



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

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

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

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

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

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

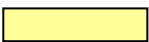
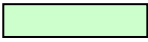
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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

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

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

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

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

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

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

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

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: EGYPT

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency – Nature Conservation Sector
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Eng. Waheed Salama Hamied Director of Biodiversity Sector
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

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Email:	foudamos@link.net

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

Name and title:	Prof. Moustafa Fouda Minister Adviser on Biodiversity Conservation
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DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

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Name of organisation:	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency - Nature Conservation Sector
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DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

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Name of organisation:	IMAGE HOUSE
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SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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

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

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

- 1) Complete bird migratory action plan and secure funding.
- 2) Monitoring Lake Burullus (Ramsar site) for over 40 years using GIS.
- 3) Ongoing funded projects despite the current political situation in Egypt.
- 4) Mainstreaming of wetlands strategy into tourism and renewable energy (wind farms).
- 5) Complete monitoring of birds and marine turtles.

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

- 1) Bird hunting due to the political instability in the region.
- 2) Wetland conversion into agriculture, aquaculture and salt extraction.
- 3) Limited awareness of principles of sustainable use of wetlands.
- 4) Slow decision-making on the importance of wetlands and their wise use.
- 5) Growing human pressure on wetlands making management of wetland more difficult due to the security and safety of rangers working in wetlands.

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

- 1) Complete updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan taking into consideration CBD, RAMSAR, CITES and CMS strategic plans.
- 2) Secure more funding for wetland management, through innovative financial mechanism.
- 3) Improve effective management of protected areas, including wetlands of international importance.
- 4) Implement the framework of green economy in wetlands.
- 5) Continue biodiversity monitoring and assessment of wetlands, based on the Conceptual framework of IPBES.

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

Improve coordination of biodiversity related convention, and work closely with IPBES.

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

Threats facing the convention implementation at the national level during the current political instability in the region are beyond the capabilities and resources of the National Administrative Authority. We need more partners to solve the current situation of wetlands.

F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the 'biodiversity cluster' (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention

on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

By improving synergies among MEAs conventions.

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

A framework on green economy strategy was prepared, sent to minister of planning for consideration. It is based on the outcome of RIO+20 outcomes and the proposed sustainable development goals where the issues of poverty, water, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, urbanization, etc, are being considered in the national sustainable development strategy. Based on that, all biodiversity related conventions are being considered in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which will then be incorporated in development sectors.

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

Non.

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

Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries. Specific individuals that contributed to the preparation of the national report are:

- 1- Mr. Mahmoud Fawzy Kamel
- 2- Mr. Mohamed Said Abdel-warith
- 3- Eng. Waheed Salama Hemaïd
- 4- Dr. Mohamed Talaat El-Henawy
- 5- Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Aziz El-Helw
- 6- Mr. Osama El-Gabaly
- 7- Dr. Gamal Shabrawy
- 8- Dr. Salama Shaltout
- 9- Mr. Henk Zingstra
- 10- Adel Soliman

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

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

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

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

A - Yes

1.1.1 Additional information:

Egypt has made a comprehensive wetland inventory for several sites including Lake Burullus where a comprehensive land use planning was carried out over 40 years, using GIS techniques. Results of the findings are being considered by the national authorities. Other sites include Bardawil, Nabq, Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun lakes. In addition, a preliminary inventory assessment was made for the 12 site groups that were included at the National Wetland Strategy.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>A. Wetland inventory data and information are available, and data is maintained in various forms (e.g. website, http://www.wetlands.org/rsis/, see also http://www.egyptchm.org/chm/implementation/cross_cutting_pas_implementation.htm).</p> <p>B. several books, peer reviewed papers and reports such as Wadi Rayan, Lake Burullus, Lake Bardawil and Lake Nasser, and official reports (ITTO final report on the mangroves ,reports described current status of the Nile, Lake Qarun and Wadi El Rayan Lakes were published.</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) O - No change b) P - Status improved</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>A) Yes, information about status and trends of the ecological character of some sites are available. For example, connection between the sea and coastal lakes (2 Ramsar sites) was closed, resulted in changing the ecological character of the site, where fresh water and brackish water dominated.</p> <p>B) Efforts made resulted in that changes in some sites have been improved than before. For example, most of water inlets are well-maintained, the results are more sea water and marine fish are available now. Meanwhile, fresh water weeds became less than few years ago. Artificial wetlands were constructed to reduce pollution pressure from sewage as well as other waste from industry and fish farms.</p> <p>Furthermore, all mangrove sites have been demarcated, and rehabilitation and restoration programs were implemented, resulted in an increase of the mangrove area.</p>	

STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	A - Yes
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1.3.1 Additional information:

Egypt's wetlands strategy is based on its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which in turn is in response to the Convention of Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It describes the current wetlands in Egypt, the threats, goals, guiding principles, objectives, and actions required. Wetlands are recognized as ecological and national assets to be managed for the benefit of the present and future generations.

The main objectives of the strategy are:

1. To conserve and wisely manage, on sound ecological bases, wetlands as integral elements of the nation's natural resources;
2. To manage, rehabilitate or restore wetland sites with the support of governmental agencies and local communities;
3. To create and promote institutional arrangements required for effective implementation of the planned actions;
4. To ensure community recognition of wetlands as natural assets, and so promote public support for programs of action for sustainable management of wetlands sites;
5. To identify, on a scientific basis, wetlands sites that are ecologically important at the local, national and international levels, and ensure their conservation;
6. To survey the wetlands of Egypt, build up a comprehensive inventory of these wetlands and their resources, and to make this information accessible.

The National Action Plan on conservation of Wetlands intends to complement the existing Protected Areas, and comprises the following programs:

1. Establishment of a national council of wetlands (which is already established)
2. Survey of wetlands (ecology, hydrology, biodiversity, socioeconomics); an ongoing activity
3. Selection of sites for wetland nature reserves as a national wetland network and proposals for a tentative list made international (Ramsar) sites;
4. Research programs in selected wetland sites;
5. Formulation of management plans for each site;
6. Public awareness programs;
7. Establishment of a national wetlands databank;
8. Training and capacity building program;
9. Inventories of cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge of wetlands in Egypt
10. Consolidation of national laws for wetlands and means of enforcement
11. Financial mechanisms to support programs of action.

1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
- b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
- c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
- d) National forest programmes
- e) National strategies for sustainable development
- f) National policies or measures on agriculture
- g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

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

1.3.2 Additional information:

Treatment of wastewater via engineered wetlands at Lake Manzala is a new low cost technology to the Middle East and the Lake. The project aims to explore the suitability of using treated water in breeding some fish species that have already declined from the lake under pollution stress. Meanwhile, the project is keen on involving the local community in the operation and maintenance of the facility to increase awareness on the technology and reduce the risks of pollution. This resulted in the improvement of the livelihood of local communities where more fish farms were established at the edge of wetlands. Fish farms production last year contributed by 70% of all fish production. Egypt is also in the process of signing the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol, and is updating its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan According to CBD COP 10 where resource mobilization strategy will be a major component, as well as partnership and synergies with MEAs will be incorporated.

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

C - Partly

1.3.3 Additional information:

The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources has prepared national water resources plan till 2017. The strategy has a policy in protecting public health and environment. Priority is giving to measures that prevent pollution. This includes reduction of pollution by stimulating clean products and relocation of certain industries. Agriculture will be encouraged to use more environmentally friendly methods and products. If pollution can not be prevented treatment is the next option. The plan includes a considerable increase in treatment of municipal sewage and waste water. However, ministry of Environment has not yet implemented Strategic Environmental Assessment yet, and efforts are being made for sometime without success.

1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

A - Yes

1.3.4 Additional information:

According to Law 4/1994 for Environmental Protection (amended by law 9/2009),and Law 102/1983 for Protectorates, any development project is not approved without making EIA. Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) and EIAs department of EEAA have to review EIAs, and issue a permit before construction. During construction and even Operation phase, EEAA staf visit the sites for inspection, and those that violate the law, will be sent to court. During operation, each construction has to keep a registrar for environmental monitoring on periodic basis. This is being implemented for more than 15 years.

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}

A - Yes

1.3.5 Additional information:

The new Constitution was approved in December 2013 where the Protected Areas were included in a specific article that commit the government to protect natural heritage of Egypt, and also for the first time, sustainable development was included in several articles of the constitution. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is being updated taking into consideration of the Strategic plan of CBD and other Biodiversity related conventions, and also the several articles of the constitution that deal with natural heritage. A presidential decree was issued in September 2013 to ratify ABS protocol of CBD, and the new national legislation was sent to the Ministry of Justice. In addition, A new national Biodiversity Committee was established early this year to deal with every thing related to Biodiversity, including the new NBSAP. The board of EEAA has also approved approved creation of a new organization for Nature Conservation, which was sent to the cabinet. It is hoped that a presidential decree will be issued, otherwise, it will be sent to the new Parliament which will be convened by end of this years. This new organization reflects our vision of the institutional reform in accordance with the outcomes of RIO +20 Furthermore, Law 4/1994 which was amended by law 9/2009 is being enforced with relative success due to the current political situation i the region.

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

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

A - Yes

1.4.1 Additional information:

An assessment has been conducted for the ecosystem benefits/ services provided by Ramsar sites and other wetlands. At Burullus Lake, fish catch from about 300 km² is 60,000 tons of fish whereas fish from aquaculture facilities around the lake in an area of 120 km² is 146000 tons of fishes. Thus, fish production is estimated annually by about 300 million US \$. The potential and actual economic uses of plants were also assessed, based on field observation, information collected local inhabitants and literature review. The economic uses are classified into major categories: grazing, fuel, medicinal uses, human food, timber and other uses. The domestic and wild animals graze and browse 101. species. They represent 71.6% of the total economic species of flora. A total of 13 species are subjected to cutting for fuel. In addition, 55 species are of popular medicinal uses, fruits, flowers, vegetative and underground parts of 32 species are eaten by local inhabitants. Only 4 species are used for timber. Other uses include making mats, baskets ropes, chairs, ornamental uses, beach beds, sand binder, soap, manufacture and oil and dye extraction. Such information are being used to convince decision makers on the importance of wetlands to human well-being in Egypt, and be considered in the national land used plan of Egypt. In addition, within the framework of the project on self financing of protected areas, economic evaluation is mandatory where the benefits of ecosystem services at local and national levels are being made, with emphasis on eco tourism, medicinal plants, organic farming, green economy, etc, are being made. This will help in the preparation of concession permits, and even in reviewing EIAs. IUCN is about to carry out a comprehensive economic study with focus on the ecosystem services.

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

A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information:

The New National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which is being updated will include the outcomes of RIO +20, and also the new Sustainable Development Goals. A framework of green economy strategy was prepared and sent to the minister of planning for consideration where it is expected that policy intervention will be made to poverty alleviation. The new government is taking new measures to provide assistance to poor communities where new incentives have been approved. Our NCS vision is to preserve the natural character of the Egyptian environment for future generations while using it innovatively to enhance sustainable local productivity and alleviate poverty. Thus, while we are protecting our natural resources, we allow wise use of these resources for the benefit of local communities and the national economy. We have encouraged establishment of NGOs and have provided them with necessary training to execute specific programmes in our protected areas. These included rehabilitation and restoration programmes (e.g. removal of weeds, maintaining the connection between the seawater and the lakes), transplantation of mangroves and other trees, establishing honey bee hives, encourage handcrafts of local inhabitants, etc. give priority to declaration of new PAs where indigenous ways of life are strongly linked with nature, such as in Salum.

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

D - Planned

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

It is hoped that the new NBSAP which is expected to be completed this year will include socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands. However, information have been collected on soci-economic of wetlands and are being incorporated in the new NBSAP.

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

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

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

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

1.5.1 Additional information:

The Changwon declaration was translated into Arabic, and was included in the COP10 report prepared by the National Focal Point which was approved by the Minister of Environment, and later was sent to all stakeholders, including all sectors of the society.

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

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

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
 - b. climate change
 - c. valuation of ecosystem services
- {1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

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

1.6.1 Additional information:

- The new report on Lake Burullus which was prepared by Dutch experts and me has taken into consideration these issues. In addition, a new project was launched by the ministry of agriculture and land reclamation, and funded by the EU, on rural communities at Fayoum where the new RAMSAR sites are located is also providing assistance to local communities through NGOs and the local authorities. Report on agro-biodiversity in Egypt was produced in coordination with Conditional Incentive Based Rural Development Program-EU in Cairo;
- A recent study (2013) in lake Brullus (RAMSAR SITE) on the carbon sequestration potenti was made to assess the distribution of soil organic carbon stock in vegetated and unvegetated sites. It ranged between 760.6 GgC in vegetated sites and 2420.2 GgC in unvegetated sites with a total soil organic carbon storage of 3180.8 GgC. It concluded that lake Brullus could be instrumental in formulating efficient strategies related to carbon sequestration and reduction of green house gas emissions in wetlands (Eid and Shaltout . Egypt J. Aquatic Res. 2013, 39: 31-38). Magroves can also store carbon 4 times than rainforest in the root system and soil which are taken into the sea during tide .
- Communication was submitted to Climate Change Secretariat. Valuation of ecosystem services have been made for several wetlands

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

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

As stated before, many reports, M.Sc. and Ph.D thesis as well as many scientific papers were published. However, data base and information exist, but not yet incorporated into management plans. It is planned to incorporate such information in updating the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan where they will be translated into actions in updating management plans of protected areas in Egypt.

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

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

Ministry of irrigation and also Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) treat natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management.

1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see [Resolution X.19](#))? {1.7.3}

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

CEPA expertise and tools have been incorporated into catchment , River basin planning and management of wetlands (management plans of Burullus, Qarun, Wadi El Rayan and Bardawil). In addition, several Ramsar Books were translated into Arabic. There is a plan to publish them, otherwise they will be located digitally in several websites related to biodiversity in Egypt.

1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

Implication of climate change and the expected rising sea water level are anticipated to have serious effects on coastal wetlands in north of Egypt.

Assessment of their potential impacts were made, and results were presented to the national committees dealing with climate change, wetlands and biodiversity conservation. The third communication of Egypt to Climate Change convention is being prepared, and it includes for the first time the impact of the expected climate change on the biodiversity and wetlands of Egypt, based on the recent reports of IPCC where the Nile Delta and its wetlands are the most vulnerable sites. Mitigation measures are being considered by the government.

1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

Sustainable agriculture and aquaculture are included in the new framework of Green Economy Strategy which has been sent to the minister of planning for consideration. Most wetlands in Egypt have around their peripheries intensive fish farming systems that provide more than 70% of fish production in Egypt. There exist artificial wetlands for water treatment at more than wetlands to reduce water pollution in major large wetlands in Egypt.

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

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

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

Studies made recently have shown that mangroves store carbon dioxide four times more than other rainforests. Since we started restoration program on mangroves for several years, mangrove restoration is given a priority, and a project is being prepared to be funded by GEF. However, the current political instability in the region does not help us to start restoration programs.

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

B - No

1.8.2 Additional information:

The current instability in the region is a barrier for restoration programs.

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

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

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information:

A new M.Sc thesis on plant invasive species was awarded recently (2013), and addressed the following questions: 1) which plant species are considered aliens in the Egyptian flora?, 2) what is the origin of these alien plant species?, 3) which alien plant species are considered invaders, and what are their time lags?, 4) what is the relation between the degree of invasiveness and propagule types and sizes?, and 5) what are the phenological sequences of these species?. A list of alien species was prepared from literature, field trip and herbaria consultation, and include 137 species. Five statuses of alien species were recognized: casuals (50 species), naturalizers (50 species), weeds (31 species), invaders (5 species) and transformer (one species). The habitats of alien species were also studied (12 major habitats such as natural , anthropogenic, and cultivation fields). The life forms and geographical distribution of the alien species were also studied. Furthermore, the date of introduction of the alien species during the last 250-300 years (1750 up till now). Time lags of the invasive and transformer species in the Egyptian flora ranged between 5 to 181 years.

The Nature Conservation Sector (NCS), has made considerable efforts where many consultations, workshops and meetings were held. A task team was formed, at NCS, of national experts. The task team was assigned to review all invasive species in Egypt through available literature, communication with experts, and interviews with governmental institutions. They also consulted literature available from Global Invasive Species Program. A list for Alien Invasive Species introduced to Egypt is being updated regularly (241 species were listed by 2014).

Aquatic Plant	46
Land Plant	46
Crustaceans	16
Arthropods	32
Bony fishes	35
Mammals	3
Birds	5
Reptile	2
Amphibian	1
Virus	17
Fungus	12
Bacteria	6
Nematodes	6
Molluscs	8
Echinodermata	1
Coelenterata, Cnidaria, Hydrozoa	2
Annelids (polychaetes)	2
Bryozoan	1
Total	241

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

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information:

National policies, strategies and management respond to threats from invasive species in wetlands are being developed, based on studies made, consultation with experts, attending meetings, workshops and corresponding with regional and international agencies related to invasive species. The policy will be in accordance to CBD New Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2021) (target 9) where efforts are being made to include many issues such as capacity building, low enforcement, legal and regulatory framework, resource mobilization, information gathering and sharing, political commitments, research, and database, networking, stakeholder involvement,, environmental impact assessment, etc.

The following are examples of what is available on some invasive species in Egypt.

The aquatic floating weed water hyacinth causes serious problems to various types of water bodies in Egypt. The total infested area is estimated to be 487 km² covering most of the drainage and irrigation canals in different governorates of Egypt, and about 151 km² covering lakes. The total amount of water loss by evaporation from water hyacinth infested areas was estimated to be 3.5 billion m² per year. This amount is sufficient to irrigate about a further 432 km² every year.

Water hyacinth caused Choking of waterways, alters habitats (including by reduction of light). It also prevents sunlight and oxygen from reaching the water column and submerged plants. It's shading and crowding of native aquatic plants dramatically reduces biological diversity in aquatic ecosystems.

The freshwater crayfish, *Procambarus clarkii* (Girard, 1852) is one of the alien invasive species on the Egyptian environment. It was introduced into the Egyptian freshwater bodies in early 1980s. Through the last decade, the invader has become a substantial member of the Egyptian aquatic fauna in considerable areas of Egypt. It is considered as one of the largest crustacean animal in the most freshwater systems. Two species were recorded in Egypt; the red swamp crayfish *Procambarus clarkii* and the white river crayfish *P. zonangulus* (Ibrahim et al. 1995 and 1997). *p. clarkia* had invaded most of the governorates of upper and Lower Egypt. Its distribution has extended from Northern Delta to Assuit (Saad and Emam, 1998). *P. clarkia* is a polytrophic or omnivorous animal i.e. it is not fastidious to any kind of food. It was found that this crayfish consumes fragile snails which act as intermediate hosts for some important diseases.

Efforts made by NCS has encouraged more scientists to start research programs on invasive species in Egypt. It is hoped their results will convince decision-making to respond to this important issue affecting the livelihood of millions of Egyptians.

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

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

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information:

Private sector has been encouraged to apply wise use principle in activities and investment concerning wetlands. During the last few years, many fish farms were established by private sector, the result was fish from aquaculture practice has contributed significantly by more than 80% of the total fish catch. Prior establishment of a fish farm, an environmental impact assessment has to be carried out, approved by EEAA and monitored by managers of protected areas.

For example, there exist about 4000 acres of fish farms around Qarun and Wadi Rayan lakes, where each acre can produce up to two tons.

The three projects being implemented on self financing protected areas in Egypt, soaring birds and updating NBSAP call for partnerships with private sector.

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

a. Ramsar Sites

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

Private sector has been involved in many activities dealing with coastal habitat management, particularly coral reefs. Prior establishment of any activity (e.g. hotel, resort, desalination plant), an environmental impact assessment has to be carried out and approved by EEAA.

Rangers of protected areas follow up with activities during construction and operation phase. Those who violate law 4 for environmental protection and law 102 for natural protectorate are submitted to courts, and have to pay the cost of environmental degradation.

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

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

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information:

Actions have been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These included providing fisherman with engines for their boats (Zaranik), buying fishing gear with legalized mesh for fishermen with a discount of 50%, involvement of local communities with sustainable touristic activities (bird hides, bird observatory), provide incentives to fisherman to remove weeds in wetlands, provide fodder for their animals to reduced grazing , ensure boughaz (already identified before) are maintained, establish fish hatcheries by the general authority for development of fish authorities and private sector, encourage establishment of fish farms , and provide fishermen with refrigerators to keep fish prior marketing.

Sustainable ecological tourism projects at Zaranik Protected Area, a Ramsar site and a migratory bird pass, is encouraged by building 4 bird observation huts, an ecolodge to receive bird observation groups and a parking place. This project is providing work opportunities to many of the local people decreasing poverty.

Fish farms were established to increase fish stocks in PAs that have lakes like Qarun and Wadi El –Rayan. Assistance was given to young graduates to start small enterprise like cage culture and establish fish farms, in collaboration with the Social Development Fund and Banks.

Rangeland programmes at Al-Omayed PA involved many activities where Roman wells cisterns were cleared, well maintained to store water for grazing animals.

Local communities in and around the protected areas were allowed to graze their animals to decrease the pressure on vegetation, based on the carrying capacity studies.

Meanwhile, alternatives were provided when vegetation cover decreased.

Examples included supporting local communities with animal feed for several months, till vegetation cover came back to its natural conditions. Other alternative was to assist local communities is small agricultural practices like plantation of olive and Acacia trees.

Local communities were encouraged to establish their own NGOs and assistance was given to them like: training on management, in obtaining funds (e.g. small grants from GEF programmes). They were also involved in many activities within the Protected Areas. Examples included assisting in reed control at Lake Brullus.

Water passes in Lake Brullus and Zaranik were cleared, with assistance given by the Ministry of Water Resources and General Authority for Development of Fish Resources.

This resulted in more marine fishes entered the lakes. In addition, fishermen were given assistance including covering a percentage of fish gear cost (fish nets and boat engines). Thus, fishermen were able to catch the sustainable fish stocks.

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

B - No

1.11.2 Additional information:

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

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

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the *Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?* {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

The objective 5 of the National Wetland Strategy is to identify, on scientific basis, wetland sites that are ecologically important at local, national and international scales, and ensure their conservation. There are 12 generic types of wetlands that have been recognized in Egypt. These include the coastal lakes along the Mediterranean (Salloum), Wadi Natrun lakes, Qaroun-Rayyan lakes, agricultural drainage water depressions in the Nile Delta, water springs along the Red Sea, River Nile, Lake Nasser, Toshka spill way, littoral salt marshes along the Mediterranean coast, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba and Suez (mangroves, coral reefs), and Suez Canal lakes. Database is currently being collected for priority areas (Qaroun – Wadi Rayan lakes). However, no actions were taken during the last three years due to the current instability in the region.

2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii

0 sites

2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):

.....

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

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

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

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

B - No

2.3.1 Additional information:

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

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

4 sites

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

4 sites

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

4 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:
Management plans were included in the previous national reports

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

2 sites

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

.....

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

4 sites

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

.....

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

2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i	A - Yes
<p>2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):</p> <p>Management effectiveness evaluation of the Protected Areas, including Ramsar Sites, in Egypt was made, and it is a continuous process. The tool applied was the Rapid Assessment of Protected Area Management (RAPAM), based on available literature from IUCN and WWF sources, with modifications to suit the Egyptian situation. Meetings were conducted by the Director of NCS attended by consultants and Protected Areas Managers and senior staff of NCS. This was followed by a series of workshops attended by a large number of staff.</p> <p>Main findings were presented, followed by a response to the management effectiveness evaluation of Egypt's Protected Areas. Effective evaluation for management of selected sites have been made including Zaranik for Important Bird Areas, Wadi El Gemal national park, Ras Mohamed, and Wadi El Rayan, according to IUCN and WWF. Recent evaluation for effectiveness of management plan for Wadi El Gemal, Wadi El Rayan, Omayed and Siwa wetlands have shown shortcomings due to the current situation.</p>	

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

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i	A - Yes
<p>2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):</p> <p>Wetland areas under protection (10 protected areas) are managed by the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) under the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). Monthly reports are sent concerning progress in management plan and changes in ecological characters. Other wetland areas are being reported by ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and NGOs, but not on periodic basis. Reports during the last three years have shown considerable negative human induced changes including land conversion into salt extraction, fish farming and agricultural activities. In normal situation proposal are to be submitted to NCS and if a permit is granted, then EIA has to be made prior any activity. Rangers in wetland are facing serious problems with the local communities as law enforcement is not effective in many sites such as Zaranik, Wadi El Rayan and Brullus.</p>	

<p>2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):</p> <p>.....</p>	

<p>2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p>	

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

<p>2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>2.7.1 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

<p>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p>

<p>3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p>	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information:

Focal points of other MEAs are members of the Supreme National Committee for Wetland and National Committees for Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity. Mainstreaming of this convention have been made through a joint project, funded by GEF to streamline and synergies with RIO Conventions. Database for each convention are being prepared, and cross-cutting issues such as public awareness, capacity building, protected areas management were given priorities, and action plans are being prepared.

<p>3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	A - Yes
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3.1.2 Additional information:

Egypt participates through its membership in the League of Arab States in meetings and regional conferences of the Arab countries to exchange experiences and common issues of wetland such as Muscat Action Plan for wise use of arab wetlands and recommendations of Fujairah workshop.

<p>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i></p>
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<p>3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i</p>	A - Yes
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3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

Egypt has been involved in the development and implementation of regional initiatives and programs. Egypt has been active in programmes related to the conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, (PERSGA), Mediterranean action plan (MAP) through RAC/SPA, the Nile Basin Initiative and NEPAD. Many activities of these initiatives and programs are related to wetlands (e.g. Nile, lakes, coral reefs, mangroves and many other wetland sit.

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

B - No

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

.....

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

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

Z - Not applicable

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

.....

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

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

.....

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	A - Yes
<p>3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):</p> <p>Egypt has received funds from GEF for soaring birds in the Red Sea Rift Valley, including several countries in the region. Bird Life International are providing technical supports</p>	

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}	D - Planned
<p>3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>The strategy of the Nature Conservation Sector is to disperse information about wetlands, its importance to biodiversity and measures taken to conserve it. The 'Wetlands Day' was used in this respect by conducting several seminars and meetings with local communities to explain the role of wetlands. Networks have been established regionally and nationally where information on wetlands of Egypt are included. Global wetlands, funded by EU are included in the network, and information provided were used in the Lake Burullus study last year.</p>	
3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A - Yes
<p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Many scientific papers were published on the Nile and coastal lakes of Egypt.</p>	
3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii	A - Yes
<p>3.4.3 Additional information:</p> <p>Information about Egypt's wetlands and their status have been made publicly available. These include the National Wetland Strategy, 3 books about Lake Nasser, Lake Bardawil and Lake Brullus, database on wetlands, web sites for protected areas, biodiversity and environmental forum:</p> <p>http://www.egyptchm.org see (Egypt's Biodiversity - Relevant Websites)</p> <p>http://www.medwet.orghttp://www.globwetland.org</p>	

infospa@gmail.com
www.epasp.org

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

3.5.1 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified?
{3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

Lake Nasser as Transboundary wetlands between Sudan and Egypt were known and a book and many scientific papers were published on this lake Egypt is collaborating with the other countries of the Nile Basin in the management and conservation of priority basin wetlands and biodiversity through the Wetland and Biodiversity Conservation Component of the Nile Trans boundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP). This component aims at enhancing the understanding of wetlands function in sustainable development and to demonstrate an improved management at selected Trans boundary wetland sites within the Basin. This is to be done through building on nationally focused wetland conservation and management initiatives within the Nile basin, and is using the network of existing centers of knowledge and experience to provide a transboundary overlay of set perspectives to complement national wetlands conservation programs.

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

C - Partly

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

Cooperation management for shared wetland systems still in the early stage. several meetings were held in some countries to discuss how to implement shared wetland management. It is hoped that the newly established Supreme National Committee will activate cooperative management of wetlands among the Nile Basin Countries.

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species?
{3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

Egypt participates in a regional project funded by GEF/UNDP/Birdlife International for soaring birds in the Middle East countries.

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

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

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

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

- a) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes

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

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

Staff at the HQ of NCS have made significant contribution in the field CEPA where the visited wetlands along the Red Sea coast, the River Nile at Aswan where Salougha and Ghazala PAs are located, in the western desert where wetlands and springs exist, and also along the Mediterranean coast and Fayum depression. Rangers at the wetlands were trained, and have disseminated their knowledge into school children, university students and local communities.

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

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

- a) 2 centres
- b) 2 centres

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

These two centers are located at Zaranik and Brullus (Ramsar Sites). They have general displays on the wetland, bird migration, and other activities implemented at the protected areas. They receive visitors, mostly children, where they are provided by the information on the sites. The network exists only at Cairo where all available information exists on NCS website and also EEAA where annual reports can be cited, and other information available on NCS. There was a plan to connect visitor centers with the main national web site, but nothing was done over the last three years. However, a small grant of GEF was granted to an NGO to establish a virtual natural history museum in Egypt, where information on all protected areas including

wetlands will be used and be disseminated by mobile phones.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

a) A - Yes

b) A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

Several Workshops were held where scientists , university students, NGOs and local communities were encouraged to participate in mangement activities in Qaroun, Wadi El Rayan, Wadi El Gemal, Omayed and other wetlands. NCS made a major contribution to secure small grants from GEF to participate in several projects related to awareness, hand crafts, traditional knowledge and other activities.

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?

{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

C - Partly

4.1.4 Additional information:

Effectiveness evaluation for the management of protected areas are being carried out at several wetland sites. Evaluation include training needs assessment. Results are being prepared to include training on resource mobilization, effective financing, and economic evaluation. A report on the issue is available.

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

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

Number of opportunities:

a) 2

b) 6

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

Many training workshops were held during the last 3 years in Egypt, USA, Spain, Morocco, Jordan, Dubai, Yemen, and Thailand. Egypt participated in most of these workshops that due to with turtles, bird counts, protected areas management, marine mammals, management effectiveness, updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and many other issues.

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

B - No

4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since

COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):

.....

4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:

- a) Ramsar Site managers
- b) other MEA national focal points
- c) other ministries, departments and agencies

{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

- a) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes

4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):

It is a usual practice that after the COP a report is prepared on all the issues raised and decisions adopted. After approval of the Minister of Environment, the report is sent to all relevant governmental sectors and other stakeholders informing them on all the decisions adopted and requesting them to follow upon the implementation and reporting on progress. meanwhile, any relevant information received from the Ramsar Secretariat are communicated with relevant stakeholders.

4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information:

Every year the Ramsar Booklet is translated into Arabic, published by NCS/EEAA, and major events are celebrated at national and local levels where visitors are invited to visit protected areas without any charge, and receive the booklet, hats, t-shirts, etc, and they participate in the activities of the protected areas, including lectures, contests and awards, cleaning up campaign, and other activities.

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

A - Yes

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

Major events like Environment Day, Bird Day (CMS), Biodiversity Day, wetland day are celebrated every year with support from Government, NGOs, private sector, and others.

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

4.2.1

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

A - Yes

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

.....

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

B - No

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

.....

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

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

A - Yes

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

As stated previously, National Ramsar Reports are prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders before submitting to Ramsar Secretariat. Then, after each COP another report is prepared by the national Ramsar Focal point, where all relevant decisions adopted are communicated with the relevant stakeholders to follow up with implementations.

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

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

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

A - Yes

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

Several projects are being funded by GEF/Bird Life International(for soaring birds), IUCN (for establishing marine protected area at Salloum), GEF/UNDP for self financing protected areas, and a small funds from RAC/SPA to monitor birds, turtles and marine mammals in the Mediterranean Sea

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

A - Yes

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