



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

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

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

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

The COP12 National Report Format (NRF) is in four sections:

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

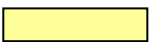
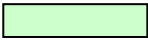
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional 'free-text' section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

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

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

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

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

8. For a 'free-text' field, you can type in whatever information you wish. Note that there is only limited facility within the Microsoft 'form' format to make editorial changes in the 'free-text' box once text has been entered. Therefore, if you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate document, make all the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the box.
9. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic entry of data into the Secretariat's database. For that reason, please **do not use double quote marks " "** in the 'free-text' fields. Please **only use single quote marks ' '**. For the same reason, please **only use simple text in the 'free-text' fields: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
10. For each of the 'indicator questions' in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: 'Yes', 'No', 'Partly', 'In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
11. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).
12. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
13. An NRF is not usually completed by one person alone: for many indicators it is best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP11 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.
14. After each session, **remember to save the file** in Microsoft Word, .doc, 97-2003 format. A recommended filename structure is: COP12NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP12NRFSpain13July2014.doc
15. After the NRF has been completed, please **send it in this format to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (dufour@ramsar.org).**
16. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP12 National Report.**
17. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

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

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: NEW ZEALAND

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Department of Conservation
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Lou Sanson
Mailing address:	PO Box 10-420, Wellington 6143, New Zealand
Telephone/Fax:	++64 4 4710726 / ++64 4 3813057
Email:	lsanson@doc.govt.nz

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Dr Maj De Poorter
Mailing address:	PO Box 10-420, Wellington 6143, New Zealand
Telephone/Fax:	++64 4 4710726 / ++64 4 3813057
Email:	mdepoorter@doc.govt.nz

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

Name and title:	Dr Hugh A. Robertson
Name of organisation:	Department of Conservation
Mailing address:	Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand
Telephone/Fax:	++64 3 371 3700 / ++64 3 365 1388
Email:	harobertson@doc.govt.nz

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

Name and title:	Ms Jan Simmons
Name of organisation:	Department of Conservation
Mailing address:	Private Bag 3072, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand
Telephone/Fax:	++64 7 858 1000 / ++64 7 858 1001
Email:	jsimmons@doc.govt.nz

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

Name and title:	(1) Karen Denyer	(2) Kevin Hackwell
Name of organisation:	National Wetland Trust	Forest & Bird
Mailing address:	PO Box 177, Pukekohe 2340, New Zealand	PO Box 631, Wellington 6140 New Zealand
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	karen.denyer@wetlandtrust.org.nz	k.hackwell@forestandbird.org.nz

**SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION
PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES**

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

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

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

1) Wide stakeholder involvement

While the Department of Conservation (DOC) is the administrative authority for Ramsar Sites, regional councils (local government) have a mandate for water management under the Resource Management Act 1991. In addition, efforts to obtain improvements in water quality in general, or for protection and/or restoration of wetlands, have been initiated by various other stakeholders, including Iwi (the largest social unit for New Zealand's indigenous Māori), communities, non-governmental organisations, primary producers and other business.

Most management involves multiple stakeholders working formally or informally in partnerships or in other cooperative agreements.

Iwi engagement with wetland management is substantial; for example:

- Waikato-Tainui, an iwi from the central North Island, are the drivers for a major programme on the Waikato River that aims to improve natural and cultural heritage.
- a number of iwi in New Zealand are actively undertaking assessment of the cultural values of important freshwater/wetland sites.

The private sector, including farming, has several programmes for positive engagement with wetlands, often in cooperation or partnership with the regional councils or DOC.

Examples:

- the dairy industry adopted the 'Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord' - aimed at lifting environmental performance on dairy farms, including effluent management.
- most regional councils have engaged in specific sustainable farming initiatives, e.g. to protect streambanks and facilitate riparian planting.
- the \$20 million 'Community Investment in Water (CIW)' partnership was launched in March 2013 by DOC and Fonterra, the world's largest milk processor and dairy exporter. The aim is to work together to improve the natural habitats of five key waterways in significant dairying regions around New Zealand. The Firth of Thames and Awarua Wetland Ramsar Sites will be included in this.

Local communities, community groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are very active in wetland conservation, either as part of initiatives on private land, or as part of community partnerships with local or central government on public land. This is illustrated by the community and NGO activities in relation to:

- development of new Ramsar Site nominations
- governance of Ramsar Sites, through formal or informal arrangements
- day to day management of Ramsar Sites, such as plantings and pest control
- ecological restoration of wetlands
- protection of wetlands on private property through covenants
- annual World Wetlands Day activities

2) Management of Ramsar Sites

A Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) describes how the Department of Conservation (DOC) will manage sites (places) and biodiversity in a region, including Ramsar Sites. Each draft CMS is prepared by DOC in consultation with stakeholders, integrating national and local priorities. The CMS is approved by the regional

Conservation Board and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (citizen advisory bodies established by statute to advise on conservation in New Zealand). The CMS is a statutory document and is updated/reviewed approximately every ten years (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/conservation-management-strategies/>). In the last triennium, Conservation Management Strategies relevant to 4 Ramsar Sites have been reviewed and updated.

The site specific management plan for the Manawatu river mouth and estuary Ramsar Site is currently being updated by the Manawatu Estuary Management Group.

While only 2 New Zealand Ramsar Sites have a formal cross-sectoral committee, there are formal or informal cross-sectoral agreements for all Ramsar Sites:

- management includes due consideration of socio-economic and cultural values, and includes iwi, communities, NGOs, business and other stakeholder involvement.
- in the management of Ramsar Sites, where they are Crown Land, the Department of Conservation (DOC) works with Tangata Whenua (iwi) to ensure the strength and nature of their interests in these places are understood, and that this understanding is incorporated into DOC's ongoing management of sites in keeping with obligations under section 4 of the Conservation Act (1987).
- while DOC is the administrative authority for Ramsar Sites, regional councils are also key stakeholders in their management because of their mandate for water management under the Resource Management Act.

3) Wetland restoration

There are a great number of wetland conservation initiatives underway in New Zealand, for Ramsar Sites as well as other wetlands. These are led and/or funded either by national authorities, local or regional authorities, iwi, non-governmental organisations, community groups, primary producers and/or other businesses. Very often wetland restoration is a cooperative venture including several stakeholders.

The Department of Conservation's (DOC) Arawai Kākāriki Wetland Restoration Programme aims to enhance the ecological restoration of three of New Zealand's foremost wetland/freshwater sites, including two Ramsar Sites (Whangamarino and Awarua wetland). The programme covers more than 40,000 ha and encapsulates coastal lagoons, extensive bogs-fen systems, braided rivers and montane lakes and swamps, working in partnership with communities and promoting research into wetland restoration techniques.

In addition, DOC is involved in many other wetland restoration projects either as the lead agency or in collaboration with regional authorities, iwi, or local communities.

The Ministry for the Environment Fresh Start for Fresh Water Clean-Up Fund provided \$15 million in funding over two years to help communities clean up waterways affected by historical water quality issues.

Many regional councils are restoring wetlands on regional parks. In addition, they often provide free guidance on best practice for wetland restoration as well as funding for use by community projects and to help private landowners identify and sustainably manage wetland areas on their property.

The National Wetland Trust is a non-profit organisation established in 1999 to increase the appreciation of wetlands and their values by all New Zealanders. Its aims include encouraging and supporting wetland protection, enhancement and restoration.

Private land wetland conservation initiatives across New Zealand are also contributing to wetland protection and restoration, including initiatives led by the NZ Landcare Trust and the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust.

4) New guidance and tools

A final draft 'New Zealand guidelines for assessment of potential Ramsar wetlands' (Denyer and Robertson in preparation) is currently in the peer review and final edit stage. When published by DOC it will be available for use by any interested community groups, central and local government authorities, iwi and other stakeholders.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) also has a number of on-line courses covering subjects that are useful in a wetland context, e.g. plant identification, bird monitoring, predator control and local authorities hold various field training days and have guidance material on their websites.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu developed the 'State of the Takiwa' tool that allows Tangata Whenua to systematically record, collect and collate information, and, report on the cultural health of significant sites, natural resources and the environment within their respective takiwa (tribal area).

The New Zealand Landcare Trust developed WETMAK : a web based training resource with six basic wetland monitoring modules that can be used by private landowners and local or central government authorities.

The biennial National Wetland Restoration Symposia, organised by the National Wetland Trust, with the support of multiple agencies provides a highly practical, participant-driven forum for knowledge exchange.

5) Strengthening the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

Administration of water management in New Zealand is by 16 regional councils through the framework provided by the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2011) sets out the objectives and policies for managing New Zealand's freshwater resources under the RMA. The National Policy statement requires councils to manage water in an integrated and sustainable way, while providing for economic growth within set water quantity and quality limits.

The New Zealand government is proposing (2013) to amend the National Policy Statement for Freshwater. The proposed amendments will ensure that regional councils account for all water takes and sources of contaminants to inform decisions on the setting of freshwater objectives and limits. The proposed amendments also introduce a National Objectives Framework (NOF) to support and guide the setting of freshwater objectives in

regional plans. In addition, the proposed amendments will establish two compulsory national values – ecosystem health and human health for secondary contact – with national bottom lines that provide the minimum level of what is acceptable for freshwater objectives.

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

1) Complexity and multiple jurisdictions

Wetland planning and management is under the jurisdiction of several agencies. The Department of Conservation (DOC) is the administrative authority for Ramsar Sites and regional councils are the regulatory agencies for water management under the Resource Management Act 1991. Cross-sectoral management, either formally or informally, is in place for Ramsar Sites to address this.

2) Drought conditions

Extreme drought situations in part of the country, for two consecutive summers, added pressure to wetlands and their biodiversity.

3) Development and land use changes

Development pressure and adjacent land use changes (including expansion and intensification of dairy farming) and nutrient loading, are primary issues to be addressed by long term planning and management of wetlands in New Zealand, including Ramsar Sites.

4) Climate Change

Long term management will need to incorporate climate change effects which may change long term inflows to wetlands, or, may lead to significant changes in peak water inflows due to increased intensity of major storm events.

5)

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

1) Finalising, publishing and distributing the user friendly guidelines (see A 4 above) for assessment of potential Ramsar wetlands, so they can underpin stakeholder efforts.

2) Ramsar Sites

Preparation and submission of revised RIS for Awarua Wetlands, Whangamarino and Firth of Thames as soon as possible and for the remainder of the New Zealand Ramsar Sites within a reasonable timeframe. Note: New Zealand made a decision to delay RIS updates until the 2012 version of the RIS was ready for use.

Finalising the review and updating of the Manawatu Estuary Management Plan (which had been prepared initially for the 2007-2012 period) by the Manawatu Estuary Management Group.

3) Developing new nominations:

Preparation of a RIS for the Lake Wairarapa-Moana potential Site and other activities in cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders to further the nomination process for this site.

Further work on at least two other potential Sites.

4) Gain further understanding and maximise the application of lessons learned, including:

- maximise implementation of knowledge gained from the Arawai Kākāriki programme
- increase understanding of climate change effects on wetlands and of the roles that wetlands can play in climate change adaptation
- invasive alien species management
- addressing the changing pressures on Ramsar Sites and wetlands in general

5) Ongoing and increased engagement of stakeholders and strengthening and expansion of partnerships remain priorities.

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

Availability of the online version of the 2012 RIS, ready for use by Contracting Parties.

Continue the encouragement of partnerships: the majority of wetlands cannot be managed without government and non-government stakeholders working with each other.

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

Nothing in addition to the point raised in the previous national report.

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

The Ramsar Administrative Authority sits in the same government department (Department of Conservation, DOC) as focal points for other MEA (e.g. CITES, CMS, World Heritage, CBD) . DOC works closely with other Government agencies on cross-cutting issues, including issues of relevance to Ramsar implementation. The Natural Resource Sector group has been established to effectively coordinate efforts across government agencies that are responsible for the environment, conservation, land use and primary industry, Māori economic interests, economic development, and science and innovation.

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

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is New Zealand's main legislation with regards to managing the environment in general. It established an integrated framework, and applies to land use, forestry, pollution, water and air (among other). It requires consideration of economic, social and cultural well being, including processes of consultation with iwi and other stakeholders. It requires councils to manage water in an integrated and sustainable way, while providing for economic growth within set water quantity and quality limits.

In addition, the New Zealand government has over the past triennium implemented a programme of freshwater reforms that aims to provide national guidelines to maintain the ecological health for freshwater ecosystems (see section A above). Setting measurable limits to manage freshwater ecosystems is aligned with the wise use principles of the Ramsar Convention.

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


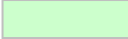
Not at this time.

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

Department of Conservation
Ministry for the Environment
Ministry for Primary Industries
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Information from various regional, local and/or unitary councils (local government)
New Zealand Conservation Authority
National Wetland Trust
The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Forest & Bird)
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (including Awarua Rūnanga)

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

1. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the 'drop-down' list in the yellow box. 
2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green 'free-text' boxes below the indicator questions. 
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database National Reports. For that reason, **please do not use double quote marks “ ” in the free text boxes. Use single quotes ‘ ’. Text in the ‘free text’ boxes should be simple text only: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
5. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP11, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP11 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties implementation in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

A - Yes

1.1.1 Additional information:

The Freshwater Ecosystems of New Zealand (FENZ) geodatabase of inland palustrine wetlands, rivers/streams and lakes. FENZ consists of a large set of spatial data layers and supporting information on New Zealand's rivers, lakes and wetlands. It can be used to objectively map and quantify various aspects of New Zealand's freshwater, providing:

- Comprehensive descriptions of the physical environment and biological character
- Classifications that group together rivers and streams, lakes and wetlands having similar ecological character
- Estimates of human pressures and impacts on biodiversity status.
- 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

FENZ contains data gathered from a wide variety of sources, including:

- Riverine: 177 rivers and 103 catchments/sub-catchments identified as a candidate list of rivers of national importance within 29 bioregions (from: Chadderton, W.L., D.J. Brown, and R. T. Stephens. 2004. 'Identifying freshwater ecosystems of national importance for biodiversity Criteria, methods, and candidate list of nationally important rivers'. Discussion document. Department of Conservation. Wellington). The list of nationally important rivers for conservation has now been refined by subsequent analysis of protected areas.
- Palustrine: Over 1500 palustrine and inland saline wetlands are considered nationally important and the minimum to protect the full range of wetland types within 29 bioregions (based on: Ausseil, A., P. Gerbeaux, L. Chadderton, T. Stephens, D. Brown and J. Leathwick. 2008. 'Wetland ecosystems of national importance for biodiversity: Criteria, methods and candidate list of nationally important inland wetlands'. Landcare Research Contract Report. LC 07/08/158. Prepared for the Department of Conservation, Wellington).
- Lacustrine: There is currently no published list of ranked lakes, however the FENZ database includes a national rank value for 3405 lakes (from 1 ha minimum) on the basis of their condition, pressures and biological values, to identify the minimum set of sites needed to adequately represent lacustrine biological values (based on: Leathwick, J.R., West, D., Gerbeaux, P., Kelly, D., Robertson, H., Brown, D., Chadderton W.L., Ausseil, A.G. 2010. 'Freshwater Ecosystems of New Zealand (FENZ) Geodatabase – Version 1: User Guide', Department of Conservation).

FENZ is the result of several years work by central and local government agencies and Crown Research Institutes, led by the Department of Conservation. It had its origins in the Waters of National Importance component of the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Development Programme of Action.

The FENZ database 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. Various regional councils are now also updating the FENZ mapping as new information becomes available

For more information on FENZ: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/freshwater/freshwater-ecosystems-of-new-zealand/>

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

1.1.2 Additional information:

FENZ (see section 1.1.1) is designed as a support tool to provide a background context for informed decision making. Various parts of FENZ are already being used both by DOC and by other agencies in the management of freshwater resources. For example:

- Data describing the distribution and condition of wetlands has been invaluable in helping DOC staff identify significant wetland values on the South Island's West Coast as part of their broader input to a new Regional Plan.
- Staff from the Greater Wellington Regional Council are exploring use of the river and stream classification as a framework for regional-scale management.
- Waikato Regional Council staff are using both the ecosystem classification and predictions of the distributions of freshwater species to guide the identification of sites requiring remedial action.

FENZ requires specialist GIS knowledge for its technical operation and biodiversity knowledge for understanding the content. Because of FENZ's complexity, DOC is providing advice, briefings and training (where possible) to ensure users understand its strengths, limitations and appropriate applications.

Various regional councils are now updating the FENZ mapping as new information becomes available. This is enabling assessments of the change in wetland extent over time for some regions of New Zealand.

In a new initiative, information on the quality of all New Zealand freshwater rivers and catchments is now available to the general public following the launch of a new website in early 2014. The Land, Air, Water, Aotearoa website, to be known as LAWA, displays information from more than 1100 freshwater monitoring sites located all around the country. Visitors to the site have the chance to zoom in on any one of the monitoring sites and view water quality data. The website allows users to see how a site on a river compares to similar sites around the country and, importantly, identifies if water quality is improving or not. LAWA is the result of a collaboration between New Zealand's 16 regional and unitary councils, the Ministry for the Environment, Cawthron Institute and Massey University. LAWA also has financial support from the Tindall Foundation.

Further, an Environmental Reporting Bill was introduced in Parliament in February 2014. The Bill introduces a new set of five domains that will be used to report on the state of New Zealand's environment: air, atmosphere and climate, land, fresh water, and marine.

1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}

- a) Ramsar Sites
- b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

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

- a) - No change
- b) - No change

1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):

a) Ramsar sites

Taken in their entirety, the condition of New Zealand's Ramsar Sites has not changed significantly overall since the last report. See section 2.6.2 for details.

b) Wetlands in general

Although there is insufficient information to assess trends in status of wetlands nationally, specifically since the last triennium, there are a number of publications and reports that provide general insight. Pressure through adjacent land use changes, including expansion and intensification of dairy farming, and nutrient loading, is one of the primary challenges to be addressed by long term planning and management of wetlands in New Zealand.

The current New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy states that the threats to freshwater biodiversity are diverse and pervasive. Many land use practices adversely affect freshwater biodiversity, through their effects on freshwater habitats and ecosystems. With regards to wetlands, it specifies that grazing and drainage of significant wetlands continue to reduce and degrade wetland habitats and ecosystems while estuarine habitats can be at risk from land use activities and coastal development (<http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/>).

The Department of Conservation also has a role in updating information on the conservation status of native species. In May 2014 the conservation status of freshwater fish was published. Of the 77 native freshwater fish in New Zealand, 21 species were classified as threatened. See: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/science-and-technical/nztcs7entire.pdf>

A 2012 Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment report on water quality states that overall, water quality remains good by international standards but varies around the country, depending on local land use, climate, and geology. Seventy-five percent of waterways have stable or improving water quality. However, there are increasing signs of declining water quality in some waterways, with the three water pollutants of greatest concern being pathogens, sediment, and nutrients (www.pce.parliament.nz/assets/Uploads/PCE-Water-quality-land-use-website.pdf).

The 2013 Ministry for the Environment Indicator update for river condition shows that nitrate concentrations were increasing at about a quarter of the monitored sites, while phosphorus trends were improving at 30% and deteriorating at 10% of monitored sites (www.mfe.govt.nz/environmental-reporting/fresh-water/river-condition-indicator/summary-key-findings.html).

At a regional level, State of the Environment (SOE) monitoring describes changes in the condition of aquatic ecosystems. For example, the Horizons Regional SOE Report for 2013 noted that for the Manawatu catchment nutrient levels in streams and rivers had remained steady between 2007-2012, with only a few sites recording increasing trends. See: <http://www.horizons.govt.nz/assets/managing-our-environment/STATE-OF-ENVIRONMENT-WEB.pdf>

In some regions, loss in the extent of wetland ecosystems has been observed, such as in Southland where 1500ha. Has been lost since 1990 (Robertson H., in preparation).

Programmes to obtain improvements in water quality in general, and for protection and/or restoration of specific wetlands (see sections 1.7.4, 1.8.1, 1.8.2, 1.10.2 and 1.11.1) have been initiated by various stakeholders:

- Central government
- Local government
- Tangata Whenua (iwi)
- Communities and/or community or non-governmental organisations
- Primary producers and other business (the latter often through sponsorship)

Most such programmes involve multiple stakeholders working together formally and/or informally in partnerships. Good access to information (see section 1.1.2) and review of some national policy (see section 1.3.1), as well as resourcing (see e.g. sections 1.7.4, 1.8.1, 1.8.2, 1.10.2 and 1.11.1) contribute to wetland management.

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? {1.3.1} 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 for Freshwater Management and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2011) sets out the objectives and policies for managing New Zealand's freshwater resources under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Administration of water management in New Zealand is by 16 regional councils through the framework provided by the RMA. The National Policy statement requires councils to manage water in an integrated and sustainable way, while providing for economic growth within set water quantity and quality limits (see: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/freshwater-management.html>).

The New Zealand government is proposing (2013) to amend the National Policy Statement for Freshwater to build on the recommendations of the stakeholder-led Land and Water Forum. The proposed amendments will ensure that regional councils account for all water takes and sources of contaminants to inform decisions on the setting of freshwater objectives and limits. The proposed amendments also introduce a National Objectives Framework (NOF) to support and guide the setting of freshwater objectives in regional plans. In addition, the proposed amendments will establish two compulsory national values – ecosystem health and human health for secondary contact – with national bottom lines that provide the minimum level of what is acceptable for freshwater objectives. (See: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/freshwater/nps-freshwater-management-amendment-proposals.html>)

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2010) provides guidance on national priorities for biodiversity in the coastal environment. Policies and priorities address indigenous biological diversity, natural areas, natural features and natural landscapes/seascapes, include protection from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

Further guidance is provided in the context of implementation of the Ramsar Convention in general, or relevant to specific elements of it by the following:

The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2000) was released by the New Zealand Government in partial fulfillment of international obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. It includes a vision, goals and actions to reverse the decline of the nation's indigenous biodiversity and sections specifically on freshwater and marine ecosystems. Some direct outcomes of the strategy have enhanced our ability to manage wetlands, including the TIFBIS (Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System) funding that has contributed to database development and enhanced access to published and unpublished information (see: <http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/pdfs/picture/nzbs-whole.pdf>).

The Statement of National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Native Biodiversity on Private Land (April 2007) was issued by the Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Conservation. The statement provides a national perspective which Councils can use in planning and decision-making under the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991. Private landowners have a crucial role to play in saving New Zealand's at-risk native plants and animals. Some of our most rare and threatened ecosystems and species are now found only on private land; their long term survival will depend largely on the stewardship (kaitiakitanga) of landowners. The statement identifies four priorities for protection, including reference to wetland ecosystems (see: <https://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/pdfs/protecting-our-places-brochure.pdf>).

Drawing on this, the Proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity

(2011) has been prepared. Together with submissions received, this will be considered by the Minister for the Environment in due course.

1.3.2 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 drawn up under the CBD

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

- a) Z - Not applicable
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes
- e) A - Yes
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

The national policy statements or other approaches mentioned in section 1.3.1 are broad policies that cover freshwater and/or coastal matters including their intersect with other national strategies/planning.

In addition, the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is New Zealand's main legislation with regards to managing the environment in general. It established an integrated framework, and applies to land use, forestry, pollution, water and air (among others). It incorporates the principle of sustainable management.

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

A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information:

The Resource Management Act (1991) requires that strategic environmental assessment is carried out through the development of policies and plans at national, and sub-national level. Regional and District Plans incorporate water resources and land use.

1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.3.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The Resource Management Act (1991) controls developments that are not permitted by the plans mentioned in 1.3.3 (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. Processes include public submissions, and the possibility for appeal to the Environment Court.</p> <p>For example: on 14 March 2008 Meridian Energy Limited notified its intention to apply for resource consents to construct, operate and maintain an 85 metre high, 300 metre wide hydroelectric power station on the Mokihinui River in North Westland. Following the approval of the initial consent applications, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and a number of other parties lodged appeals with the Environment Court, based among other, on terrestrial and freshwater ecological values that would be affected. On 22 May 2012 Meridian Energy surrendered the consents that were the subject of the appeals (see: http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/land-and-freshwater/freshwater/doc-evidence-briefs-proposed-mokihinui-hydro-scheme-appeal/).</p>	

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	A - Yes
<p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p> <p>The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is New Zealand's main legislation with regards to managing our environment. It established an integrated framework, and it incorporates the principle of sustainable management.</p> <p>Amendments to legislation have taken into account the Ramsar commitments, although that has not been the primary driver.</p> <p>An example: the Waikato River Authority is a statutory body formed under the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010, the Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010, and with additional responsibilities arising from the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012. One of the purposes of this newly formed Authority is to promote an integrated, holistic, and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the vision for 'a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come' (http://www.waikatoriver.org.nz/).</p>	

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly
---	------------

1.4.1 Additional information:

a) Ramsar Sites

Such assessments have not been undertaken specifically in this triennium but an evaluation of the value of the economic services provided by the Whangamarino Ramsar Site was completed in 2007. Flood control use of this wetland is increasingly valuable in reducing the costs of public works and damage to farmland, for example saving an estimated 5.2 million (2007) NZD during a single 1-in-100-year flood event in 1998. (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/threats-and-impacts/benefits-of-conservation/economic-values-whangamarino-wetland.pdf>)

b) Wetlands in general

'Ecosystem Services in New Zealand', published recently, contains chapters on status and trends of ecosystems and related services of wetlands, lakes, estuarine ecosystems and marine ecosystems as well as chapters on the ecosystem services provided through river quality, freshwater biodiversity and water regulation (Dymond J Ed. (2013). Ecosystem Services in New Zealand-conditions and trends. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln, New Zealand, 2013, 540 pp.).

The Department of Conservation has also engaged Lincoln University (Kerr G., in preparation) to initiate work on 'informing wetland decision making'. This project identifies the role economic approaches can play in systematic conservation planning, in particular, the role of economic valuation in the context of wetland management within the Arawai Kakariki project.

Central government, local and/or regional government, iwi and research institutions are engaged in various specific studies. For example: in 2013, the Waikato Regional Council contracted the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research to develop rapid assessment techniques for mapping of intertidal habitats associated with the provision of ecosystem goods and services (<http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/PageFiles/27981/TR201352.pdf>).

A number of iwi in New Zealand are actively undertaking assessment of the cultural values of important freshwater/wetland sites. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu developed the 'State of the Takiwa' tool that allows Tangata Whenua to systematically record, collect, collate and report on the cultural health of significant sites, natural resources and the environment within their respective takiwa (tribal area).

For example: in 2007 over 100 sites from 18 catchments throughout the South Island were assessed using 'State of Takiwa' to produce a report on the health of freshwater resources from a Māori perspective (<http://www.edskonference.com/content/docs/papers/Pauling,%20C.pdf>).

c) Not wetland specific

Lincoln University manages a database that contains information on more than 850 studies relating to ecosystem services and valuation (www.lincoln.ac.nz/Documents/Ecosystem-Services/2010-Bibliography-Ecosystem-Valuation-Database.pdf).

In 2013, a conference on Valuing Nature was organised jointly by the New Zealand Government Natural Resources Sector and Victoria University of Wellington, in association with the Sustainable Business Council. One practical outcome of the Valuing Nature Conference was the approval, in February 2014, of a business case to undertake

a Natural Capital Assessment in New Zealand. This cross-government initiative will be developed with participation from a broad and diverse range of stakeholders and interest groups. It will constitute an integrated multi-disciplinary, multi-scale, and collaborative initiative that will capture the connectivity and interdependencies of ecosystem services in New Zealand.

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

C - Partly

1.4.2 Additional information:

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2011) (NPS-FM) sets out the objectives and policies for managing New Zealand's freshwater resources under the Resource Management Act 1991. It requires regional councils (and equivalent) to manage water in an integrated and sustainable way, while providing for economic growth within set water quantity and quality limits (<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/freshwater-management.html>).

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

A - Yes

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

a) Ramsar Sites

Management of Ramsar Sites includes due consideration of socio-economic and cultural values, and includes iwi, community, business and other stakeholder involvement. Multiple and cross-sectoral stakeholders are involved in the nomination of Ramsar Sites, as well as in their ongoing management (see section 2.4.4).

In the management of Ramsar Sites, where they are Crown Land, the Department of Conservation (DOC) works with Tangata Whenua (iwi) to ensure the strength and nature of their interests in these places are understood, and that this understanding is incorporated into DOC's ongoing management of sites in keeping with obligations under section 4 of the Conservation Act (1987).

b) Wetlands in general

Programmes to obtain improvements in water quality in general, and for protection and/or restoration of specific wetlands have been initiated by various stakeholders, including central and/or local government, iwi, communities and/or community or non-governmental organisations, primary producers and other business. Most programmes involve multiple stakeholders working together formally and/or informally in partnerships, ensuring the inclusion of socio-economic and cultural values in management considerations.

For example: The Waikato River Authority was formed to promote an integrated, holistic, and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the vision for 'a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come'. It specifically includes recognition of the significance of the Waikato River to Waikato-Tainui (iwi) (www.waikatoriver.org.nz/).

The Resource Management Act 1991, New Zealand's main legislation with regards to managing the environment, requires consideration of economic, social and cultural well being and includes processes of consultation with iwi and other stakeholders.

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council represents nationally the interests of anglers and hunters, and provides co-ordination of the management, enhancement, and maintenance of sports fish and game birds [cf. Section 26B(1) of Conservation Act 1987]. Each regional Fish and Game Council manages, maintains, and enhances the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters [cf. Section 26Q(1) of Conservation Act 1987]. The councils are funded through the sale of sports fishing and game bird hunting licences.

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

1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
 - b. parliament
 - c. private sector
 - d. civil society
- {1.5.2}

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

1.5.1 Additional information:

As mentioned in the previous National Report, a summary of the COP10 meeting and key messages of the Changwon Declaration were prepared as a plain language factsheet. Through its availability as a prominent item on the Department of Conservation website the attention of civil society, including the private sector, can be drawn to this in an ongoing manner (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/international/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands/publications/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands-10th-conference-of-parties-factsheet/>).

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

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

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

- a. A - Yes
- b. A - Yes
- c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

Relevant National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research projects include:

- 'Aquatic rehabilitation': aiming to enhance the cost-effectiveness of efforts by land owners, community groups, industry, iwi and government to rehabilitate key values and ecosystem services of degraded rivers, lakes and estuaries.
- 'Management of cumulative effects of stressors on aquatic ecosystems' focusing on contaminant load limits, interactions between multiple contaminant stressors, and ecosystem 'tipping points'; and developing a system to include information from Ngā Waihotanga Iho (iwi estuarine monitoring toolkit), Mātauranga Māori and Western science.
- 'Environmental Flows': aiming to improve the health and viability of freshwater ecosystems that are negatively affected by poorly-managed flow regimes and provide greater certainty regarding the effects of water allocation, climate variability and other forces on aquatic ecosystems.

See also: <http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/research-projects>

Landcare Research projects include:

- 'Restoring wetland ecosystem functioning': aiming to assist landowners and managers in the protection and restoration of wetlands by providing scientifically based guidelines to underpin management and restoration strategies.

See also: <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/ecosystems/wetland-ecosystems/publications>

Waikato University's Environmental Research Institute is undertaking a 10-year research project on: 'Integrated freshwater solutions': this project investigates measures to mitigate the threats to wetlands from intensification of farming leading to excess nutrients entering the watershed and from degradation caused by invasive weeds and pests.

See also: <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/eri/research/publications>

In May 2013 ten National Science Challenges were announced by the Minister of Science and Innovation. Two of those will include research of relevance to Wetlands management: Details on funding allocations to specific proposals will be decided later in 2014.

In December 2013 a meeting was held: 'Freshwater conservation under a changing climate'. Participants were from a range of government agencies and research institutions, specialists in freshwater ecology, conservation, climate change, policy and Mātauranga Māori. Detailed outcomes resulting from the workshop will be published later in 2014 (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/freshwater/freshwater-conservation-and-climate-change/>).

Studies on projected climate change impacts on lake ecosystems have recently been published that will inform policy. For example, a publication on the 'Effects of Climate Change on New Zealand Lakes' concluded that climate change effects are likely to synergistic, with major existing pressures from alien species, water extraction and eutrophication, acting in tandem with additional climate pressures from forecasted increases in irrigation and water impoundment as well as new alien species introductions (Hamilton, D. P., McBride, C., Özkundakci, D., Schallenberg, M., Verburg, P., de Winton, M., Kelly, D., Hendy, C. and Ye, W. (2012) Effects of Climate Change on New Zealand Lakes, in Climatic Change and Global Warming of Inland Waters: Impacts and Mitigation for Ecosystems and Societies (eds C. R. Goldman, M. Kumagai and R. D. Roberts), John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, Chichester, UK. doi: 10.1002/9781118470596.ch19).

The 6th National Wetland Restoration Symposium 2014 organised by the National

Wetland Trust was themed around the effects of climate change on wetlands, and the role of wetlands in mitigating effects of climate change, e.g. the role of urban wetlands for floodwater retention (<http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/symposia.html>).

For research on valuation of ecosystem services see section 1.4.1

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

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Scientific and technical understanding of the key threatening processes to wetland ecosystems typically underpins most conservation programmes in New Zealand. Where there are insufficient resources for scientific study at a particular wetland site, management plans are often based on the general understanding of wetland ecology and function in association with local expert knowledge.

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

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

Freshwater management is generally undertaken at a catchment or multiple catchment level. Marine wetlands are managed through regional scale plans.

1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.3}	A - Yes
<p>1.7.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The Land and Water Forum brings together a range of industry groups, electricity generators, environmental and recreational NGOs, iwi, scientists, and other organisations with a stake in freshwater and land management. They are joined by central and local government observers in developing a common direction for freshwater management in New Zealand and provide advice to the Government.</p> <p>The New Zealand Landcare Trust supports communities in developing catchment-scaled solutions to water quality issues, bringing their CEPA expertise to facilitate meetings, link communities with research agencies, and by developing tools such as WETMAK and WETLINK as well as catchment guides and case studies. Examples include 'Best Management Practices for Enhancing Water Quality in the Waikato', 'Guidelines for Landowners in Peat Lake Catchments' and a bilingual 'Guide to the Waikato River Catchment' (http://www.landcare.org.nz/Publications/Reports-Kits).</p>	
1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii	C - Partly
<p>1.7.3 Additional information:</p> <p>The Department of Conservation hosted a multi-agency national workshop during December 2013 on 'freshwater conservation under a changing climate'. An initial summary of the workshop is available (http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/freshwater/freshwater-conservation-and-climate-change/). Detailed technical proceedings will be published later in 2014.</p> <p>It is recognised that wetlands can play a local role in climate change adaptation, such as flood mitigation. For instance: the Whangamarino Ramsar site is part of the Lower Waikato Flood Control Scheme – and floodwater can be diverted into the wetland to avert flood impacts along the lower Waikato. A complicating factor is that with increased flood frequency the ecological values of the wetland are also at greater risk. There is hence a careful balance required between flood management and conservation, and the Department of Conservation and Waikato Regional Council are working together to address this challenge.</p>	
1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v	A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

The national policy statements and other approaches mentioned in section 1.3.1 are broad policies that cover freshwater and/or coastal matters including the intersect with agriculture.

Because of the importance of farming in New Zealand (especially dairy, but also beef and sheep), and the pasture-based nature of such farming, water quality is a key issue in sustainable management.

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2011) (NPS-FM) sets out the objectives and policies for managing New Zealand's freshwater resources under the Resource Management Act (1991). It requires management of water in an integrated and sustainable way, while providing for economic growth within set water quantity and quality limits (see: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/freshwater-management.html>) Within this framework, water management in New Zealand is administered at regional level, and most regional councils (or their equivalent) have engaged in specific sustainable farming initiatives.

For example: the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) and landowners have embarked on a large-scale project to ensure all of Taranaki's streambanks are protected by fences and vegetation. TRC has drawn up free riparian management plans for more than 95% of the Taranaki ring-plain dairy farms, and supplies plants at cost (<http://www.trc.govt.nz/transforming-taranaki/>).

Usually such regional management is put in a multi-stakeholder context: For example: The aim of the Southland Wetlands Working Party is to help private landowners to identify and sustainably manage wetland areas on their property and to promote the benefits of including wetland ecosystems as an integral part of their productive farming landscape. The Southland Wetlands Working Party consists of: the Department of Conservation, Environment Southland (the regional council), Southland District Council, Fish and Game NZ, Invercargill City Council, Federated Farmers of NZ (Inc), Gore District Council, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust, NZ Landcare Trust, National Wetland Trust, Te Ao Marama Inc. and Ducks Unlimited (<http://www.es.govt.nz/environment/land/wetlands/wetlands-working-party/>)

Another example of collaboration between farming interests and conservation is the 'Community Investment in Water (CIW)' partnership launched in March 2013 by the Department of Conservation and Fonterra, the world's largest global milk processor and dairy exporter. The aim is to work together to improve the natural habitats of five key waterways in significant dairying regions around New Zealand (more detail in section 1.10.2)

To celebrate World Wetlands Day 2014 the National Wetland Trust and the Department of Conservation (DOC) worked with regional councils around the country to find New Zealand's most wetland-friendly farming families. Seven regional councils were keen to recognise and reward wetland-friendly farmers in their region and submitted their nominations to a judging panel. This national initiative resulted in a high quality of nominations spanning the country, showcasing in a very practical way that profitable farming and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand (<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1402/S00001/wairarapa-farmer-wins-nz-rural-wetland-champion-2014-award.htm>).

STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.*

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

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

The Department of Conservation Arawai Kākāriki ('Green Waterway') Wetland Restoration Programme aims to enhance the ecological restoration of three of New Zealand's foremost wetland/freshwater sites, working in partnership with communities and promoting research into wetland restoration techniques. The three sites in the programme are the Whangamarino wetland in Waikato, Awarua/Waituna in Southland, and Ō Tū Wharekai (Ashburton basin and upper Rangitata River) in Canterbury. The first two are Ramsar Sites. Across the sites, and at a national level, the programme is performing well against the national objectives. This is largely due to the development and implementation of a national strategic planning framework for the Department of Conservation which guides the allocation of resources to the most high priority tasks (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/arawai-kakariki-wetland-restoration-programme/>).

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) Fresh Start for Fresh Water Clean-Up Fund provided \$15 million in funding over two years to help communities clean up waterways affected by historical water quality issues (<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/freshwater/fresh-start-for-fresh-water/cleanup-fund.html>). Funding was awarded to the following:

- Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere (\$6m)
- Manawatu River (\$ 5.2m)
- Wairarapa Moana (\$1m),
- Wainono Lagoon (\$800,000),
- Waituna Lagoon (\$785,000)
- Lake Brunner (\$200,000)
- Lake Horowhenua (\$540,000)

An example: iwi, industry, local and regional council, environmental, recreational and farming representatives formed the Manawatu River Leaders' Forum. Improving the condition of the Manawatu River is a long-term project, including riparian planting and stream fencing, restoring fish and whitebait habitats, management plans for dairy farms, and upgrading sewerage treatment plants. The majority of funding is from the above MfE fund and from Tararua, Manawatu and Horowhenua District Councils, as well as Horizons Regional Council and Dairy NZ. Co-funding is being provided by land owners and others - for example, over 60% of the cost for stream fencing projects in 2012-13 was met by landowners (for the April 2014 progress report see: <http://www.manawaturiver.co.nz/assets/Uploads/Action-Plan-Progress-Report-April-2014.pdf>).

The DOC-Fonterra Community Investment in Water (CIW) partnership (see section 1.10.2) has prioritised five sensitive catchments for its activities:

- Kaipara Harbour
- Firth of Thames
- Waikato Peat Lakes
- Te Waihora-Lake Ellesmere
- Awarua-Waituna

More in general, the FENZ geodatabase (see section 1.1.1) includes information on the ecological integrity inland palustrine wetlands, rivers/streams and lakes in New Zealand. It grew out of the Waters of National Importance (WONI) programme within which the Department of Conservation was asked to identify waters of national importance for biodiversity. FENZ can help decision-makers manage New Zealand's water resources in ways that protect a representative range of natural values while also supporting economic growth, and it can be used to develop priorities for protection, including restoration.

FENZ is now being applied at a regional level, with some regional councils using the geodatabase to identify regional priorities for conservation.

In other regions such as Canterbury, a water management strategy is helping guide an 'Immediate Steps' programme for the regional council that involves funding on-ground conservation initiatives, often including wetlands. The regional committee has decided on three biodiversity flagship projects to support over the next five years – Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere enhancement project; enhancement of the upper catchments of the Rakaia and Rangitata rivers; and the Wainono Lagoon project (<http://ecan.govt.nz/advice/biodiversity/funding/pages/immediate-steps.aspx>).

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

There are a great number of wetland conservation initiatives underway in New Zealand, led and/or funded either by national authorities, local or regional authorities, iwi, non-governmental organisations, community groups, primary producers and/or other businesses. Very often wetland restoration is a cooperative venture including several stakeholders (see also sections 1.10.2 and 1.11.1).

The Department of Conservation's (DOC) Arawai Kākāriki restoration programme for three of New Zealand's foremost wetland ecosystems (see section 1.8.1) covers more than 40,000 ha and encapsulates coastal lagoons, extensive bogs-fen systems, braided rivers and montane lakes and swamps (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/arawai-kakariki-wetland-restoration-programme/>). In addition, DOC is involved in many other wetland restoration projects either as the lead agency or in collaboration with regional authorities, iwi, or local communities. This includes the DOC-Fonterra 'Community Investment in Water' partnership which covers five catchments (see section 1.10.2).

Waikato-Tainui, an iwi from the central North Island, are the drivers for a major programme on the Waikato River that aims to improve natural and cultural heritage (see section 1.3.5).

The Ministry for the Environment is providing funding for seven major projects (see section 1.8.1). One of those is for Whakaora Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, where crown funding is for 6 million NZD of the 11 million NZD total cost. Parties to this agreement are: Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury (the regional council), Fonterra (major dairy exporter), Selwyn District Council, Lincoln University and local the community. The Project purpose is the restoration and rejuvenation of mauri (life force) and ecosystem health of Te Waihora/Lake Ellerslie (<http://tewaihora.org/>).

Regional Fish and Game Councils manage, maintain, and enhance sports fish and game resources in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters [cf. Section 26Q(1) of Conservation Act 1987], including developing and enhancing wetlands, for example the 35ha wetland restoration at Ohaaki in the Waikato Region. The councils are funded through the sale of sports fishing.

Many regional authorities are restoring wetlands on regional parks. In addition, they often provide free guidance on best practice for wetland restoration for use by private or community projects. Examples are Auckland Council's 'Wetlands Restoration' guides and training for community groups (<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>) and 'Working with wetlands in Hawke's Bay and the East Coast' developed by Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Fish & Game New Zealand, DOC and Gisborne District Council (<http://www.gdc.govt.nz/assets/Files/Conservation/WorkingWithWetlands.pdf>).

The National Wetland Trust is a non-profit organisation established in 1999 to increase the appreciation of wetlands and their values by all New Zealanders. Its aims include encouraging and supporting wetland protection, enhancement and restoration. It also carries out the restoration at Lake Serpentine (site of its proposed National Wetland Centre), and organises the biennial Wetland Restoration Symposium to share knowledge and lessons learned on wetland restoration (<http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/index.html>).

Forest & Bird is New Zealand's longest-serving non-governmental conservation organisation, formed in 1923. It has played an active role in preserving New Zealand's environment and native species and established a network of reserves and sanctuaries, including wetlands, that are actively restored and managed by its members (<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/>).

Private land wetland conservation initiatives across New Zealand are also contributing to wetland protection and restoration, including initiatives led by the NZ Landcare Trust and the Queen Elizabeth II Trust.

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

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

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information:

The 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 (<http://ei.niwa.co.nz/search/fbis>).

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 (<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/nzffd>).

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 (<http://www.virtualherbarium.org.nz/home>).

The Department of Conservation (DOC) BioWeb collates various herbaria and regional council databases to create a grid overlay of presences for certain plants within New Zealand, including invasive plants. BioWeb Weeds is the Department of Conservation's national repository for weed information and contains more than 92,000 observations of 6,450 weed species.

A 'Consolidated List' of environmental weeds in New Zealand has been published by DOC in 2008 (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/drds292.pdf>).

Other resources, focussing on weeds (including wetlands and weeds) include:

- DOC internet weeds page: www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/weeds/
- National Plant Pest Accord (NPPA) Information: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa
- NPPA Interactive Identification Weed Key:
www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biosystematics/plants/nppakey/
- Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research Weed Pages:
www.landcareresearch.co.nz/education/weeds/weedinfo.asp
- NIWA Aquatic Weed Guide: www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/aquatic-biodiversity-and-biosecurity/our-services/aquaticplants/outreach/species
- Weedbusters: weedbusters.co.nz/index.asp

Information about New Zealand can also be searched in global resources e.g. the Global Invasive Species Database (www.issg.org/database/welcome/).

Several other databases of invasive alien species are also maintained by regional councils and other local authorities and can be publicly accessed through their websites.

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

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information:

As an island nation reliant on agriculture, biosecurity is a high priority for New Zealand. Biosecurity is managed under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has an oversight role for all biosecurity activity within New Zealand's borders. A number of government agencies also have a role in components of the post border security system. MPI takes a lead role in dealing with pests that are considered a national priority; the Department of Conservation (DOC) manages pests on the conservation estate. Regional Councils are required to prepare and implement regional pest management strategies under the Act.

MPI has a strategy to grow and protect New Zealand. This strategy covers biosecurity as well as MPI's other activities. Biosecurity focuses on pre-border, border and post-border activities designed to keep out new pests. MPI is also responsible for leading the pest management system under which agencies, industry and individuals take collective actions against pests (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/>).

The MPI-led National Interest Pest Responses (NIPR) aim to eradicate selected established pests from New Zealand. Several of these species are freshwater pest plants including, hydrilla, salvinia, hornwort, water hyacinth, and marginal aquatics manchuian wildrice and phragmites. The didymo long-term management programme aims to slow the spread of didymo.

The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is aimed at preventing pests already established in New Zealand from spreading further. NPPA is a cooperative agreement between the Nursery and Garden Industry Association, regional councils and central government departments with biosecurity responsibilities. All plants on the NPPA are unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act 1993. These plants cannot be sold, propagated or distributed in New Zealand.

For more information on MPI's biosecurity activities, see: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/

The National Biodiversity Strategy also aims to manage invasive alien species to protect our indigenous biodiversity and important introduced species. In the New Zealand context, surveillance, rapid response, eradication and control of environmental weeds and pests is a major component of the ongoing conservation efforts.

For the conservation estate, DOC is in charge of managing invasive alien species. One of the components is the DOC 'Strategic Plan to Manage Invasive Weeds', which includes wetland weeds. There are standard operating procedures for all aspects of weed work (surveillance, inventory, planning weed control, monitoring weed control, reporting and reviewing weed work). Management and prevention of invasive fish in freshwater ecosystems is also an important part of DOC's day to day conservation management relevant to wetlands. It includes public awareness raising as well as survey, containment and eradication (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/weeds/>).

At local level, communities are often heavily engaged in weed and pest control as part of wetland restoration:

- Weedbusters is a national programme to foster weed management in general, at national level (<http://weedbusters.co.nz/>)
- The National Wetlands Trust, NGO national co-focal point regularly organises National Wetland Restoration Symposia, including weed and pest management issues

- WETMAK is an online resource aimed at community groups working on wetland restoration projects throughout New Zealand. This Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment Kit has been published in August 2012 by the NZ Landcare Trust (<http://www.landcare.org.nz/wetmak>).

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

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

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information:

This has been done by encouragement of the private sector to manage wetlands well.

There has been extensive private sector involvement in processes to reduce impacts on wetlands, to practice sustainable management and to restore degraded wetlands (also see sections 1.7.4 and 1.8.2)

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

a. Ramsar Sites

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

a) As a matter of course, private sector stakeholders are among those engaged with Ramsar Site management. Much of section b) below is of relevance to Ramsar Sites as well as to wetlands in general.

b) The private sector, including farming, has several programmes for positive engagement with wetlands, including sustainable use (see also sections 1.7.4 and 1.8.2).

Maori (iwi) engagement with wetland management is substantial (see e.g. sections 1.3.5, 1.4.1, 1.4.3, 1.7.4, 1.8.2 and 1.11.1)

The dairy industry adopted the 'Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord' in time for the 2013/14 season. It is aimed at lifting environmental performance on dairy farms; it includes commitments to targeted riparian planting plans, effluent management, comprehensive standards for new dairy farms and measures to improve the efficiency of water and nutrient use on farms

(http://www.dairynz.co.nz/page/pageid/2145879933/Sustainable_Dairying_Water_Accord#ixzz31Z5YKzFK).

The Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fonterra, the world's largest global milk processor and dairy exporter, launched a partnership in March 2013 to work together to improve the natural habitats of five key waterways in significant dairying regions around New Zealand. This significant 'Community Investment in Water (CIW)' partnership was formed in recognition of the fact that quality waterways are pivotal to maintaining the healthy environments which protect native wildlife and also underpin a sustainable dairy industry. As part of this partnership, Fonterra and DOC are sharing joint co-ordination of a \$20 million community investment over 10 years. Initially, Fonterra and DOC are working with local communities to make a difference to the water quality at five sensitive catchments:

- Kaipara Harbour
- Firth of Thames
- Waikato Peat Lakes
- Te Waihora-Lake Ellesmere
- Awarua-Waituna

Genesis Energy, a diversified energy company, is partnering with DOC to save New Zealand's unique whio/ blue duck (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*). It inhabits fast-flowing waterways, and is widely recognised as an indicator of healthy river systems. With fewer than 3,000 birds left, whio are listed as nationally vulnerable under the New Zealand threat classification system. Active management is needed to ensure the species' long-term survival, as whio are dependent on in situ management in suitable large-scale river systems. The Genesis Energy Whio Recovery Programme partnership will fund a five-year management programme for Whio. It will enable the implementation of a national recovery plan that will double the number of fully operational secure whio breeding sites throughout the country, and boost pest control efforts (<http://www.whioforever.co.nz/>).

Many private landowners and some plantation forest companies have voluntarily protected wetlands on their land in perpetuity via open space covenants with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, or similar arrangements with the Department of Conservation or local authorities.

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

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

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information:

Many of New Zealand's regional councils (and their equivalents) provide funding for protection and restoration of wetlands and offer free advice and e.g. plants for riparian planting

A number of government and non-governmental sources for funding encourage the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including:

The Nature Heritage Fund protects ecosystems that represent the full range of natural diversity originally present in the New Zealand landscape by providing incentives for voluntary conservation on private land. Ngā Whenua Rāhui is a contestable Ministerial fund established in 1991 to provide funding for the protection of indigenous ecosystems on Māori land. Its scope covers the full range of natural diversity originally present in the landscape. The Community Conservation Partnerships Fund - Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori provides funding to community-led conservation groups for natural heritage and recreation projects in New Zealand on public and private land and waters. For further information on the above three funds, see: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/run-a-project/funding/>

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) Fresh Start for Freshwater Clean-up Fund addresses the problem of poor quality fresh water as a result of historical decisions and practices. The fund provides regional councils and their project partners with financial assistance to remediate water bodies of national significance (also see sections 1.8.1 and 1.8.2). MfE's Community Environment Fund funds projects that support partnership between parties and increase community-based advice, educational opportunities and public awareness on environmental issues. For further information on MfE funding see: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/funding/index.html>

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) administers the Sustainable Farming Fund which invests in farmer, grower and forester led projects that deliver economic, environmental and social benefits to New Zealand's primary industries (<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/>).

The Queen Elizabeth II National trust (QEII) enables landowners to protect special features on their land through its open space covenants. QEII offers e.g. expertise in legal protection, expertise in monitoring programmes and field representatives working with landowners (<http://www.openspace.org.nz/Site/Home/default.aspx>).

The NZ Landcare Trust works with farmers, landowners and community groups to improve the sustainability of landscapes and waterways. They assist with finding funding and financial support and providing advice on maintaining project momentum (<http://www.landcare.org.nz/About-Us/What-we-do>).

The Waikato River Authority funds rehabilitation initiatives for the Waikato River in its role as trustee for the Waikato River Clean-up Trust (<http://www.waikatoriver.org.nz/funding/>).

The Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET) assists organisations, agencies and individuals with projects that foster and enhance the sustainable management of ecological resources in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments (<http://www.wceet.org.nz/>).

Industry groups are also supporting general environmental projects, e.g. "Kids Restore NZ", where funding is made available through Air New Zealand's Environment Trust to

support projects, including wetland restoration projects, that are led by school children with the support of various agencies and experts (<http://airnzenvironmenttrust.org.nz/kids-restore-new-zealand/>).

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

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

New Zealand has no agricultural subsidies and no subsidies for land development.

The Irrigation Acceleration Fund (IAF) is intended to help realise the potential for irrigated agriculture to contribute to sustainable economic growth throughout New Zealand. The 2011 Budget allocated \$35 million over five years to support the development of irrigation infrastructure proposals – these resources are to be deployed in a context of sustainable use and management of water for future generations, which is consistent with the approach of wise use (<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/environment-natural-resources/funding-programmes/irrigation-acceleration-fund>).

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

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

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <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 'New Zealand guidelines for assessment of potential Ramsar wetlands' (Denyer and Robertson in review) is currently in the peer review and final edit stage. It will be published by the Department of Conservation.</p> <p>The application of these guidelines aims to ensure a strategic approach for future site nominations, and to provide a transparent and standardised process for assessing the national and international importance of potential Ramsar sites. When published, it will be available for use by any interested community groups, central and local government authorities, iwi and other stakeholders.</p>	
2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii	2 sites
<p>2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):</p> <p>A number of stakeholders and wetlands managers are presently considering possible nominations of wetlands for designation to the Ramsar List.</p> <p>Technical assessment, including review by Dr H. A. Robertson, the New Zealand Ramsar National Focal Point (science/technical), is at an advanced stage for the Lake Wairarapa-Moana wetland Site. The Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Department of Conservation (DOC) have supported this assessment. A Governance body has been operational, including DOC and partners from iwi, district council and regional council. The next steps include the finalisation of a draft RIS, anticipated for later in 2014.</p> <p>Overall, two or three new sites may be designated by the end of the next triennium.</p>	

STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information. *Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.*

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

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

The draft 'New Zealand guidelines for assessment of potential Ramsar wetlands' (Denyer and Robertson in preparation) proposes the use of the FEOW freshwater ecoregion and the MEOW realms (Temperate Australia and Southern Ocean) as bioregional framework. These biogeographical regionalisation tools are described on the RSIS website.

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

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

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

Any sites that are subject to new designation will be expected to have effective management planning.

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

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

6 sites

2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

6 sites

2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

0 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

Note: A Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) describes how the Department of Conservation (DOC) will manage sites (places) and biodiversity in a region. Each draft CMS is prepared by DOC in consultation with stakeholders and approved by the Conservation Board and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (citizen advisory bodies). The CMS is a statutory document and is updated/reviewed every ten years (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/conservation-management-strategies/>).

2.4.1 - 2.4.2

1) Firth of Thames

Project plan (2008). This contains a resource report, risk analysis, gap analysis and actions for councils, DOC and the community to undertake.

The Site is also included in:

- (draft) DOC Waikato CMS (2014-2024) – final review expected to be agreed later in 2014 (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/getting-involved/consultations/closed-consultations/waikato-cms-recommended-draft-for-approval-april-2014.pdf>).
- (draft) DOC Auckland CMS (2014 -2024) – final review expected to be agreed later in 2014 (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/getting-involved/consultations/closed-consultations/auckland-cms-recommended-draft-for-approval-april-2014.pdf>).

In addition the Site is also part of the wider scale Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council in collaboration with iwi, DOC, local authorities, Ministry for Primary Industries and other stakeholders).

2) Kopuatai Peat Dome

The Site is included in the (draft) DOC Waikato CMS (2014-2024) – final review expected to be agreed later in 2014 (see above).

The Site also features in the Waikato Tainui Environmental Plan (http://www.waikatotainui.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/EBook_FINAL_EP_Plan_sp.pdf)

3) Whangamarino

Strategic objectives and annual operation plans have been established through the Arawai Kākāriki programme. A 5 year integrated wetland management strategy is being prepared for the Site.

The Site is included in: (draft) DOC Waikato CMS (2014-2024) – final review expected to be agreed later in 2014 (see above).

The Site also features in the Waikato Tainui Environmental Plan (see above).

4) Manawatu river mouth and estuary

The Manawatu Estuary Management Plan for 2007-2012 was prepared by the statutory managers of the estuary (Horizons Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Horowhenua District Council), interested parties and individuals. It sets out the values of the Ramsar Site and the objectives/actions required to maintain/enhance them. It clarifies the responsibilities of the statutory managers in terms of ownership, management areas, and legal responsibilities. It

also records and summarises information and knowledge gaps and sets out on-the-ground actions to maintain, enhance or promote estuary values. It is implemented by the Manawatu Estuary Management Group.

The plan is currently being updated and reviewed.
 (<http://www.horizons.govt.nz/managing-environment/resource-management/native-habitats/our-roles-and-goals-native-habitats/manawatu-estuary-management-plan-2007-2012/>)

5) Farewell Spit

Farewell spit is a Nature Reserve which gives a very high level of protection under the Reserves Act 1977. A previous management plan expired in 2001. The Site's management is included in general in the Regional Nelson/Marlborough CMS for which formal revision processes are expected in 2015.

6) Awarua Wetland

Strategic objectives and annual operation plans have been established through the Arawai kākāriki programme. A 5 year integrated wetland management strategy is being prepared.

Part of this Ramsar Site, the Waituna Lagoon, has become part of the Fonterra-DOC 'Community Investment in Water' partnership (see section 1.10.2).

The Site is also included in: (draft) DOC Southland Murihiku CMS (2014-2024) - still in the process of review (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/getting-involved/consultations/2013/cms/draft-southland-murihiku-cms-2013-vol-1.pdf>).

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv

2 sites

2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

In the management of Ramsar Sites, where they are Crown Land, the Department of Conservation (DOC) works with Tangata Whenua (iwi) to ensure that the strength and nature of their interests in these places are understood, and that this understanding is incorporated into DOC's ongoing management of sites in keeping with obligations under section 4 of the Conservation Act (1987).

While only 2 New Zealand Ramsar Sites have a formal cross-sectoral committee, there are formal or informal cross-sectoral agreements for all Ramsar Sites.

As part of the Arawai Kakariki initiative a national Programme Management Committee has been established that covers three significant wetlands, two of which are Ramsar Sites (Whangamarino and Awarua Wetland).

1) Firth of Thames (No. 459)

The draft Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (see section 2.4.1) specifies the commitment by the DOC to working with iwi, other national and regional agencies, other organisations, (e.g. Muddy Feet Project, Miranda Naturalist Trust), landowners, and communities.

In addition, DOC and Miranda Naturalist Trust work together on matters relating to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (see section 3.2.2).

The Site is part of the DOC- Fonterra Community Investment in Water (CIW) partnership (See section 1.10.2).

The Site is within the much larger area of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, where the Hauraki Gulf Forum facilitates integrated management.

2) Kopuatai Peat Dome (No.444)

Overall, the draft Waikato Conservation Management Strategy reiterates the commitment to work with a wide range of stakeholders (see 1) above). For example, DOC has engaged with the Upper Piako Wetland Association who have an interest in the Site. DOC is also working with researchers from the University of Waikato and with other agencies to monitor condition.

3) Whangamarino (No.443)

DOC is working closely with Waikato Regional Council on management issues related to the use of the wetland for flood control. The draft Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (see section 2.4.1) reiterates the commitment to work with a wide range of stakeholders, including Fish & Game New Zealand.

DOC has a formal partnership with Waikato Tainui at the iwi and hapu level, formalised through the Waikato River Deed of Settlement through which the Conservation Accord was signed in 2008 – a high level agreement detailing priorities for the relationship. The Conservation Accord recognises that Waikato Tainui have a special relationship with the Waikato River and associated wetlands, lakes, streams, and taonga species, including the Whangamarino wetland.

4) Manawatu river mouth and estuary (No.1491)

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand and Manawatu Estuary Trust have been instrumental in the nomination of this Site. The Manawatu Estuary Management Plan for 2007-2012 was prepared by the statutory managers of the estuary (Horizons Regional Council, Department of

Conservation and Horowhenua District Council), interested parties and individuals and is implemented by the Manawatu Estuary Management Group. The Manawatu Estuary Trust has an advisory and educational role.

5) Farewell Spit (No.103)

Informally, iwi, the ornithological Society of New Zealand, tour operators and other stakeholders are associated with management of this Site.

6) Awarua Wetland (No.102)

There are a number of agencies and organisations with management and statutory responsibilities for the Waituna Lagoon (which is a part of the Site) and its catchment. The Department of Conservation, Environment Southland (regional council), Ngāi Tahu and Southland District Council formed the Waituna Partners Group in 2013 to work together and alongside community and stakeholders to improve the environmental health and quality of the lagoon and catchment via the Waituna Project.

The Waituna Lagoon is part of the DOC - Fonterra Community Investment in Water (CIW) partnership (See section 1.10.2).

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v

2 sites

2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

Arawai Kākāriki (Green Waterway) is a national wetland restoration programme coordinated by the Department of Conservation. It is aimed at understanding and restoring three of New Zealand's most significant wetland/ freshwater sites, with the participation of the community. Two Ramsar Sites are part of this: Whangamarino (Ramsar Site No. 443) and Awarua Wetlands (Ramsar Site No. 102). The 2007 – 2011 reports include ecological characteristics. A fuller 'Ecological Character Description' is under preparation for the Awarua Wetlands Site (Denyer and Robertson, in preparation). More information on Arawai Kākāriki: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/arawai-kakariki-wetland-restoration-programme/implementation-report/>

A broad description for the Farewell Spit can be found in McEwen, W.M. (ed), 1987 Ecological Regions and Districts of New Zealand. New Zealand Biological Resources Centre, Publication No. 5. Department of Conservation, and in the previous management plan.

Note: Revised RIS for Awarua Wetlands, Whangamarino and Firth of Thames are anticipated in 2014 or 2015 and for the remainder of the New Zealand Ramsar Sites by the end of the next triennium. These will include key features of the ecological character of the Sites.

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

2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i

A - Yes

2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):

The 2007-2011 reports for Whangamarino and Awarua Wetlands, as part of Arawai Kākāriki (see also sections 1.8.1 and 2.4.5) include assessment of management effectiveness of the Sites (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/arawai-kakariki-wetland-restoration-programme/implementation-report/>).

Monitoring of waders at Farewell Spit is undertaken three times a year by Ornithological Society of New Zealand. Long term trends are reported in: Schuckard, R.; Melville, D.S. 2013, Shorebirds of Farewell Spit, Golden Bay and Tasman Bay. Prepared for Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council (available at: <http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/assets/Environment/Downloads/Top-of-South-Shorebird-Report-2013-pdf-Adobe-Acrobat-Pro-Extended-pdf.pdf>).

For all Sites in general, performance reporting is part of Department of Conservation operational programmes. Furthermore, Conservation Management Strategies (see section 2.4.1) define specific expected outcomes which will be reported on, including for Ramsar Sites.

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

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

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

Within New Zealand, the Administrative Authority (Department of Conservation) is responsible for, or directly linked to, the management of all Ramsar Sites. The STRP National Focal Point is also a staff member of the Department of Conservation. Clear lines of communication therefore exist between Ramsar Site managers, the STRP National Focal Point and the Ramsar Convention National Focal Point. During the preparation of each National Ramsar Report updates on changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites are collated.

In general, reporting on the state of New Zealand's natural heritage is a requirement for the Department of Conservation. New Zealand is also progressively implementing a system to monitor and report on biodiversity as part of a cohesive approach to managing biodiversity across all of New Zealand's land and waters. The Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting System will provide consistent and comprehensive information about biodiversity. The system is based on different layers of information that operate at different scales, with varying levels of detail and coverage: Tier 1 - Broad-scale monitoring for a national context; Tier 2 - Nationally consistent monitoring of managed places and species on land, in freshwater, and in the ocean to report on management effectiveness; Tier 3 - Intensive, targeted monitoring for research and evaluation (www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/drds338entire.pdf). Some monitoring sites are within Ramsar Sites. For example: a Tier 1 monitoring site was established in the Kōpuatai Peat Dome Ramsar Site in January 2013 and for the Awarua Wetland detailed Tier 2 baseline vegetation monitoring is in its 2nd year of 3 years of monitoring ; the Whangamarino Wetland (Ramsar Site) is recognised as a Tier 3 site.

For Whangamarino and Awarua Wetlands, in depth strong scientific information has been acquired as part of the Arawai Kākāriki programme (see also 2.5.1). This is driving appropriate management and strengthening our knowledge of these complex ecosystems.

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

Z - No negative change

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

Taken in their entirety, the ecological character of New Zealand's Ramsar sites has not changed significantly since the last report.

Whangamarino: the ecological character has improved in some parts, due to management actions including retiring grazing concessions, boundary fencing, repairing the water level control weir, management for invasive weeds and animal pests, riparian/wetland planting and enhancing the status of threatened *Corybas carsei* plants through controlled burns. However, some parts of the site have shown signs of degradation, mainly due to the impacts of the Lower Waipa/Waikato Flood Scheme. The Department of Conservation (DOC) is working with Waikato Regional Council to address this issue (also see: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/whangamarino-outcomes-report.pdf>).

Awarua wetland: this 19,500 ha Site includes extensive peatlands, estuarine habitat and a shallow lagoon. The peatland in many areas has improved in condition due to weed control, although still recovering from the effects of fire. Parts of the New River Estuary are at risk from eutrophication, but estuarine habitats remain stable. The Waituna Lagoon supports a macrophyte community dominated by seagrass, but monitoring has observed a decline in its occurrence, as well as increased nutrient loading in water flowing into the lagoon. The Waituna Lagoon is still at risk of further degradation (also see: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11273-012-9267-1#> and <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/macrophyte-monitoring-waituna-lagoon.pdf>). DOC, Environment Southland, Ngāi Tahu and Southland District Council have formed the Waituna Partners Group to work with stakeholders to improve the environmental health of the Waituna lagoon and catchment. The DOC-Fonterra 'Community Investment in Water' partnership (see section 1.10.2) will assist with this.

The situation at Whangamarino and Awarua wetland Ramsar Sites will be further monitored and will be reviewed as RIS are updated.

Manawatu river mouth and estuary: the condition of the site has largely remained constant. The Manawatu Estuary Management Plan for 2007-2012 sets out the values of the site and the actions required to maintain/enhance them. It has been implemented by the Manawatu Estuary Management Group. Some years ago concerns were expressed about water quality in the Manawatu River catchment in general. The Manawatu-River Leaders' Forum formed in 2010. Its Action Plan aims at improvement of the Manawatu River in general, but positive spin-offs for the Ramsar Site can also be expected (see also section 1.8.1).

Firth of Thames: the wetland is vulnerable to pressures from marine and land use activities such as increased nutrient loading, sediment transport from land, contamination, habitat loss, unauthorised livestock grazing, human

disturbance and invasive species; these are addressed in management. Management will be further assisted by the DOC-Fonterra CIW partnership (see section 1.10.2)

Kopuatai Peat Dome is the most intact and largest peat dome/restiad bog in the Southern Hemisphere. The wetland is vulnerable to land use pressures including livestock grazing, peat shrinkage through drainage and flood control schemes, and invasive alien species. Overall the ecological condition has remained constant and the Department of Conservation is working with researchers from University of Waikato and other agencies to monitor condition.

Farewell Spit: the condition has largely remained constant over the past triennium. However, it is recognised that implementation of a broader scale monitoring programme will help inform national reporting in future.

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

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

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

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

C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information:

The ecological character of other internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites has often not been assessed in much depth. However:

- Sites that currently are under active consideration as potential future candidates for designation as Ramsar Sites already have some form of management in place for conservation and/or ecological restoration.
- Additional New Zealand sites potentially qualifying for consideration for designation under the East Asian Australian Flyway partnership (report under preparation) have specific site management in place, or fall, at least in part, within the Coastal Marine Area, subject to the National Coastal Policy (see section 1.3.1) which includes protection from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.
- The Department of Conservation has also implemented a comprehensive programme to maintain the natural heritage of indigenous ecosystems. Significant wetland ecosystems are identified as a priority for conservation.
- Environmental management legislation in New Zealand, specifically the Resource Management Act 1991, also requires the significant values of wetlands to be protected.

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

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

3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	C - Partly
<p>3.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Ramsar Administrative Authority sits in the same government department as focal points for other MEA (e.g. CITES, CMS, World Heritage, CBD).</p>	

3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv	A - Yes
<p>3.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The Department of Conservation works closely with other government agencies on cross-cutting issues, including issues of relevance to Ramsar implementation.</p>	

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

3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i	A - Yes
<p>3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):</p> <p>The Miranda Naturalist Trust became a non-governmental signatory to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership in 2006. New Zealand became a government signatory to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership in 2011.</p>	

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

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

The Miranda Naturalist Trust (MNT) works with the Department of Conservation (DOC) in partnership on migratory bird species conservation and in the work of the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership. MNT has undertaken work in the Yalu Jiang National Reserve (People's Republic of China) as part of its sister site relationship, including in the field training. In May 2014, DOC and MNT, with financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the People's Republic of China, and together with Site Managers at Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve celebrated the 10th anniversary of the sister site relationship. A joint report was launched, and a multi-year work programme to support the international partnership was discussed.

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

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

A - Yes

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

The New Zealand Government's international aid and development programme is a principal donor to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). SPREP programme activities include wetland work.

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

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 New Zealand Government's international aid and development programme.

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	Z - Not applicable
---	--------------------

3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):
--

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. <i>Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.</i>
--

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

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

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Miranda Naturalists Trust (Firth of Thames Ramsar site) and Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve in the People's Republic of China in 2004, providing New Zealand support for shorebird site surveys and training (also see section 3.2.2).

Various wetland scientists from Crown Research Institutes, universities and the government regularly engage with international colleagues, e.g. at joint meeting of the New Zealand and Australian freshwater science societies, meetings of the Society for Wetland Scientists, at the National Wetland Restoration Symposium, and through invited presentations at other international fora.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) regularly participated in the Australian Government Wetlands and Waterbird Taskforce (WWTF).

Representatives from DOC and the University of Otago also attended a 2013 workshop in Melbourne, Australia, which examined climate change adaptation and the management of wetland ecosystems, including Ramsar Sites. This was followed by a New Zealand workshop on freshwater conservation under a changing climate (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/freshwater/freshwater-conservation-and-climate-change/>).

The New Zealand designated focal point for matters relating to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) was invited to participate in the 'Workshop on Developing Management Criteria and a Management Effectiveness Evaluation Process for Ramsar Sites', June 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.

In May 2014, DOC and The Miranda Naturalist Trust, with financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea resulting in a strengthening of the relationship, especially between the Miranda Naturalist Trust and the Nature Conservation Union of Korea.

The National Wetland Trust (NGO co-focal point for CEPA) has been appointed as the NZ representative to the World Wetland Network.

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

1) Ramsar Sites

The Department of Conservation (DOC) and the National Wetland Trust (NWT) websites have information on all New Zealand Ramsar Sites, including links to maps and reports : <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/international/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands/nz-wetlands-of-international-importance/> and http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/Site/Ramsar_Convention.ashx

NWT has produced a book titled 'Our Wet and Wild Places' that profiles 5 of the 6 NZ Ramsar sites

Technical reports that summarise monitoring results on the condition of some Ramsar Sites have been produced and shared with key stakeholders. This includes reports on the condition of Whangamarino and Awarua Wetland, as part of the DOC Arawai Kākāriki project (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/arawai-kakariki-implementation-report.pdf>)

NWT produced a wetland trail that includes Awarua wetland in 2012, and in 2014 released onto Google Play an android smartphone app that guides visitors on a tour around Whangamarino wetland (supported with funding from DOC).

Through DOC's Arawai Kākāriki project and the Waikato River Accord implementation, a number of events have been organised at the Whangamarino Ramsar Site and in the Waikato region in general to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands, including involvement in the New Zealand Wetland Trust World Wetland Day activities.

Firth of Thames:

Waikato Regional Council website: <http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Environment/Natural-resources/coast/Coastal-case-studies/Firth-of-Thames/>

Extensive information can be found on the website of the Miranda Shorebird Centre, which is run by the Miranda Naturalist Trust: <http://www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz/>

Farewell Spit:

For the Ramsar Site, extensive visitor information available at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/nelson-tasman/golden-bay/farewell-spit-and-puoponga-farm-park/>

while long term trends in waders are reported and available at <http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/assets/Environment/Downloads/Top-of-South-Shorebird-Report-2013-pdf-Adobe-Acrobat-Pro-Extended-pdf.pdf>

Manawatu river mouth and estuary:

The Manawatu Estuary Trust produced an educational CDROM and has a website with information on things to do, maps, history, animals and plants and including a bird list (<http://tur-www1.massey.ac.nz/~grapson/metrust/birds.php>).

Horizons Regional Council website: <http://www.horizons.govt.nz/managing-environment/resource-management/native-habitats/our-roles-and-goals-native-habitats/manawatu-estuary-management-plan-2007-2012/>

Awarua Wetland:

The Arawai Kākāriki project produces a local newsletter 'Bog paper'

Environment Southland's website has information on the Awarua Wetland and the Waituna Lagoon: <http://www.es.govt.nz/environment/land/wetlands/>

2) Wetlands in general

DOC, in association with NWT, has published a booklet 'Magical Places - 40 wetlands to visit in New Zealand'.

(<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/40-wetlands-to-visit.pdf>).

Auckland Council, in association with NWT published a guide to Auckland's Wetlands promoting 27 of the region's wetlands and encouraging the public to explore them (<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/environmentwaste/naturalenvironment/Documents/guidetoaucklandswetlands.pdf>).

Regional councils and other local authorities may publish information on important wetland sites in their region. A number of Regional Councils also report on the status of wetlands, and Ramsar Sites, as part of their State of the Environment Reporting or from specific investigations.

Each issue of the NWT's newsletter features a 'wetland to visit' section and their website has a regional online directory of wetlands to visit, including Google Earth tours and downloadable brochures.

Further general information is available on a number of websites:

- www.doc.govt.nz
- www.wetlandtrust.org.nz
- www.forestandbird.org.nz
- www.mfe.govt.nz

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

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

Reports on World Wetlands Day activities have been provided each year.

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

3.5.1 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	Z - Not applicable
--	--------------------

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)? {3.5.2} 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? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii	A - Yes
---	---------

3.5.3 Additional information:

The Miranda Naturalist Trust became a non-governmental signatory to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership in 2006. New Zealand became a government signatory to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership in 2011.

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.*

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

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

- a) B - No
- b) A - Yes
- c) B - No
- d) A - Yes

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

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

CEPA guidelines have been produced by the Department of Conservation (DOC) to guide implementation of the community awareness and participation components of the Arawai Kākāriki programme, a national project involving three wetland sites, two of which are Ramsar sites

Guidelines for organising a wetland event and designing a wetland challenge for World Wetlands Day have been jointly published by DOC and the National Wetland Trust. These can be found at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/events-and-awards/national-events/world-wetlands-day/>.

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

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

- a) 1 centres
- b) 2 centres

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

a) Ramsar Sites

The Firth of Thames Ramsar Site is the location for the Miranda Shorebird Centre, owned and operated by the Miranda Naturalist Trust. It offers education programmes for both day visits and overnight camps. The centre has hosted hundreds of visits by primary and secondary schools, as well as tertiary institutions. A school visit to the centre can include field excursions as well as an interpretative talk covering any of the following themes: bird basics and biology, the nature of estuaries, shorebird ecology and migration, related conservation issues.

The Centre also hosts education experiences for the wider public. These include lectures, excursions and workshops on a variety of topics such as shorebird identification, coastal ecology, botany, photography and art. It also runs an extremely popular six day residential field course with sessions on many aspects of ornithology, including the catching and banding of birds (<http://www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz/about-us>).

An interpretation facility was built at the Awarua Wetland Ramsar Site, and interpretation panels have recently been added to the boardwalk next to it.

The cafe at the base of the Farewell Spit Ramsar Site is leased from the Department of Conservation. As part of this lease agreement the cafe provides interpretation and information on Farewell Spit.

b) Other wetlands (examples)

The National Wetland Trust is continuing the development of plans for a National Wetland Education centre that will include exhibits on Ramsar Sites.

The Travis Wetland education centre provides a laboratory, educational facility and meeting space for groups. Travis Wetland, owned by the Christchurch City Council, is a site where education programmes are available for schools through the Learning Through Action programme to promote ecological values. The Travis Wetland Nature Heritage Park is a lowland freshwater wetland, located in the midst of an urban environment (<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/cityleisure/parkswalkways/popularparks/traviswetlandnatureheritagepark.aspx>).

Sinclair Wetland (Otago) is privately owned by Te Rununga o Ngai Tahu. It includes an information centre (http://www.openspace.org.nz/Site/Places_to_visit/South_Island_public/Sinclair_Wetland.aspx).

Learning Experiences Outside The Classroom (LEOTC) is a Ministry of Education curriculum support project. It contributes to curriculum-related programmes run by a range of community-based organisations for the benefit of New Zealand school students. LEOTC programmes complement and enhance classroom learning (<http://eotc.tki.org.nz/LEOTC-home>). They are authentic hands-on, interactive learning experiences for students, covering a range of subjects, including wetland ecology, sustainability, and wetland restoration. Many wetland locations are part of it, either supporting day visits, or providing some educational or interpretation facility. (See also sections 4.1.9).

An example: the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust in South Taranaki aims to restore functioning ecosystems for Lake Rotokare and its surrounding wetlands and native forest. It runs a thriving 'learning outside the school' programme, using its educational facility as well as the wetland itself. More than 2000 students per year from all over the Taranaki region (mostly primary and secondary school) learn about wetland values and ecosystem services (http://www.rotokare.org.nz/uploaded_images/Education/Education-forms-and-brochure/Rotokare-Education-Brochure-New---2013.pdf).

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>a) The statutory process for preparing management strategies or plans, including Conservation Management Strategies, requires public participation and the opportunity for submissions on how wetlands should be managed (see also section 2.4.1); stakeholder participation (including iwi) is included in management.</p> <p>b) Stakeholder involvement is one of the criteria for selection of new Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>In the management of Ramsar Sites, where they are Crown Land, the Department of Conservation (DOC) works with Tangata Whenua (iwi) to ensure that the strength and nature of their interests in these places are understood, and that this understanding is incorporated into DOC's ongoing management of sites in keeping with obligations under section 4 of the Conservation Act (1987).</p> <p>While only 2 New Zealand Ramsar Sites have a formal cross-sectoral management committee, there are formal or informal cross-sectoral agreements for all New Zealand 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>{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>Training requirements for implementation of the Convention have not been specifically examined.</p> <p>A New Zealand Ramsar Site Manager Symposium is proposed for the next triennium.</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p>	

Crown Research Institutes and some technical institutes run a number of courses linked to training in wetlands, including identifying wetland biodiversity. Most of these training opportunities are offered to anyone wishing to attend.

The Landcare Trust developed WETMAK (<http://www.landcare.org.nz/wetmak>): a web based training resource with six basic wetland monitoring modules. It also has templates that can be used for various field and administrative management activities. It can be used by landowners, the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, community groups, as well as Department of Conservation and regional authority staff. In addition to the on-line modules, training days are also organised with 6 held around the country in 2012-14.

The biennial National Wetland Restoration Symposia provide training opportunities for all New Zealanders, on wetland management and monitoring. These symposia are organised by the National Wetland Trust, with the support of multiple agencies. They aim to provide a highly practical, participant-driven forum for knowledge exchange, training and networking for landowners, iwi, people committed to wetland biodiversity and restoration, policy makers and wetland scientists from all over New Zealand. The programme caters for all, including plenary and technical sessions, as well as soapbox, practical sessions and fieldtrips with practical training on site (e.g. coordinated wetland monitoring training) and environmental education.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) also has a number of on-line courses covering subjects that are useful in a wetland context, e.g. plant identification, bird monitoring, predator control (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/training-and-teaching/online-courses/>).

Local authorities hold various field training days, for instance the Auckland Council developed and delivered as a pilot a wetland restoration training day for community groups in 2014

4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

B - No

4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):

.....

<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) A - Yes
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) See sections 2.4.4 and 2.6.1 b) The Ramsar Administrative Authority sits in the same government department as focal points for other MEA (e.g. CITES, CMS, World Heritage, CBD) c) The Department of Conservation works closely with other Government agencies on cross-cutting issues, including issues of relevance to Ramsar implementation. The Natural Resource Sector (NRS) group has been established to effectively coordinate efforts across government agencies that are responsible for the environment, conservation, land use and primary industry, Māori economic interests, economic development, and science and innovation (see e.g. http://nrs.mfe.govt.nz/content/natural-resources-framework). 	
<p>4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>World Wetlands Day activities are organised each year. Guidelines for organising a wetland event and designing a wetland challenge for World Wetlands Day have been jointly published by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the National Wetland Trust (NWT). These can be found at http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/events-and-awards/national-events/world-wetlands-day/</p> <p>In addition, the DOC and NWT websites host wetland event pages that promote World Wetland Day events</p> <p>Examples of Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2013: In 2013 a major public event was held to celebrate the start of works on the National Wetland Centre near Hamilton, with over 200 attendees and representatives from a wide range of agencies hosting fun family activities. b) 2014: To celebrate World Wetlands Day 2014, the National Wetland Trust and the Department of Conservation (DOC) worked with regional councils around the country to find New Zealand's most wetland-friendly farming families (see also section 1.7.4). 	

The biennial National Wetlands Symposium event was held in Auckland and brought together wetland scientists, managers, landowners and community organisations. Over 180 delegates enjoyed a range of topics including the link between wetlands and climate, coping with weather extremes when restoring wetlands and a special focus on urban wetlands and the role of constructed wetlands for stormwater and treatment.

Through DOC's Arawai Kākāriki project and the Waikato River Accord implementation, a number of events have been organised at the Whangamarino Ramsar Site and in the Waikato region in general to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands, including involvement in the New Zealand Wetland Trust World Wetland Day activities.

Other events held around the country to celebrate 2014 World Wetlands Day included:

- An 18 hour Bio-Blitz by scientists and community volunteers at Miranda (Firth of Thames Ramsar Site) recorded 1142 species of plants and animals.
- Six schools participated in a wetland activity at Lake Ngatu near Kaitaia.
- There was a guided tour to learn more about the habitats and ecosystems of wetlands of the eastern Bay of Islands, with 28 participants.
- In Auckland there was a boat trip to Motutapu Island to weed a wetland, and the opportunity to explore a wetland on Waiheke Island.
- In Hamilton, 20 people potted wetland plants at a community nursery for future restoration planting.
- In the South Island, there was a good turnout of people keen to explore three of Marlborough's wetland treasures, while kayaking tours at Lake Wahapo and a boat trip to the Okarito Lagoon on the West Coast were fully subscribed.
- Christchurch held an event to celebrate regenerating wetlands in the city.

There was a variety of media coverage about the importance of wetlands but one of the most pleasing aspects overall was the number of organisations who are now getting involved in World Wetlands Day activities.

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

A - Yes

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

The Arawai Kākāriki ('Green Waterway') Wetland Restoration Programme aims to enhance the ecological restoration of three of New Zealand's foremost wetland/freshwater sites, working in partnership with communities and promoting research into wetland restoration techniques. In managing the three wetland sites (Whangamarino, Ō Tū Wharekai, Awarua Wetlands), DOC is working with other stakeholders with an interest in wetlands (including local iwi, regional and district councils, Fish & Game New Zealand, NIWA and Landcare Research) to use the synergies from working collaboratively on research projects, restoration initiatives and raising public

awareness of the importance of wetlands (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/arawai-kakariki-wetland-restoration-programme/>).

At all three Arawai Kākāriki sites, the community is involved in some way, either at an individual level with local landowners fencing and planting wet areas on their land, or as part of a larger group tackling a weed problem or restoring a particular area. Newsletters, factsheets, meetings, events, displays and media articles are just some of the communication tools being used to raise awareness of wetland values and of what is happening at each site.

DOC published a number of planting guides at www.doc.govt.nz/planting-guides outlining what to plant along waterways to help restore ecological functioning. The guides include peat lakes and New Zealand's longest river, the Waikato River.

A Wetland Life poster and stickers were published by DOC in 2012. The poster features native species living in a lowland swamp – birds, fish, invertebrates and plants. There is also a sheet of stickers of 10 species from the poster, ideal as an educational tool, especially for teachers (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/poster-life-in-lowland-swamp-a2-size.pdf>).

The National Wetland Trust publishes a quarterly newsletter 'Wet & Wild' which raises awareness about many aspects of wetlands, including their importance (www.wetlandtrust.org.nz).

NZ Landcare Trust works with farmers, landowners and community groups to improve the sustainability of landscapes and waterways. It has several projects, sometimes dealing with wetland issue at a 'catchment level'. They often involve the Trust working together with multiple agencies plus landowners, farmers and Landcare groups.

Many New Zealand schools include learning about wetlands and their biodiversity, ecosystem services and/or cultural value in their curriculum. A range of materials is available on-line to assist, including from the Department of Conservation (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/training-and-teaching/teaching-resources/habitats-and-species/wet-feet-investigating-fresh-water/learning-outcomes/>). Many regional councils and community groups also provide high quality educational experiences about their local wetlands. Community projects can also include outreach to schools (see section 4.1.2 for further examples). LEARNZ virtual field trips are multi-faceted, assisting New Zealand teachers to provide online experiences for their students, including wetland monitoring or learning about wetland ecology (<http://www.learnz.org.nz/what-are-learnz-field-trips>).

In addition, many restoration projects for wetlands include volunteers and this contributes to ongoing awareness raising of the importance of wetlands.

(See also sections 1.8.2, 3.4.2 and 4.1.2)

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

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

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

.....

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

B - No

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

.....

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

4.3.1 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

A - Yes

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

National Reporting provides an opportunity to stocktake of activities in wetlands management nationally.

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

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

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

B - No

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

.....

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

B - No

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

.....