



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 10th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Republic of Korea, 28 October – 4 November 2008**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **31 March 2008**.

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

Introduction & background

1. This Ramsar COP10 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Republic of Korea, October/November 2008).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 35th meeting in February 2007, and its Decisions SC35-22, -23 and -24, this COP10 National Report Format has been significantly revised and simplified in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In particular this National Report Format provides a much smaller number (66) of implementation "indicator" questions, compared with the much larger suite of questions on all aspects of national implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 included in previous NRFs.
4. The COP10 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee (Decision SC35-24), certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) and CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention.
5. The 66 indicator questions are grouped under each of the implementation "Strategies" approved by the Parties at COP9 (Resolution IX.8) in the Convention's "A Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006 -2008 period" (www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_08_e.htm). The indicators have been selected so as to provide information on key aspects of the implementation of the Convention under each of its Strategies.
6. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply **additional information** concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.

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

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention, and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's Web site.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
 - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) capture lessons/experience, so as to allow Parties to develop future action;
 - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention through Convention processes;
 - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable against their obligations under the Convention;
 - v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and plan for its future implementation and priorities; and
 - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. In addition, the data and information provided by Parties in their COP10 National Reports now have another important purpose, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation will provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP10 consideration.

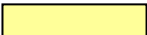
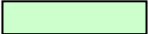
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
 - i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each COP on the global and regional implementation, and progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at COP as a series of Information Papers including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 5);
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 6); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP9 DOCs 10-13);
 - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at COP. Examples at CO9 included:
 - Resolution IX.15, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
 - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC 15) and *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC 25);
 - iii) providing the source of time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention, included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (3rd edition, 2007); and
 - iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for the CBD for wetlands.

The structure of the COP10 National Report Format

12. In line with Standing Committee Decisions SC35-21 and SC35-22, the COP10 National Report Format is in three sections.
13. **Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.
14. **Section 2** is a "free-text" section in which to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.
15. **Section 3** provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy, and with a "free-text" section under each Strategy in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of the Strategy and its indicators.

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP10 National Report Format

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

16. All three Sections of the COP10 National Report Format should be filled in, in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
17. The deadline for submission of the completed National Report Format is **31 March 2008**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received from Parties after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP10.
18. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
19. 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 in the COP10 NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since it is the experience of the Secretariat that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.
20. In order to assist Contracting Parties in their provision of such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the "Additional implementation information" fields.
21. The Format is created as a "Form" in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to, and between, each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information. All other parts of the form are locked.
22. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form, and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
23. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the "Tab" key on the computer keyboard.
24. For a "free-text" field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow "free-text" box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box. This is because within the "Form" format there is limited facility to make editorial changes within the "free-text" box once text has been entered.
25. 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 asked in the indicator, but are in general of the form: "Yes", "No", "Partly", "In progress", etc.
26. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can provide this in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
27. 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.

28. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given.
29. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP10NRF [Country] [date].
30. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by email, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, email: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
31. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP10 National Report.**
32. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP10 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: FIJI	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Lands, Mineral Resources and Environment
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Name: Epeli Nasome Title: Director of the the Department of Environment
Mailing address:	The Director of Environment P.O Box 2109 Government Buildings Suva, Fiji Islands.
Telephone/Fax:	Phone: (679) 3311-699 Fax: (679) 3312-879
Email:	enasome@govnet.gov.fj
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Manasa Sovaki Principle Officer (Conservation)
Mailing address:	P. O. Box 2109 Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji
Telephone/Fax:	Telephone:(679) 3311-699 Fax:(679) 3312-879
Email:	msovaki@govnet.gov.fj
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Manasa Sovaki Principle Officer (Conservation)
Name of organisation:	Department of Environment
Mailing address:	P. O. Box 2109 Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji
Telephone/Fax:	Telephone: (679) 3311-699 Fax: (679) 3312-879
Email:	msovaki@govnet.gov.fj
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Eleni Tokaduadua Senior Environmental Officer
Name of organisation:	Department of Environment
Mailing address:	P. O. Box 2109 Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji
Telephone/Fax:	Telephone: (679) 3311-699 Fax :(679) 3312-879
Email:	etokaduadua@govnet.gov.fj
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Manasa Sovaki Principle Officer (Conservation) and

Name of organisation:	Eleni Tokaduadua Senior Environment Officer
Mailing address:	Department of Environment P. O. Box 2109 Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji
Telephone/Fax:	telephone: (679) 3311-699 Fax: (679) 3312-879
Email:	msovaki@govnet.gov.fj and etokaduadua@govnet.gov.fj



SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP9 reporting):

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

March 2005 was when there was an Announcement by cabinet, that it had approved the accession. The formal accession was then forwarded to the Convention depository UNESCO and Fiji became a party to a Wetland (Ramsar Convention in 2006)

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

- Nomination of Fiji's first Ramsar site.
- Appointment of Fiji's wetland steering committee to assist the Department of Environment (DOE)
- Various scientific studies carried out by NGOs and Institutions scientific team in identifying various fauna and flora found in many wetlands in Fiji.
- Outcome of these studies are published and can be obtained from authors through DOE

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

The Department of environment has a serious lack of human resources to allow for full and effective implementation of the international environment conventions that the country has joined, including now the Ramsar Convention. As a priority, DoE is urged to supplement the human (and other) resources being dedicated to the implementation of international environment conventions so that all obligations can be met, and that best use can be made of the tools and opportunities each offer.

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

Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) project had the following objectives:

- To gain advice on how to ensure Fiji's legislative framework and institutional arrangements for implementing the Ramsar Convention are best organised to meet the obligations under the Convention
- Identify appropriate ways to streamline implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Fiji, and through this reduce the resource needs
- The development of Fiji-specific training course about the Ramsar Convention, its obligations and expectations these place on various government departments, which can be available for ongoing capacity building within the country

A training needs assessment to be used to guide future efforts to gain donor or GEF funding support for implementation of Ramsar Convention in Fiji

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

The new Environment management Act (2005) for Fiji and Regulations (2008) should seek to address many of these threats through mechanism such as environmental impact assessment and control and management of waste and pollution. The DoE will need to be assisted in areas such as training of inspectors, training of communities representatives to be able to monitor and police their own wetland areas in Fiji as more than 80% of land including wetland are owned by the Indigenous community. DoE also requests that awareness and educational programmes be carried out in the communities and Public at large on the benefit of wetlands and why wetlands should be protected.

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

Recommend that measures be taken in the process of funding acquisition. Past experiences have shown that acquiring funding designated for a particular projects takes up a lot of valuable time. This inadvertently affects the time period designated for a project.

G. 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 National focal points (NFP) for Ramsar is now the same NFP for CBD, CITES, UNFCCC, CMS and Regional conservation (MEAs). The NFP for the UNCCD is now part of Fiji's National Environment Council (NEC) established under Fiji's Environmental Management Act (EMA) of 2005 which is under the DOE. The NEC meets four times in a year and issues concerning all of Fiji's obligations to Ramsar and these other MEAs are discussed in the NEC. Under CITES implementation, Fiji Government has enacted Fiji's endangered and Protected Species (EPS) Act of 2002 and its Regulations of 2003. The EPS Act establishes the Fiji Islands CITES scientific council (FICSC) and the Fiji Islands CITES Management Authority (FICMA) which also meets four times a year. Members of these two bodies include representatives of Government agencies, NGOs, Institutions and Trading Companies. Issues discussed from these two committees (FICSC & FICMA) are taken up by the NEC before any decision is taken up to cabinet for their endorsement if and when it requires. Issues on wetlands in Fiji are not isolated as they are part and parcels of matters been discussed in various Environmental Committees before it comes up to the NEC.

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

As noted in (G) above.

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

Fiji has enacted various policies and legislations such as EMA, the EPS Act and other legislations and regulation that helps to protect and ensure sustainability of Fiji Environment. As a Small Island Developing States (SIDS), there is a need for assistance in terms of training officers, awareness and educating the Fiji Population, also in monitoring and enforcing relevant aspects of these legislation.

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box.
2. If you wish to add any additional information on either one or more of the specific indicators for each strategy, and/or for other aspects of the national implementation of this strategy, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions for each Strategy.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. So as to assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP9, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP9 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1: *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1}	A - Yes
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	A - Yes
1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed]	A - Yes
1.1.4 If the answer is “Yes” in 1.1.3, does this information indicate that the need to address adverse change in the ecological character of wetlands is now greater, the same, or less than in the previous triennium, for: a) Ramsar sites b) wetlands generally	A - Greater B - the same

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.1.1 – 1.1.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.1.1 [we are still compiling the many reports as noted earlier from studies done by NGOs, Institutions and Government agencies. We are hoping to include in these inventory which areas have been studied thoroughly, identifying the various fauna and flora found in these waters]

1.1.2 [These are to be obtained from various Government Agencies, NGOs and Institutions. However, the Fiji Government is still trying to set up a single information center to consist of all such information for ease of reference.]

1.1.3 [part of the studies are mentioned above.]

1.1.4 [some of the responsible factors are- increase in need for housing, urban growth, increase need for lands for agriculture activities, etc]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.2: *Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supranational policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied, where possible specifying the appropriate policy instrument(s) in each Contracting Party which ensures wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

1.2.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {2.1.1} [If “Yes”, please give the title and date of the policy in Additional implementation information]	B - No
1.2.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {2.1.2}	A - Yes
1.2.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development (including National Poverty Reduction Plans called for by the WSSD and water resources management and water efficiency plans)? {2.1.2}	A - Yes
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	A - Yes
1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.2.1 – 1.2.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.2.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.2.1 [No, but issues on wetlands are clearly part of the EIA Legislation, such that any activity that is likely to impact on wetlands in Fiji has to be investigated thoroughly before any development proposal is allowed to be carried out. These is to be found in Schedule 2 of the EMA Act and Regulations clearly stipulate steps to be taken for the process of EIA so that important areas such as wetlands are protected.]

1.2.2 [Yes as indicated in part 1.2.1 above]

1.2.3 [These have been part of Fiji Government report to the World Summit held at Johannesburg in 2002. Wetland issues are also part of Fiji's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (FNBSAP) which is a requirement of Article 6of the CBD. Various implementation works emanating from the FNBSAP is published in the 2007 FNBSAP. Copies can be obtained from the DoE.]

1.2.4 [These are to be found in various sources within published materials by Government Agencies and Institutions. NGOs have also carried out scientific assesment in areas of waters they have been working on for the last 10 years. Most of their work concentrate on wetland areas in lands and maritime areas, including coral reefs, sea grass areas, mangrove areas etc. Assesment of pollution level has been carried out by institutions like local universities and the Fiji School of Medicine]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.3: *Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defence, climate change mitigation, food security, poverty reduction, cultural heritage, and scientific research, with a focus on under-represented ecosystem types, through developing and disseminating methodology to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

1.3.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar sites? {3.3.1} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in the Additional implementation information below, the year of assessment and from where or from whom this information can be obtained]	A - Yes
1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4}	A - Yes
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	B - No
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.3.1 – 1.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.3.3: [.. additional information ...]"

1.3.1 [Various government agencies and stakeholders have been involved in these assessments which contain various documents produced over the years . Other stakeholders such as NGOs and Institutions, the community themselves have been involved and are aware of the benefit of the wetland system in their daily lives such as for food security, flood mitigation, sources of water]

[Hydrological values: The Navua River represents Fiji's thrid largest freshwater drainage with only the Rewa river and Sigatoka rivers draining larger areas. The gorge at Upper Navua area is likely to play a role in flood control for lower lying areas of the catchment.

Ecological features: one of the few relatively intouched major drainages remaining in Fiji. This feature alone makes it especially significant. Maintaining the ecological character of the site is crucial in maintaining ongoing ecosytem services in the entire catchment

Noteworthy fauna: to date preliminary surveys have been of ichthyofauna,avifauna and vegetation within the UNCA. Most noteable of the aquatic fauna are atleast two endemic freshwater fish species, which should be considered vulnerable due to their limited range and one undescribed new taxa. Forest surrounding the gorge contain 17 endemic species of birds, 15 of which are endemic to the island of Viti levu.

Noteworthy flora: site is notable as having the most well developed examples known from Fiji of ultimate riparian vegetation, river gorge and cliff vegetation. consits of native species (many of which are endemic) restricted to fast flowing river habitats Possibly the most significant component of the vegetation is the endemic sago palm (Metroxylon vitiense) which must be considered as endangered. the iste also contains the endemic family Degneriaceae with the monotypic (Degeneria vitiensis)

Social and Cultural Values: the Upper navua is a primary source of protein for the village as is the surrounding rainforest where plants are collected and pigs hunted.there are a number of traditional sites (abandoned villages, burial caves, etc.) located in or near the UNCA. Traditional customs seem to provide adequate protection for the sites at present.(Source: Fiji Wetlands Information System;2003. website: www.mainstream.com.au/DGISFiji.htm)

1.3.2 [Through various program initiated by the Agencies such as Fisheries Department, Agriculture Department and other stakeholders including NGOs and Institutions.]\

1.3.4 [As mentioned earlier through programs that contain Strategies and Plans initiated by the Department of Culture and Heritage. Another program where NGOs and Institutions are involved.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.4: *Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change, all in the context of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).*

Indicator questions:

1.4.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been used/applied in decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {3.4.2 – r3.4.xiv}	A - Yes
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	A - Yes
1.4.3 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5}	A - Yes
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.4.1 – 1.4.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.4.1 [This is to be found in national report submitted to the World Summit in 2002. The new policies and legislations in the last 5-10 years has given government mandates to use it water resources sustainable because of population increase and other needs associated with it especially in terms of food security and poverty alleviation]

1.4.2 [This is important in view of increase in population and increase needs of the use of resources especially in catchment areas where in Fiji's case population, settlements are also located. Various government agancies, NGOs and Insituitions are involved in various levels in educating communities using various tools of information dissemination]

1.4.3 [There exists in the country a National coast Management Committee (NMC) initiated by the local university with linkage to activities and guidance of the Rhode Island University in the US. The NMC are made up of memebbers of Insituitions, NGOs, Government Agencies, Industries like Tourism Resorts and local communitie's representatives. The committee has been involved for the last ten years in managing coastal areas especially in the South Western part of the main island of 'Viti Lev' of the Fiji Group. The convention guidelines in the Coastal Zone Management are therefore parts and parcels of activities carried out by the NCMC. Reports of the committee's activities can be access from the Institute of Applied Studies (IPS) of The University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji.]

1.4.4 [Fiji is part of the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC but no such assessment has been done.]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.5: *Identify priority wetlands 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.*

Indicator questions:

<p>1.5.1 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {4.1.2} [If “Yes”, please identify any major programmes or projects in Additional implementation information]</p>	A - Yes
<p>1.5.2 Has the Convention’s guidance on wetland restoration (Annex to Resolution VIII.16; Wise Use Handbook 15, 3rd edition) been used/applied in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {4.1.2}</p>	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.5.1 – 1.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.5.2: [.. additional information ...]”

1.5.1 [Various programs are carried out because of the important wetlands such as coral reefs, mangroves and estuarine waters in securing food for our people, the majority of whom are rural dwellers. These areas are also important for commercial activities, thus their maintenance and protection is important to the social and economic life of our country]

1.5.2 [This is carried out by various agencies. Also, in the new provision of the EIA in the EMA it ensures that any development proposals likely to impact on any wetland areas in Fiji are thoroughly investigated so that ecological services of these wetlands are maintained. Where damage can not be avoided, mitigation measures are put in place to cushion impacts. The DoE has a registrar of experts in aquatic environment and review of EIA reports as stipulated in the EMA is done by an independent committee consisting of various experts from Governments, Institutions, Industries and the NGOs that go through the reports thoroughly so that ecological aspects of any wetland within the boundary of the new development are maintained and any likely impact is minimized.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.6: *Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems.*

Indicator questions:

1.6.1 Have national policies, strategies and management responses to threats from invasive species, particularly in wetlands, been developed and implemented? {r5.1.ii}	B - No
1.6.2 Have such policies, strategies and management responses been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organisations/processes? {r5.1.ii}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.6.1 – 1.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.6.2: [.. additional information ...]”

1.6.1 [No clear policy is in place in present NGO and Institutions like the local University are leading the fight in these areas. Reports are available from these various sources. Government Agencies have also been working in protecting food resources in wetlands in Fiji because of the importance of the indigenous food species that our Indigenous communities have relied upon for years, and the importance of these species to our Overall Island Biodiversity. A good example is the introduction of such species as the 'tilapia' fish in our fresh water ecosystem that is now classified as a pest and becoming a nuisance. Many other Invasive species are found in our waters. A proper inventory of all these invasive species is still being carried out. The EMA has provision for inventory to be carried out on all our natural biological resources which if carried out properly should inform us of the different types of fauna and flora to be found in Fiji including Invasive species]

1.6.2 [Yes, because of the existence of new Policies, Legislations and Strategies as mentioned previously]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 national implementation:

Recommendations: Logging and associated siltation of the river is a major concern. As villagers are carrying out the logging themselves, it is recommended that educational workshops are conducted. Ensuring that logging is more selective (less removed) and a greater buffer zone around the rivers is enforced by the villagers. GTZ may be able to assist in this matter

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

STRATEGY 2.1 *Apply the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Handbook 7, 2nd edition; Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

Indicator questions:

2.1.1 Have a strategy and priorities been established for any further designation of Ramsar sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {10.1.1}

[If further Ramsar site designations are planned, please indicate in Additional implementation information, the number of sites and anticipated year of designation]

D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

2.1.1 [This is part of our plan fro the coming two (2) years.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.2 *Maintain the Ramsar Sites Information Service and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the Ramsar Sites Database as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.*

Indicator questions:

2.2.1 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {10.2.3}

A - Yes

2.2.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its database used in national implementation of the Convention concerning Ramsar site issues?

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.2.1 – 2.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.2.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.2.1 [Updates submitted are only on Fiji's first Ramsar site, other wetland areas have not been submitted]

2.2.2 [There is no information database available to the department of Environment. The Department of Fisheries and Department of Agriculture have their own separate database available to them]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.3 *Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites.*

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	A - Yes
2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised]	A - Yes
2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information]	B - No
2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out? [if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.3.1 – 2.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.3.3: [.. additional information ...]”

2.3.2 [Fiji's Ramsar site is leased to a commercial company that use the waters for rafting and scenic tours for tourists and locals alike. The company, known as Rivers Fiji, has management plans which include the protection of buffer zone (200m) of each side of the river and streams. Activities allowed are such as that they are not detrimental to the protection of the fauna and flora of the area and the proper maintenance of ecological services of the whole ecosystem]

2.3.3 [Fiji's only Ramsar site as indicated above is leased to a commercial company. Its proper management relies heavily on the working together of various Government Agencies such as the Department of Forestry, DoE, Fishery Department and the Department responsible for Indigenous affairs. The policies and legislations of these agencies work close together as they are part of the Fiji National Wetland Steering Committee approved by cabinet in 2005. The committee resolutions are discussed at the NEC which ensures discussion of any wetland issues in Fiji is brought to an international level, stipulated in the EMA.]

2.3.4 [By the company involved and brought to the attention of the Fiji National Wetland Steering Committee.]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.4 *Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Secretariat without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

Indicator questions:

2.4.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {r11.2.iv} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
2.4.2 Have all cases of change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {11.2.4} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which Ramsar sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made]	A - Yes
2.4.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record? {r11.2.viii} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]	D - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.4.1 – 2.4.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

2.4.1 [Through the Fiji National Wetland Steering Committee and these can be reported to the NEC if required]

2.4.3 [This is handled by the National Wetland Steering Committee present]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.5 *Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

Indicator questions:

2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}	D - Not applicable
2.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (including regional site and waterbird flyway networks)? {12.1.2; 12.2.2} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]	E - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.5.1 – 2.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.5.1: [.. additional information ...]”

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.6 *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

Indicator questions:

2.6.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development of a regional initiative under the framework of the Convention? {12.3.2}

[If "Yes" or "Planned", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the name(s) and collaborating countries of each regional initiative]

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

2.6.1 [through the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 national implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGY 3.1 *Collaboration with other institutions: Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies.*

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	A - Yes
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {13.1.iii}	A - Yes
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	---

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.1.1 – 3.1.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “3.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

3.1.1 [As mentioned earlier, the NFPs of MEAs and the Administrative Authority in Fiji for the Wetland Convention is the same person, the Director of Environment.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 3.2 *Sharing of expertise and information: Promote the sharing of expertise and information.*

Indicator questions:

3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]	A - Yes
3.2.2 Has information about the country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a Web site)? {14.1.1}	A - Yes

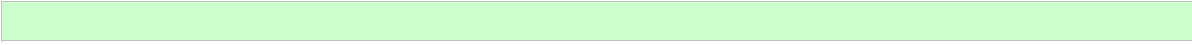
Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1 [yes, but needs improvement]

3.2.2 [This is if and when requested, but information of Fiji's first Ramsar site can be obtained from the DOE

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 national implementation:



GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

STRATEGY 4.1 *Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values: Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, including women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including in relation to understanding the dynamics of cultural values.*

Indicator questions:

4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5}	A - Yes
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	C - Partly
4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party promote public participation in decision-making (with respect to wetlands), especially with local stakeholder involvement in the selection of new Ramsar sites and in Ramsar site management? {6.1.4}	A - Yes
4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii}	A - Yes
4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} <small>[if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]</small>	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.1.1 – 4.1.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.1.3: [.. additional information ...]"

4.1.1 [Especially through the Department of Indigenous Affairs and through the workings of various NGOs and Institutions and other Government Agencies and in areas that concern them]

4.1.2 [In some areas they have been documented and NGOs like WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), conservation International (CI), Wetland International (WI) and Institutions are heavily involved in these areas. Government Agencies facilitate their work and are thankful to these stakeholders for the work they are doing as far as these areas is concerned in the country.

4.1.4 [Certain NGOs and Institutions are leading the way and the Department of Culture and Heritage of the Fiji Government is also involved]

4.1.5 [Wetlands International- Oceania, pulled together a team from the University of the South Pacific, Birdlife International- Fiji Programme, Environmental Consultants Ltd, Department of Environment, Fijian Affairs Board and National Trust that visited the site and village of Nabukelevu in April 2003. This team carried out multidisiplinary survey activities and also discussed Ramsar and Wetland Conservation with elders and community members. Subsets of this initial team have re-visited the site and village three times throughout the year to continue discussions on the wise use of the site and to continue survey activities.]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 national implementation:

4.1.4[Rivers Fiji have been responsible for training guides in the minimum impact strategies necessary for the conservation of this unique waterway, employees of Rivers Fiji have been developing interpretative materials for their guests and the local communities surrounding the canyon. Efforts are also planned by Rivers Fiji Ltd that will take teachers and students from the surrounding villagers and mataqali on river trips with members from the Department of Environment and Forestry. These trips would have a strong conservation message and the teachers and students will then become the ambassadors for wetlands protection.

STRATEGY 4.2 *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

4.2.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands? {7.1.1}	A - Yes
4.2.2 Have private-sector “Friends of Wetlands” fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.2.1 – 4.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.2.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.2.1 [They have been encouraged over the years but legal attention have been laid by these companies so it is hope that the new provisions on EIA and Waste Pollution in the EMA will force the private sector to participate in the management and proper conservation of wetlands in Fiji in years to come]

4.2.2[Various existing committees that has the objective overseeing the protection and sustainable use of wetlands and there natural biological resources consist of members from the private sector. A good example is the inclusion of traders representative in the Fiji Island CITES Management Authority (FICMA). Private sectors are encouraged to participate in such areas because the Fiji Government believes in participation of all sectors in Fiji's community in the welfare of their people.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.3 *Promote measures which encourage the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

4.3.1 Have actions been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	C - Partly
4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.3.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.3.1[There is no clear indication of these in existing Policies and Legislation or Strategies and Action Plan but with the enactment of new Legislation there are provisions where incentives are offered for cases that protect wetlands such as maybe found in EIA.]

4.3.2[The enactment of the new Legislation such as EMA has one very important provision that use the Legislation binds Government. These basically means that existing legislations in various Government Agencies such as the Public Works Department (PWD) that is mandated to build and maintain roads in Fiji is no longer seen that it has the right to do whatever it thinks appropriate under the present circumstances. There actions under the existing legislation have been the cause of many land degradation that has impacted wetlands in past years. The EIA provision in the EMA, which binds the Government, superset the existing mandate of the PWD and they therefore are to build and maintain roads in Fiji in accordance with the provision of the EMA. These basically mean that perverse incentive measures that has impacted on wetlands is now removed.]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.4 *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Programme (Resolution VIII.31) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA).*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii}</p> <p>[If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.2 Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the subnational, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? {r.9.iii.iii}</p> <p>[Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4]</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
<p>4.4.3 Have actions been taken to communicate and share information cross-sectorally on wetland issues amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {r9.iii.v}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.4 Have national campaigns, programmes, and projects been carried out to raise community awareness of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {r9.vi.i}</p> <p>[If:</p> <p>a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or</p> <p>b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values,</p> <p>please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

<p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
--	----------------

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.4.1 – 4.4.6 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

4.4.3 [Through existing National Taskforce in Education and Awareness and also through the support of the regional organisation, SPREP]

4.4.4 [Government has over the years been supporting such activities and si funding programs for these purposes annually]

4.4.5 [Yes, but Unfortunately due to lack of manpower, World Wetlands Day Activities was not properly organized]

4.4.6 [An Education center for Rivers Fiji manages Fiji's first Ramsar site has been established for this purpose. The DoE and Government Institutions such as the Fisheries Department , Department of Agriculture, department of Forestry and Institutions like USP, have education centers containing information on wetlands and these are easily accessed by school children and members of the public.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.5 *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.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.5.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only] Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {15.1.1}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.5.2 [For Contracting Parties in receipt of development assistance only] Has funding support been mobilized from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {15.1.8}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the agencies from which support has been received since COP9]</p>	<p>B - No</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.5.1 – 4.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.5.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.5.1 [Assistance has been provided by other means such as those that are dealing with projects related to the CBD, UNFCCC, CITES, etc.]

4.5.2 [No, this is an area that Fiji would like to request the secretariat to assist.]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.6 *Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.*

Indicator questions:

4.6.1 {16.1.1}	
a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?	A - Yes
b) If "No" in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	

4.6.2 {16.1.2}	
a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity?	B - No
b) If yes, please state the amounts:	

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.6.1 – 4.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.6.2: [.. additional information ...]"

4.6.2 [Activities undertaken thus far include two trips to undertake further surveys and consult with the local people and eco-tourism operator at the site proposed to be Fiji's first Ramsar site, Upper Navua Gorge. These trips undertaken prior to DGIS funds been advanced to DoE were financed by the Wetlands International Oceania program]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.6 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.7 *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Framework.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.7.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
---	---------------

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

4.7.1 [These would be the first national wetland report for Fiji]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.7 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.8 *Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]</p>	<p>E - Planned</p>
<p>4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2} [If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.8.1 – 4.8.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.8.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.8.1 [Various government agencies involved in the area of wetlands conservation have reviewed there policies and legislation and government on the whole is eager to maintain sustainable ecosystem for food security and poverty alleviation for her growing population

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.8 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.9 *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention’s International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

Indicator question:

<p>4.9.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention’s IOPs* in its implementation of the Convention? [If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
---	----------------

4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs*?

[If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]

A - Yes

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.9.1-4.9.2

4.9.1 [Only on small grants projects]

The IOPs are: Birdlife International, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the WWF International.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.9 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.10 *Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses.*

Indicator questions:

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

[If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]

A - Yes

4.10.2 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention, including in the use of the Wise Use Handbooks, been made? {20.1.2}

A - Yes

4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.10.1 – 4.10.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.10.3: [.. additional information ...]"

4.10.2 [Existing tertiary educational institution is assisting the Government in these areas]

4.10.3 [Once it was organized by our regional organisation with the assistance of the Australian government]

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.10 national implementation: