



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.

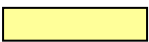

Section 2 is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: GHANA

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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) A committee established to develop a National Policy on Alien Invasive Species (AIS) for both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems to be adopted by December 2014.
- 2) As an achievement of the implementation of CEPA programme activities in the National Wetland Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2007-2016), there has been an increase in the level of participation of communities, local environmental NGOs and media groups in wetlands conservation and wise use of resources in the country.
- 3) Increased tourism linked with improved contribution to poverty reduction and livelihood support to local community members in wetland areas. (e.g. increase night turtle-watch at Songor and Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Sites and bird watching at Owabi Ramsar Site; increase in tourists visitation to Amanzule wetlands).
- 4) Management plans of 2 (out of 6) Ramsar Sites, namely, Songor Ramsar Site and Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary Ramsar Site, revised
- 5) Established protocol for waterbird census in partnership with Wetlands International in five coastal Ramsar Sites.

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

- 1) Limited funding for implementation of programme of activities of the National Wetlands Conservation Strategy & Action Plan (2007-2016) and other related programmes.
- 2) Absence of comprehensive national wetlands inventory and their resources.
- 3) Inadequate awareness and understanding of the importance and benefits of wetland conservation.
- 4) Conflicting laws and policies affecting wetland conservation and wise use of their resources. (e.g. there are some conflicting laws on surface mining which seriously affect the health of most water bodies including wetlands in the country).
- 5) Weak enforcement of the law by government institutions and inadequate support and commitment from government and other stakeholders. (e.g. weak support from government institutions to deal with problems of encroachment, particularly in urban wetlands including Ramsar Sites).

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

- 1) Conduct a comprehensive national wetlands inventory.
- 2) List, at least, one (1) additional Ramsar site and explore funding for the implementation of wetland related programme of activities.
- 3) Continuous improvement of communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) creation to enhance sensitization of the general public on wetlands and water resources conservation.
- 4) Improve coordination and implementation of all environmental/biodiversity related conventions in Ghana.
- 5) Review existing Ramsar Sites law to improve on the conservation and management of Ramsar Sites.

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

No.

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)

No.

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?

1) Reconstitute and resource the National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee with representation from key stakeholders including respective heads of Administrative Authorities and focal points of all MEAs especially those in the biodiversity-cluster conventions.

2) Give attention to, and provide coordination and support for the efficient operation of the national 'clearing house mechanism'.

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)?

Develop strategies and action steps from section 4.2: Key Focal Areas of the Sustainable Natural Resources Management as contained in: Government of Ghana, 2010, Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework: Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), 2010-2013, Vol. 1: Policy Framework, Final Draft.pp.48-62.

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

Requests the Ramsar Secretariat to adequately resource the Africa Regional desk of the Secretariat to improve the implementation of the Convention in the Region.

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

Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), Managers of various Ramsar Sites in the country.

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

B - No

1.1.1 Additional information:

Pockets of wetlands inventory have been conducted for some wetlands, including those listed as Ramsar Sites and some wetlands within the coastal zone of Ghana. A comprehensive national wetlands inventory is proposed in Ghana's Wetlands Conservation Strategy & Action Plan (2007-2016). However there has been the challenge of adequate funding support for a comprehensive national wetland inventory.

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>Available wetland inventory data and information exists and maintained for all the six Ramsar Sites and some few other wetlands. The information is accessible by all stakeholders at all times from the office of the Ramsar Administrative Authority (Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission) or directly from the Ramsar Focal Point person (Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, Accra) or from any of the Site Managers of the Ramsar Sites. Some information can also be accessed from the Centre for African Wetlands and the Ghana Wildlife Society.</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</p> <p>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</p> <p>b) N - Status deteriorated</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>Ramsar Sites located in rural areas remain unchanged. However, there has been decline in the conditions of some Ramsar Sites located near urban areas. The decline has come about as a result of urban enclosure on adjoining reserved lands over the past few years. Efforts have been put in place to reverse the decline and to restore any damage caused. On the other hand wetlands generally in the country is perceived to be seriously declining from human induced activities, particularly, farming and illegal minning.</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</p> <p>(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	A - Yes
<p>1.3.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Managing Ghana's Wetlands: A NATIONAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (2007-2016).</p> <p>Also available is the: Government of Ghana, 2010, Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework: Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), 2010 - 2013, Vol. 1: Policy Framework, Final Draft.pp.48-62. (Section 4.2: Sustainable Natural Resources Management).</p>	

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <p>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</p> <p>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) A - Yes d) A - Yes e) A - Yes f) A - Yes g) A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.2 Additional information: Though weak in some cases, wetland issues have been incorporated in all the above specific national strategies and planning processes. On the other hand, all the above national strategies are generally incorporated in the Ghana Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2007-2016).</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: A major requirement from proponents is very strongly applied under EPA laws. [Environmental Assessment Regulation 1999 (LI 1652) / Environmental Assessment (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 (LI 1703)].</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: A major requirement from proponents and very strongly applied under EPA laws. [Environmental Assessment Regulation 1999 (LI 1652) / Environmental Assessment (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 (LI 1703)].</p>	
<p>1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}</p>	<p>C - In progress</p>
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: A holistic revision of the wildlife protection laws, including Ramsar Sites, is in progress.</p>	

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.4.1 Additional information: Most national policy documents, including the National Wetlands Conservation Strategy (2007-2019) and the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (2010-2013) provide brief assessment of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands in the country while other specific studies in various Ramsar Sites give some assessment that are incorporated in Ramsar Site management plans.</p>	
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
<p>1.4.2 Additional information: (Not under the current triennium)</p>	
1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): All Ramsar Site management plans included support and promotion of socio-economic activities as part of community benefits in wetlands management. For example, a programme called 'Community Investment Support Fund' (CSIF) was instituted during the implementation of the GEF funded Coastal Wetlands Management Project (CWMP) (1993-1999) and thereafter in all the five coastal Ramsar Sites. The programme provided grant support to community groups of 10-15 including women, on small scale enterprises (artisanal fishing, local 'kente' cloth weaving, marine turtle volunteer groups, women in 'kenkye' mamaking, vegetable farming, etc.). The grants were repaid with no interest. However, beneficiary groups were made to spend time to support habitat improvement activities (including, mangrove planting, woodlot establishment), and site protection activities (including, marine turtle protection, bird counting, etc). Similarly, the traditional and cultural practices such as 'close season' were factored into the passage of the Wetlands (Ramsar site) Management Regulations, LI 1659 and local bye-laws that govern Ramsar Sites management in the country.</p>	

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:

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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. B - No

1.6.1 Additional information:

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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:

.....

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:

As part of its mandate to manage freshwater resources in Ghana, the Water Resources Commission (WRC) has set up Basin Boards, to coordinate activities and initiate interventions for the ecological health of the major river basins in Ghana. The river basins are: White Volta, Densu, Tano, Pra and Ankobra. In addition, the WRC have selected some major river basins for the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in response to current rising public concern on the impact of mining activities on community livelihoods, human health, water quality and availability, and socio-economic development. The core mandates of the various river basins Boards include: awareness creation, education, training and consultations to induce understanding and change of attitudes on activities that degrade wetlands in the basin systems.

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:

River basin boards have communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) raising programmes as one of the core mandates. Each Board undertakes activities to raise awareness on importance of water conservation and wetlands, particularly during the occasion of WWD and World Water Week.

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

D - Planned

1.7.3 Additional information:

Wetlands has been considered as playing important role in Climate Change mitigation and adaptation. For this reason, the National Climate Change Committee has a representation of wetlands expert. A policy on CC mitigation and adaptation (now in preparation) will incorporate the role of wetlands.

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:

Under the Government's Agricultural Sector Policy Objectives the Irrigation Development Authority (IDA) is expected to play an increasingly important role in the Government's Comprehensive National Agricultural Strategy. The priorities of the IDA, are among others: the development of small-scale and micro-scale schemes, better management of flood plains, and an optimum use of existing irrigation facilities as a means of increasing productivity and also the development of National Water Master Plan including criteria for the selection of new irrigation projects and establish priorities in the use of wetland resources, taking into account the important role of wetland management in maintaining land productivity.

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 done in 1991 identified 16 priority coastal wetland sites as important for Ramsar listing. However, only five were listed under the Convention. The remaining 11 in the coastal area still remain to be considered for future listing under the Convention but that primarily would be determined by factors such as how well Ghana is able to maintain the existing 6 Ramsar Sites (5 along the coast and one inland) and available resources (human and financial).

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

D - Planned

1.8.2 Additional information:

There was a scheme to restore/rehabilitate some wetlands under some programmes and projects. Under the scheme some few wetland areas were successfully restored but was discontinued due to lack of funds.

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

D - Planned

1.9.1 Additional information:

Some national inventory on alien invasive species were undertaken by the Water Research Institute and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) some years back on limited areas in the country. There is also some inventory on IAS also limited to agriculture sector.

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

D - Planned

1.9.2 Additional information:

A team, made up of stakeholder institutions, including the Ramsar Focal Point, has been constituted by the Ghana Environmental Protection Agency to develop a national Policy on AIS for national adoption by December 2014.

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 involvement in wetland or Ramsar Site wise use activities is primarily driven by conditions in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) permitting conditions.

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

a. Ramsar Sites

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

a) The involvement of private sector for wise use and management of Ramsar Sites are in fulfilment of permitting conditions in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for activities such as salt winning in Ramsar Sites. Such permits dictates that the private developers allow rivers and streams to go through the salt pans as it is at the Densu Delta Ramsar Site and planting of tracts of mangroves as in Songor Ramsar Site.

b) Similar conditions are required in other wetlands by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and this is across the wetlands in the country though monitoring has been a challenge by the EPA.

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

D - Planned

1.11.1 Additional information:

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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

D - Planned

1.11.2 Additional information:

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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. <i>Apply the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance' (Handbook 14, 3^d edition).</i>

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?</i> {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A - Yes
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2.1.1 Additional information:

A minimum of 5 new Ramsar Sites was proposed in the Wetlands Strategy & Action Plan (2007-2016) over a period of 10 years. It was anticipated that more than 5 new Ramsar Sites would be designated after the national wetlands inventory has been conducted over the same 10 year implementation period of the Strategy. To date, none has been designated. This is because there has been strong advocates that Ghana maintains and seek to improve on the quality of existing 6 Ramsar Sites than to increase the number of Ramsar Sites.

2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii	1 sites
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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. <i>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.</i>

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

C - Some sites

2.3.1 Additional information:

This is particularly in identified important Sites where some local environmental NGOs work with local communities to maintain the ecological character of the wetlands, such as Amanzule and Esiamah.

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

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

6 sites

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

All 6 sites

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

0 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

Management plans for all 6 Ramsar Sites have long been developed and partly implemented. A revision process of 2 of the Sites are completed. The remaining 4 have elapsed their implementation timeframe of 5 years and there are plans to review and revise them.

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

6 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

0 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

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

Performance audit was conducted on 5 coastal Ramsar Sites by the Auditor General's Department and recommendations for implementation presented to Parliament in 2009. There was a follow-up review of the implementation of the recommendations of the 2009 Performance Audit in 2013.

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

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

A - Yes

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

There is an informal mechanism in place where people living within or near Ramsar Sites call (by phone or visit Wildlife Division offices) to report any human negative activities such as encroachment, killing of marine turtles, destruction of mangroves or other vegetation and dumping of refuse within a Ramsar Site. Locals feel compelled to report negative activities due to their understanding and appreciation of importance of wetlands from the effective CEPA programmes within the Sites.

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

B - No

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):

No report of change or likely change in ecological character have ever been made to the Ramsar Secretariat. In any case, some perceived change in the ecological character of two Ramsar Sites, though the Ramsar AA has not establish scientifically any such change.

<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>Z - Not applicable</p>
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>.....</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>C - Some sites</p>
<p>2.7.1 Additional information:</p> <p>A number of local environmental NGOs work to maintain the ecological character of some of the identified internationally important wetlands in the country. For example, Friends of the Nations (FONs) has over the years carried out conservation activities in some important wetlands in the Western Region of Ghana. The Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) has equally been engaging some local communities in conserving and promoting local tourism in Amanzule wetlands, which stands as number one priority site for Ramsar designation.</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:

Composition of the National Ramsar Committee is made up of representatives of lead agencies or Administrative Authorities of MEAs and local experts, institutions and traditional authorities.

<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:

There is a common platform of meeting and report sharing under the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation. This has been particularly relevant in situations of disease outbreaks such as Avian Influenza and times of flooding.

<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>	B - No
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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):

.....

<p>3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}</p>	B - No
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3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):
(Not under the triennium under review).

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}

B - No

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

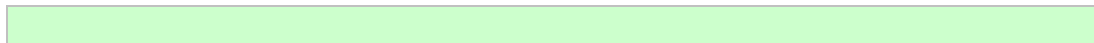
STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

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}

A - Yes

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

Planned for two national Sites with common features - Songor and Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Sites.



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

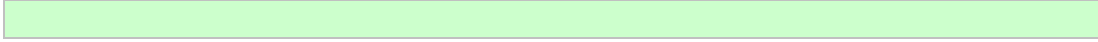
3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii	A - Yes
3.4.3 Additional information: Completed and updated information on RIS.	

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	B - No
3.5.1 Additional information:	

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii	A - Yes
3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place): There is strong management cooperation between the Songor Ramsar Site (lying West of the Volta River estuary) and the Keta lagoon Complex (lying East of the Volta River estuary). Site management of the two Sites share common programmes of activities including community mangrove restoration activities. The cooperation has been informed by the similarity in wetland type, common social and economic activities such as artisanal fishing, salt wining, and common problem of hunting of marine turtles by local peoples though turtles are wholly protected animals by the wildlife laws of Ghana.	

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: Established protocols for waterbird census in partnership with Wetlands International in five coastal Ramsar Sites in Ghana as part of Water Bird Census programme in the West African sub-region.	



GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
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Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " ": use single quotes ' ' instead.

<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <i>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.</i></p>
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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) D - Planned
- b) D - Planned
- c) D - Planned
- 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):

All Ramsar Sites have Site CEPA programme of activities as a component of annual work plan which is followed and reported on by Site Managers in quarterly and annual reports.

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) 5 centres
- b) 0 centres

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

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):

- a) Do general community sensitisation on importance of wetlands conservation

and wise use and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; do stakeholder analysis; workshops; present and discuss workshop findings and conclusions, involve relevant stakeholder institutions in boundary demarcation, do research in relevant disciplines (hydrology, flora and fauna studies, fisheries, ornithology, socio-economic study of the area, etc), present research findings, prepare management plan.

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:

Done in 2011 and needs to be reviewed.

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) 5

b) 1

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

.....

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

A - Yes

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

A cross-sectoral National Wetlands Committee is in place but weak in operation.

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):

For Ramsar Site Managers: through review of monthly, quarterly and annual reports and forwarding of administrative instructions and information. For MEAs: through bi-annual focal point meetings. For MDAs: through regular coordination meetings.

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:	

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): World Wildlife Day, World Environment Day, World Biodiversity Day, International Year of the Forest, etc.	

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	A - Yes
4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities): Ghana has made annual voluntary contributions of CHF1000 from 2010 -2014.	

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.*

<p>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</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):</p> <p>.....</p>	

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.

<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):</p> <p>Undertakes waterbird census in partnership with Wetlands International in five coastal Ramsar Sites in Ghana</p>	

<p>4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):</p>	