



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy



# **AUSTRALIA'S RAMSAR CEPA NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2016-2018 REPORT AGAINST INDICATORS**

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE FIRST TRIENNIUM OF  
THE RAMSAR PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, CAPACITY-BUILDING,  
EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA) 2016-2024**

**AUSTRALIA'S RAMSAR CEPA NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2016-2018**

<b>CEPA Programme Goals</b>	<b>Targets (set in Convention's CEPA Programme)</b>	<b>Output/outcome measures (Indicators)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<p>1. Ensure leadership to support effective implementation of the Programme by providing institutional mechanisms and establishing and supporting relevant networks.</p>	<p>1.1 Appropriately experienced people to fill the roles of National Government and Non-governmental Organization CEPA Focal Points (see Appendix 2) nominated by Contracting Parties and communicated to the Ramsar Secretariat.</p> <p>1.2 National Ramsar/Wetland Committees established to collaborate with relevant government departments and institutions to mainstream wetlands and their ecosystem services.</p> <p>1.3 National Focal Points (NFP) included as members of National Ramsar/Wetland Committees where these exist.</p> <p>1.4 Email networks that</p>	<p>NFPs appointed</p> <p>Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems Subcommittee (WAESC) meetings held (National Report Q16.4)</p> <p>NFPs attend meetings</p> <p>Extent of networking with wetland stakeholders (National Report Q15.1, 15.2, 18.9)</p> <p>Emails to wetland stakeholders, World Wetlands Day (WWD) website hits and media/social media coverage (National Report Q16.6, 16.7)</p>	<p>Australia has appointed a National Focal Point, Scientific, Technical and Research Program (STRP) Focal Point and CEPA Focal Point.</p> <p>Meetings of the Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems Sub-committee (comprising Australian and state/territory government officials) were held every 6 months.</p> <p>NFPs attend meetings of the national wetlands committee.</p> <p>Annual wetland non-government organisations (NGO) forums provided an opportunity for wetland NGOs and other stakeholders to share information, including in 2018, preparations for COP13.</p> <p>Australian Wetlands Network and Wetland Education Centres (WECs) were regularly kept informed of relevant initiatives, and input sought from them.</p> <p>Australia provides the Chair for the World Wetland Network, Louise Duff.</p> <p>Emails sent to WECs regarding key initiatives, and WWD.</p> <p>Social Media – Ramsar/wetlands were promoted through Facebook Posts and Tweets relating to each World Wetlands Day, the COP, release of the Global Wetland Outlook, World Migratory Birds Day, Biodiversity Month, National Science Week etc.</p> <p>There were 4, 000 WWD page website hits in 2017 and 2,300 in 2018</p> <p>Networking - The Queensland Wetlands Governance Group (QWGG)</p>

	<p>connect and support Administrative Authorities, National Focal Points, Site managers and other Ramsar implementers established and supported at global and national levels.</p> <p>1.5 Relationships developed and maintained with those organizations that can support Ramsar objectives through their expertise, their traditional knowledge, their human resources or through funding established and fostered.</p> <p>1.6 Effectiveness of strategies, especially regarding development and distribution of materials on wetland education and management, the success of campaigns under WWD evaluated.</p>		<p>meetings. Meeting frequency is up to 4 face to face meetings per year. Additional teleconference meetings are arranged on a needs basis. Main purpose is to provide and advice and strategic direction regarding wetland related matters.</p> <p>Networking - The Great Barrier Reef Wetlands Network. An average one 1-2 day face to face meeting per year and quarterly 1.5 hour meetings via teleconference or on-line. Additional meetings may be required. Other forms of communication: use of Google, Dropbox, social networking etc.</p> <p>Networking - Relationships established and maintained with researchers including the Fuller Lab at the University of Queensland. The Fuller lab is leading the <i>Recovering Australia's Migratory Shorebirds Project</i> funded through the Australian Research Linkage Projects Scheme in collaboration with the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), the Queensland Department of Environment and Science, Wetlands Team) and the Burnett Mary Regional NRM group.</p>
<p>2. Integrate CEPA processes, where appropriate, into all levels of</p>	<p>2.1 CEPA expertise involved in the development of guidance by the Convention's bodies including the Scientific</p>	<p>National CEPA Plan and basin/site plans developed and published online (National Report</p>	<p>A CEPA National Action Plan was developed for the period 2016-2018.</p> <p>A Wetlands and People Plan was developed for Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar site, WA</p>

<p>policy development, planning and implementation of the Convention.</p>	<p>and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and Standing Committee (SC).</p> <p>2.2 Wetland communication (CEPA) plans developed at the appropriate level by Parties (national, basin or site) to support Ramsar implementers.</p> <p>2.3 Where appropriate, wetland CEPA integrated into national policy and planning relevant to wetlands.</p>	<p>Q16.1)</p>	<p>Management Plans for Australian Ramsar sites include priorities for CEPA.</p>
<p>3. Provide support to implementers of wise use principles, especially those with a direct role in site management.</p>	<p>3.1 The Strategic Plan 2016-2024 adopted by COP12 disseminated and promoted.</p> <p>3.2 Appropriate guidance materials that support and encourage the wise use of wetlands produced for use at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands and by wetland networks.</p> <p>3.3 Websites, including the Convention's website, to be further developed to be fit for purpose and be a useful platform for the sharing of</p>	<p>Number of recipients of Ramsar materials (National Report Q16.5a)</p> <p>Number and distribution of wetland publications (National Report Q18.5)</p> <p>Extent of liaison with Multilateral Env Agreement National Focal Points (National Report Q16.5b, 18.1)</p> <p>Number of wetland</p>	<p>25 Wetland Education Centres received information relating to World Wetlands Day and other Ramsar-initiatives.</p> <p>Ramsar information was circulated via WetlandLink (an online newsletter by Conservation Volunteers Australia) to 1226 subscribers.</p> <p>Wetlands Australia was circulated to 430 subscribers, as well as WAESC, Wetland Education Centres and other wetland stakeholders.</p> <p>There is regular liaison with other MEA contacts, including providing input to briefings for other Multilateral Environment Agreement COPs.</p> <p>A representative from the Convention on Migratory Species attends the 6 monthly WAESC meetings.</p> <p>Australia provided case studies on Cobourg Peninsula, Kakadu and The Coorong for a report on "The relationship of Indigenous peoples and local communities with wetlands" (Aug 2018)</p>

	<p>information and resources, including the sharing of information and experiences among CEPA National Focal Points.</p> <p>3.4 Appropriate Ramsar Sites and other wetlands to be celebrated as “demonstration sites” for the wise use principle, and these sites suitably equipped in terms of capacity, signage, and interpretive materials.</p> <p>3.5 Secretariat requested to share CEPA stories which illustrate how integration of CEPA can improve wetland management.</p> <p>3.6 Collaboration on CEPA with other Conventions, Ramsar IOPs, other NGOs, UN agencies and others ensured through sharing of CEPA experiences and the encouragement of synergies.</p>	<p>demonstration sites/ case studies recognised.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.ramsar.org/news/new-global-report-on-the-participation-of-indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities-in-wetland">https://www.ramsar.org/news/new-global-report-on-the-participation-of-indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities-in-wetland</a></p> <p>Australia shared a case study on the Ramsar website of wise use at Cobourg Peninsula - <a href="https://www.ramsar.org/news/historic-cobourg-peninsula-is-a-model-of-wise-use-and-wetland-conservation-40-years-after-its">https://www.ramsar.org/news/historic-cobourg-peninsula-is-a-model-of-wise-use-and-wetland-conservation-40-years-after-its</a> and on the privately owned Ramsar site, Banrock Station - <a href="https://www.ramsar.org/banrock-station-how-a-ramsar-wetland-owned-by-a-private-agribusiness-in-south-australia-became-a">https://www.ramsar.org/banrock-station-how-a-ramsar-wetland-owned-by-a-private-agribusiness-in-south-australia-became-a</a></p> <p>The annual on-line magazine, <i>Wetlands Australia</i> promotes wetland case studies, which demonstrate wise use principles. Other demonstration projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower Burdekin, Qld - On-farm wetland demonstration site - This project involved a range of partners in the rehabilitation of a wetland on a cane farm. The project involved construction of a sediment basin upstream of the wetland to capture irrigation tail water to detain and filter sediment before entering the wetland.</li> <li>• ACT Healthy Waterways (2017-2019) - a joint initiative of the ACT and Australian governments to establish wetlands, ponds and rain gardens to improve long-term water quality in the ACT and further downstream in the Murrumbidgee River system. <a href="https://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/ACT-Healthy-Waterways/healthy-waterways/act-healthy-waterways-project">https://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/ACT-Healthy-Waterways/healthy-waterways/act-healthy-waterways-project</a></li> </ul> <p>Cooperation on promotional activities with CMS and EAAFP relating to migratory species, including cross promotion of World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day, and production of series of publications in the same format – <a href="#">Celebrating Australia’s Ramsar Wetlands</a>, <a href="#">Celebrating Australia’s Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats</a>, and <a href="#">Celebrating Australia’s Wetland Science</a>.</p> <p>Wetland publications - On Queensland’s <i>WetlandInfo</i> website, an online</p>
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			<p><a href="#">treatment systems 'tool box'</a> was launched in 2018. It is designed to assist landholders and advisors to select and plan appropriate treatment systems for water quality improvement.</p> <p>Forums and case studies - Two forums to improve water quality have been held across the reporting period to date: 1) The Treatment Systems in Coastal Catchments Forum in July 2016 and 2) Treatment Systems for water quality improvement - Regional Forum in November 2018.</p> <p>In October 2018, the 25 year anniversary for the Moreton Bay Ramsar site was celebrated at two public forums: Brisbane City Council forum on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October and the Moreton Bay Wetland Expo hosted by the Redcliffe Environmental Forum and supported by Moreton Bay Regional Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. The Wetlands Team gave a presentation at these forums. These events have significantly increased the Moreton Bay Ramsar site public profile.</p> <p>Wetland publications- <i>WetlandInfo</i> website have been either updated and continued to be the first point of truth for wetlands information in Queensland.</p>
4. Build the individual, institutional and collective capacity of people with a direct responsibility for Ramsar implementation.	<p>4.1 Managers supported to build communication, education, participation and awareness into their management plans.</p> <p>4.2 Current needs and capacities of wetland site managers and National Focal Points assessed and the results used to define training and capacity-building priorities at regional and</p>	<p>Extent of inclusion of CEPA in new/updated management plans (National Report Q9.4)</p> <p>Extent of wetland training offered (National Report Q19.1, 19.2, 19.3)</p> <p>Progress on development of Ramsar Regional</p>	<p>Ramsar Management Principles (under EPBC Regulations) identify CEPA as an important part of Ramsar management plans. Extent of inclusion in management plans developed during 2016-2018 was variable.</p> <p>A variety of wetland training opportunities were offered, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sydney Olympic Park Authority – Wetland Education and Training (WET) workshops</li> <li>• Conservation Volunteers Australia</li> <li>• Port Phillip and Westernport CMA and BirdLife Australia– Indigenous Shorebird and Wetland Conservation Training program</li> <li>• Greening Australia – training on monitoring</li> <li>• Victoria: Lowland wetland ecology course</li> </ul>

	<p>national levels.</p> <p>4.3 Resources provided to produce appropriate wetland management training and capacity building materials and carry out the prioritized training and capacity building as identified in 4.2.</p> <p>4.4 A network of Ramsar Regional Centres working to agreed standards (such as peer reviewed materials) supported to deliver capacity building to site managers, National Focal Points and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>4.5 Partnerships with tertiary education institutions and other relevant organisations are developed to support the production and delivery of wetland management training and capacity building materials and programmes.</p> <p>4.6 National strategic plans that strengthen the technical capacity and</p>	<p>Initiative proposal (National Report Q15.1, 15.2)</p> <p>Number of relevant research projects</p> <p>Extent of promotion of research results</p> <p>Number of assessments incorporating wetland advice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria: Wetland vegetation identification course (<a href="http://rakali.com.au/education-and-training/">http://rakali.com.au/education-and-training/</a>)</li> </ul> <p>Ramsar Regional Initiative– see Ramsar Implementation Plan Target 15</p> <p>Research – see Ramsar Implementation Plan Target 14</p> <p>Promotion of research – NESP has an active program of promotion, through journal articles, workshops, newsletters, Fact Sheets etc The CHIRP newsletter promotes research to an audience of ...</p> <p>Assessments – see Ramsar Implementation Plan Target 1.</p> <p>See CEPA Target 1 above for information on networking and partnerships.</p>
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	management of local authorities to incorporate environmental benefits and services of wetlands as strategies for local and regional development promoted.		
5. Develop and support mechanisms to ensure multi-stakeholder participation in wetland management.	<p>5.1 Participation of major stakeholders used by site managers and others as an effective process for selection of Ramsar Sites and management of all wetlands, including at basin level.</p> <p>5.2 Participation in wetland management of stakeholder groups with cultural, spiritual, customary, traditional, historical and socio-economic links to wetlands or those communities who depend on wetlands for their livelihoods is given a high priority.</p> <p>5.3 The use of practices and traditional knowledge systems that embody appropriate wetland</p>	<p>Extent of stakeholder consultation in nomination processes (National Report Q16.3b)</p> <p>Incorporation of catchment approaches in program guidelines (National Report Q16.3a)</p> <p>Local and Indigenous participation in management of Ramsar Wetlands (National Report Q10.3, 16.3a)</p> <p>Case studies/projects on cultural aspects of wetlands (National Report Q10.2)</p>	<p>Nomination – Glenelg and Discovery Bay Ramsar nomination involved extensive public consultation.</p> <p>In Victoria, stakeholder consultation is an integral part of developing regional waterway strategies (which include wetlands and management planning for seven Ramsar sites) and stand alone Ramsar site management plans (five remaining sites). The RWSs and stand alone management plans each had a stakeholder engagement strategy, which involved stakeholder advisory groups and open public forums.</p> <p>Management – preparation of Management Plans involved wide public consultation eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ginini - <a href="https://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/conservation_and_ecological_communities/ginini-flats-wetland-complex-ramsar-site">https://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/conservation_and_ecological_communities/ginini-flats-wetland-complex-ramsar-site</a></li> <li>• Kakadu (2016) <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/kakadu-national-park-management-plan-2016-2026">http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/kakadu-national-park-management-plan-2016-2026</a></li> <li>• Western Port (2017) <a href="https://www.water.vic.gov.au/waterways-and-catchments/rivers-estuaries-and-waterways/wetlands/significant-wetlands">https://www.water.vic.gov.au/waterways-and-catchments/rivers-estuaries-and-waterways/wetlands/significant-wetlands</a></li> </ul> <p>Catchment Approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Land Partnerships tender documents emphasised need for Ramsar-related projects to consider catchment values and threats, and to address high priority issues using catchment approaches.</li> </ul>

	<p>cultural management by Indigenous peoples and local communities recovered, strengthened and encouraged.</p> <p>5.4 Encourage community participation in wetlands through volunteer programmes which support the delivery of management objectives.</p> <p>5.5 Relationships with the private sector are sought &amp; developed, including non-traditional sectors and those sectors whose activities have a major impact on wise use of wetlands.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking the Landscape Catchment Stories, Qld (2018) – Catchment stories have been developed for over 35 catchments. <a href="https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/processes-systems/water/catchment-stories/">https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/processes-systems/water/catchment-stories/</a></li> </ul> <p>Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indigenous Australians manage or jointly manage at least 11 of Australia’s Ramsar wetlands eg Kakadu National Park, Cobourg Peninsula, Barmah National Park (which includes most of the Ramsar site – jointly managed).</li> </ul> <p>Case studies</p> <p>See Target 3 above. See Ramsar Implementation Plan Target 10.</p> <p>Local and indigenous participation - See Ramsar Implementation Plan Target 10 for Indigenous participation in wetland related research, particularly migratory birds.</p>
<p>6. Implement programmes, projects and campaigns targeting diverse sectors of society to increase awareness, appreciation and understanding of wetlands and</p>	<p>6.1 Wide-reaching programmes, projects and campaigns, including World Wetlands Day, undertaken with diverse partners to raise awareness, build community support, and promote stewardship approaches and attitudes towards</p>	<p>See Goals 1 and 3</p> <p>Number of Australian WWD events (National Report Q16.6, 16.7)</p>	<p>At 7 March 2019, a total of 21 Australian WWD events (of 1459 events worldwide) were listed on the Ramsar Secretariat’s WWD Event Map. These included the 15th annual Wetlands Management Conference, held at Cockburn Wetlands Centre in WA.</p>

<p>the ecosystem services they provide.</p>	<p>wetlands, in particular through the use of social media.</p> <p>6.2 Awareness enhanced on the monetary and non-monetary values of wetlands and their ecosystem services to improve understanding of the benefits which wetlands provide.</p> <p>6.3 Photo libraries, promotional videos and other similar tools developed and/or maintained to support awareness raising and appreciation of wetlands and their ecosystem services.</p> <p>6.4 Collaboration with the media, including social media, carried out to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands and recognition of their ecosystem services to decision-makers, key wetland users and the broad public.</p>		
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<p>7. Recognize and support the role of wetland centres and other environmental centres as catalysts and key actors for activities that promote Ramsar objectives.</p>	<p>7.1 Wetland education/ interpretation or visitor centres and similar facilities established in all countries as resources permit.</p> <p>7.2 National CEPA Focal Points communicating directly with wetland education/visitor centres to support their delivery of Ramsar messages.</p> <p>7.3 Wetland education/visitor centres linked nationally and internationally through, global mechanisms and national expertise in CEPA, to share experience and resources, for example through the Wetland Link International (WLI) programme of the Wildfowl &amp; Wetlands Trust, WWT (UK) and other initiatives.</p> <p>7.4 Partnerships established with other education centres that could play a role in promoting</p>	<p>See Goal 6</p> <p>Number of WECs (National Report Q16.2)</p> <p>WEC Survey undertaken and results provided to Wetland Link International (WLI)</p>	<p>There are 28 Wetland Education Centres (WEC) in Australia. <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/programs/education-centres">http://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/programs/education-centres</a></p> <p>There are also 14 Marine Discovery Centres, focusing on Australia's extensive marine environment. <a href="https://www.mdca.org.au/">https://www.mdca.org.au/</a></p> <p>The WEC survey was completed and submitted in March 2016. Results available at: <a href="https://wli.wwt.org.uk/category/members/oceania-regional-members/">https://wli.wwt.org.uk/category/members/oceania-regional-members/</a></p>
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	<p>wetlands and Ramsar objectives.</p> <p>7.5 A comprehensive database of wetland education centres set up, to be managed through the WLI network. Contracting parties to be encouraged to provide information on wetland centres as part of their national reporting.</p>		
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<p>8. Support the development and distribution of education materials that build awareness of ecosystem values and services and the value of wetlands for use in formal education settings, at Ramsar Sites and by all Ramsar actors.</p>	<p>8.1 Wetland education materials that build awareness of the values of wetlands and their ecosystem services developed, promoted and distributed among relevant target audiences.</p> <p>8.2 Tertiary education institutions, especially those with water and wetland programmes, contributed to the production of targeted wetland education materials.</p> <p>8.3 Cultural and traditional wetland knowledge and</p>	<p>Number of products</p> <p>Extent of dissemination</p> <p>Evaluations undertaken</p>	<p>Products included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands Australia magazine – 2016, 2017 and 2018 editions</li> <li>• Fact Sheets – 10 (2016), 1 (2017), 1 (2018)</li> <li>• Brochure - Australia’s Amazing Wetlands – reprint</li> <li>• Books – Celebrating Australia’s Migratory Waterbirds (2017), Celebrating Australia’s Wetland Science (2018)</li> </ul> <p>These were published on the website, sent to subscribers and promoted in a variety of newsletters. For WWD 2018, this included over 5000 subscribers.</p> <p>A number of videos, Tweets and Facebook posts were uploaded to the AG website over the triennium. For WWD 2018, there were 11 Tweets, 5 Facebook posts and a video uploaded.</p> <p>Evaluations were undertaken after each World Wetlands Day to assess the reach and impact of activities.</p> <p>Products - During 2018, the Queensland Wetlands Program commenced</p>
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	<p>practices are incorporated into wetland education materials.</p> <p>8.4 Key messages about wetlands and their ecosystem services regularly reviewed through dialogue and feedback with all Ramsar actors.</p>		<p>work on developing part one of a Values Framework to support decision making concerning the wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>Dissemination - Users of Queensland’s <i>WetlandInfo</i> website 2016-121,252 users; 2017 – 199,612 users, 2018—298,123. Most users are from Australia at 83.17% whilst the remaining 16.83% is shared across 225 countries.</p> <p>The <i>WetlandUpdate</i> is a regular newsletter that includes a wide range of information from brand new content, to website updates and additional links. There are ~850 subscribers for the <i>WetlandUpdate</i>. These subscribers come from both internal and external stakeholder groups.</p>
<p>9. Ensure that the guidance and information provided by the STRP is developed in line with adopted Resolution and in close collaboration with the CEPA programme and dissemination to the identified target audiences is ensured</p>	<p>9.1 A series of information fact sheets developed based on identified and agreed large scale questions as key awareness raising outreach tools.</p> <p>9.2 The Ramsar Briefing Notes and Ramsar Technical Reports developed and disseminated as pragmatic, working advisory documents targeting policy-makers or wetland practitioners and to ensure consistency and Ramsar branding.</p> <p>9.3 The content of Wise Use Handbooks reconfigured as training resource</p>		<p>N/A</p>

through the most effective communications channels.	materials that summarize wise use site management and effective policy-making. 9.4 The current STRP website integrated into the Ramsar website.		
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