



## **NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40<sup>th</sup> 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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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.

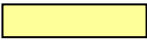
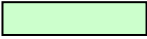
**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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).

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| <b>SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION</b> |
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|---|---|
| <b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: NEW ZEALAND</b>   |   |
| <b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>   |   |
| <b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>  | Department of Conservation                |
| <b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>   | Mr. Alastair Morrison                     |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   | PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143             |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   | 64 4 471 0726                             |
| <b>Email:</b>   | amorrison@doc.govt.nz                     |
| <b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>  |   |
| <b>Name and title:</b>  | Ms Nicola Scott                           |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   | PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143             |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   | 64 4 471 0726 / 64 4 381 3057             |
| <b>Email:</b>   | nscott@doc.govt.nz                        |
| <b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP<br/>(SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>   |   |
| <b>Name and title of focal point:</b>   | Dr Hugh Allister Robertson                |
| <b>Name of organisation:</b>  | Department of Conservation                |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   | PO Box 11089, Sockburn, Christchurch 8443 |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   | 64 3 27 660 2478                          |
| <b>Email:</b>   | harobertson@doc.govt.nz                   |
| <b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO<br/>THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND<br/>AWARENESS</b>     |   |
| <b>Name and title of focal point:</b>   | Ms Jan Simmons                            |
| <b>Name of organisation:</b>  | Department of Conservation                |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   | Private Bag 3072, Hamilton 3240           |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   | 64 7 858 1010                             |
| <b>Email:</b>   | jsimmons@doc.govt.nz                      |
| <b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS<br/>RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION,<br/>PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b> |   |
| <b>Name and title:</b>  | To be advised                             |
| <b>Name of organisation:</b>  |   |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   |   |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   |   |
| <b>Email:</b>   |   |

## 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?

In the last triennium New Zealand has made active steps to implement the Convention, in particular by funding technical projects that will streamline the nomination of high priority Ramsar sites, and is currently putting in place a framework for reporting on changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites. These initiatives have been guided by Recommendations and documentation from previous COPs and the STRP. Collectively, these initiatives will culminate in a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Ramsar site nomination in New Zealand that makes it easier for government and non-government groups to engage in Ramsar site activities.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is putting in place a national system to monitor and report on New Zealand's biodiversity. It will provide DOC and others with consistent, comprehensive information about biodiversity across public conservation lands, and potentially across New Zealand. While designed for DOC's requirements, the Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting System has the ability to deliver the full New Zealand picture with the participation of New Zealand's other biodiversity managers. Access to new, regularly updated, and more easily shared data will result in better decisions, leading to improved conservation outcomes that support the healthy environment New Zealand needs for its economic and social wellbeing.

The monitoring system forms the foundation of DOC's Natural Heritage Management System (NHMS), which is part of DOC's ongoing programme to develop a nationally-consistent and cohesive approach to managing biodiversity across all of New Zealand's land and waters. The underlying principles of this system are also now being considered by Regional Councils and Territorial Authorities for their use.

Another important component of NHMS is the development of models that identify national and local conservation priorities – so helping DOC better target its efforts at the places and species that will deliver the most conservation for New Zealanders, including wetlands. These conservation priorities can also help guide local government, communities, tangata whenua, research agencies and others in their own conservation work. By working together in this way, we can all help grow the number of native species and places that are worked on, and in particular "A full range of New Zealand's ecosystems is conserved to a healthy functioning state".

New partnerships with business have also been established during the past triennium to protect and restore wetlands in association with tourism. For example, the Department of Conservation established a four-year partnership with the Air New Zealand Environment Trust to restore the values of wetlands at Okarito Lagoon and Lake Wahapo on the West Coast of New Zealand.

New CEPA initiatives were established to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ramsar Convention during the triennium - notably the development of a 40 wetlands to visit booklet and Target 40 - a campaign to celebrate wetlands at 40 different events.



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

Publication of New Zealand's first post-COP assessment of Ramsar Resolutions following Changwon (COP10). This report "Analysis of decisions from the 10th meeting of Contracting Parties (COP10) to the Ramsar Convention" is available at [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) and was shared with the Secretariat. It lays the foundation for the implementation of the Convention in New Zealand in years to come.

Over the past triennium, the New Zealand government has invested over \$6 million in the Arawai Kākāriki wetland resotraiton programme, which aims to restore the ecological integrity of three of NZ's foremost freshwater/wetland systems - two of which are Ramsar sites. Arawai Kākāriki is focused on delivering outcomes for 10 national objectives, grouped into the themes; Biodiversity, Community and Learning. Key achievements of the programme between 2007 and 2010 included:

Biodiversity

- Comprehensive inventory of wetland flora and fauna, enabling management goals to be set and providing baseline information to measure success.
- Wetland mapping based on aerial photography to delineate areas of intact wetland habitat (priority for protection) and degraded wetland habitat (priority for restoration).
- Over 15,000 ha of weed control and weed surveillance across the three sites.
- 27 km of boundary fencing across the three sites to reduce stock damage to wetlands and 55 km of riparian fencing to reduce sediment and nutrient input
- 19,000 ha of annual deer surveillance with 16 deer culled
- Major upgrade of the Whangamarino weir to restore minimum water levels
- Working with regional councils on water quality management initiatives, such as monitoring the health of the Waituna Lagoon Ramsar site.

Community

- Liaison with iwi on wetland values and initiation of cultural assessments such as the Ō Tū Wharekai State of the Takiwa report.
- Establishment of a community Advisory Group for Awarua-Waituna (AWAG) that promotes sustainable land use and implements riparian management projects.
- Installing six new recreation facilities for public, including wetland viewing shelters, boat ramps, walking tracks, and Didymo cleaning stations
- Promotion of wetland values to local community through >30 organised events.
- Publication of online and postal newsletters to keep community up to date of progress

Learning

- Research on the ecology of wetland birds (e.g. Australasian Bittern, Wrybill) and the population dynamics of mammalian predators that threaten them.
- Assessment of the vulnerability of Waituna Lagoon to changing land use (increased nutrients) and artificial lagoon opening events.
- Development of methods to monitor wetland birds, mammalian predators, vegetation.
- Promulgation of research findings with end-users, including the 2009 New Zealand Freshwater Science Conference and 2010 National Wetlands Symposium.

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

In New Zealand there have been few nominations during the previous triennium. This is attributed to a lack of understanding by wetland managers and agencies of the values of Ramsar site designation, and of the steps required to complete the nomination process. These knowledge gaps are identified by the Administrative Authority (DOC) and work is almost completed to publish a step-by-step guide to site nomination (refer previous description of technical reports to support SOP preparation).

There remains interest from local community groups in Ramsar site status, in particular for the Mangarakau wetlands, Lake Wairarapa-Moana, Ohiwa Harbour, Waiholo-Waipori wetlands, and other sites in New Zealand.

An emerging challenge for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand is also to reduce the potential threats to the ecological character of Ramsar sites. While significant progress is being made through the Arawai Kākāriki programme to avoid and mitigate threatening processes, further effort will be required to limit the impact of altered hydrology and water quality at some Ramsar sites.

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

A key priority of the implementation of the Convention in New Zealand in the next triennium is to investigate options for establishing a National Wetland Committee to advise government and non-government groups.

Dissemination of user-friendly information on the process for site nomination is also a high priority for the department, including guidance on how to assess the strategic importance of potential sites. The long-term aim is to add sites to the Ramsar list that align with the priorities of the Convention.

Further priorities for the implementation of the Convention are listed in the "Analysis of decisions from the 10th meeting of Contracting Parties (COP10) to the Ramsar Convention" - available at [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

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

We have no proposals concerning adjustments to the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan at this point, though we may have proposals in advance of the COP11 meeting.

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

None at this time. We are grateful for the contact made by the Secretariat in the wake of the Rena disaster and their directing us to Ramsar best practice guidelines for managing oil spills. The New Zealand Government is taking action to ensure the environmental integrity of the wetlands affected by the oil spill, and will liaise with the Ramsar Secretariat in this regard.

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

None at this time.

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?

Currently, oversight of the implementation of biodiversity MEAs in New Zealand sits with one government agency - the Department of Conservation (DOC). Within DOC, coordination of MEA implementation is based in one unit. Therefore, liaison and collaboration occurs organically through the Department's Statement of Intent. The unit has extensive networks within the Department and with other agencies, and can easily call on expertise when required.

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)?

The focus at present is to provide that linkage by improving the overall management of waterbodies and the coastal environment, including wetlands. That management improvement work is linked to issues such as sustainable development, renewable energy development, etc. The more specifically Ramsar related work, such as scientific work to improve wetland restoration, will contribute to that wider programme.


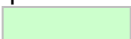
J. Does the Contracting Party have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

New Zealand looks forward to discussions at the COP regarding the administrative arrangements for the Secretariat and on the issue of STRP rotation. We have spoken with colleagues in the region about these matters, and will forward our views at COP11.

The preparation and dissemination of the STRP newsletter and the Asia-Oceania summary of Convention activities has been well received. This provides an insight to the activities of the Secretariat and other Contracting Parties.

## 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  | A - Yes |
| <p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Freshwater Ecosystems of New Zealand (FENZ) geodatabase of inland palustrine wetlands, rivers/streams and lakes. For further information go to <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz">www.doc.govt.nz</a>.</p> <p>FENZ consists of a large set of spatial data layers and supporting information on New Zealand's rivers, lakes and wetlands. It contains data gathered from a wide variety of sources. It can be used to objectively map and quantify various aspects of New Zealand's freshwater, providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive descriptions of the physical environment and biological character.</li> <li>• Classifications that group together rivers and streams, lakes and wetlands having similar ecological character.</li> <li>• Estimates of human pressures and impacts on biodiversity status.</li> <li>• Rankings of biodiversity value that indicate a minimum set of sites that would provide representative protection of a full range of freshwater ecosystems while taking account of both human pressures and connectivity.</li> </ul> <p>Also refer to the paper: Ausseil et al. (2011) "Applying systematic conservation planning principles to palustrine and inland saline wetlands of New Zealand". <i>Freshwater Biology</i> 56, 142–161.</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:</p> <p>The FENZ geodatabase is the result of several years work by central and local government agencies and Crown Research Institutes, led by the Department of Conservation (DOC). It had its origins in the Waters of National Importance (WONI) component of the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Development Programme of Action.</p> <p>FENZ is part of a package of multiple-agency projects which are helping to build a robust, objective picture of New Zealand's freshwater to inform decisions around its use and conservation. This is a significant step forward for an emerging whole-of-government approach to the management of New Zealand's freshwater resources.</p> <p>FENZ was distributed by DOC (via CD) to a range of stakeholders across New Zealand and is now being used by both government and non-government agencies in freshwater conservation planning and assessments. Users of FENZ have been invited to suggest improvements to the geodatabase to ensure the information on freshwater ecosystems is as accurate as possible. The release of updated versions of FENZ has also been proposed.</p> <p>Local authorities such as Environment Southland have already used FENZ to review the mapping of wetlands in their region (e.g. Clarkson et al. 2011).</p>        |         |

1.1.3 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}

- a) Ramsar Sites
- b) wetlands generally

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).

\* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

O - No change  
N - Status deteriorated

1.1.3 a) Additional information:

There has been noticeable improvement in ecological character of two Ramsar sites involved in the Arawai Kākāriki programme (Awarua wetlands, Whangamarino wetland) through management of invasive species, removal of exotic herbivores and targeted management of threatened species such as *Anzybas carseii*. The improved character at these sites relates to our ability to reduce biotic threats on conservation land. However, addressing catchment-level threats such as declining water quality and altered hydrological regimes requires greater engagement with other government agencies, industry, iwi and local community.

The condition of the other Ramsar sites (Firth of Thames, Manawatu Estuary Ramsar site, Kopuatai Peat Dome, Farewell Spit) has largely remained constant over the past triennium. While there have been a number of specific restoration projects (e.g. *Spartina* control at Firth of Thames), impacts associated with catchment land development remain a pressure at the Manawatu Estuary and Firth of Thames sites. The condition of Kopuatai Raised Peat Dome remains largely unchanged.

Extensive monitoring of changes in ecological character at the Awarua and Whangamarino sites has been established over the last triennium as part of the Arawai Kākāriki programme, and by local government agencies (e.g. Environment Southland).

For further information refer to section 2.6.2.

## 1.1.3 b) Additional information:

Although New Zealand lacks comprehensive information to monitor the status and trend of wetlands, there have been a number of observations of wetland/freshwater ecosystem deterioration during the past triennium. For example, the Environment Southland State of the Environment Report (2011) stated: "There is no doubt that it is the cumulative effects of intensification of land use, seen by the effects of NNN increases, the rapid deterioration of Waituna Lagoon and the deterioration of our estuaries and loss of wetlands requires further action. Further, a recent Auditor-general report (2011) on the performance of four Regional Councils in managing freshwater environments in New Zealand noted that 'there is still some way to go if we are to halt and reverse the declining trends in freshwater quality. Changes are needed sooner rather than later, because it takes time before improved policies result in improved freshwater quality'."

An assessment of the trophic status of New Zealand lakes (Verburg et al. 2010) identified examples of lakes that had deteriorated in condition and other lakes that had improved between 2005-2009. The report identified that trends in the Trophic Level Index (TLI) for 68 lakes "found 19 lakes (28%) had deteriorated and eight lakes (12%) had improved."

In response to the pressure on freshwater environments, various levels of government in New Zealand have established projects to improve land and water management, such as the Clean-up Fund administered by the Ministry for the Environment that will provide \$15 million in funding over two years to help communities clean up waterways that are affected by historical water quality issues. \$6 million of this has been allocated to Environment Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

Improved monitoring of the status and trend of New Zealand freshwater ecosystems is planned over the next triennium. As evident by the Ministry for the Environment scoping assessment (2011) of "Dependable monitoring of freshwaters for national scale environmental reporting" and the Department of Conservation's NHMS monitoring system for biodiversity (refer section 2). While research programmes are assisting with identifying relevant indicators for freshwater monitoring, e.g. Schallenberg et al. (2011) "Approaches to assessing ecological integrity of New Zealand freshwaters" Science for Conservation 307.

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:

Two statutory national policy statements cover wetlands: the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. These regulatory policies will be supported by more detailed regulatory rules where those are found to be necessary, and non-statutory guidance for implementation.

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}

Z - Not applicable

## 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
  - 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
- {1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

Z - Not applicable

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

Z - Not applicable

A - Yes

A - Yes

## 1.3.3 Additional information:

The national policies cited in 1.3.1 are broad policies that cover all freshwater and coastal matters, including those related to forestry and agriculture.

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:

The Resource Management Act requires that strategic environmental assessment is carried out through the development of policies and plans at national, regional and local levels.



|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 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 |
| <p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p> <p>The Resource Management Act controls on developments that are not permitted by the plans in 1.3.4 (i.e. that have not already been fully considered). Only low-impact activities are likely to be permitted in plans. The consent process under the Act incorporates an EIA process.</p> |         |

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?  | A - Yes |
| <p>1.3.6 Additional information:</p> <p>Amendments to legislation relating to wetlands has taken into account the Ramsar commitments, although that has not been the primary driver.</p> <p>While the Ramsar Convention is still not embedded as such in any New Zealand legislation, the wise ("sustainable" use concept is certainly a primary focus of the Resource Management Act. For instance, in a recent Environment Court Interim Decision, under the Act, on an Appeal by DOC and others on a plan dealing with the management of West Coast wetlands, the Court has noted that "New Zealand is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention" and referred specifically to article 3 of the Convention. The outcome of this Court case has also enabled to lead to new policy approaches to define the significance of wetlands in that region, with redefinition of criteria such as representativeness, rarity, distinctiveness and ecological context endorsed by the Court.</p> <p>An application made by DOC and Ngai Tahu (the local Maori tribe) to amend the National Conservation Order on Lake Ellesmere under the Environment Canterbury Act (2010), has been granted to recognize beyond the outstanding wildlife habitat values attached to the original order, additional outstanding values such as indigenous wetland vegetation and fish and significant value in accordance with tikanga Maori in respect of Ngai Tahu history, mahinga kai and customary fisheries. The Amendment also provides for improved lake level management regimes and recognizes the Maori name "Te Waihora" in the title and the whole order (as "Te Waihora-Lake Ellesmere"). The Convention's guidelines for the nomination of Ramsar sites were used in some of the evidence provided by witnesses.</p> |         |

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 | C - Partly |
|--|------------|

## 1.4.1 Additional information:

A detailed description of the ecological character of the Awarua wetlands Ramsar site was undertaken in 2010 (Denyer & Robertson, in prep). This included a summary of the ecosystem services the site provides. This case study will provide a template for describing the ecological character, including services/benefits, of other Ramsar sites in New Zealand.

Other studies to identify the market and non-market values of wetland ecosystem services have also been undertaken in New Zealand (Marsh & Baskaran 2009, Giorgetti et al. 2010). For example, Giorgetti et al. (2010) provided an initial description of the key ecosystem services of O Tu Wharekai (Ashburton Lakes/Rangitata River) a nationally significant freshwater system. The Choice Experiment (CE) method was applied, which is an economic valuation method that shows how individuals make trade-offs between different ecosystem services of a particular resource, based on estimates of the willingness-to-pay (WTP) of individuals or groups for a specified change in the level of an ecosystem service. Six key ecosystem services for Ō Tū Wharekai were identified that will form the basis of the CE valuation. These were:

- Maintaining water quality
- Regulating downstream water flows
- Habitat for native animals and plants
- Unique, scenic landscapes
- Access for water & land-based recreation
- Hunting and fishing

A comprehensive description of the economic values of the nationally significant Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora was completed in 2009 (Hughey & Taylor 2009) in the book "Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere: State of the Lake and Future Management".

A number of iwi groups in New Zealand are also actively undertaking assessment of the cultural values of important freshwater/wetland sites. This includes for example the State of the Takiwā report of O Tu Wharekai (Ashburton Basin/Upper Rangitata River). State of the Takiwā describes a culturally-based environmental monitoring and reporting system being developed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

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

A - Yes

## 1.4.2 Additional information:

The freshwater management policy is designed in part to ensure that freshwater resources are used efficiently and for their highest valued use.

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

C - Partly

## 1.4.3 Additional information:

Work related to wetlands in New Zealand is designed to implement the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi - the treaty signed between the indigenous people and the British Crown at the time of colonisation (1840). This ensures full involvement of indigenous people in processes at all levels of government.

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 management of all wetlands under the Resource Management Act requires consideration of economic, social and cultural wellbeing.

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

D - Planned

1.5.1 Additional information:

These steps will be part of increased collaboration within the team that has oversight over biodiversity MEAs.

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

B - No  
A - Yes  
B - No  
A - Yes

## 1.5.2 Additional information:

Following COP10 the Department of Conservation undertook an analysis of all resolutions from the meeting (Dean-Spiers et al. 2010) to determine the specific implementation actions for New Zealand. This included direct to reference the Changwon Declaration. This report was approved for release by the Minister for Conservation. The priority implementation action was for "DOC to disseminate the Changwon Declaration to other relevant agencies and organisations (e.g. MfE)."

Subsequently, a plain language factsheet was published on the department's website, which summarised the COP10 meeting and the key messages of the Changwon Declaration.

New Zealand also participated in the Changwon Declaration Network Meeting, Korea, during 2010. A paper entitled "Implementation of the Changwon Declaration in New Zealand: promoting healthy wetlands and human well-being" (Robertson et al. 2010) was shared with other Contracting Party members.

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)?

B - No

## 1.5.3 Additional information:

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

Z - Not applicable

## 1.5.4 Additional information:

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

A - Yes  
D - Planned  
A - Yes

#### 1.6.1 Additional information:

New Zealand has an extensive research programme covering freshwater and estuarine environments. This has included considerable research on the effect of agriculture on wetlands, on predicting the effects of climate change on freshwater systems, and on the valuation of ecosystem services.

New Zealand research on agriculture-wetland interactions were presented at the international symposium sponsored by the OECD Co-operative Research Programme held in Rotorua, September 2011, under the theme: "Bringing Together Science and Policy to Protect and Enhance Wetland Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes". The symposium contributed to the sustainable management of agricultural landscapes by evaluating scientific understanding of ecosystem services accruing from wetlands in agricultural landscapes, and identifying policy approaches that support or deter appropriate wetland creation, restoration and protection.

##### a. Agriculture-wetland interactions

In 2010, the Foundation for Research Science & Technology (now MSI) approved the investment of \$16.4m per annum in 11 freshwater research projects to improve the quality, management and use of New Zealand's freshwater resources. These projects included:

- Restoring wetlands (Landcare Research)
- Aquatic rehabilitation (NIWA)
- Management of cumulative effects of stressors on aquatic ecosystems (NIWA)
- Environmental flows (NIWA)
- Integrated freshwater solutions (Massey University)

##### b. Climate Change

In recognition of the potential contribution of wetlands to climate change adaptation and mitigation, the New Zealand Government is developing a framework that outlines strategies for managing the impacts of climate change on native biodiversity (Christie in press). Strategies of particular relevance to wetland conservation are to:

- develop adaptation methods and decision support tools;
- incorporate climate change adaptation management into existing management, research, planning and policy;
- improve management and restoration of existing species and ecosystems to facilitate resilience to climate change; and
- raise public awareness.

These strategies are guided by recent studies, which concluded that 'predicted greenhouse warming and associated changes in climate extremes have the potential to significantly disrupt New Zealand biodiversity', and recognised that coastal ecosystems, including salt-marshes, may be impacted by rising sea levels (McGlone et al. 2010; McGlone and Walker 2011).

Wetland managers are becoming increasingly aware of the role natural infrastructure plays in combating and adapting to climate change. For example, a report on the values of protected areas noted that 'New Zealand is predicted to incur ever more severe flooding under climate change', and that 'protection of the Whangamarino Wetlands (a Ramsar site) is calculated to save the country millions of dollars in disaster prevention' (Dudley et al. 2010).

##### c. Valuation of ecosystem services - Refer to section 1.4.1

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| 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 | C - Partly |
| 1.6.2 Additional information:   |            |

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:

The technical material provided by the Convention is being used in the development of non-statutory guidance on water management.

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| 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:

Freshwater management is generally undertaken at a catchment or multiple catchment level, with wetlands treated as part of the freshwater systems being managed rather than as separate entities. Marine wetlands are managed through regional scale plans.

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| 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} | C - Partly |
|---|------------|

1.7.3 Additional information:

Catchment level planning usually happens at the regional government level and public participation, in particular, is a component of that planning. New tools and approaches that increase participation and collaboration in water management have been developed and implemented, notably the creation of a national Land and Water Forum of stakeholders to provide advice to the government's reform of water management.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| 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} | C - Partly |
| 1.7.4 Additional information:<br>Where appropriate, it has been used to guide work.   |            |

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 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              | Z - Not applicable |
| 1.7.5 Additional information:<br>In some catchments wetlands may prove to be useful, but the focus is on looking at integrated solutions rather than on wetlands per se. |                    |

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 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   | A - Yes |
| 1.7.6 Additional information:<br>The freshwater management work has as one of its objectives the improvement of access to water resources for farming, and a reduction in the impacts of farming on water to improve market position. |         |

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:<br>The FENZ geodatabase (refer section 1.1.1) includes information on the ecological integrity of inland palustrine wetlands, rivers and lakes in New Zealand. This information is being used to identify those wetlands are the priority for protection (high ecological integrity) and those that are the priority for restoration (low-moderate ecological integrity). |             |

|  |         |
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| 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:

There are a range of wetland conservation initiatives underway in New Zealand. This includes restoration at three of New Zealand's foremost wetland ecosystems through the Arawai Kākāriki Wetland Restoration Programme, which is being carried out in collaboration with local communities. The Arawai Kākāriki sites cover an area >40,000 ha and encapsulate coastal lagoons, extensive bog-fen systems, braided rivers, and inter-montane lakes and swamps.

A major programme is underway to reduce the risk of nutrient contamination of our largest lake, Lake Taupo (Taupomoana). There is significant investment to address past water quality changes to the Rotorua lakes, and Government-Maori programmes to restore the Waikato River and Lake Ellesmere (Te Waihora).

Community groups, Fish & Game New Zealand, and local government authorities also actively undertake wetland restoration projects, such as the control of invasive plants at the Waihola-Waipori wetlands (Otago) and Te Henga wetland (Auckland).

The Department of Conservation and other agencies/groups are also actively involved in projects to enhance populations of threatened species, such as non-migratory galaxiids in Otago.

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}

C - Partly

## 1.8.3 Additional information:

Ramsar guidance on wetland restoration was used to inform the Arawai Kākāriki Wetland Restoration Programme. This included application of core concepts relating to the the identification of wetland values and key threatening processes, and the alignment of management and monitoring.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

**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 Freshwater Biodata Information System (FBIS) contains fish, algae, aquatic plant and invertebrate data and metadata gathered from New Zealand's freshwater streams, rivers and lakes, including invasive alien species.

DOC BioWeb has also been updated, collating various herbaria and Regional Council databases and used to create a grid overlay of presences for certain plants within New Zealand, including invasive plants.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand (MAF-BNZ) have collected GIS data of water weeds (e.g. didymo) invasions throughout New Zealand to obtain a national picture of infestations.

The New Zealand Freshwater Fish Database (NZFFD) records the occurrence of fish in fresh waters of New Zealand including introduced fish species. Data stored include the site location, the species present, their abundance and size, as well as information such as the fishing method used and a physical description of the site.

The New Zealand Virtual Herbarium (NZVH) is an on-line botanical information resource accessible via the internet,. It provides access to data on plant and fungi specimens kept by New Zealand's herbaria including invasive wetland plants, see [www.virtualherbarium.org.nz](http://www.virtualherbarium.org.nz).

Other databases of invasive alien species are also maintained by Regional Councils, other local authorities and DOC offices.

Due the plethora of information on invasive species, the government provided Envirolink funding for a study to assess the feasibility of consolidating information on "New Zealand National Weeds Distribution" (Basse et al. 2008).

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:

An example of national control and management policies is the Department of Conservation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for "Weed Surveillance" that provides detailed guidelines for early detection of invasive plant species.

An Aquatic Transfers SOP has also been signed off in 2011 to enable a more consistent implementation of Section 26ZM of the Conservation Act 1987 which controls the transfer and release of freshwater species to freshwater (including fish farms). It is the primary tool for managing species transfers to freshwaters.

Guidelines for selecting pest fish control methods are also published to support the control and eradication of invasive fish species in New Zealand wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

Research investment on didymo, an algal invasive species, is on-going with outcomes related to the ecological understanding of bloom formation being integrated in a predictive distribution model

**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

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information:

This has not been done directly, but by encouragement of the private sector to manage wetlands well. There has been extensive private sector involvement in processes to reduce impacts on wetlands and restore degraded wetlands.

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:

Through individual landowners, businesses and community groups.

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:

Few consumable resources are commercially harvested from natural wetlands in New Zealand.

A whitebaiters guide to whitebait encourages fishers to keep their catch small and release the less-common species.

Waterfowl hunting management provides information to hunters on how they can support wetland management, and ensures that species hunted are not threatened by hunting.

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 to encourage wetland conservation and wise use have been implemented for specific wetland initiatives. For example, direct funding for private landholders to fence wetlands from livestock is provided through conservation organisations such as the QEII Trust, regional councils and the Department of Conservation. These programmes also aim to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs to wetlands by reducing livestock access to riparian margins of rivers and creeks.

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

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

Subsidies for land development have been removed.

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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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   | C - Partly  |
| <p>2.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Department of Conservation initiated a technical project during 2011 to develop "National guidelines for the assessment of potential Ramsar wetlands in New Zealand" (Denyer &amp; Robertson, in prep). The Ramsar Convention's Strategic Framework was applied to support development of a more systematic approach to identify sites of international importance within New Zealand. These national guidelines will assist both government and non-government groups in determining which wetlands in New Zealand are strong candidates for the Ramsar list.</p> |             |
| 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   | D - Planned |
| <p>2.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Updated RIS for all six Ramsar sites will be submitted in 2012.</p>  |             |
| 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     |
| <p>2.1.3 Additional information:</p> <p>No Ramsar Site submissions are currently with the Secretariat.</p>   |             |
| 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  | 2 sites     |
| <p>2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation):</p> <p>A number of community groups and wetland managers are presently considering the nomination of wetlands for the Ramsar list in New Zealand. It is estimated this will result in at least two new site designations over the next triennium.</p> <p>Furthermore, once the "National guidelines for assessment of potential Ramsar wetlands in New Zealand" are published, this will facilitate further nomination of sites of international importance.</p>  |             |

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

The development of "National guidelines for assessment of potential Ramsar wetlands in New Zealand" is based on the application of a number of NZ-based tools for identification of important wetland sites, such as the FENZ geodatabase. These national datasets and information sources provide a greater level of detail than is possible from the Ramsar Sites Information Service. However, reference to international tools such as the FEOW and TEOW bioregionalisation schemes were valuable in developing the New Zealand approach.

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

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2.3.1 Additional information:

Not applicable. There are no sites currently being prepared for Ramsar designation.

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

5 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   | 5 sites        |
| 2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i  | 0 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  | 2 sites        |
| <p>2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:</p> <p>Firth of Thames - Project Action Plan (2008). This contains a Resources Report, Risk Analysis, Gap Analysis and 47 Actions for Councils, DOC and the community to undertake.</p> <p>Kopuatai - No planning in place. Planning objectives and controls are provided by the Waikato Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy.</p> <p>Whangamarino - Strategic objectives and annual operation plans have been established through the Arawai Kākāriki programme</p> <p>Manawatu - The Manawatu River Estuary Ramsar Management Plan (2007-12) guides the management of the Ramsar site and is implemented by the Manawatu Estuary Management Group who are preparing to review the Plan in 2012. The plan contains 42 Actions (covering Administration, Biodiversity Conservation, Social and Cultural, Research and Education, and Future Needs and Planning) for the management partners to undertake. At the 2010 review, 30 of these are either completed or ongoing. There has been significant work in the last year on predator control, sand dune restoration, and managing vehicles in the dunes.</p> <p>Farewell Spit - Farewell Spit is a Nature Reserve which gives a very high level of protection under the Reserves Act 1977. A management plan expired in 2001 and has been replaced by the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy.</p> <p>Awarua - Strategic objectives and annual operation plans have been established through the Arawai Kākāriki programme.</p> |                |
| 2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii   | C - Some sites |
| <p>2.4.5 Additional information:</p> <p>The Whangamarino and Awarua/Waituna sites have management strategies prepared under the Arawai Kākāriki programme that establish objectives to ensure ecological character is maintained. The management of other sites broadly (though not explicitly) aims for ecological character maintenance.</p>  |                |
| 2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv   | 3 sites        |

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

Firth of Thames - includes DOC, local councils and NGOs.

Manawatu Estuary - includes DOC, local councils and NGOs.

Awarua/Waituna - DOC/Environment Southland collaboration with local farming Landcare and Advisory Groups.

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

1 sites

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

An ecological character description for the Awarua wetlands Ramsar site has been drafted (Denyer & Robertson, in prep).

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):

National indicators for assessing the progress in management (level of investment) and change in ecological character (conservation outcome) have been developed as part of the Arawai Kākāriki Wetland Restoration Programme. These indicators build on other existing monitoring frameworks (e.g. Clarkson et al. 2004, Lee et al. 2005).

The Whangamarino and Awarua Ramsar Sites are applying this national indicator framework to report on management effectiveness.

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

D - Planned

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

A project was initiated in 2010 to develop a framework for describing the ecological character of New Zealand Ramsar sites, based on a case study of the Awarua wetlands Ramsar site. This framework aims to establish the necessary arrangements for reporting on negative human-induced changes in ecological character.



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

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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):

There has been improvement in some aspects of the ecological character of two Ramsar sites involved in the Arawai Kākāriki programme (Awarua wetlands, Whangamarino wetland) through management of invasive species, removal of exotic herbivores and targeted management of threatened species such as *Anzobas carseii*. The improved character at these sites relates to our ability to reduce biotic threats on conservation land. However, other aspects of ecological character, related to declining catchment water quality and altered hydrological regimes, are at risk from human-induced negative impacts. Monitoring programmes at the Awarua wetland and Whangamarino wetland Ramsar site are investigating changes in the hydrology and ecology as part of the Arawai Kākāriki programme. Initial results indicate that sedimentation at Whangamarino and increased nutrient loading at Awarua are likely to lead to changes in the ecological character of these two sites. Collaboration between DOC and the Regional Councils is resulting in changes in catchment management which may forestall significant ecological deterioration. This includes, for example, the publication of "Interim guidelines to reduce the risk of Waituna Lagoon flipping to an algal-dominated state" (Lagoon Technical Group 2011) As both the scientific understanding improves and the remedial actions are undertaken, the situation at both sites will be monitored to determine whether an Article 3.2 report is necessary.

A fire of 350 ha occurred at Awarua wetlands Ramsar site in 2009, which led to a change in the structure of wetland vegetation. A further fire occurred later in 2009 adjacent to the Ramsar site but fortunately only burned a small area of the site. Fire prevention and control measures (including community education) have been strengthened as a result.

Changes in Manawatu River management have also occurred in response to concerns about water quality concerns. Although it is unclear whether these concerns regarding water quality have directly affected the Ramsar site. A Manawatu River Leaders' Forum was established in 2010 representing councils, iwi and stakeholders. The Forum signed an Accord to take action to improve the state of the Manawatu River and directed that a collaboratively owned and implemented Action Plan be prepared to be ready for implementation from 1 July 2011. This Action Plan was completed in March 2011, and recommends targets for improvements, timeframes for achieving the targets, identifies actions and opportunities, and includes indicators and methods of monitoring. The Action Plan is available at: <http://www.horizons.govt.nz/assets/Managing-our-Environment/Resource-Management/Manawatu-River-Leaders-Forum-Action-Plan-electronic.pdf>.

The condition of the other Ramsar sites (Firth of Thames, Manawatu Estuary, Kopuatai Peat Dome, Farewell Spit) has largely remained constant over the past triennium. While there have been a number of specific restoration projects (e.g. *Spartina* control at Firth of Thames), impacts associated with catchment land development remain a pressure at the Manawatu Estuary and Firth of Thames sites. The condition of Kopuatai Raised Peat Dome remains largely unchanged.

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| 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 |
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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.*

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

The ecological character of other internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar sites has not been assessed, as these sites have not been specifically identified.

Identification of internationally important sites is possible in the next triennium through the application of national inventories on wetlands (FENZ, refer section 1.1.1) and following the publication of "National guidelines for assessment of potential Ramsar wetlands in New Zealand" (refer section 2.1.1). These information sources will complement previous inventories of nationally important wetlands such as the "Directory of wetlands in New Zealand" (Cromarty & Scott 1995).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

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| <b>GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b> |
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| <b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.</b> <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i> |
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| 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 |
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3.1.1 Additional information:

The Ramsar Administrative Authority sits in the same government department as focal points for other MEAs (e.g. CBD, CITES, CMS, World Heritage), facilitating communication and liaison.

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| 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 | --- |
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3.1.2 Additional information:

Not applicable. The formation of a National Ramsar/Wetland Committee is still being considered.

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| 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 | C - Partly |
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3.1.3 Additional information:

The NZ Department of Conservation works closely with other government agencies on cross-cutting issues: this includes any issues relevant to Ramsar implementation.

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| 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 |
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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

B - No

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

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}

B - No

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

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.*

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

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3.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate the countries supported since COP10):  
Unknown.

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

A - Yes

3.3.2 Additional information: Sustainability is one of the cross-cutting issues that must be addressed in project proposals that are submitted to - and approved by - the development assistance agency. Depending on the nature of the project/proposal, environmental assessments and safeguards will be a component of the activity.

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}

Z - Not applicable

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

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):

Various wetland scientists from Crown Research Institutes, universities and the NZ Government regularly engage with international colleagues, for example at the: OECD-sponsored symposium on wetlands and agriculture; the joint meeting of the New Zealand and Australian freshwater science societies; and invited presentations at other international fora.

The Department of Conservation regularly participate in the Australian Government Wetlands and Waterbird Taskforce (WWTF). During the last triennium, Dr Colin O'Donnell has attended three meetings of the WWTF where information was exchanged on New Zealand and Australian wetland management and research.

A partnership involving freshwater managers and scientists from New Zealand and Chile was established in 2011. This collaboration programme was designed to encourage the sharing of knowledge and experience on freshwater conservation issues that are considered a priority by the environmental and conservation agencies of the New Zealand and Chilean Governments. This programme was funded by the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment (MfE). The partnership also initiated a relationship between the National Focal Points for New Zealand and Chile. A follow-up series of exchanges and workshops is planned in Chile during November 2011, including collaboration on a workshop examining current issues and approaches to peatland management.

Other examples of international networking and exchange include the funding provided to New Zealand representatives to visit USA to learn and share experiences relating to environmental flow management and fish passage, the assistance with the IUCN Red Lists of rare and threatened species in the Pacific Islands, and the collaboration with The Nature Conservancy on the use of e-DNA to inform the management of invasive fish species in freshwater environments.

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| 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 |
| <p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>"Our wet and wild places", a publication on Ramsar sites in New Zealand, was published by the National Wetland Trust in 2005, with copies still available. The Department of Conservation is also preparing a booklet on 40 wetlands sites to visit, which will include general information on New Zealand wetlands. Regional Councils and other local authorities publish information on important wetland sites, and undertake State of the Environment reporting of freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems which summarises their status and trends.</p> <p>Further information about Ramsar sites is available on a number of websites:<br/> <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz">www.doc.govt.nz</a><br/> <a href="http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/ramsar">www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/ramsar</a><br/> <a href="http://www.forestandbird.org.nz">www.forestandbird.org.nz</a><br/> <a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz">www.mfe.govt.nz</a></p> |         |

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| 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 |
| <p>3.4.3 Additional information:</p> <p>The Ramsar Secretariat was forwarded a copy the Department of Conservation's "Analysis of decisions from the 10th meeting of Contracting Parties (COP10) to the Ramsar Convention" (Dean-Spiers et al. 2010).</p> <p>The Ramsar STRP was informed of the inventory and mapping of wetlands in New Zealand (FENZ) by the Oceania STRP Regional Coordinator, Dr Philippe Gerbeaux.</p> <p>The National STRP Focal Point - Dr Hugh Robertson - contributed a paper in the Ramsar session of the Society of Wetland Scientists meeting in Prague that included representatives of the Ramsar Secretariat and the Ramsar STRP. The paper was entitled "Restoring three of New Zealand's foremost wetlands: ecosystem conservation amid ecological uncertainty".</p> |         |

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.*

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| 3.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i | Z - Not applicable |
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3.5.1 Additional information:

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

Z - Not applicable

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

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:

In 2011, New Zealand was accepted as a Partner to the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership.

New Zealand also regularly participates in meetings of the Australia Wetlands and Waterbirds Taskforce (WWTF).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

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| <b>GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY</b> |
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| <p><b>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.</b> <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<br/>b) Sub-national level<br/>c) Catchment/basin level<br/>d) Local/site level</p> |  |
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|  | <p>B - No<br/>A - Yes<br/>B - No<br/>A - Yes</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>CEPA guidelines have been produced by the Department of Conservation to guide implementation of the community awareness and participation components of a national project involving three wetland sites, two of which are Ramsar sites. A separate national Communications Plan has been produced for promoting these sites and wetlands generally.</p> |  |
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| <p>A CEPA Action Plan and also a Communication Plan have been developed for the Whangamarino Wetland Ramsar site.</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>Education centres currently exist at Miranda (Firth of Thames Ramsar site), Mangarakau wetlands, Sinclair wetlands and Travis wetland. An interpretation facility was built at the Awarua/Waituna Ramsar site.</p> |  |
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| <p>The Miranda Shorebird Centre is a member of Wetlands Link International and the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership.</p> |  |
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| <p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to 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 - Yes</p> <p>A - Yes</p> |
| <p>4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):</p> <p>In the case of the Awarua Ramsar site, a local advisory group has been set up between the Department of Conservation as the administering authority and representatives of the local community.</p> <p>The statutory process for preparing management strategies or plans for protected land requires public participation and the opportunity for submissions on how wetlands should be managed.</p> <p>Local communities are usually the proponents for designating new Ramsar sites.</p>   |                               |
| <p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv &amp; 4.1.viii</p>  | <p>B - No</p>                 |
| <p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p>  |                               |
| <p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv</p>   | <p>4 opportunities</p>        |
| <p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>A National Wetland Symposium held in March 2010 was designed as a training and networking opportunity for wetland site managers, scientists and policy makers, with both technical and practical sessions on management techniques, including pest control and hydrology.</p> <p>Crown Research Institutes in New Zealand such as NIWA and Landcare Research, regularly run training courses across a range of wetland, river, lake and estuarine technical areas.</p> <p>Publication of the "Wetland restoration: a handbook for New Zealand freshwater systems" (Peters &amp; Clarkson 2010) provided an important resource for training wetland managers.</p> <p>A new initiative to improve community knowledge of wetlands is being coordinated by the New Zealand Landcare Trust. This three-year project, funded by the Ministry for the Environment's Community Environment Fund will support new and existing community wetland restoration initiatives by strengthening networks between practitioners and provide opportunities to improve ecological monitoring skills.</p> |                               |

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| 4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}   | B - No                                   |
| <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 formation of a Committee is still being considered by the Department.</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?<br/> b. other MEA national focal points?<br/> c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?<br/> {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p> | <p>A - Yes<br/> A - Yes<br/> A - Yes</p> |
| <p>4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):</p> <p>Refer to section 3.1.1 for details of websites, newsletters, conferences and wetland symposia.</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>On average, 10 events have been organised each year for World Wetlands Day involving government (national, regional and local) and NGOs with the Department of Conservation taking the lead. In 2011, a 'Target 40' goal was promoted in recognition of Ramsar's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.</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):

A Target 40 campaign has been promoted for 2011 in recognition of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ramsar, with a publication on 40 wetlands to visit in New Zealand due for release before the end of the year.

The Arawai Kākāriki Wetland Restoration programme which is focussed on restoring three key wetland sites in New Zealand, has a key goal of maximising community awareness, appreciation and involvement in the wetland projects.

A wetland symposium was held in March 2010 to promote wetland management and restoration.

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

B - No

4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):

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 "Analysis of decisions from the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of Contract Parties (COP10) to the Ramsar Convention" referred to the previous National Report provided to the Ramsar Secretariat as a key source of information. Refer to:  
[www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/international/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/international/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands/)

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

Z - Not applicable

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

B - No

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

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](http://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).