



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 12th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Uruguay, 2015**

Please submit the completed National Report in Microsoft Word format (.doc, 97-2003), as an electronic file (not a printed copy) and preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org) by **1 September 2014**.

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

The COP12 National Report Format (NRF) 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.

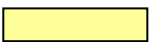
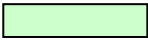
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 66 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.

Section 4 is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

1. All Sections of the COP12 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
2. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **1 September 2014**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP12.
3. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
4. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.
5. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word. You are only able to submit replies and information in the yellow or green boxes, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the structure and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties.
6. To select a yellow or green field you wish to complete, 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.
7. To move down through the sequence of fields, you can also use the 'Tab' key on the computer keyboard.

8. For a 'free-text' field, you can type in whatever information you wish. Note that there is only limited facility within the Microsoft 'form' format to make editorial changes in the 'free-text' box once text has been entered. Therefore, if you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate document, make all the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the box.
9. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic entry of data into the Secretariat's database. For that reason, please **do not use double quote marks " "** in the 'free-text' fields. Please **only use single quote marks ' '**. For the same reason, please **only use simple text in the 'free-text' fields: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
10. 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'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
11. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).
12. 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.
13. An NRF is not usually completed by one person alone: for many indicators it is best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP11 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.
14. After each session, **remember to save the file** in Microsoft Word, .doc, 97-2003 format. A recommended filename structure is: COP12NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP12NRFSpain13July2014.doc
15. After the NRF has been completed, please **send it in this format to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (dufour@ramsar.org).**
16. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP12 National Report.**
17. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at www.ramsar.org/contacts_en.

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 Conservation and Landcape Development
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Rastislav Rybanič, Mr. Mgr.
Mailing address:	Námestie L. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava
Telephone/Fax:	00421 2 5956 2160 / 00421 2 5956 2533
Email:	rastislav.rybanic@enviro.gov.sk

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Adriana Kušíková, Ms. Mgr.
Mailing address:	Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic Námestie L. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava
Telephone/Fax:	00421 2 5956 2558 / 00421 2 5956 2533
Email:	adriana.kusikova@enviro.gov.sk

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP)

Name and title:	Eduard Stloukal, Mr. RNDr., PhD.
Name of organisation:	Faculty of Natural Science, Comenius University in Bratislava
Mailing address:	Mlynská dolina 4, 842 15 Bratislava
Telephone/Fax:	00421 2 60296 333
Email:	stloukal@fns.uniba.sk

DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Miriám Balciarová, Ms. Ing.; Alena Badurová, Ms. Mgr.
Name of organisation:	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Malá Fatra NP Administration
Mailing address:	Hrnčiarska 197, 013 03 Varín
Telephone/Fax:	00421 41 5071414 / 00421 41 569 2101
Email:	miriam.balciarova@sopsr.sk; alena.badurova@sopsr.sk

DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Milan Janák, Mr. Mgr.
Name of organisation:	Daphne - Institute of Applied Ecology
Mailing address:	Podunajská 24, 821 06 Bratislava
Telephone/Fax:	00421 2 455 24019 / 00421 2 456 40201
Email:	janak@daphne.sk

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

REMINDER: Please do not use double quote marks “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP11 reporting):

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

- 1) Development of management plans for Ramsar Sites and some other wetlands
- 2) Inventory of wetlands in Slovakia and development of database and information system, development of monitoring of species and habitats
- 3) Management and restoration of some wetlands and parts of Ramsar Sites
- 4) Transborder and regional cooperation in the Carpathians
- 5) Development of promotion and education materials, establishment of the Carpathian Wetland Centre

B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

- 1) Insufficient funding for protection, management, restoration, monitoring
- 2) Insufficient capacity for implementation and supervision
- 3) Increasing pressure from the development activities on all types of wetlands
- 4) Involvement of stakeholders, different sectors
- 5) Slow development of Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) programme and insufficient staff training

C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

- 1) Update of the National Programme for Wetland Management in Slovakia for period 2015-2021 and the Action Plan for its implementation
- 2) Improved protection, maintenance and management of sites of international importance
- 3) Restoration of ecosystems and their services and elimination of invasive alien species
- 4) Improvement of monitoring of species and habitats
- 5) Involvement of stakeholders, different sectors and CEPA programme development

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

.....

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

.....

F. 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?

It would be useful to coordinate periodic reporting and questionnaires of different MEAs in the meaning of time planning and questions and recommendation, because in some cases activities requested from different MEAs are in contradiction.

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

.....

H. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

.....

I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic in Banská Bystrica
Slovak Museum of Nature Conservation and Speleology in Liptovský Mikuláš
Slovak Environmental Agency in Banská Bystrica
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute in Bratislava
Slovak Water Management Enterprise in Banská Štiavnica
Water Management Research Institute in Bratislava
Slovak Ramsar Committee

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing 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, you should 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.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database National Reports. For that reason, **please do not use double quote marks “ ” in the free text boxes. Use single quotes ‘ ’. Text in the ‘free text’ boxes should be simple text only: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
5. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP11, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP11 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 implementation 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	A - Yes
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

<p>1.1.1 Additional information: Additional wetland inventory was done by the Slovak State Nature Conservancy within the project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the awareness of wetlands and capacity building, and the project Preparation and establishment of monitoring of habitats and species and improved access to information by public, co-financed by EU from the Operational Programme Environment and some other projects.</p>	
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information: Results of the projects are prepared to become available on-line in the new Comprehensive Information and Monitoring System of the State Nature Conservancy (SNC), including interactive maps.</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources 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 describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) <input type="radio"/> - No change b) <input type="radio"/> - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b): Wetlands, especially those of Community or international importance are monitored by administrative units of the SNC and are subject of restoration and maintenance projects.</p>	

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.*

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	A - Yes
<p>1.3.1 Additional information: Programme of Wetland Management in Slovakia for 2008-2014 and the Action Plan for implementation of the Programme for 2012-2014 adopted by the Slovak Government in 2011. Monitoring Programmes of the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute could provide data for evaluation of wetlands.</p>	

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Poverty eradication strategies b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans c) Coastal and marine resource management plans d) National forest programmes e) National strategies for sustainable development f) National policies or measures on agriculture g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD <p>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Z - Not applicable b) C - Partly c) Z - Not applicable d) C - Partly e) C - Partly f) C - Partly g) A - Yes
<p>1.3.2 Additional information: National Adaptation Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Adverse Impacts of Climate Change (adopted by the Slovak Government in 2014 by decision No. 148/2014); Updated National Strategy on Biodiversity to 2020 and Action Plan for its implementation; Updated Nature Conservation Policy; Territorial System of Ecological Stability (on different levels from local to national level). LPIS (Land Parcel Identification System) use NATURA 2000 (As part of NATURA 2000 sites are included Ramsar sites). Farmers in these areas get compensation payments according to Rural Development Programme. Small wetlands are considered as landscape features (GAEC) and SAPS payments are declared on LF areas.</p>	
<p>1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: Strategic Environmental Assessment in reviewing policies, programmes and plans is incorporated in the Act No. 24/2006 on Environmental Impact Assessment as amended.</p>	
<p>1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.4 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, as amended.</p>	
<p>1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: In the update of the Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection were adopted (in 2013) some amendments to improve habitat protection and management of sites of international importance. The Act No. 24/2006 on EIA was amended in July 2014 to improve procedures and public participation in these procedures.</p>	

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 made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

B - No

1.4.1 Additional information:

A manual (guidelines for rapid assessment) on valuation of ecosystem services in protected areas was developed within the GEF Small Grants Programme in 2013.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i

C - Partly

1.4.2 Additional information:

Implementation of EU Water Framework Directive in different projects and the Water Management Plan of Slovakia. Several projects have been implemented with topics on water security and wetland policy. Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems are part of the groundwater bodies evaluation carried out by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute and the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

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

C - Partly

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

Turiec Wetlands, Poiplie, other under development (Orava River and its tributaries, Pariz marshes).

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 Since COP11, 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
- {1.5.2}

- a. B - No
- b. B - No
- c. B - No
- d. B - No

1.5.1 Additional information:

It will be included in the updated national wetland policy and Action Plan for 2015-2021.

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

- a. A - Yes
- b. B - No
- c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

GEF Small Grants project on guidelines for valuation of ecosystem services in protected areas involved wetlands as well.

For example project of Slovak-Austrian cross-border cooperation SONDAR (Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region) was solved in Moravian alluvium.

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

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Wetland management plans use updated information from scientific research provided by various institutions, e.g. development of the management plan for Pariz marshes Ramsar Site has been made by the Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences and will be based on repeated research of the site after 10 years.

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

It is based on principles of the EU Water Framework Directive.

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

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:
CEPA is a part of the Water Management Plan of Slovakia.

1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

In March 2014 the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the document Adaptation Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Adverse Impacts of Climate Change that inter alia proposed adaptation measures highlighting the role of wetlands and their contribution to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts on species and ecosystems, such as drought and floods, changes of water regime and water sources quality. It was included also in the Priority Action Framework for financing of Natura 2000 in the Slovak Republic for EU programming period 2014-2020 and in the new Operational Programme Quality of Environment for 2014-2020. In the Updated national Biodiversity Strategy was formulated a measure to develop strategic framework for priority setting in the ecosystem restoration and to prepare and implement wetland and river ecosystem restoration programme as an contribution to climate change mitigation. The Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute builds different tools (data, trends, maps) that can help also in planning of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in wetlands.

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

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

Proposal for the national Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

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? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

The activity was included in the EU funded project The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building and the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme project Development of Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians. Migration barriers on rivers were identified by the State Nature Conservancy and the Slovak Water Management Enterprise and handbook on technical solutions for ensuring fish migration was prepared.

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

A number of projects implemented by different agencies and NGOs: Cooperation in Ramsar management of floodplains of Morava and Dyje Rivers (Program for Cross-border Cooperation Slovakia-Austria), Restoration of the Morava River (Program for Cross-border Cooperation Slovakia-Austria); Conservation of Endangered Bird Species Populations in Natural Habitats of the Danube Inland Delta (LIFE07/NAT/SK/000707); Restoration of Natura 2000 sites in cross-border Bratislava capital region (LIFE10/NAT/SK/00080); Conservation of Birds in Ostrovne luky SPA (LIFE12/NAT/SK/001155); Conservation of Sand Martin, Kingfisher and European Bee-eater in Danube-Morava Region (LIFE12/NAT/SK/001137); Conservation of *Botaurus stellaris* and *Aythya nyroca* in SPA Medzibodrozie in Slovakia (LIFE09/NAT/SK/000395); Conservation of Root Vole (LIFE, 2010-2015); Conservation of Diversity of Waterbirds and their Habitats in Eastern Slovakian Lowland (Norway Grants); Restoration of endemic Pannonic salt marshes and sand dunes in southern Slovakia (LIFE10NAT/SK/00083); Integrated management of river ecosystems in southern Slovakia (LIFE12/NAT/SK/000488); Development of Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians (Swiss Financial Mechanism); Implementation of Model Programme of Near-natural Management on Grasslands in Natura 2000 Network (Programme of Cross-border Cooperation Hungary-Slovakia); Improvement of hydrological regime of selected wetlands and inundations by restoration of lateral connectivity of streams in the Danube River catchment (Environmental Fund).

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? {1.9.1} 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 was responsible project partner for this activity.

1.9.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established for wetlands?
{1.9.2} 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 animal species and it determines the ways of their eradication. Annex 2a consists of the List of invasive plant species and it determines the ways of their eradication.

Annex 3 of this Order lists the invasive animal species which are allowed to be spread to the nature. Annex 3a of this Order lists the invasive plant species which are allowed to be spread behind the border of urban areas. The draft update of this order was prepared and additional species of plants and animals have been included.

Order of the Ministry of Environment No. 110/2005 Coll. prohibits possession of Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*).

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:

- Updated National Biodiversity Strategy in Slovakia to 2020 and the Action Plan for implementation of measures of the National Biodiversity Strategy.
- 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 2013.
- The Slovak Wetland Management Programme (National Wetland Policy) and Action plan (2012–2014) 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 some NGOs and they are concentrated in protected areas and focused mostly on control of *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, *Fallopia* and *Solidago* species as well as alien tree species. Concerning animals the activities and projects were focused on mapping and control of *Myocaster coypus*, *Mustela vison* (e.g. project NEOVISION – new challenges in biodiversity protection in Czech-Slovak transborder region (Programme of Cross-border Cooperation Czech Republic-Slovak Republic)).

Areas where no special protection is provided but invasive alien species have been recorded there, are also subject to management measures.

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? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i	C - Partly
<p>1.10.1 Additional information: The regional branches of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic provide the information to private sector.</p>	
<p>1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b. Wetlands in general</p> <p>{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii</p>	<p>a. A - Yes</p> <p>b. A - Yes</p>
<p>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 and educational activities.</p>	

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? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes
<p>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 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.</p>	

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

D - Planned

1.11.2 Additional information:

.....

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note: An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP12 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on each of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " "; use single quotes ' ' instead.

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 *Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?* {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

The activity is included in the Action Plan for for 2012-2014 to the national Programme of wetland management in Slovakia for 2008-2014.

2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii

1 sites

2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):

The Belá River, 2017.

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? {2.2.1} 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.

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? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i	B - No
2.3.1 Additional information: A part of the Belá River is designated as Natura 2000 site and management plan will be developed in near future.	

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? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	6 sites
2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	5 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	4 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: Most of the sites have management plans drafts developed in previous years, for 6 sites (Sur, Senne Fishponds, Rudava River Valley, Morava Floodplains, Turiec Wetlands, Poiplie) the management plans were developed. For other 4 sites (Orava River and its Tributaries, Parizske mociare Marshes, Caves of Demanovská dolina Valley, part of Danube Floodplain) the management plans elaboration is included in the projects funded from Operational Programme Environment.	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	0 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):	
2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	6 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): 498 Sur, 499 Pariz marshes, 500 Senne Fishponds, 604 Morava floodplains, 930 Poiplie, 931 Rudava River Valley, 932 Turiec Wetlands.	

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 the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i	C - Some sites
<p>2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):</p> <p>Danube Floodplains, Latorica, Wetlands of Orava Basin - in borders of Protected Landscape Areas using the Carpathian Protected Areas Management Tracking Tool.</p>	

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 mechanisms 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? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i	A - Yes
<p>2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):</p> <p>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.</p>	

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? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i	B - No
<p>2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):</p> <p>.....</p>	

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? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii	Z - Not applicable
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>.....</p>	

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? {2.7.1} 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 and are included in several EU funded projects.

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " ": use single quotes ' ' instead.

<p>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p>

<p>3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------

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. Coordination meetings of these NFPs have been organized and information exchange provided.

<p>3.1.2 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)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------

3.1.2 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.

<p>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i></p>

<p>3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------

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 (CWI) was initiated by Slovakia as a Contracting Party to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) and the Ramsar Convention and includes 7 Carpathian countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine) and 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. The CWI is coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

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

A - Yes

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

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic established the Carpathian Wetland Centre in Banská Bystrica in June 2014 as a part of the work plan of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative.

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.*

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i

A - Yes

3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11):

Slovak Aid supports among others water resource protection and management in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia.

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii

3.3.2 Additional information:

.....

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? {3.3.3}	Z - Not applicable
3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):	

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? {3.4.1}	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 the transnational projects DANUBEPARKS have been developed where two Slovak Ramsar Sites participate - Danube Floodplains (Danube Floodplains Protected Landscape Area) and Morava River Floodplains (Záhorie Protected Landscape Area). The Trilateral Ramsar Platform for the Morava-Dyje-Danube floodplains (SK-CZ-AT) supports knowledge sharing and training.	

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A - Yes
3.4.2 Additional information: Documentary film Wetlands - Ramsar Sites in Slovakia was produced in 2013 and it has been shown in the Slovak Television and at the 20th International Festival ENVIROFILM in Banská Bystrica in May 2014. The basic information on wetlands and Ramsar sites are available at the web site of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic www.sopsr.sk . Slovak Museum of Nature Conservation and Spaeleology has showed the exhibition on Ecosystem Services of Wetlands, prepared with SNC SR.	

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii	A - Yes
3.4.3 Additional information: A DVD with documentary film Wetlands - Ramsar Sites in Slovakia was provided to the Ramsar Secretariat in 2013.	

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 wetland systems been identified?
{3.5.1} 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 2009-2012 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 (the Danube River Protection Convention) 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);

Other shared wetlands and river basins include:

Slaná River- survey of aquatic habitats and waters of the Slana catchment from nature conservation point of view is a part of the projects funded from Programme of Cross-border Cooperation Hungary-Slovakia);

Dunajec River - common activities of Slovak-Polish transborder Pieniny National Park Administrations (monitoring, surveys);

.

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} 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 have been implemented in this area.

The transnational project BIOREGIO (2011-2014) 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 2009-2012 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? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

Slovakia is a Contracting Party to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). Critical Sites Network was established on internationally important wetland sites across Slovakia.

LIFE and Cross-border Cooperation projects implemented in collaboration with Hungary - Conservation of endangered bird species populations in natural habitats of the Danube inland delta (Project general objective is to improve the conservation status of the floodplain bird species that are protected in SPA Dunajské luhy and SPA Szigetköz); Coordinated crossborder nature conservation activities along Hungarian and Slovakian section of the Danube River (Programme of Cross-border Cooperation Hungary-Slovakia) and along the river Ipeľ at Poľie Ramsar site;

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

<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 and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>

<p>4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

- a) C - In progress
- b) D - Planned
- c) D - Planned
- d) B - No

(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)

<p>4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>

The broad policy on environmental education (adopted by the Slovak Government in 1997) is currently updated. The Strategy for environmental education in schools at all levels and the Action Plan for its implementation will be updated as well. The wetland CEPA programme is under development.

<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

- a) at Ramsar Sites
- b) at other wetlands

- a) 5 centres
- b) 1 centres

<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p>

Education/information centres were established and supported in the following Ramsar Sites: Wetlands of Orava Basin, Poiplie, Turiec Wetlands, Domica and Senne Fishponds. In addition educational trails were established in some Ramsar Sites (e.g. Wetlands of Orava Basin).

The Carpathian Wetland Centre was established for general use on the Carpathian level.

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The projects The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the environmental awareness of wetlands and capacity building (ERDF) and Development of Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians (Swiss Financial Mechanism) include seminars, workshops and trainings for sites managers and other stakeholders, based on preliminar assessment.</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a) 0</p> <p>b) 2</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The project Development of Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians (Swiss Financial Mechanism) and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative supported series of trainings on the educational handbook World of Carpathians.</p>	

4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	A - Yes
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>a) 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, tourism, 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>b) 2 meetings were held.</p> <p>c) The Slovak Ramsar Committee is an advisory body of minister of environment on implementation of the Ramsar Convention.</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 Administrative Authority and:	
<p>a) Ramsar Site managers</p> <p>b) other MEA national focal points</p> <p>c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p> <p>c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms 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 Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}	A - Yes
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>WWD activities are regularly organized by branches of the State Nature Conservancy and the Slovak Museum of Nature Conservation and Spaeleology and these included workshops for school children, games, competitions, lectures, discussions, film projections, exhibitions etc.</p>	

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):

All the projects implemented since COP11 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). The importance of wetlands was partly included in the LIFE project Enhancement of Public Awareness of the Importance of Water for Life, its Protection and Sustainable Use in Accordance with the water Framework Directive. Different events (World Water Day, Danube Day, European Birds Day, World Day of Migratory Species, field camps, conferences) are used to highlight the themes. The activities include press releases, posters, exhibitions, lectures, competitions, excursions, educational programmes for school children and teachers, workshops and seminars.

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 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} 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? {4.2.2} 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.

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 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} 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.

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? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):

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

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

B - No

4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):

.....