

National planning tool for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

(And the approved format for National Reports to be submitted for the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Spain, 2002)

file 1

Institutional information

Contracting Party: **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

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Name and title of the designated national non-government (NG) focal point for matters relating to the Outreach Programme of the Ramsar Convention: **Currently PNG does not have a national non-government (NG) focal point. However, the international NG focal point for matters relating to the Outreach Programmes is;
THE MANAGER, WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL - OCEANIA.**

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Note – Not all actions from the Convention Work Plan 2000-2002 are included here, as some apply only to the Bureau or Conferences of the Contracting Parties. As a result, the numbering system that follows contains some gaps corresponding to those actions that have been omitted.

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1

TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

Operational Objective 1.1: To endeavour to secure at least 150 Contracting Parties to the Convention by 2002.

Actions – Global Targets

1.1.1 Recruit new Contracting Parties, especially in the less well represented regions and among states with significant and/or transboundary wetland resources (including shared species), [CPs, SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]

- **The gaps remain in Africa, central Asia, the Middle East and the Small Island Developing States. Refer to Recommendation 7.2 relating to Small Island Developing States.**
- **Global Target - 150 CPs by COP8**
- **These are the countries which at present are not CPs of the Convention:
Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica,**

<p>Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe.</p>
<p>Is your country a neighbor of, or does it have regular dealings or diplomatic-level dialogue with, one or more of the non-Contracting Parties listed above? (This list was correct as of January 2000. However, accessions to the Convention occur on a regular basis and you may wish to check with the Ramsar Bureau for the latest list of non-CPs.) Yes If No, go to Action 1.1.2.</p>
<p>If Yes, have actions been taken to encourage these non-CPs to join the Convention? Yes</p>
<p>If Yes, have these actions been successful? Experiences have been continually shared during regional conferences and meetings to encourage non-CPs eg; Asia Pacific Training Workshop on the Implemetation of Multilateral Agreeemnts Related to Biological Diversity, Japan, Asia Pacific Wetlands Managers training in Darwin and the Asian Wetalnd Symposium. PNG also hosted the Sustainable use of Wetlands workshop in Port Moresby in 1996. SPREP meeting also provides a forum for the South Pacific region countries to meet and implement programs. However, there has not been any direct contact except awareness at the various occasions referred to above.</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented such action being taken? Not applicable</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: None at this stage</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION</p>

<p>1.1.2 Promote membership of Ramsar through regional meetings and activities, and through partners' regional offices. [SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These efforts are to continue and to focus on the above priority regions and the Small Island Developing States. The current member and permanent observer States of the Standing Committee are Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Costa Rica, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uganda
<p>Is your country a member of the Standing Committee? No If No, go to Action 2.1.1.</p>
<p>If Yes, have actions been taken to encourage the non-CPs from your region or subregion to join the Convention? No Reply</p>
<p>If Yes, have these actions been successful? Not applicable</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented such action being taken? Not applicable.</p>

Proposed national actions and targets: **Not applicable**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Department of Environment and Conservation

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2

TO ACHIEVE THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS BY IMPLEMENTING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING THE RAMSAR WISE USE GUIDELINES

Operational Objective 2.1: To review and, if necessary, amend national or supra-national (e.g., European Community) legislation, institutions and practices in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the Wise Use Guidelines are applied.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.1.1 Carry out a review of legislation and practices, and indicate in National Reports to the COP how the Wise Use Guidelines are applied. [CPs]

- **This remains a high priority for the next triennium. The *Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions* (Resolution VII.7) will assist these efforts.**
- **Global Target – For at least 100 CPs to have comprehensively reviewed their laws and institutions relating to wetlands by COP8.**

Has your country **completed** a review of its laws and institutions relating to wetlands? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this being done? **Not applicable**

If a review is **planned**, what is the expected timeframe for this being done? **None at this stage**

If the review has been **completed**, did the review result in amendments to laws or institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention? **No**

If **No**, what are the impediments to these amendments being completed? **PNG lacks a law that is directly related to wetlands.**

If **Yes**, and changes to laws and institutional arrangements were made, please describe these briefly. **Not applicable**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None at this stage**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:
Department of Environment and Conservation

2.1.2 Promote much greater efforts to develop national wetland policies, either separately or as a clearly identifiable component of other national conservation planning initiatives, such as National Environment Action Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies,

<p>or National Conservation Strategies. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development and implementation of National Wetland Policies continues to be one of the highest priorities of the Convention, as does the integration of wetland conservation and wise use into broader national environment and water policies. The <i>Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies</i> (Resolution VII.6) will assist these efforts. Global Target - By COP8, at least 100 CPs with National Wetland Policies or, where appropriate, a recognized document that harmonizes all wetland-related policies/strategies and plans, and all CPs to have wetlands considered in national environmental and water policies and plans. The <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (Resolution VII.18) will assist these efforts.
<p>Does your country have in place a National Wetland Policy (or similar instrument) which is a comprehensive statement of the Government's intention to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention? No</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to this being put in place? Department of Environment and Conseravtion has recently proposed to set an Internal Working Group to initiate the development of PNG's National Wetland Policy.</p>
<p>If the development of such a Policy is planned, what is the expected timeframe for this being done? 2000-2005</p>
<p>Has your country taken its obligations with respect to the Ramsar Convention into consideration in related policy instruments such as National Biodiversity Strategies, National Environmental Action Plans, Water Policies, river basin management plans, or similar instruments? Yes</p>
<p>If No, what are the impediments to doing so? Not applicable.</p>
<p>If Yes, please provide brief details. Wetlands are considered in the Integrated Catchment Environment Management Plans and National Biodiversity Strategies</p>
<p>Has your government reviewed and modified, as appropriate, its policies that adversely affect intertidal wetlands (COP7 Resolution VII.21)? No</p>
<p>If No, what has prevented this from happening? Lack of capacity and funding</p>
<p>If Yes, what were the conclusions of this review? and what actions have been taken subsequently? Not applicable</p>
<p>Proposed national actions and targets: Development of a National Wetland Policy</p>
<p>Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation</p>

Operational Objective 2.2: To integrate conservation and wise use of wetlands in all Contracting Parties into national, provincial and local planning and decision-making

on land use, groundwater management, catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning, and all other environmental planning and management.

Actions - Global and National Targets
<p>2.2.2 Promote the inclusion of wetlands in national, provincial and local land use planning documents and activities, and in all relevant sectoral and budgetary provisions. [CPs]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to managing wetlands within the broader landscape and within river basin/coastal zone plans is another of the Convention's highest priorities in the next triennium. Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be promoting, and actively implementing, the management of wetlands as integrated elements of river basins and coastal zones, and to provide detailed information on the outcomes of these actions in the National Reports for COP8.
Is your country implementing integrated river basin and coastal zone management approaches? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? The country is divided into seven catchments for the implementation Integrated Catchment Environment Management Plan
If integrated management approaches are being applied in part of the country, indicate the approximate percentage of the country's surface area where this is occurring and to which river basins and coastal areas this applies. Not applicable
If Yes , are wetlands being given special consideration in such integrated management approaches? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Not applicable.
Has your country undertaken any specific pilot projects to implement the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (COP7 Resolution VII.18)? No
If Yes , please describe them briefly. Not applicable
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

Operational Objective 2.3: To expand the Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use to provide advice to Contracting Parties on specific issues not hitherto covered, and examples of best current practice.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.3.1 Expand the Additional Guidance on Wise Use to address specific issues such as oil spill prevention and clean-up, agricultural runoff, and urban/industrial discharges in cooperation with other bodies. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - Following COP7, the Bureau, with other appropriate collaborators, will produce a series of Wise Use handbooks, based on the outcomes of Technical Sessions at COP7.**
- **(added by the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Resolution VII.14 *Invasive Species and wetlands*) CPs are requested “to provide the Ramsar Bureau with information on databases which exist for invasive species, information on invasive species which pose a threat to wetlands and wetland species, and information on the control and eradication of invasive wetland species.”**

Does your country **have** resource information on the management of wetlands in relation to the following which could be useful in assisting the Convention to develop further guidance to assist other CPs :

- oil spill prevention and clean-up? **Yes**
- agricultural runoff? **Yes**
- urban/industrial discharges? **Yes**
- invasive species? **Yes**
- other relevant aspects such as highway designs, aquaculture, etc.? **Yes – There is a National Guideline for Roads and Bridges. Resource information to assist the Convention to develop further guidance on the management of wetlands in relation to any of the above, does exist except that they not managed systematically.**

In each case, if the answer was Yes, has this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre (see 2.3.2 below)? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None at this stage**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Department of Environment and Conservation**

2.3.2. Publicize examples of effective application of existing Guidelines and Additional Guidance on Wise Use. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Promoting and improving the availability of such resource materials is a priority under the *Convention’s Outreach Programme* (Resolution VII.9)**
- **Global Target - By COP8, to have included in the Wise Use Resource Centre 500 appropriate references and publications as provided to the Bureau by CPs and other organizations.**

Further to 2.3.1. above, has your country, as urged by the Outreach Programme of the Convention adopted at COP7 (Resolution VII. 9), **reviewed** its resource materials relating to wetland management policies and practices? **No**

If No , what has prevented this being done? There are effectively very few resource materials on Wetlands of PNG, apart from the Asian Wetlands Directory and a few reports produced collaboratively with other NGOs in the country..
If Yes , have copies of this information been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau? No Reply
If No , what has prevented this being done? Lack of capacity and manpower and funding.
Proposed national actions and targets: More awareness has been proposed at local wetland sites, local and national Government levels. Further it has been proposed that a wetland inventory and database be developed to ease proposal for national actions and targets.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

Operational Objective 2.4: To provide economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands for environmental planning purposes.

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.4.1 Promote the development, wide dissemination, and application of documents and methodologies which give economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the guidelines available for this activity (see below: <i>Economic Valuation of Wetlands</i> handbook), this will be an area of higher priority in the next triennium. Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to be incorporating economic valuation of wetland services, functions and benefits into impact assessment and decision-making processes related to wetlands.
Does your government require that economic valuations of the full range of services, benefits and functions of wetlands be prepared as part of impact assessments and to support planning decisions that may impact on wetlands? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this being done? Not applicable.
If this applies in some, but not all cases, what is the expected timeframe for this to be required in all cases? None at this stage
If Yes , has the inclusion of economic valuation into impact assessment resulted in wetlands being given special consideration or protection. Yes If Yes, please elaborate . Special considerations have been given to assess the local and traditional values, use and benefits of the proposed wetland site. .
Proposed national actions and targets: There should be a Rapid Resource Appraisal (RRA) or an Environmental Study be carried out for each proposed wetland site to assess the implication on the local use of the site.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

Operational Objective 2.5: To carry out environmental impact assessments (EIAs) at wetlands, particularly of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, notably at Ramsar sites, whose ecological character “is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference” (Article 3.2 of the Convention).

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.5.2 Ensure that, at Ramsar sites where change in ecological character is likely as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, EIAs are carried out (with due consideration of economic valuations of wetland benefits and functions), and that the resulting conclusions are communicated to the Ramsar Bureau and fully taken into account by the authorities concerned. [CPs]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, CPs will ensure that EIAs are applied to any such situation and keep the Bureau advised of the issues and the outcomes of these EIAs.**

Has an EIA been carried out in **all** cases where a change in the ecological character of a Ramsar site within your country was likely (or possible) as a result of proposed developments or changes in land/water use? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **This concept is recently introduced. EIA is done for major developmental activities such as mining , logging, etc.**

If **Yes**, has this EIA, or have these EIAs, given due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See also 2.4.1 above) **No Reply**

AND: Have the results of the EIA been transmitted to the Ramsar Bureau? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **The EIAs done so far has not been specifically done on wetlands hence relevant information directly related to wetlands is lacking..**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None at this stage**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Department of Environment and Conservation**

2.5.3 Carry out EIAs at other important sites, particularly where adverse impact on wetland resources is likely, due to a development proposal or change in land/water use. [CPs]

- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to require EIAs under legislation for any actions which can potentially impact on wetlands and to provide detailed reports on advances in this area in their National Reports for COP8.**

Are EIAs required in your country for **all** cases where a wetland area (whether a Ramsar site or not) may be adversely impacted due to a development proposal or change in land/water

use? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Not applicable.
If Yes , are such EIAs required to give due consideration to the full range of environmental, social and economic values of the wetland? (See COP7 Resolution VII.16, also 2.4.1 & 2.5.2 above.) Yes
Are EIAs “undertaken in a transparent and participatory manner which includes local stakeholders” (COP7 Resolution VII.16)? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Not applicable.
Proposed national actions and targets: EIA to be carried out on major development projects
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

2.5.4 Take account of Integrated Environmental Management and Strategic Environmental Assessment (at local, provincial and catchment/river basin or coastal zone levels) when assessing impacts of development proposals or changes in land/water use. [CPs]
(Refer to 2.5.3 above) In addition to the assessment of the potential impact of specific projects on wetlands, has your country undertaken a review of all government plans, programmes and policies which may impact negatively on wetlands? No
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Lack of capacity and manpower to undertake such review.
If Yes , has this review been undertaken as part of preparing a National Wetland Policy or similar instrument? (refer 2.12 above) No Reply
Or as part of other national policy or planning activities? No Reply – !
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

Operational Objective 2.6: To identify wetlands in need of restoration and rehabilitation, and to implement the necessary measures.

Actions - Global and National Targets
2.6.1 Use regional or national scientific inventories of wetlands (Recommendation 4.6), or monitoring processes, to identify wetlands in need of restoration or rehabilitation. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completion of such inventories is a continuing area of priority for the

Convention.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - Restoration/rehabilitation inventories to be completed by at least 50 CPs by COP8.
Has your country completed an assessment to identify its priority wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation? (COP7 Resolution VII.17) No
If No , what has prevented this from being done? Most of the country's wetlands are still in their pristine stage in Papua New Guinea, thus considerations on restoration/rehabilitation have not been made at this stage.
If this has been done for only part of the country, please indicate for which areas or river basins. Not applicable
If Yes (that is, an assessment has been completed), have actions been taken to undertake the restoration or rehabilitation of these priority sites? No Reply
If No , what has prevented this from being done? Not applicable
If Yes , please provide details. Not applicable
Proposed national actions and targets: Not applicable
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

2.6.2 Provide and implement methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is considerable information resource on this subject, although it is not as readily accessed as desirable. Global Target - The addition of appropriate case studies and information on methodologies, etc., to the Convention's Wise Use Resource Centre (refer to 2.3.2 above also) will be a priority in the next triennium.
Refer to 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. Does your country have resource information on the restoration or rehabilitation of wetlands? No
If Yes , has this been forwarded to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre and for consideration by the STRP Expert Working Group on Restoration? No Reply
If this material has not been forwarded to the Bureau, what has prevented this from occurring? No information available.
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

2.6.3 Establish wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in association with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value (Recommendation 4.1). [CPs]

- **The Convention will continue to promote the restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands, particularly in situations where such actions will help promote or retain the ‘health’ and productivity of waterways and coastal environments.**
- **Global Target - By COP8, all CPs to have identified their priority sites for restoration or rehabilitation and for projects to be under way in at least 100 CPs.**

Refer to 2.6.1 above.

Operational Objective 2.7: To encourage active and informed participation of local communities, including indigenous people, and in particular women, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.7.1 Implement Recommendation 6.3 on involving local and indigenous people in the management of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, the implementation of the Guidelines on local communities’ and indigenous people’s participation (COP7 Resolution VII.8) is to be one of the Convention’s highest priorities. By COP8, all CPs to be promoting local stakeholder management of wetlands.**

Is your government **actively** promoting the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the management of wetlands? **Yes**

If **No**, what are the impediments to this occurring? **No applicable.**

If **Yes**, describe what special actions have been taken (See also 2.7.2, 2.7.3 and 2.7.4 below) (COP7 Resolution VII.8). **The local communities are encouraged to manage and conserve their wetlands under the leadership of Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Committees. Wildlife Management Areas are declared/gazetted protected areas which are managed by the local people of the area.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Use the existing WMA Committees where they exist**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Department of Environment and Conservation.**

2.7.2 Encourage site managers and local communities to work in partnership at all levels to monitor the ecological character of wetlands, thus providing a better understanding of management needs and human impacts. [CPs]

- **The Convention’s Outreach Programme (COP7 Resolution VII.9) seeks to give such community participation higher priority as an education and empowerment tool of**

the Convention.
Does your government actively encourage or support site managers and local communities in monitoring the condition (ecological character) of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? (Also refer to Operational Objective 5.1.) Yes
If No , what prevents this from occurring? Not applicable.
If Yes , does this include both site managers and local communities, where they are not the same people? Yes PNG's two Ramsar sites, including the recently nominated one are Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These sites are managed by the local communities through the Wildlife Management Area Committees. Site managers/Rangers are non-existent or where present, they can not work effectively mainly due to lack to funding.
AND, where such monitoring occurs, are the findings being used to guide management practices? Yes
If No , what prevents this from happening? Not applicable.
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

2.7.3 Involve local communities in the management of wetlands by establishing wetland management committees, especially at Ramsar sites, on which local stakeholders, landowners, managers, developers and community interest groups, in particular women's groups, are represented. [CPs, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - Ramsar site management committees operating in at least 100 CPs, and including non-government stakeholder representation.
Are there wetland site management committees in place in your country? Yes
If No , what are the impediments to such being established? Not applicable
If Yes , for how many sites are such committees in place? All Wildlife Management Areas including those encompassing wetlands areas in the Country has Wildlife Management Area Committees. Three sites (Tonda and Lake Kutubu and Kamiali, a newly nominated Ramsar Site).
AND: How many of these are Ramsar sites? Two Ramsar Sites
AND: Of these committees, how many include representatives of local stakeholders? Two/Both of them
AND: Of these, how many have women's groups represented? None. Both Committees are male dominated.
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this satge. However, awareness activities are also targeted at the female community.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action:

Department of Environment and Conservation

2.7.4 Recognize and apply traditional knowledge and management practice of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]

- Refer to 2.7.1 above.
- **Global Target - This will be addressed in the next triennium, possibly in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention to Combat Desertification, which have already initiated work in this area.**

Has your government **made any special efforts** to recognize and see applied traditional knowledge and management practices? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Not applicable.**

If **Yes**, please provide details of how this traditional knowledge was recognized and then put into practice. **The local people are given the opportunity to manage and control their natural resources using their traditional knowledge through their Wildlife Management Area Committees. That is provided for under the Fauna Protection and Control Act.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Identification of Potential Ramsar Sites by prioritizing areas for biodiversity conservation. Local stakeholders are encouraged to provide information on traditional knowledge during site workshops for each Ramsar site to assist in planning for management by Committees**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Department of Environment and Conservation**

Operational Objective 2.8: To encourage involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Actions - Global and National Targets

2.8.1. Encourage the private sector to give increased recognition to wetland attributes, functions and values when carrying out projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - In the next triennium, the efforts to work in partnership with the private sector will be further increased and the Bureau will seek to document and make available case studies on some of the more effective and innovative approaches. By COP8, the target is to have private sector support for wetlands conservation in more than 100 CPs.**

Have **special efforts been made** to increase the recognition of wetland attributes, functions and values among the private sector in your country? **Yes**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Not applicable.**

If **Yes**, describe these special efforts. **Discussions have been held with potential sponsors of**

wetland activities from the private sector for example the World Wetlands Day Publication
AND: Have these efforts been successful? No
If No , why not? Particularly due to late notice. A new initiative which can be explored further in future..
If Yes , how do you judge this success? Financial support for management or monitoring? Active involvement in management or monitoring? (Refer to 2.8.3 below) Application of Ramsar's Wise Use principles by private sector interests? (Refer to 2.8.2 below)? Other criteria? Not applicable.
Proposed national actions and targets: Department of Environment and Conservation, the Ramsar Administrative Authority has a Draft NGO Policy that guides the involvement of Private Sector in conservation activities.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

2.8.2 Encourage the private sector to apply the Wise Use Guidelines when executing development projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - In the next triennium the application of this tool for promoting Wise Use will be a priority under the Convention. By COP8, the target is to have more than 50 CPs which have completed reviews of their incentive measures.
Refer to 2.8.1 above. Has your government completed a review of its “existing, or evolving, policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands and to identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use” (COP7 Resolution VII.15)? No
If No , what has been the impediment to this being done? Although there has been discussions and plans to develop an appropriate wetlands conservation and Management policy, there has been very minimal progress .
If Yes , what actions have been taken to introduce “incentive measures designed to encourage the wise use of wetlands, and to identify and remove perverse incentives where they exist” (COP7 Resolution VII.15). Not applicable.
AND: Have these actions been effective? No
If No , why not? Lackof capacity and manpower..
If Yes , please describe how. Not applicable
AND if Yes , COP7 Resolution VII.15 requested Parties to share these “experiences and lessons learned with respect to incentive measures and perverse incentives relating to wetlands, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources generally, by providing these to the Ramsar Bureau for appropriate distribution and to be made available through the Wise Use Resource Centre of the Convention’s Web site”. Has this been done?

No
Proposed national actions and targets: Development of an appropriate wetlands Conservation and Management Policy.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

2.8.3 Encourage the private sector to work in partnership with site managers to monitor the ecological character of wetlands. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This action will be promoted further in the next triennium.
Refer to 2.7.2 above. In addition, have any special efforts been made to encourage the private sector involvement in monitoring? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from happening? Not applicable.
If Yes , describe these special efforts. The private sectors , particularly the mining sectors have monitoring program within their Environment Department.
AND: How successful has this been? There is lack of information on the sucess of these efforts.
Proposed national actions and targets: None specifically on wetlands at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

2.8.4 Involve the private sector in the management of wetlands through participation in wetland management committees. [CPs]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - As indicated under 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 above, the establishment of cross-sectoral and stakeholder management committees for wetlands, and especially Ramsar sites, will be a priority in the next triennium.
Refer to 2.7.3 above

**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3
TO RAISE AWARENESS OF WETLAND VALUES AND FUNCTIONS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND AT ALL LEVELS**

Operational Objective 3.1: To support and assist in implementing, in cooperation with partners and other institutions, an international programme of Education and Public Awareness (EPA) on wetlands, their functions and values, designed to promote national EPA programmes.

Actions - Global Targets**3.1.1 Assist in identifying and establishing coordinating mechanisms and structures for the development and implementation of a concerted global programme of EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]**

Refer to Operational Objectives 3.2 and 3.3 below

3.1.2 Participate in the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for resource development. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Has your country **taken any action** to help with the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for information/education resource development? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Lack of capacity and appropriate funding.**

If **Yes**, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland Communications, Public Awareness, and Education (CEPA) (COP7 Resolution VII.9). **Not applicable**

Proposed national actions and targets: **Inclusion of wetlands related articles in the bi-monthly production DEC's Newsletter and SPREP's regional publication unit. Development of flyers/factsheets on wetlands to distribute to schools and others.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Department of Environment and Conservation**

3.1.3 Assist in the development of international resource materials in support of national EPA programmes [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 3.1.2 above also. Has your country **taken any action** to assist with the development of international wetland CEPA resource materials? **No**

If **Yes**, please provide details, and as appropriate, provide samples to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre's clearing house for Wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9). **Not applicable**

If **No**, what has prevented this from happening? **Lack of capacity and mechanism in place for effective communication with the appropriate person for such collaborative efforts.**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None at this stage.**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Department of Environment and Conservation.**

3.1.4 Support international programmes that encourage transfer of information, knowledge and skills between wetland education centres and educators (e.g., Wetland International's EPA Working Group, Global Rivers Environment Education Network

(GREEN), Wetland Link International). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to 3.2.4 also. Does your country support any international programmes that encourage transfer of information, knowledge and skills among wetland education centres and educators? No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? Lack of capacity and trained personnel.
If Yes , please provide details. Not applicable
Is your country specifically supporting the Wetlands Link International initiative (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? No
If No , what is preventing this from happening? Lack of capacity and trained personnel.
If Yes , please provide details. Not applicable
AND indicate which Wetland Centres (refer 3.2.3 below), museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and educational environment education centres (refer 3.2.4) are now participating as part of Wetlands Link International. Not applicable
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

Operational Objective 3.2: To develop and encourage national programmes of EPA on wetlands, targeted at a wide range of people, including key decision-makers, people living in and around wetlands, other wetland users and the public at large.

Actions - Global and National Targets
3.2.1 Encourage partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations capable of developing national EPA programmes on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Target - By COP8 to see the global network of proposed CP and non-government focal points for Wetland Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) in place and functioning effectively in the promotion and execution of the national Outreach Programmes in all CPs. To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.
Did your Government inform the Ramsar Bureau by 31 December 1999 of the identity of its Government and Non-Government Focal Points for wetland CEPA (COP7 Resolution VII.9)? Yes
If No , what has prevented this from occurring? Not applicable
Has your country established an "appropriately constituted Task Forces, where no mechanism exists for this purpose (e.g., National Ramsar Committees), to undertake a review of national needs, capacities and opportunities in the field of wetland CEPA and,

based on this, to formulate its National Wetland CEPA Action Plans for priority activities which consider the international, regional, national and local needs” (COP7 Resolution VII.9). **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Although there is a Wetlands Committee within Department of Environment and Conservation. There has been very little progress in formulation of a National Wetland CEPA Action plan.**

If **Yes**, please provide details of the organizations, ministries, etc., represented on this Task Force. **Not applicable**

AND: Has a National Wetland CEPA Action Plan been finalized by 31 December 2000? **No**

If **No**, what has prevented this from occurring? **Lack of appropriately trained personnel and capacity.**

If **Yes**, is the Action Plan being implemented effectively? **No**

If **No**, what is preventing this from occurring? **Lack of appropriately trained personnel and capacity.**

If **Yes**, what are the priority target groups of the Action Plan and the major activities being undertaken? **Not applicable**

AND: Has a copy of this plan been provided to the Ramsar Bureau? **No**

Proposed national actions and targets: **None at this stage**

Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: **Department of Environment and Conservation**

3.2.2 On the basis of identified needs and target groups, support national programmes and campaigns to generate a positive vision of wetlands and create awareness at all levels of their values and functions. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - see 3.2.1 above.**

3.2.3 Encourage the development of educational centres at wetland sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- **Global Target - The Convention will aim to have more than 150 active education centres (and similar venues - see 3.2.4 below) promoting the principles of the Convention by COP8 and to ensure that all CPs have at least one such centre.**

Has your country **encouraged** the establishment of educational centres at wetland sites? **No**

If **No**, what has been the impediment to such action being taken? **Lack of funding and capacity**

If **Yes**, how successful has this been? **Not applicable**

AND: How many such centres are in place? and at what sites? None
How many centres are being established? and at what sites? None
How many centres are being planned? and at what sites? None at this stage. However, there is a potential for such establishments at all three Ramsar Sites in the country.
Of the sites in place, how many are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and at which sites are they? Not applicable
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

3.2.4 Work with museums, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria and environment education centres to encourage the development of exhibits and programmes that support non-formal EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
• Global Target - see 3.2.3 above
Do all museums, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities in your country have exhibits and/or programmes that support non-formal wetland CEPA? No
If No , what are the impediments to this occurring? The available exhibits are specifically targeted at other habitat types and species. Wetland information is lacking even at facilities such as zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities.
If such exhibits or programmes are in place for some facilities, how many and what types of facilities are they? NCDC Botanical Gardens and National museum with various labels but none specifically on wetland.
If Yes , how many facilities does this apply to and how many of these are participating as part of Wetlands Link International (Refer 3.1.4 above)? and which facilities are they? Not applicable
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

3.2.5 Encourage the inclusion of modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]
• Global Target - By COP8, to see wetland issues incorporated into curricula in over 100 CPs.
In your country are there modules related to wetlands in the curricula at all levels of education, including tertiary courses and specialized training courses? No
If No , what is preventing this from occurring? Lack of capacity, funding and trained

personnel.
If this is the case for some levels of education, or some parts of the country, please provide details. Not applicable
If Yes , have samples of this curriculum material been provided to the Ramsar Bureau for possible inclusion in the Wise Use Resource Centre? No Reply
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

Operational Objective 3.3: To improve the Ramsar Bureau’s communications activities and to develop a Convention Communications Strategy, capable of further promoting the Convention and its wider application, and of raising awareness of wetland values and functions.

Actions - Global and National Targets
3.3.1 Review the Bureau’s communications activities, especially those related to the creation and functioning of regional and national communication networks; develop new material and use of technology, and improve existing material. [Bureau]
Refer to 3.2.1 “To secure the resources to increase the Bureau’s capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.”. Has your government provided any voluntary contributions to increase the Bureau’s capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme? Yes
If Yes , please provide details. Through the use of the media during all environment awareness opportunities that arise within the Department , particularly during the World Environment and Wetlands Days.
Proposed national actions and targets: None specifically on wetlands at this stage except proposal/ recommendations for World Wetlands Day celebrations.
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

3.3.4 Seek the support of an electronic communications carrier to provide and maintain an electronic mail network and electronic bulletin board/ mailing lists linking the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee members, the STRP, the Bureau, and partner organizations. [All]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Target - By COP8, to gain a sponsor(s) for the Convention’s Web site, to ensure that all CPs have Internet access, to increase the use of French and Spanish in the Ramsar Web site, and to see over 300 Ramsar site managers also communicating with the Bureau, and each other, via the Internet.
The Standing Committee and Bureau will consider the issue of a sponsor for the Convention’s Web site, and increased presence of French and Spanish materials on the Web site.

With respect to Ramsar site managers, has your government taken steps to provide for Internet links for these people? No
If No , what are the impediments to this action being taken? Communication costs in PNG are extremely high.
If Yes , how many Ramsar site managers have Internet access? None
AND: Which Ramsar sites have this facility? Not applicable
Proposed national actions and targets: None at this stage
Ministry, agency/department, or organization responsible for leading on this action: Department of Environment and Conservation

Please go to file 2.