of sites)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Actions taken to address issues at Montreux Record Ramsar sites have been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau	B	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned and results of the actions taken.]		
See 11.2.6.		

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1.- All transboundary/shared wetland systems have been identified (if applicable, please include number of sites)	E	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands/ wetland systems
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the transboundary wetlands identified and provide any other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Heritage Northern Ireland to seek to agree a framework of actions for managing shared wetlands with Duchas. (EHS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue UK-Ireland liaison through the work of the International Designations Group. (JNCC, Defra, EHS, Duchas). [High/Good] 		

[Medium/Good]

Designated site issues are addressed through the International Designations Group and 'north-south' bilaterals. Increased all-Ireland co-operation on BAP programmes includes some wetland interests.

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

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

1. Cooperative management of shared wetland systems has progressed

E

Choose an answer

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

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

See 12.1.1

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

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

A

Choose an answer

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

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

See 12.1.1

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

See action 2.2.3

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

E

Choose an answer

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

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

See 12.1.1

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

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

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

E

Choose an answer

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

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

See 12.1.1 on Northern Ireland / Ireland bilaterals.

See 3.4.2 and 8.1.1 on catchment management plans under the Water Framework Directive.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12. MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS AND WETLAND SPECIES**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12.2. Promote cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species**

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1.- Wetlands which satisfy Criteria in relation to wetland-dependent migratory species have been designated as Ramsar sites (if applicable, please include number of sites designated)	H	<i>Choose an answer A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>	N° Ramsar sites Dependent on the results of the Ramsar Review
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the designated sites and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the recommendations of the Ramsar review (see 10.1.1). (Defra, FCO, OT Governments, Crown Dependencies, Devolved Administrations, JNCC, country agencies). [High/Adequate] 			
See 10.1.1			

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

See action r10.1.iv		
1. New regional site networks and initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species have been developed	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise MoU with Iceland, Greenland and Ireland concerning the common conservation management of Greenland White-fronted Geese by 2004, stressing particularly the role of Ramsar sites in the long-term conservation of this population; finalise flyway management plan for Svalbard Barnacle Goose: provide input to international flyway management plan for Dark-bellied Brent Geese. (Defra in consultation with Devolved Administrations, country agencies, JNCC, and NGO sector). [High/Adequate] [We need to revisit this prioritization in due course] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement UK Implementation Plan for African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement with associated targets. (Defra, Devolved administrations, country agencies, JNCC, and NGO sector). [High/Adequate] 	
<p>No progress has been made on the development of Memoranda of Understanding.</p> <p>From 3-8 April 2004, the UK and Dutch governments, with Wetlands International, hosted an international conference in Edinburgh on the conservation of waterbirds. A major conference output was <i>The Edinburgh Declaration</i>, which summarises priority conservation requirements for waterbirds and their habitats at international, flyway and national scales. The Declaration has been disseminated via Wetlands International's web-site (where it has so far been translated into seven languages with more following) and will be formally submitted to the governance bodies of a number of international treaties when they meet later this year.</p> <p>The presence in Edinburgh of so many government officials and technical experts from around the world led to a number of associated meetings being held including: a meeting of the Technical Committee of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in North Berwick (29 March - 2 April); the Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention) in Glasgow (31 March - 3 April); and the eighth International Conference of The Seabird Group in Aberdeen from 2-4 April.</p>		
Action 12.2.5.- Ensure that national hunting legislation is consistent with the wise use principle for migratory waterbird and other wetland-dependent species, taking into account geographical range, life-history characteristics of species, and research on sustainable harvesting.		
1. National hunting legislation is consistent with wise use principle for wetland-dependent species, including waterbirds	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 12.2.2. 		
<p>All wild birds in the UK are protected by statute. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and the 1831 Game Act list those which can be legally hunted and give details of close seasons and other restrictions. In periods of prolonged severe or particularly harsh winter weather (usually when freezing weather conditions are persistent) the relevant Secretary of State(s) have the power under Section 2(6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act to make a Protection Order temporarily banning or suspending the shooting of waterfowl. The guidelines have been agreed between the statutory conservation agencies, Defra the Scottish Executive, the National Assembly of Wales and the principal non-governmental organisations involved in the monitoring and management of, cold-weather bans: Royal Society for the</p>		

Protection of Birds, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation.

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Party has been involved in the development of a regional initiative in the framework of the Convention	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and where possible support development of regional initiatives in the Caribbean and the South Pacific. [Medium] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regional sharing of experience and good practice, and consider scope for supporting development of regional initiatives. (FCO, UKOTCF) [Limiting]
<p>The UK took an active part in meetings organised under the Cartagena Convention, its SPAW protocol and the Scientific and Technical Committee to the protocol in 2002, 2003 and 2004. The UK, and the relevant Overseas Territories, supported and attended the <i>White Water to Blue Water</i> initiative which aims to bring together countries of the Caribbean region to improve integrated watershed management and protection of marine ecosystems in the region. The UK also hosted a workshop on Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean region to promote, amongst other things, sustainable development of natural resources.</p> <p>The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and Bermuda conservation organisations organised a conference for conservation workers in UK Overseas Territories and other countries in the Caribbean region in March 2003 (www.ukotcf.org), as well as contributing to a regional conference in August 2003.</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

See action 18.1.1

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

- Establish at least three work initiatives within the UK that link between MEAs by 2005. **[Medium/Limited]**

- Establish strong links between the different UK Government leads for these Conventions and arrange an annual meeting to discuss synergies. **[High/Good]**

An international biodiversity group has been established by Defra to:

- co-ordinate policy for international biodiversity conventions on cross-cutting issues affecting more than one convention
- act as a steering group for implementation of the WSSD delivery plan on international biodiversity
- and to act as an official level group serving a Ministerial Committee on international biodiversity

The UK has supported work to streamline and harmonise reporting within and between the main biodiversity conventions, including participation in and part-funding of an international workshop convened by UNEP-WCMC in cooperation with the governments of Belgium and the United Kingdom at Haasrode, Belgium between 22-23 September 2004. The report of the workshop is available at <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/conventions/harmonization/index.htm>.

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

See action 18.1.2

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

B*Choose an answer*

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

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the MEAs whose focal points participate in the Ramsar Committee and additional comments you consider relevant.]

There is regular communication between focal points of MEAs, both within central Government and in the Devolved Administrations.

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

1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the National Committees and contacts of UNESCO MAB Programme

B*Choose an answer*

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

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

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

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

B*Choose an answer*

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

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

The UK works collaboratively with the Secretariats of all relevant conventions.

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

1. Mechanisms are in place for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and regional bodies or programmes which have interest in wetland conservation and wise use

B*Choose an answer*

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

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

The UK is fully involved with co-operative programmes at an EU level. Council Decision (2001/822/EC) 'on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community' gives provision for the allocation of

resources to overseas countries and territories for biodiversity planning.

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

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

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

A

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

See 12.3.2

The UK co-hosted the first meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative in the Turks & Caicos Islands, which had a focus on Caribbean states, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and a workshop by Ramsar on management of wetland sites. ICRI hosted a Ministerial side-event at the Barbados Programme of Action +10 meeting 10-14 January, 2005, Port Luis, Mauritius and we will discuss its conclusions, and the ways in which we can foster greater links between SIDS (<http://www.sidsnet.org/>) and coral reefs, at ICRI's next meeting in the Seychelles.

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

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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14.1. Promote the sharing of expertise and information

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Actions have been taken to share knowledge at the global and/or regional and/or national level

B

Choose an answer

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

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

See section 9 for UK work on CEPA. The UK has nominated a national expert who sits on the STRP, and has provided input to STRP. The UK has a national focal point for CEPA.

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

1. The Party has engaged in international cooperation activities related to training on wetland issues

D

Choose an answer

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

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

- All members of UKRC to consider and promote two-way secondments/ study visits to wetland development projects and other exchange mechanisms (including overseas development and Commonwealth links) focusing on wetland issues. (All partners). **[Medium/Adequate]**

The UK has contributed to this objective through support for Darwin initiative. Darwin projects which contribute to international co-operation activities related to training include:

- Establishing biodiversity in monitoring networks to inform Estonia Coastal wetland management in

Kasanka National Park. The aim is to secure biodiversity and train local people to build their capacity for environmental education.

- The Darwin South Eastern Asian Wetlands Restoration Initiative, Vietnam. The aim is to build capacity for effective implementation of the CBD amongst wetland managers & farmers in the Mekong Delta by creating sustained livelihoods and enhancing biodiversity through wetland restoration.

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

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

1.- Networks among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the wetland networks established and other comments you consider relevant.]			
3.- Twinning arrangements among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training (if applicable, please include number of sites involved)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° wetlands / Ramsar sites 1
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the twinning arrangement, the sites involved and other comments you consider relevant.]			
The Wash is twinned with the Waddensee.			

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

1. Internet-based resource kits for knowledge and information sharing on wetland issues have been developed	F	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]			
The UK has reviewed and revised its Clearing House Mechanism (www.chm.org.uk) in the last triennium and had developed more content. The UK CHM provides an overview of biodiversity conservation in the UK and links to the implementation of the biodiversity conventions.			

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

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

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

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

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

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

1. (For CPs with development assistance agencies) Funding support has been mobilized from development assistance agency for wetland issues	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2. Other forms of funding support have been mobilized for wetland issues	B	
3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide targeted financial support to promote sustainable management of wetlands in developing countries (DFID). [High] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFID supports the sustainable management of wetlands in a number of developing countries: • Support the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network South Asia Node. • Support research on the social and economic valuation and the governance of aquatic resources in the Mekong basin. • Support the sustainable management of floodplain fisheries in Bangladesh through the development and testing of community based fisheries management institutions. • Support the development and implementation of integrated wetland management plans in Nigeria. • Support research into the effectiveness of marine protected areas in the Caribbean as a means of 	

	sustainably managing coastal resources. [Adequate]
<p>The UK has contributed to the achievement of this objective through continued support of the Darwin initiative, and projects supported by the Department for International Development, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South Eastern Asian wetlands restoration initiative based in Vietnam which aimed to build capacity for effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity amongst wetland managers and farmers in the Mekong Delta by creating sustainable livelihoods and through enhancing biodiversity through wetland restoration and improved understanding of the full social and economic value of aquatic resources of the Mekong river (project finished April 03). • JEWEL: Jigawa Enhancement of Wetlands Livelihoods - A demonstration of successful approaches to more equitable and sustainable management of common property resources in Jigawa Nigeria, neighbouring states and at a Federal level (project ongoing). • Development of a decision-support system for ecosystem-based wetland management in Vietnam through functional zonation of land use. The project developed and applied improved methodologies, increased effectiveness of environmental assessment, management and resource valuation in tropical wetlands (project finished July 2002). • Community based wetland management in Madagascar - enabling wetlands to be managed sustainably by local people through democratic, representative institutions and with appropriate policy support (project ongoing). • IUCN Water and Nature Initiative - planning and management of environmental flow requirements to optimise benefits for ecosystem-based livelihoods. The project included maintenance or re-establishment of critical flows for aquatic ecosystems and their dependent livelihoods in catchments affected by dams (project ongoing). • Community Based Fisheries Management Programme in Bangladesh - improve inland fisheries management policy resulting in more sustainable, equitable and participatory management of resources (project ongoing). <p>For more information on the Darwin Initiative, see http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/darwin/index.htm. The Darwin Initiative Seventh Annual Report is available at http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/darwin/7threport/index.htm</p>	

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

1. The Party has worked with bilateral and multilateral donors to mobilize funding support for wetland inventories	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>The UK is a major contributor to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In line with the Government's White paper commitment, in August 2002 the Department for International Development helped to secure a 50% increase in resources – an extra US\$3billion – for the third replenishment. The UK's core contribution will be £103 million over the four year period 2003/04 - 2006/07. In addition, the UK will provide a further £15 million as a signal of our commitment to addressing global environmental problems. The UK is the fourth largest donor to the Facility and will contribute just under 8% of the GEF budget during this replenishment period.</p>		

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

1.- The Party has worked with donors to mobilize resources for implementation of Ramsar site management plans (if applicable, please include number of sites)	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° Ramsar sites
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please list the sites involved and include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

See 15.1.1. A further example of UK support under the Darwin initiative is a project on Flamingo conservation and Ramsar Site Management at lake Bogoria, Kenya. The project is run by the University of Leicester, Earthwatch Institute and Lake Bogoria National Reserve.

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

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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

The UK does not prescribe how much the GEF should allocate to biodiversity or any other of its six focal areas. Project proposals must meet agreed criteria for those focal areas. The GEF council provides a challenge and quality control function and formally approves projects.

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

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

I

Choose an answer

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

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

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

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

C

Choose an answer

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

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

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

<i>(For CPs with development assistance agencies)</i>		
1. Work has been done with the development assistance agency in relation to Ramsar's Guidelines for international cooperation (Res. VII.19)	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defra to continue to support the Darwin Initiative, whose funding includes – where appropriate – projects in developing countries related to wetlands. Such projects may contribute to the fulfillment of Ramsar Strategy objectives and actions, in addition to their prime purpose of furthering implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and to inform the National Committee of supported projects. (Defra, FCO). [Medium/Adequate] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defra and DFID to review jointly the relationship between DFIDs activities to promote poverty elimination and the Wise Use Guidelines of the Ramsar Convention. (Defra and DFID). [Medium/Adequate]
<p>See 1.1.7. The UK continues to support the Darwin Initiative, including projects which contribute to wetlands conservation. Projects funded in the last three years include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Biodiversity for Site Management Planning in East African Wetlands. Project run by Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust with Wetlands International and the National Museums of Kenya. Flamingo Conservation and Ramsar Site Management at Lake Bogoria, Kenya. Project run by University of Leicester, Earthwatch Institute and Lake Bogoria National Reserve. The Darwin South Eastern Asian Wetlands Restoration Initiative, Vietnam. Project run by Royal Holloway Institute for Environmental Research and Catho University, Vietnam. Conservation of wetlands and associated Biodiversity in Zambia. Project run by the Natural History Museum. Establishing biodiversity in monitoring networks to inform Estonia Coastal wetland management. Project run by Kasanka National Park and University of Aberdeen. <p>The Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral programmes provide assistance to projects, when requested by developing countries, consistent with their poverty reduction and/or national development plans. DFID also provides funding for the Global Environment Facility, of which the biodiversity and land use focal areas are relevant to Ramsar.</p>		

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

<i>(For CPs with development assistance agencies)</i>		
1. The performance of the development assistance agency in relation to wetland issues has been assessed	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

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

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

1. The Party has worked with multilateral agencies to ensure that wetland issues receive due attention	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The 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.		

Action 15.1.6.- Provide financial support, preferably on a medium and/or long-term basis, to the operations of the *Ramsar Small Grants Fund* and its *Endowment Fund*, and the *Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, seeking to have available a minimum of one million US dollars annually for the former and half a million US dollars for the latter. (Based on Sections E4 and E9 of the Guidelines.)

See action 16.1.2		
1. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. Financial support provided to the Ramsar Endowment Fund	C	
3. Contributions have been made to the Ramsar Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme	C	
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on contributions made to support the funds and services indicated above.]		
The UK continues to support the Ramsar Small Grants Fund through voluntary contributions. £15,000 was donated in 2003 and in 2004.		

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

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

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

1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to development assistance agencies	A	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
The UK is not eligible for development assistance. See r15.1.i		

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

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

1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

A

Choose an answer

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

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

The UK is not eligible for development assistance. See r15.1.i

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

1. Steps have been taken to involve the private sector and private-sector funding in wetland projects

D

Choose an answer

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

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

Private sector funding is available in some circumstances, for example tax credits provided by Government to encourage reduction of waste produced by industry. Corporate sponsorship is provided to a number of monitoring programmes (for example the British Trust for Ornithology <http://www.bto.org/> Waterways Breeding Bird Survey is supported by the Environment Agency and several water companies), and a few of the species and habitats featured in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan have been sponsored (www.ukbap.org.uk). In addition, a number of corporate organisations have their own biodiversity action plans or site plans.

Action 15.1.13.- Promote establishment of effective mechanisms to encourage environmentally sound trade in wetland products, in particular from Ramsar sites, compatible with international trade agreements.

1. Mechanisms have been established to encourage environmentally sound trade of wetland products, in particular from Ramsar sites

B

Choose an answer

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

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

- See 7.1.5

The UK Committee of IUCN <http://www.iucn-uk.org/> has published a study reviewing of the use of wild living resources in the UK and the contribution that such uses are making to the economy, health, nutrition and enjoyment of the UK. See 7.1.5 for further details.

Relatively few wetland products listed in the review are CITES listed. However the exploitation and trade of some non CITES-listed species appears unsustainable in the UK; such as eel *Anguilla anguilla*. No study has specifically looked at the trade in wetland products occurring in Ramsar sites.

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15.2. Ensure that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 15.2.1.- Work with international development agencies, including banks, financial institutions and private investors and developers, to ensure that proposed grants, loans, and development projects include environmental safeguards and environmental assessments of possible impacts upon wetlands. (Based on Section G1 of the Guidelines.)

1. Actions have been taken to work with investors on possible impacts of their projects on wetlands

C

Choose an answer

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

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

The planning regime in the UK provides a regulatory control system under which environmental impact assessments are required for projects which impact protected areas such as Ramsar sites.

Action 15.2.3.- Review wetland-related project development approval and consider the introduction of mechanisms to direct resources derived from these activities back to hands-on wetland management in the country. (Based on Section G3 of the Guidelines.)

1. Work has been done to introduce mechanisms to direct resources derived from wetlands back to wetland management

C

Choose an answer

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

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 16. FINANCING OF THE CONVENTION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 16.1. Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

1. Ramsar dues have been paid in full and in a timely manner	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Government to continue prompt payment of contributions at beginning of each calendar year. (Defra). [High/Good] 		
UK Government continues to make prompt payments of annual contributions in full.		

Action 16.1.2.- Consider providing additional voluntary contributions to the Convention to support the *Small Grants Fund* and its *Endowment Fund*, the *Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme*, and the *Training Service*, regionally-based initiatives such as *MedWet*, the undertaking of *Ramsar Advisory Missions* for sites included in the *Montreux Record* and other Ramsar sites, and other priority activities as determined by the Strategic Plan.

<i>In addition to any contributions listed under Action 15.1.6 above, voluntary contributions have been made:</i>		
1. to the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	C	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2. to support regional initiatives under the Convention	C	
3. for Ramsar Advisory Missions related to Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record	C	
4. towards the development and maintenance of logistics of the San José Record	C	
5. to support the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)	C	
6. to expand the internship programme at the Ramsar Bureau	C	
7. in relation to COP9	B	
8.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the contributions made to support the services indicated above.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endeavour to maintain UK Government provision for additional voluntary budget contributions for priority tasks and activities. (Defra). [High/Good] 		
The UK has contributed £20,000 towards the cost of hosting a European Ramsar meeting in December 2004, including support for delegates from accession countries, and £25,000 so far towards the costs of CoP9.		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE CONVENTION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17.1. Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Bureau are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Strategic Plan

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

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

See also Action 19.iii.i. concerning CEPA national focal points.

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

B

Choose an answer

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

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

- National Committee to review the appropriateness of the STRP Ramsar focal point and the two Outreach focal points in 2004. (National Ramsar Committee). *See 9.1.1. [High/Good]*

Wyn Jones of the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee has been the National Focal Point for STRP for this triennium. David Stroud of the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee has been a member of STRP for this triennium.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18.1. Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

(text answer):	
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 18.1.1. - Encourage the review of existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and on the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:

- a) increase cooperation and synergy among institutions with direct or indirect responsibility for wetland issues, especially those responsible for the management of water resources and for biodiversity and wetland conservation and management;
- b) promote enhanced cooperation, and where appropriate integrated approaches, among the national focal points of environment-related conventions, and consider establishing a coordinating committee to ensure that integrated approaches are taken;
- c) promote enhanced contact, and where appropriate close coordination, between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and national professional, technical, scientific and educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including those involved in social and cultural heritage issues; and
- d) provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, to enable these institutions to implement the Convention to full effect.

1. A review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been completed	C	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the review and other comments you consider relevant.]		
<i>See action 13.1.1</i>		
3. A coordinating committee among focal points of environment-related conventions is in place	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i>
4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the coordinating committee and other comments you consider relevant.]		
<p>An international biodiversity group has been established (see 13.1.1). The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (which has responsibility for the World Heritage Convention) is represented on the Ramsar/Natura 2000 Forum. There is no formal committee amongst the national focal points as such, but it is standard practice for the focal points to communicate on issues to establish a UK line.</p>		
5. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other national institutions directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues, in particular water and biodiversity	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
6. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and relevant professional, scientific or educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including social and cultural heritage issues	B	<i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i> <i>A = Not applicable;</i> <i>B = Yes;</i> <i>C = No;</i> <i>D = Partly/in some cases;</i> <i>E = In progress;</i> <i>F= Being planned;</i> <i>G = Being updated;</i> <i>H = Other status (explain below);</i> <i>I = No answer</i>
7.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the relevant cooperation mechanisms and any other comments you consider relevant.]		
a) RSPB to prepare a paper for the National Ramsar Committee by end 2003, identifying and proposing further action in respect of the capacity of UK institutions to achieve conservation and wise use of		

<p>wetlands. Drawing on the work on inter-agency co-ordination already carried out by Dr Mark Everard and including the actions which agencies may need to take. (RSPB, country agencies). [Medium/Adequate]</p> <p>c) Partner organisation representatives in the UK (Birdlife International and WWT and WWF) to meet Defra/JNCC each year to discuss their respective Ramsar-related work programmes. (Defra including Devolved Administrations, JNCC, RSPB, WWT and WWF). [Medium/Adequate]</p>	<p>b). <i>See 13.1.1</i></p> <p>c). Ensure continuing close liaison between the National Committee and the Wetland Liaison Group (and other wetland networks). (National Ramsar Committee and Wetland Liaison Group). [Medium/Adequate]</p> <p>d). <i>Ongoing</i></p>
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Good communication channels exist to ensure cooperation between Government and other institutions responsible for wetland issues. For example:

- The Ramsar work programme is discussed within the Natura/Ramsar Forum.
- In England the England Biodiversity Strategy water and wetlands group brings together key bodies responsible for water and wetlands as does the wetland habitat action plan group.
- Similarly, in Scotland the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency is leading in the establishment of Regional Partnerships with regard to the Water Framework Directive.
- In Northern Ireland an inter-departmental group has been established and tasked with agreeing responses to the NI Biodiversity Strategy, including issues raised through wetland habitat and species action plans.
- For the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office jointly convene a 6-monthly meeting of governmental and non-governmental bodies to address these and other environmental conservation issues.

Action r18.1.i.- Build and strengthen institutional capacity and synergies between related instruments at the national level in order to address the linkages between climate change and wetlands and report to COP9 on progress on this matter, including achievements and the identification of difficulties encountered (Resolution VIII.3)

1. Work has been done to address the linkages between climate change and wetlands	E	<p><i>Choose an answer</i> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p>
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<p>See 1.2.5 and 10.1.1. The Government along with the devolved administrations, statutory nature conservation agencies and non-governmental organisations, is contributing to an ongoing research programme on the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in the UK. A progress statement on the impacts of climate change on nature conservation (as of September 2003) is available at http://www.jncc.gov.uk/management/committee/papers03-09/jncc03P12.pdf. The Government plans to commission an update of its <i>Review of the impact of climate change on UK species and habitat conservation policy (2000)</i>.</p> <p>The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) provides the framework for addressing the linkages between climate change and wetlands, and contributes to the policy framework for dealing with the implications of climate change. It will be an important factor in the continuing management of priority species and habitats and in the planning of actions to conserve them. The BAP also provide systematic frameworks of reporting and monitoring, which can be used to steer adaptation to climate change over the coming decades.</p>		

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

See actions r3.4.iii, r13.1.iii

1. A National Ramsar / Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body) is in place

B

Choose an answer for each indicator

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

D = Partly/in some cases;

E = In progress; F= Being planned;

G = Being updated; H = Other status

(explain below); I = No answer

2. If a Ramsar Committee exists, it is cross-sectoral (relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, key stakeholders, local communities, private sector, etc.)

B

3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the National Ramsar Committee].

- Enhance the profile of the National Committee by posting the ToR, minutes, workplan and other relevant information on the JNCC website under a Ramsar node. Enhance communication with other related groups (*e.g.* Lead Agency co-ordination networks for Freshwater and Lowland Wetland habitats, Natura 2000 Steering Group *etc.*). (JNCC, Ramsar National Committee). **[High/Adequate]**

- Where appropriate, encourage the creation of inclusive Ramsar Committees in Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies to develop a focus for wetland conservation issues. (FCO, OT Governments, Crown Dependencies, UKOTCF). **[High/Limiting]**

- *See 7.1.2*

A National Ramsar Committee is in place in the UK. Since September 2003 this has been made up of the Natura 2000/Ramsar Forum and Steering Group. The intention was to create more synergy between various groups dealing with international site based issues, as well as providing an opportunity to bring in other sectors such as industry, and other government departments. The Forum provides a sounding board to enable Government to seek views from a broad range of stakeholder organisations, on issues connected with the development and management of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar networks within the UK. There are also a number of fora which are focused on wetlands in the wider biodiversity and wise use context which Forum members are represented on. The Natura 2000/Ramsar Forum incorporates government departments, statutory agencies and key NGO stakeholders involved in wetland conservation. A webpage has been set up for the Forum on the Defra website which contains minutes, agendas, papers, etc. (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/natura-ramsar-forum/>).

Action 18.1.3.- Review the designated Ramsar national Administrative Authority (and provincial (sub-national) focal points where appropriate) and STRP and CEPA national focal points in each Contracting Party, with a view to ensuring that these positions are being effective in increasing involvement in the work of the Convention of all relevant agencies and organizations concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

1. The institutional capacity for the effective implementation of the Convention – including the Ramsar Administrative Authority, National Wetland Committee (or equivalent body) and STRP and CEPA focal points– has been assessed	B	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that OTs, and Crown Dependencies have access to Government and NGO focal points for Ramsar. (FCO, OT Governments, UKOTCF). [High/Adequate] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 17.1.6 	
See 18.1.2		

Action 18.1.4.- Assist in achieving a cohesive and coordinated national effort towards the implementation of the Convention, using Ramsar's national planning tool (based on the National Report Format) as an ongoing planning and monitoring mechanism. Ideally, this tool should be used by all relevant government departments/agencies and include input from National Ramsar/Wetland Committee members and other stakeholders as appropriate.

1. The National Report Format has been used as a national planning tool for the implementation of the Convention	D	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a national work-plan for 2003 – 2005 to be signed off at the spring 2003 National Ramsar Committee meeting. (National Ramsar Committee). [High/Good] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Ramsar Committee's work plan links to the corporate planning processes of organisations represented on National Ramsar Committee. (National Ramsar Committee). [High/Good] 	
<p>The UK submitted national targets agreed by the UK Ramsar Committee to the Ramsar Bureau by the deadline of 30 June 2003. The national targets have been transferred into the national planning tool as requested by the Convention. For the purpose of monitoring the national targets on a day to day basis, it has been more manageable and practical to use a monitoring document and rolling work plan which focuses on key targets and actions for the UK. The rolling work plan with key priorities and monitoring document is monitored by UK Ramsar Committee (N2K/Ramsar Forum and Steering Committee), and links to the corporate planning process of at least the statutory bodies represented.</p>		

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20. TRAINING

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20.1. Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:	A = High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
RESOURCING:	A = Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)

(text answer):	
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COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 20.1.1.- Implement, and further develop and publicize, the *Convention's Wetland Training Service*.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: Ramsar Wetland Training Service in place and fully implemented.

1. The Party has participated in the development and use of the Ramsar Training Service managed by Wetlands International	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Action 20.1.2.- Identify at national, provincial, and local levels the needs and target audiences for training in implementation of the Convention and, in particular, use of the *Wise Use Guidelines and Ramsar Handbooks*.

GLOBAL TARGET 2003-2005: At least half of CPs to have assessed national and local training needs.

1. An assessment has been completed of national and local training needs in the implementation of the Convention and use of the Wise Use Handbooks	H	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
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2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]

Training needs and opportunities are assessed and implemented on an organisation by organisation basis rather than centrally.

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

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

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

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

k) communication, education and public awareness techniques.		
1. Training modules and materials on wetland-related issues have been developed	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the development of training modules and materials for the issues listed above, and additional comments you consider relevant.]		

Action 20.1.6.- Provide opportunities for manager training by:		
a) encouraging personnel exchanges for on-the-job training, possibly between twinned sites;		
b) holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites;		
c) siting wetland manager and wetland educator training facilities at Ramsar sites;		
d) obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers around the world;		
e) establishing further regional training initiatives such as the <i>Wetlands for the Future Initiative</i> funded by the Government of the USA for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.		
1. Opportunities for manager training in the country have been provided	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

Action 20.1.7.- Continue to encourage the development of projects for submission to the <i>Small Grants Fund</i> for support for training activities.		
1. Training-related projects have been submitted to the Small Grants Fund	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]		

Action 20.1.8.- Encourage further development and use of regional wetland training and research centres, including a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (Resolution VII.26) and a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia (Resolution VIII.41).			
1.- Support has been provided to the development of regional wetland training and research centres (if applicable, please include number of centres)	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	N° centres
2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include the list of centres and other additional comments you consider relevant.]			

Action 20.1.9.- Exchange information, technical assistance and advice, and expertise about training for the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the <i>Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme</i> , the Bureau, <i>MedWet</i> and the IOPs of the Convention.			
1. The Party has participated in exchanges of information and expertise related to wetland training issues	I	<i>Choose an answer</i> A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer	

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

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 21.1. Secure the universal membership of the Convention

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PLANNING TOOL SECTION

PRIORITY:		<i>A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer</i>
RESOURCING:		<i>A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer</i>
TARGETS (text answer):	See targets relevant to specific actions bulleted below (left column)	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (text answer):	See planned activities relevant to specific actions bulleted below (right column)	

COP9 REPORT SECTION

Action 21.1.1.- Recruit new Contracting Parties through:

- seeking direct contact with non-Contracting Parties to provide information on the benefits of membership and advice or assistance in overcoming obstacles;
- intensifying contacts with the diplomatic representatives of non-Contracting Parties;
- seeking assistance from the secretariats of other conventions, including the Regional Seas Conventions, and in-country offices of the *United Nations Development Programme*, the *World Bank* and others;
- organizing subregional workshops involving Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties;
- providing assistance for the identification of *Wetlands of International Importance* that could be listed as Ramsar sites upon accession;
- encouraging attendance by observers from non-Contracting Parties at regional meetings and meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and
- publishing and disseminating an accession kit to assist countries in the Oceania region (and Small Island Developing States more generally) through the accession process. (Resolution VIII.42)

1. Actions have been taken to encourage the adherence to the Convention of new Contracting Parties

H

Choose an answer

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

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

a)

- Ensure that OT governments and Crown Dependencies are aware of relevant Ramsar and other MEA regional meetings, and encourage attendance where possible with a view to influencing non-Contracting Parties to join the Ramsar Convention. (Defra, FCO, OT Governments, Crown Dependencies, UKOTCF). **[High/Limiting]**
- While considering the Antarctic treaty conservation system to provide, at present, the most appropriate mechanism for protecting wildlife and habitats, keep issue of extension of

<p>ratification to cover British Antarctic Territory, including the extent to which Ramsar might offer additional benefits, under review. (Defra, FCO). [High/Good]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage UK OTs participation in Conferences of Parties, either as part of the UK delegation or as Observers: seek involvement of at least two OTs and Crown Dependencies in the delegation to the 2005 COP. (Defra, OT Governments, FCO, Crown Dependencies). [High/Adequate] 	
<p>Whilst lobbying to States who are not contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention has not taken place, efforts have been made to encourage those who are involved to do more.</p> <p>Overseas Territory and Crown Dependency involvement is being sought in UK preparations for CoP 9.</p>	

FEEDBACK ON COP9 NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

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Please include additional comments on the COP9 National Planning Tool, National Report Format. (For instance, adequacy of the questions, the difficulties in completing them, and any further recommendations on how these reporting guidelines could be improved)

Linking reporting and planning, so that reports are a by product of work that is being done anyway rather than an end in themselves, is of course sensible. The UK submitted national targets agreed by the UK Ramsar Committee to the Ramsar Bureau by the deadline of 30 June 2003. The national targets were transferred into the national planning tool as requested by the Convention, but are not a very good fit, as the priority and resources vary between national targets. In addition, for the purpose of monitoring the national targets on a day to day basis, it has been more manageable and practical to use a rolling work plan which focuses on key targets and actions for the UK (see 18.1.4). More thought is therefore needed on how targets should be represented in a document such as this, and the level of targets/actions that it is reasonable to incorporate.

The standard answers (A-I) in the report part are helpful, and address one of the shortcomings of the rather black and white 'Yes/No' responses in the last report framework. However, this report format is too long, complex and repetitive to enable easy completion, or use once completed. One of the contributors commented that they found the framework so daunting that they felt unable to contribute; this is probably also true of a number of others who were expected to provide comment but did not do so. The framework will therefore have affected the quality of the comments in the report.

The questions focus too much on the text of convention resolutions without integrating these together to provide one place for reporting on a particular theme, and do not focus on the outcomes expected – this is the point of the resolutions agreed rather than the exact text. The UK is also concerned to ensure that the work to develop indicators to measure the effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention is compatible with the indicators being developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The UK has supported work to streamline and harmonise reporting within and between the main biodiversity

conventions, including participation in and part-funding of an international workshop convened by UNEP-WCMC in cooperation with the governments of Belgium and the United Kingdom at Haasrode, Belgium between 22-23 September 2004. The report of the workshop is available at <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/conventions/harmonization/index.htm>. Two important aspects of discussion at the workshop should be emphasised. One is the need for a move towards more outcome orientated reporting and the other is the need for harmonisation to be considered in relation to ongoing developments in reporting which have already been requested by Conferences of the Parties of the biodiversity conventions. The purpose of reporting, co-ordination at international levels, and information management at a national level also need to be improved, as they are necessary steps to be taken to make any real progress in harmonisation.

The UK, through its Joint Nature Conservation Committee, has considerable experience and expertise in completing reports to the biodiversity conventions and would like to offer to work with the Ramsar Secretariat to streamline reporting for CoP10 and to facilitate reporting harmonisation with the other biodiversity conventions.

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

B

Choose an answer

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