



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Romania, June 2012**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **15 September 2011**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org)

Introduction & background

1. This National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee in Decision SC41-24 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40th meeting in May 2009, and its Decision SC40-29, this COP11 National Report Format closely follows that used for the COP10 National Report Format, which in turn was a significantly revised and simplified format in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In addition to thus permitting continuity of reporting and implementation progress analyses by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP10 NRF), this COP11 NRF is structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP10 as Resolution X.1, and the indicators speak to relevant Key Result Areas (KRAs) for each Strategy in the Strategic Plan.
4. The COP11 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee, certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in light of its work on assessing effectiveness indicators, and by the CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention. The format also includes indicator questions concerning the use of the "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands", as requested in Resolution X.3 (2008).
5. This COP11 NRF includes 82 indicator questions. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply additional information concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.
6. The COP11 Format also now includes an additional, optional, section (section 4) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, if it wishes to, on indicators relevant to individual Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's website.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
 - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) capture lessons and experience to help Parties develop future action;
 - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
 - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable for their commitments under the Convention;

- v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and to plan its future priorities; and
 - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP11 consideration.
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 6);
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 7); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP10 DOCs 8-13);
 - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP. Examples at CO9 and COP10 included:
 - Resolution IX.15 and X.13, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
 - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar Sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC. 15), *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC. 25), *Overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2006-2008* (COP10 DOC. 16, and *Background and rationale to the Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character* (COP10 DOC. 27);
 - iii) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development

of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4th edition, 2010); and

- iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the COP10 NRF indicators have been used extensively in 2009 in the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems that was being considered by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3).

The structure of the COP11 National Report Format

12. The COP11 National Report Format is in four sections.

Section 1 provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

Section 2 is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 82 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional “free-text” section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity; and a further “free-text” section for adding further information on other aspects of implementation of that Strategy.

Section 4 (www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). This has been included at the request of a number of Parties.

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP11 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

- 13. All of the first three Sections of the COP11 National Report Format should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
- 14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **15 September 2011**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP11.
- 15. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
- 16. Fields with a pale green background  are optional free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since experience

shows that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.

17. In order to assist Contracting Parties in providing such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the “Additional implementation information” fields.
18. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the form and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties. If you need to work with an unlocked version of the Format, please contact Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer (dufour@ramsar.org), who will advise on how that can be done.
19. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
20. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
21. For a “free-text” field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box – this is because within the Microsoft “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes in the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
22. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic data entry into our database for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [] °°°° in the “free text” fields.
23. For each of the “Indicator questions” in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: “Yes”, “No”, “Partly”, “In progress”, etc. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
24. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
25. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
26. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party’s overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the

work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given. When filling in this form, it is also advised to refer back to the National Report submitted for COP10 for purposes of continuity and consistency.

27. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP11NRF [Country] [date].
28. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, e-mail: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in this electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
29. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP11 National Report.**
30. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP11 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Rastislav Rybanič, Mgr. - Director General
Mailing address:	Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic Námestie Ľ. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava, Slovak Republic
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Eduard Stloukal, RNDr., PhD.
Name of organisation:	Faculty of Natural Science, Comenius University in Bratislava
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Telephone/Fax:	00421-2-60296 333
Email:	stloukal@fns.uniba.sk
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Jana Janecová, RNDr.
Name of organisation:	Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
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Email:	jana.janecova@enviro.gov.sk
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Milan Janák, Mgr.
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Email:	janak@daphne.sk

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP10 reporting):

A. What new steps have been taken to implement the Convention?

Transborder and international cooperation developed , including coordination of the Ramsar regional initiative - Carpathian Wetland Initiative;

Updated national wetland policy (Programme on Wetland Management in Slovakia for 2008-2014 and the Action Plan for implementation of the Programme for 2008-2011) developed and adopted by the Government ;

Special project for support of the implementation of the Action Plan funded from the Operational Programme Environment - The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building and other projects supporting wetlands management submitted and approved recently from various funding sources.

Water Management Plan of Slovakia developed in 2009 and also adopted by the Slovak Government in 2010 with emphasis on integrated river basin management and implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. The Programme of Measures to achieve good ecological status of water bodies adopted in August 2011.

B. What have been the most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?

Transborder and international cooperation developed, coordination of the regional Ramsar initiative in the Carpathian region, its endorsement by the Ramsar Standing Committee as the Ramsar regional initiative and cooperation with the Carpathian Convention. Thanks to funding especially from EU funds and other donors (e.g. Norwegian and Swiss financial mechanisms) it was possible to perform the management and restoration activities as well as awareness activities.

C. What have been the greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

Continuing financial constraints for implementation of the Action Plan and insufficient capacity of the relevant agencies. Increasing pressure from the development activities on all types of wetlands is recognized.

D. What are the priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

Updated National Programme for Wetland Management in Slovakia 2008-2014 and Action Plan 2012-2014, recently submitted to the Slovak Government, has 4 strategic goals and 41 activities, including: Wetlands inventory; Database on wetlands and its permanent updating; Development, evaluation, refining and implementation of national and supra-national strategies, legislative tools, institutions and practices, improvements in legal documents; Development of wetland restoration guidelines; Increasing of public awareness on wetlands; Development of CEPA programme; Support of Information Centres on wetlands; Integration of wetland conservation and management strategies into planning activities and decision processes on national, regional and local level in context of implementation of Integrated Water Management; Support for the Slovak Ramsar Committee; Identifying of priority wetlands for restoration and taking steps for revitalisation of these sites; Development of guidelines and activities for prevention of dispersal, control and eradication of invasive alien species in wetland ecosystems; Updating of Ramsar Information Sheets and maps; Maintaining ecological character of Ramsar sites and other sites of international importance; Finalizing of management plans for the Ramsar Sites and other protected areas of wetland character, especially NATURA 2000 sites; Ramsar sites monitoring and research; Support for regional initiatives and

transborder cooperation; Cooperation, coordination and harmonisation with other MEAs; Support the active participation of local and regional self-governments, land owners and land users, private sector and other groups in wetland conservation and wise use; Capacity building for implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

E. Does the Contracting Party have any proposals concerning adjustments to the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan?

To further develop flood prevention measures and role of wetlands.

F. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

To increase cooperation on and support of fund-raising for projects, mediation of capacity building and communication between Contracting Parties at regional level.

G. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)?

Scientific and technical support of international cooperation, coordination and fund-raising for the regional initiative in the Carpathians and the Danube River Network of Protected Areas.

H. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the "Biodiversity cluster" (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

The effort for improved national implementation of the Ramsar Convention and other MEAs (including the Carpathian Convention) is one of the aims of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and such regional initiatives can be a good tool for coordinated support of several countries with similar conditions. It is planned to use the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas for evaluation of management effectiveness in all protected areas, especially in the Carpathian eco-region.

I. How can Ramsar Convention implementation be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?


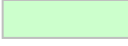
Early involvement of the national specialists for the Ramsar Convention in the teams drafting the strategic documents can ensure appropriate inclusion of the wetland conservation and management priorities and goals into the documents. Regular meetings of implementation teams with participation and involvement of representatives of various sectors and their inclusion in the national Ramsar Committee can harmonize and support better implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

J. Does the Contracting Party have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

No

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box. 
2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions. 
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database designed for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [], °°°° in the free text box.
5. To assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP10, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP10 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment. *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.*

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	C - In progress
<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>New wetland inventory is implemented within the project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building (planned for 2010-2012), co-financed by EU from the Operational Programme Environment.</p> <p>Former inventory of wetlands in Slovakia was carried out during the period 1991 – 2000 (through Ramsar’s Small Grant Fund). After that the inventory of habitats for Natura 2000 sites designation was done using expertise of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and scientific and technical institutions, with support of different projects (mapping of peatlands and wet meadows). During the last triennium the work focused on updating the existing database and the inventory of habitats and species listed in Annexes of EU Birds Directive 79/409/EEC and EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, including wetland habitats and water-related species. New designations (including wetland sites) were prepared for Natura 2000 network according to the results of the EU biogeographical seminars.</p>	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	D - Planned
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Accessibility of the wetland inventory data to stakeholders is one of the planned outputs of the above mentioned project.</p> <p>The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) is responsible for the storage and maintenance of data and information on wetland inventory for the wetlands of international and national importance, inventories of protected areas, and wetland habitats of national and Community interest. Wetland inventories were made accessible in publications.</p>	
<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* “Condition” corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>O - No change O - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 a) Additional information:</p> <p>Wetlands, especially those of Community or international importance are monitored by administrative units of SNC (which include administration of National Parks and administration of Protected Landscape Areas).</p>	
<p>1.1.3 b) Additional information:</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i
(If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

A - Yes

1.3.1 Additional information:
Programme on Wetland Management in Slovakia for 2008-2014 and the Action Plan for implementation of the Programme for 2008-2011 adopted by the Slovak Government in October 2007 (Resolution No. 848 of 3 October 2007). The updated Action Plan for 2012-2014 has been submitted to the Government for adoption in August 2011.

1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}

A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

a) Poverty eradication strategies	Z - Not applicable
b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	C - Partly
c) Coastal and marine resource management plans	Z - Not applicable
d) National forest programmes	D - Planned
e) National strategies for sustainable development	C - Partly
f) National policies or measures on agriculture	C - Partly
g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans	A - Yes

{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

1.3.3 Additional information:
Water Management Plan of Slovakia (2010) and Programme of Measures (2011) Governmental order No. 488/2010 on conditions for providing support in agriculture. Updated Action Plan for Biodiversity Protection up to 2010 (in 2011 development of the new Action Plan)

1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii

A - Yes

1.3.4 Additional information:
Strategic Environmental Assessment in reviewing policies, programmes and plans is incorporated in the Act No. 24/2006 on Environment Impact Assessment.

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	A - Yes
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1.3.5 Additional information:
Act No. 24/2006 on Environment Impact Assessment and the order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 113/2006 on details for EIA.

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	C - In progress
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1.3.6 Additional information:
A new Act on nature conservation is under development and new paragraphs to reflect Ramsar commitments will be included by the end of 2011. Several legal acts were adopted to achieve a good status of waters (implemngtation of EU Water Framework Directive).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	B - No
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1.4.1 Additional information:

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i	C - Partly
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1.4.2 Additional information:
Implementation of EU Water Framework Directive in different projects and the Water Management Plan of Slovakia (2009).

1.4.3 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {1.3.4} KRA 1.4.iii	B - No
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1.4.3 Additional information:

1.4.4 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.1.5} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

The draft guidelines on management planning for protected areas were developed in 2010 and socio-economic and cultural values of sites are included. Management plans are under development in a framework of the project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building (planned for 2010-2012) for following Ramsar Sites:

Turiec Wetlands, Orava River and its Tributaries, Poiplie, Pariz marshes;

In the framework of the LIFE project Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs in Slovakia, the management plan for Senne Fishponds RS was developed. In previous years it was done for Sur Ramsar Site.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention. *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes*

1.5.1 Have you taken steps to ensure that your national focal points for other environmental conventions are contributing to the application of Ramsar Convention implementation mechanisms? KRA 1.5.i

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

National focal points for environmental conventions are employed within the newly established Department for International Conventions in the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and they closely cooperate.

1.5.2 Have you brought the "Changwon Declaration" (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
- b. parliament
- c. private sector
- d. civil society

A - Yes

B - No

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.5.2 Additional information:

The information on COP10 and Changwon Declaration was presented to the Slovak Government in February 2009. The information was taken into consideration by the Government on its meeting on February 9th, 2009 and is available on <http://www.rokovania.sk/appl/material.nsf/0/5062937C64498B78C1257553004F3C70?OpenDocument>.

The Declaration was published in 2 magazines, for instance the Enviromagazin (magazine of the Ministry of Environment and Slovak Environmental Agency), as the attachment of the article on the COP10 and Green Korea, available (only in Slovak) also electronically on <http://www.enviromagazin.sk/enviro2009/enviro2/index.html>; Presentations were made by the participants of the meeting on different occasions.

1.5.3 Has the “Changwon Declaration” been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?

C - Partly

1.5.3 Additional information:

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?

A - Yes

1.5.4 Additional information:
See 1.5.2 above.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

KRA 1.6.i

B - No

B - No

B - No

1.6.1 Additional information:

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including on potential threats to the wetlands? KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Wetland management plans use information from scientific research provided by various institutions.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

1.7.2 Does your country's water governance and management treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? KRA 1.7.ii

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

Water Management Plan of Slovakia (Management Plan for the Danube River Basin; Management Plan for the Vistula River Basin. Implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. MoE SR, December 2009). Programme of Measures and legal provisions to the Water Act No. 364/2004 were adopted in 2009 and 2010. The updated Concept of spatial development of Slovakia will also include requirements for conservation and wise use of wetlands.

1.7.3 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.4.2}

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

CEPA is a part of the Water Management Plan of Slovakia. Within the project of the Slovak Environmental Agency Information and education campaign on water planning according to the WFD 2000/60/EC related to nature and landscape protection there were brochures produced called Environmental goals of the water policy, Water planning and river basin management plans, which include wetland conservation issues.

1.7.4 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {1.4.3}

Z - Not applicable

1.7.4 Additional information:

1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

1.7.5 Additional information: The study on overview and options for environmental support (Ministry of Environment, 2011) deals with enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The Intergovernmental panel for climate change (IPCC) is preparing a revision of 2006 IPCC guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories - wetlands. They will prepare methodology related to reporting on harvested wood products, wetlands and nitrous oxid emissions from soils.

1.7.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands and water in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? KRA 1.7.v

C - Partly

1.7.6 Additional information:

The governmental order No. 488/2010 on conditions for providing support in agriculture, in Annex 2 Good agricultural and environmental conditions includes an obligation of the the applicant for direct payment to prevent damage and removal of landscape elements on arable land (including wetlands, baulks). Annex 3 of the order includes Legal requirements for management, where in the field of Environment there is a provision for water protection from nitrate pollution from agricultural sources. These conditions apply for agricultural land in vulnerable areas according to the EU Nitrate Directive 91/676/EC. For example one of the conditions is the prohibition of the fertilizers application within so called buffer zones 10 metres from riparian line of streams or from inundation line of reservoirs.

The Act No. 220/2004 on protection and use of the agricultural land provides for wetland conservation - fens, wet plots, peatlands and other areas are not used as agricultural land.

The Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 supports habitats of natural and semi-natural grasslands (hygrophilous grasslands) within approved measures and sub-measures.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems 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 and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified?
{1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

D - Planned

1.8.1 Additional information:

The activity is included in the project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building (planned for 2010-2012). Migration barriers on rivers were surveyed by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Water Management Enterprise and priority sites for restoration were identified. A study on measures in the original river bed of the Vah River to improve potential for fishing and recreation was developed by Slovak University of Technology. The project intent (bilateral project of Slovak-Hungarian cooperation) for habitats restoration in the Slovak-Hungarian section of the Ipeľ/Ipoly River was consulted.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

Wetland restoration programme will be developed within the project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building. LIFE project Conservation of Senné and Medzibodrozie SPAs in Slovakia was implemented in 2005-2010 by the State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic (SNC SR) together with the Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia (SOS/BirdLife), and other partners with the main goal to restore favourable conservation status for birds and their habitats by habitat restoration activities, hydrological regime improvement, management of meadows, etc. The project included educational activities. The Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia since the beginning of 2011 has implemented a LIFE+ project Protection of Great Bittern and Ferruginous Pochard in SPA Medzibodrozie. The activities include national action plans for both species, restoration of hydrological regime in the site on at least 50 ha, restoration of habitats of the species on 90 ha, management measures on breeding sites of the species on 50 ha, protection measures and public awareness activities. Project of the SOS/BL Slovakia Using of biomass of Gedrianske luky Meadows (implemented in 2009-2010 from Norwegian Funds) supported restoration and management of 70 ha of abandoned wet meadows. Restoration of key wetlands habitats and their ecosystem functions in Laborec-Uh river basin was included in the UNDP/GEF project on integration of principles and practices of ecological management into the land and water management in Východoslovenska nizina Lowland (region Laborec-Uh). The LIFE project Conservation of endangered bird species populations in natural habitats of the Danube inland delta (2009-2013) is implemented by Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development, Slovakia (BROZ) with other partners in Slovakia and Hungary. Project objectives include restoration of selected wetlands, dried-up and disturbed river branches and oxbows, restoration of river branch connectivity, water regime and flowing water conditions, elimination of fish migration barriers at two strategic points, restoration of abandoned meadows as feeding and nesting bird habitats, restoration of birds refugia and nesting areas by planting of native tree species, awareness raising of key stakeholders and public. This organisation implements also other wetland restoration-related projects in the Danube River basin – Conservation of Danube Floodplain Forests as the centre of biodiversity of European importance (Norwegian Funds, 2009-2010), Conservation of Root Vole (LIFE, 2010-2015) etc. Restoration of parts of the Muranka River was also done in cooperation with NGO (Muranska planina Non-investment Fund) and the state bodies in 2010 and supported by the Norwegian Funds. The proposal of the project which includes restoration activities in 40 wetland sites in Slovakia was recently approved from the Swiss Financial Mechanism.

1.8.3 Has Ramsar guidance (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidance on wetland restoration been used in designing and implementing wetland restoration/ rehabilitation programmes or projects? {1.5.2}

A - Yes

1.8.3 Additional information:

The Ramsar guidance will be used as a basis for the above mentioned wetland restoration programme in the project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building (planned for 2010-2012).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

The Programme of landscape restoration and integrated river basin management was approved by the Slovak Government in October 2010 (Decision 744/2010) and partial plans have been adopted especially for flood prevention in selected river basins.

STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species. *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands?
KRA 1.9.i

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information:

The inventory of invasive alien species is included in the annual work plans of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR). The Manual for identification of selected invasive plant species was published by the SNC SR in 2002. Information is also available on the SNC SR website (<http://www.sopsr.sk/publikacie/invazne/index.php?id=aktuality>).

The elaboration of the list of invasive alien species in all 7 Carpathian countries was included in the project Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity (BIOREGIO Carpathians) and SNC SR is responsible project partner for this activity.

1.9.2 Have national invasive species control and management policies or guidelines been established for wetlands?
{1.6.1} KRa 1.9.iii

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information:

Order of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 Coll. as amended by later regulations - Annex 2 consists of the List of invasive plant species and it determines the ways of their eradication, this was updated in 2011. Annex 3 of this Order lists the invasive plant species which are allowed to be spread behind the border of urban areas.

Order of the Ministry of Environment No. 110/2005 Coll. prohibits possession of alien birds of prey (Falconiformes) and owls (Strigiformes), and Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*).

New Order of the Slovak Government No. 488/2010 on the conditions of the support in agriculture within single area payment scheme keeps the condition/subcondition for direct subsidies in agriculture requiring elimination of invasive alien plant species (good agricultural and environmental practice).

National legislation is carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions. Following policies, strategies and action plans concerning the Invasive Alien Species were developed, agreed and implemented for the implementation of the international conventions:

- National Biodiversity Strategy in Slovakia and Updated Action plan for implementation of the National Strategy for 2003 – 2010 (resolution of the Slovak Government no. 1209/2002) which deals with Invasive species in Chapter 1, Strategic goal 2.

- proposal of the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species which implements Recommendation No. 99(2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) was updated in 2009.

- The Slovak Wetland Management Programme (National Wetland Policy) and Action plan (2008–2011) to this Programme which implements Resolution 8.18 on Invasive Species and Wetlands of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The guidance on elimination of invasive plant species was published by SNC SR in 2003 and was distributed to all municipalities in Slovakia.

The control of invasive plant species along water bodies on the state land is the responsibility of the Slovak Water Management Enterprise and is done annually. Most of the IAS management activities (eradication, containment, control) are still mostly coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of SR and they are concentrated in protected areas.

To give an example: in 2010 control measures were applied on cca 100 sites covering about 80 hectares and focused mostly on control of *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, *Fallopia* and *Solidago* species. Administration of Protected Landscape Area and Ramsar Site Danube floodplains in cooperation with local hunters association focused on mapping and control of *Myocaster coypus*.

Recently some NGOs have become more interested in IAS issues. As one example project of BROZ (Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development) Bratislava 'Conservation of Danube floodplain forests as important European biodiversity centre' can be mentioned. Project was implemented in 2009-2010 and one of its aims was to eradicate alien tree species on the area of 26 hectares of floodplain forests and grasslands.

Restoration of native biodiversity followed eradication activities on selected sites. Areas where no special protection is provided but invasive alien species have been recorded there, are also subject to management measures.

Some management activities for mitigation of impacts of IAS and/or for restoration of native biodiversity have been applied e.g. in Morava Floodplain Ramsar Site where alien tree species *Fraxinus americana* was eradicated on about area of 7 ha.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

To illustrate good cooperation between neighbouring countries: Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Austria - one example can be mentioned: the project 'Developing and testing of sustainable habitat management technologies for the effective conservation of protected grasslands' between Hungary (National Park Aggtelek) and Slovakia (East Slovakian Museum in Košice with the cooperation of National Park Slovak Karst/Slovenský kras) within ITERREG Programme implemented in 2009-2010. The project was focused on management (including technology development) of selected protected grassland areas with the aim to keep favourable conservation status of grassland habitats. Some practical activities within the project were aimed at eradication/control of alien plant species.

In 2010 official agreement on cooperation between Agency for Nature Protection of the Czech Republic and State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic was signed. IAS issues (especially in transboundary areas) are in the official programme of cooperation.

In 2008 Slovakia became a member of the NOBANIS project and portal, however its contribution to the NOBANIS work is still small.

Slovakia also participates in European Commission work on IAS.

STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {4.2.1} KRA 1.10.i

C - Partly

1.10.1 Additional information:

The regional branches of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic provide the information.

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of:

a. Wetlands in general

b. Ramsar Sites

KRA 1.10.ii

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

The principle of using the property wisely and to take appropriate measures is included in the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection. Maintaining of or achieving the favourable conservation status of habitats and sites of international importance is an obligation of the land owner and land user, who can be compensated or can be supported by the financial contribution. Some management activities are implemented with the agreement of the land owners or land users or are ordered in private companies.

Foundations and small grants schemes of private companies annually support projects for improvement of state of some wetlands, educational trails (e.g. in Turiec Wetlands Ramsar Site) and other educational activities.

A LIFE+ project outline for protection of Novácko-kosske mokrade wetland and optimisation of hydrological regime for support of biodiversity in Horna Nitra mining area was prepared in cooperation with Hornonitrianske bane mining company.

1.10.3 Have awareness-raising materials been made available to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices? KRA 1.10.iii

A - Yes

1.10.3 Additional information:

A special edition of magazine Enviromagazin (2010) devoted to wetlands conservation was published to inform general public. All wetland-related projects implemented during the triennium included activities on awareness-raising, stakeholders involvement and production of publicity materials.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information:

Incentive measures are included in the Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection. Guidelines and methodologies for using the incentive measures were developed and used.

In some protected areas management activities (e.g. clearing of shrubs, reed and tall herbs) have led to preparation of the site for regular management and wise use by land owners and land users according to the needs of habitats and species.

Governmental order No. 488/2010 on conditions for providing support in agriculture, in Annex 2 Good agricultural and environmental conditions includes obligation of the the applicant for direct payment to prevent damage and removal of landscape elements on arable land (including wetlands, baulks). Annex 3 of the order includes Legal requirements for management, where in the field of Environment there is a provision for water protection from nitrate pollution from agricultural sources. These conditions apply for agricultural land in vulnerable areas according to the EU Nitrate Directive 91/676/EC. As an example, one of the conditions is the prohibition for application of fertilizers within so called buffer zones 10 metres from riparian line of streams or from inundation line of reservoirs.

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i

D - Planned

1.11.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note. An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP11 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on any of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. *Apply the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance" (Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A - Yes
2.1.1 Additional information: The activity is included in the Action Plan for 2008-2011 and updated Action Plan for 2012-2014 to the Programme of wetland management in Slovakia for 2008-2014.	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	B - No
2.1.2 Additional information: The activity is included in the updated Action Plan for 2012-2014 to the Programme of wetland management in Slovakia for 2008-2014 and the annual work plan of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.3 Additional information: The completion of the Natura 2000 network was proposed after scientific evaluation of situation of habitats and species in Slovakia and the list of new proposed SCIs (97) was adopted by the Government in August 2011, among them aquatic habitats for characteristic wetland species are proposed for protection.	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	1 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation): It is planned to develop a proposal for designation of wetlands in Pieniny region in 2012.	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information. *Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands*

of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

The activity is included in the updated Action Plan for 2012-2014 to the Programme of wetland management in Slovakia for 2008-2014 and the annual work plan of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning - new Ramsar Sites. *While recognizing that Ramsar Site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar Sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.*

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? KRA 2.3.i

C - Some sites

2.3.1 Additional information:

Most of the sites have management plans drafts developed in previous years, for 4 sites (Sur, Senne Fishponds, Rudava River Valley, part of Turiec Wetlands) the management plans were developed in 2006-2009 in the framework of LIFE or UNDP/GEF projects. For other 5 sites (Turiec Wetlands, Orava River and its Tributaries, Poiplie, Parizske mociare Marshes, part of Danube Floodplain) the management plans elaboration is included in the project funded from Operational Programme Environment.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.3.2} KRA 2.4.i

4 sites

2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i

4 sites

2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i

5 sites

2.4.4 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being revised or updated? KRA 2.4.i

0 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

Most of Slovak Ramsar Sites have draft management plans developed, however they are not officially approved by relevant authorities and they will need updating. See also 2.3.1

2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii

A - Yes

2.4.5 Additional information:

The measures to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites have been defined and will be incorporated into prepared management plans. For some Ramsar sites these measures are part of decrees on Special Protection Areas (when overlapped with Natura 2000 sites according to EU Birds Directive) and their draft management plans.

2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv

0 sites

2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):

Intra- and inter-ministerial dialogues have been established by the means of the Slovak Ramsar Committee for the purpose to enhance the integration of relevant policies related to the conservation of water resources, wetlands and biodiversity. All protected areas administrations established their own Consultation Committees for improved implementation of obligations and cooperation with stakeholders. Management committees worked during projects implementation.

2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v

6 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number):

498 Sur, 499 Pariz marshes, 500 Senne Fishponds, 604 Morava floodplains, 931 Rudava River Valley, part of 932 Turiec Wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness. *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance".*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of Ramsar Site management effectiveness been carried out? {2.3.4} KRA 2.5.i

C - Some sites

2.5.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available):

2010 - Danube Floodplains, Latorica, Wetlands of Orava Basin - in borders of Protected Landscape Areas in a framework of the Carpathian Protected Areas Management Tracking Tool (WWF-DCP project Protected Areas for a Living Planet)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status. *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.4.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established):

Ecological character of each Ramsar site is monitored by the Ramsar site manager (Administration of a protected area) from the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic. Most Ramsar sites overlap with Natura 2000 network sites and are subject to monitoring and reporting also to the European Commission.

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {2.4.2} KRA 2.6.i

Z - No negative change

2.6.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some cases", please indicate for which Ramsar Sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.4.3} KRA 2.6.ii

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

Natura 2000 sites are maintained according to the law and EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. *Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).*

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.ii

A - Yes

3.1.1 Additional information:

The focal points of MEAs are employees of the Ministry of Environment and/or the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic. In some cases the same person is the focal point for more environmental international agreements. Some specialists are members of several national committees for different conventions.

3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv

C - Partly

3.1.2 Additional information:

According to the theme of the session the focal points of other MEAs are invited (or are members of the Slovak Ramsar Committee already).

3.1.3 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO, etc)? KRA 3.1.iv

A - Yes

3.1.3 Additional information:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides coordination and communication through Permanent Mission of SR in UN in Geneva, Permanent Representative in FAO and WFP in Rome etc. International Relations Department of MoE is a contact point ensuring cooperation with UNEP, UNECE; if required, it can ensure cooperation with the Slovak focal points in other international organizations.

3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii

Z - Not applicable

3.1.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i

A - Yes

3.2.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Planned", please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

The Carpathian Wetland Initiative was initiated by Slovakia as a signatory of the Carpathian Convention and Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention on occasion of the World Wetlands Day in February 2004 by the letter of the Slovak minister of Environment to his partners in other 6 Carpathian countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine) and other potential partners, including NGOs. It was endorsed by the Ramsar Standing Committee in May 2009 and it operates as a Regional Initiative within the framework of the Ramsar Convention and in the same time as a part of the work of the Carpathian Convention. The framework for cooperation between secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Convention provides the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in December 2006.

3.2.2 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {4.10.1}

D - Planned

3.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

Carpathian Wetland Centre is planned as a part of the work plan of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

<p>3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10): Study tour on learning from Slovak experience on sustainable use, management and environmental protection of the karst fields and peatlands supported by UNDP and SlovakAid Training for representatives of Bosnia and Hercegovina and Serbia in October 2009.</p>	
<p>3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.3.2 Additional information: The environment sphere has been ranked to the priority areas for the ODA projects implemented by the Slovak Agency for International Development Assistance.</p>	

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”): Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}

A - Yes

3.3.3 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10):

Examples of projects for wetlands and species conservation, restoration and CEPA during the triennium:

EU LIFE - 2005-2011 - Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs in Slovakia; 2009-2013 - Conservation of endangered bird species populations in natural habitats of the Danube inland delta; 2010-2013 - Enhancement of Public Awareness of the Importance of Water for Life, its Protection and Sustainable Use in Accordance with the Water Framework Directive; 2010–2015 - Conservation of root vole *Microtus oeconomus mehelyi*; 2011-2015 - Protection of Great Bittern and Ferruginous Pochard in SPA Medzibodrozie;

EU ETC-SEE - 2009-2012 - The Danube River Network of Protected Areas; 2011-2013 - Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians;

EU Cross-border Cooperation Programme SK-AT - 2010-2012 - Cooperation in the Ramsar management of the Morava and Thaya rivers floodplains; 2010-2013 - The Morava River Restoration: A plan of measures prepared in accordance with EU Directives concerning water and nature conservation;

EU Cross-border Cooperation Programme SK-HU - 2010-2011 - North-Eastern gate to the Ipel River Valley and Duna-Ipoly National Park; 2009-2010 - Biological research of wetlands in the Ipel River catchment in accordance with requirements of the Water Framework Directive and nature conservation interests;

EU Structural Funds - Operational Programme Environment (OPE) - 2009–2011 - Development of data for ensuring favourable conservation status of selected bird species and their habitats in SPAs; 2009–2011 - Development of management plans for 10 protected areas; 2010–2013 - Improvement of favourable conservation status of butterflies of genus *Maculinea*; 2009-2012 - Monitoring and management of cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*); 2009-2012 - The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building; 2010-2012 - Monitoring and management of selected caves; 2010-2011 - Improving of management of the Ramsar Site - Caves of Demanova Valley;

Financial Mechanism of EES and Norwegian Financial Mechanism (NFM) - 2009-2012 - Conservation of Diversity of Waterbirds and their Habitats in Eastern Slovakian Lowland; 2009-2010 - Conservation of the Danube floodplain forests as the centre of biodiversity of European importance; 2009-2010 - Rivers without barriers; 2009-2010 - Using of biomass of Gedrianske luky Meadows; 2009-2010 - Development of scientific proposal for completion of Natura 2000 network in Pannonian and Alpine biogeographical regions; 2009-2010 - Preparation and application of the system of integrated management of water resources and model solutions on the area of villages and their river basins; 2009-2011 - Management models for grassland habitats;

Swiss Financial Mechanism – 2011-2015 - Development of nature conservation and of protected areas in the Slovak Carpathians;

UNDP/GEF - 2005-2010 - Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use of Rich Fens in the Slovak Republic; 2007-2012 - Integration of Ecosystem Management Principles and Practices in Land Management Principles and Practices into Land and Water management of Laborec-Uh region;

GEF - SGP - 2010-2012 - Peatland restoration in the vicinity of town Spisska Bela;

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.2.1}

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):

Within the established international Danube River Network of Protected Areas a transnational project DANUBEPARKS in the ETC-programme for Southeast Europe (2009-2012) was developed where two Slovak Ramsar Sites participate - Danube Floodplains (Danube Floodplains Protected Landscape Area) and Morava River Floodplains (Záhorie Protected Landscape Area). In cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic there are trainings organised for nature conservation professionals in wetland management and conservation with participation of Slovak specialists.

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

Information about the country's wetlands including Ramsar sites and their status are publicly available through both publications and web sites. Several publications about wetlands were published during different projects implementation by different organisations (brochures on Turiec Wetlands, Danube Floodplains, Senne Fishponds and other protected sites, management models for non-forest habitats, habitats restoration - some of them are available from the web), leaflets, posters, calendars, documentary films were produced about wetlands of Orava Basin, Latorica, Zahorie, Danube Floodplains, wetlands of Senne and Medzibodrozie. Several brochures on wetland habitats and NATURA 2000 sites were published and disseminated to target groups. All projects have their special web sites with information on sites and/or wetlands in general.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic made information on wetlands on its web page: www.sopsr.sk available to public. Special edition of magazine of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Environmental Agency Enviromagazin devoted to wetlands and the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention was published in 2010 in Slovak and English language.

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? KRA 3.4.ii

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. *Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

3.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

Following Ramsar sites have been designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance as transboundary wetlands:

Morava - Dyje - Danube floodplains - the Trilateral Ramsar Platform was established in 1995 and Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Waters of the Republic of Austria, the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic was signed in 2001. Trilateral Ramsar Site Floodplains of Morava-Dyje-Danube Confluence was officially declared at the 8th meeting of the Trilateral Ramsar Platform held in Devin (Slovakia), November 2007.

Poiplie - in 2007, to fulfil the commitments made by the Slovak Republic and Hungary in their national reports submitted to the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention, in accordance with Article 5 of the text of the Convention on Wetlands and with Resolution VII.19 on Guidelines on international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention both countries designated the two sites the Ipoly Valley and Poiplie, already listed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance, as transboundary sites, in order to facilitate harmonising the management of this shared wetland.

Tisa River - trilateral Ramsar site situated in the southeastern Slovakia. The site includes a 6 km section of the Tisa River and its floodplain contiguous with portions of the river in Hungary and Ukraine (Upper Tisza Valley TRS). The UNDP/GEF international project Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin was implemented in 2009-2011 in the Tisa River Basin countries.

Domica - subterranean wetland representing a part of the 25 km long karst hydrological system Domica-Baradla, shared with Hungary.

There is bilateral co-operation on transboundary rivers with all neighbouring countries through (bilateral) transboundary commissions.

On multilateral level ICPDR deals with wetland conservation, management and restoration. Special expert group was set up for this purpose. Representative of Slovakia is a member of this group.

Following Ramsar sites are situated along the state borders:

Wetlands of Orava basin - a diverse mosaic of wetland communities, including riverine, forested peatland, wet meadows, non-forested shrub, swamp forests, fens, open bogs, and an artificial water reservoir. The site is situated in northern Slovakia, close to the state borders with Poland; Danube floodplains - a section of the Danube River and its floodplain along the Austrian and Hungarian borders; Latorica - the river flowing to Slovakia from Ukraine (proposed Ramsar Site in Ukrainian side of the border - Prytysianskyi landscape park).

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {2.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

A - Yes

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

Effective cooperative management is in place in the Floodplains of Morava-Dyje-Danube confluence Trilateral Ramsar Site. Several transborder projects are recently implemented in this area.

The transnational project BIOREGIO (2011-2013) also includes an elaboration of the management plan for bilateral (Slovak-Hungarian) Ramsar Site in the Ipeľ/Ipoly valley.

The UNDP/GEF international project Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin was implemented in 2009-2011 in the Tisa River Basin countries.

There is bilateral co-operation on transboundary rivers with all neighbouring countries through (bilateral) transboundary commissions.

On multilateral level ICPDR deals with wetland conservation, management and restoration. Special expert group was set up for this purpose. Representative of Slovakia is a member of this group.

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? KRA
3.5.iii

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

Slovakia is a Contracting Party to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

LIFE project Conservation of endangered bird species populations in natural habitats of the Danube inland delta is implemented in cooperation with Hungary. Project general objective is to improve the conservation status of the floodplain bird species that are protected in SPA Dunajské luhy and SPA Szigetköz.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
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<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>a) At the national level
b) Sub-national level
c) Catchment/basin level
d) Local/site level</p> | |
|--|--|

	<p>D - Planned B - No B - No D - Planned</p>
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<p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)</p>	
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<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>	
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<p>Project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building (2010-2012) of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic deals with this activity.</p>	
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<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
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	<p>3 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)):</p>	
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<p>During the last triennium the education/information centres were supported in the following Ramsar Sites: Wetlands of Orava Basin, Poipie and Senne Fishponds. The Carpathian Wetland Centre is planned to be established within other projects which started recently, as well as the support for the education centre for the Turiec Wetlands Ramsar Site.</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p>	
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- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> | |
|--|--|

	<p>A - Yes</p>
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	<p>A - Yes</p>
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<p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	
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4.1.3 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):

Public participation is included in the national legislation and guidelines for decision making processes and for management planning of protected sites and sites of international importance. This principle is included also in the Concept of Water Management Policy of the Slovak Republic till 2015 and the Water Management Plan of Slovakia. Stakeholders have been involved in all relevant projects implemented during the last triennium. Specific projects (The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building; Improvement of information about Natura 2000 and support of communication between stakeholders, and Improvement of environmental awareness on nature and landscape protection (including Natura 2000)) can be mentioned in this context.

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

C - Partly

4.1.4 Additional information:

The project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building includes seminars, workshops and trainings for sites managers and other stakeholders, based on preliminar assessment.

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv

5 opportunities

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) used the opportunities for wetland site managers trainings organized in the country or abroad:

Within different projects in cooperation with NGOs Daphne-Institute of Applied Ecology and Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia trainings were provided in 2009 on Management, restoration and monitoring of rich fens and on Management and restoration of wetlands with focus on grasslands and bird habitats;

The International course Wetlands as Waterfowl Habitats (Czech Republic, September 2011);

NatuRegio - vocational training programme for young professionals working with floodplain/wetland/aquatic ecosystem and protected areas management in central and lower Danube River Basin (project of Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation and WWF-DCP, funded by Alfred Toepfer Stiftung, DBU and Michael Otto Stiftung, Germany);

In the project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building were supported (partly also by WWF-DCP) 2 SNC SR staff members, participating in the international MSc. training course Management of protected areas, organized by University in Klagenfurt (Austria).

4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}	A - Yes
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>The Slovak Ramsar Committee is composed of representatives of nature conservation sector, water management sector, agriculture, forestry and rural development sector, transport, construction and regional development sector, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specialists, universities, academic institutions and NGOs. National Focal Points for STRP and CEPA are members, as well as national delegates to Wetlands International.</p>	
<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites managers? b. other MEA national focal points? c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment and the State Nature Conservancy organize regular meetings and consultations; the procedure of intersectoral consultations is based in the rules for commenting the documents submitted to the Government.</p>	
4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}	A - Yes
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>Examples: Exhibition Wetlands Ecosystem Services in the Slovak Museum of Nature Conservation and Spaeleology; other exhibitions (Wetlands and Water, Wetlands of Slovakia, Bird Life in the Danube Floodplains), education activities, presentations, discussions, seminars, excursions, films showing, special edition of Enviromagazin</p>	
4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}	A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this):

All the projects (see 3.3.3) include aspects and activities to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands; special programmes (and projects) for different target groups have been developed by e.g. Daphne - Institute of Applied Ecology and the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (Educational Programme Wetlands and Ramsar Sites). Different events (World Water Day, Danube Day, European Birds Day, camps, excursions, conferences) are used to highlight the themes. The activities include exhibitions (e.g. Wetlands, SPA Senne and Medzibodrozie, Dragonflies in Slovakia), lectures, competitions, excursions, monitoring programme of the Slovak Environmental Agency for schools On a hiking tour with Natura, other educational programmes for school children and teachers, workshops and seminars.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. *Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.*

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.6.2} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):
Support to the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and the 7th European Regional Meeting (Trnava, Slovakia, September 2011).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness. *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii
□

A - Yes

4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

The National Report Format was used in analysis of shortcomings, compiling of annual work plans of the State Nature Conservancy and drawing of the new Programme and Action Plan for wetlands conservation and wise use in Slovakia.

4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i

A - Yes

4.3.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, and WWF International.

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

IUCN, Wetlands International, WWF - consultations about projects and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative annual work plans;

WWF-DCP - support for participation of 2 participants of the international MSc. training course Management of protected areas, organized by University in Klagenfurt (Austria).

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

Section 4 (www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).