



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.

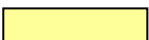

Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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:IRAQ.....

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Center for Restoration of Iraqi marshes and wetlands (CRIMW)
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Hani Fakhri Najji / Director General
Mailing address:	Ministry of Water Resources/ Baghdad/ Iraq
Telephone/Fax:	+964 790 138 8625
Email:	haninaji_eng@yahoo.com

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Hani Fakhri Najji / Director General
Mailing address:	Ministry of water resources- Baghdad/ Iraq
Telephone/Fax:	+964 790 138 8625
Email:	haninaji_eng@yahoo.com

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

Name and title:	Noor Kadhum Ali / En. - Maysaa Mahdi Athab/ En.
Name of organisation:	Center for Restoration of Iraqi marshes and wetlands (CRIMW)
Mailing address:	Ministry of water resources- Baghdad/ Iraq
Telephone/Fax:	+964 771 634 0866 - +964 771 820 3280
Email:	Ramstrp.iraq@yahoo.com

DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Thaseen Ali Mohammed / Reem Naeem Abdalnabi
Name of organisation:	Center for restoration of Iraqi marshes and wetlands (CRIMW)
Mailing address:	Ministry of Water Resources- Baghdad/ Iraq
Telephone/Fax:	+964 7801631378
Email:	Ramcepa.iq12@yahoo.com

DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Jassim Mohammed Al-asadi / Director of Ghibayish office
Name of organisation:	Nature Iraq Org.
Mailing address:	Chibayish City- Center Road- Thi-Qar- Chibayish/ Iraq
Telephone/Fax:	+964 780 531 4413
Email:	Alasadi_jm2005@yahoo.com / jassim.alasadi@natureiraq.org

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) Sign a contract with a consulting company to survey 32 site of wetland throughout Iraq in the on July of 2013, and from the informations of the survey ,we fill the 3 RIS for (central marsh, Hammar marsh and sawa Lake) and send it to Ramsar secretariat to add it to Ramsar list of the international important
- 2) Establishment of a big celebration on the occasion of the World Day of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in the 2nd. of February, for the years 2013.2014
- 3) Ramsar Advisory Mission/ initial visit to Iraq to see the situation of Hawizeh marsh for the period February 14 to 16, 2014 and the threats to its ecosystem.
- 4) Start updating management plan for the protected area of Central marshes after announcing it as a national park, coordination with all relevant ministries and bodies.
- 5) Attend the 47th meeting of the Standing Committee, which was held in Kland - Switzerland for the period from 24 to 28 of March 2014.

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

- 1) Unavailability of the party that supports our Iraqi specialist training program in the field of wetland
- 2) Lack of understanding of the terms of the Ramsar Convention
- 3) The new oil companies become threatens the ecological status of the marshes, especially the Hawizeh marsh even though it is a Ramsar site.
- 4) The proliferation of mines and projectiles in Hawizeh marsh (Ramsar site), prevent the implementation of the operational program for marsh management plan.
- 5) Control neighboring countries quantities of water reaching Iraq, threatens the fate of the Iraqi wetlands

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

- 1) The inclusion of a large number of Iraqi wetlands as Ramsar sites of international importance.
- 2) Work to increase natural reserves within the wetlands across Iraq
- 3) Awareness of the importance of the implementation of the program of wetlands and how to maintain them using a variety of methods of visual and readable media .
- 4) The involvement of all stakeholders involved in the process of coordination and implementation of the various survey work and prepare for the management plans for wetlands include civil society organizations and local governments.
- 5) Using the principle of sustainable development plans in the rehabilitation of wetlands

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

- Considering the arabic language as a 4th language in the convention .
- Supporting to built the capacity of workers in the implementation of the commitments in the Convention.

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)

- Support for international awareness programs in the rational use of wetlands
- Support training programs for the training centers in the Convention
- Support for translation files to the Ramsar guidance into Arabic and other languages, to ensure delivery to the largest number of audience

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?

Issuing an explanatory document for the functions of each convention and how to coordinate their work at the national level with the rest of other agreements.

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)?

Enter the concept of environmental flow in the modern water policies, which achieves restore wetlands and their ecosystem after providing for the needs of other uses for water

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

Propose a mechanism of action adopted locally as possible achieve the goal of implementation of the commitments, could be developed by each country according to its policy

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

Non

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	C - In progress
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1.1.1 Additional information: We started the first stage of the national Inventory (32 wetlands sites) at 2013, and planned to reach the last stage include the site N0. 217 at 2020	
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1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	D - Planned
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1.1.2 Additional information: Working on the deployment, after the validation of all the information on our Web site.	
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1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}

- a) Ramsar Sites
- b) wetlands generally

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).

* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

- a) P - Status improved
- b) P - Status improved

1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):

For both a) and b):

- Increasing the proportion of rain
- The completion of most of the hydraulic control system for water in the marsh area

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.*

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)

D - Planned

1.3.1 Additional information:

- Project development strategy for five years. It expected to be completed at the end of this year, so it has been selected (planned) being under construction.

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) B - No
- d) B - No
- e) D - Planned
- f) D - Planned
- g) D - Planned

1.3.2 Additional information:

.....

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: Working on it in management plan of the marshes.	
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	C - In some cases
1.3.4 Additional information: We started to apply in the marshes	
1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	C - In progress
1.3.5 Additional information: The implementation of the commitment to the establishment of reserves in wetlands and implement a management plan that does not conflict with the administration's plan of Ramsar sites. Currently reviewing legislation to revise.	

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
1.4.1 Additional information:	
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	D - Planned
1.4.2 Additional information:	
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
1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): Iraq has one Ramsar site named Hawizeh marsh	

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. B - No
- b. D - Planned
- c. D - Planned
- d. D - Planned

1.5.1 Additional information:
Definition using satellite channels and official letters.

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. D - Planned
- b. D - Planned
- c. D - Planned

1.6.1 Additional information:
In the report (COP11) there is no research is taken into consideration for agriculture or climate change, but there is a search for the importance of the services provided by the Marsh (Hawizeh marshes and Central) and has been developed on the basis of which a management plan for the two sites mentioned.
In the second report (COP12) (a) During the period that followed the COP11 report has been planned to conduct research and studies for the development of the agricultural situation and taking into consideration of climate change in the marshes

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	D - Planned
1.7.1 Additional information:	
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}	D - Planned
1.7.2 Additional information:	
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	C - Partly
1.7.3 Additional information:	
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	D - Planned
1.7.4 Additional information:	

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

1.8.2 Additional information:

e.g. many of the projects have been implemented within the program of restoration of the marshes in southern Iraq(hydraulic, hydrologic and environmental):

1. Optimization of the operating part of the Hawizeh marsh in Iraqi
2. the study of the Hydrological impacts for the soil embankment that was established by Iran on the border of Hawizeh marsh .
3. Study the revive the ecosystem for Hawizeh marsh

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:

Coordination with the research at the universities of Iraq and the ministries of environment and agriculture, science and technology and organization Nature Iraq.

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:

In the previous report, there was a program with the Ministry of Water Resources applied to partially lift the invasive weed within river basins and canals. In the new report, the Ministry of Water Resources, in coordination with universities, related ministries and research centers are planning to study the development of a program to limit invasive species to revive the wetlands and not only in the river basins and canals with an indication of the positive and negative effects.

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

D - Planned

1.10.1 Additional information:

.....

<p>1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b. Wetlands in general</p> <p>{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii</p>	<p>a. D - Planned</p> <p>b. D - Planned</p>
<p>1.10.2 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	

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

<p>1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands?</p> <p>{1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <p>There are no developments to remember on this subject, but still within our scheme, and we believe these actions need to raise awareness at the beginning and this is part of our program for training</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.11.2 Additional information:</p> <p>e.g. 1st. - Border guards prevent fishermen for use an electric shock devices (Unjust and illegal fishing method) in Hawizeh Marsh, especially the marshes area close of Um-Al-Kanazeer,Al-Diben and Abu-Kisaf villages.</p> <p>2nd. - A phytotechnology project to treat a sewage of Hammar City under study and design, which will protect the Central Marshes from environmental contamination exists</p>	

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, 3rd 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:
.....

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

14 sites

2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):
Annex (1)

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

A - Yes

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:

.....

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	1 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	1 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	1 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

In the previous report the answer was zero because there is no management plan under preparation, where it was Hawizeh management plan has been prepared already.

But in this report, we are working to update the management plan Hawizeh For this reason, the answer is one, and sites that are in the process of Ramsar considered as locations are not counted because they were not included as sites Ramsar up to the preparation of this report.

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	0 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	1 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Hawizeh Marsh	

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	B - No
2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):	

.....

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):

Yes began to involve Folks in monitoring changes in the environment of the marshes through their presence and their coexistence with the marshes, for example, when you see the pollution in the region are rushing in the news specialists for this contamination to take swift measures to monitor the area and taking samples and following-up causes of pollution. In the border areas that are difficult to reach when they are dry, where there is no way to transfer the work to get them, military personnel in border, monitoring water levels in the case of falling or rising to the detriment of the environment of the lagoon also serves military personnel to prevent fishermen fishing in the months forbidden fishing out

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

A - Yes

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):

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

A - Yes

2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

.....

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.*

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

C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information:

.....

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. *Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).*

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

D - Planned

3.1.1 Additional information:

.....

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

D - Planned

3.1.2 Additional information:

In fact there is a cooperation project "joint management of water resources, surface and groundwater and the reality of the Iraqi Marshlands" It is to discuss the project to support cooperation in the management of water resources in the basin of Mesopotamia (Iraq, Syria and Iran) in the framework of technical cooperation and the joint between the riparian States of the three, a joint venture between the Italian Ministry of Environment and Organization Food and Agriculture at the United Nations.

But we believe that we need more co-operation with all members of the association to international conventions within our scheme's future.

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

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

D - Planned

3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

No positive results of acception among riparian States with Iraq, especially Iran and Turkey to participate in the regional initiative under the name of (the integrated management of the Tigris and Euphrates basins), despite the efforts of the Ramsar Secretariat and the United Nations Program and the Arab League. That is why the rest of this initiative is within our scheme as well.

<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>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s): In the first report, Iraq was working with the support of the Regional Training Center through a contract with him to support the training program in the area of wetlands, but the legal proceedings to Iraq to prevent a contract, but after sending out invitations to a number of centers and not a single one and then choose the most appropriate in terms of the amounts required and the history center training and curriculum vitae of the instructors. This change to what has been planned and became no port to hold this support.</p>	

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.*

<p>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</p>	<p>---</p>
<p>3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11): </p>	

<p>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</p>	<p>---</p>
<p>3.3.2 Additional information: </p>	

<p>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}</p>	<p>---</p>
<p>3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11): </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}

B - No

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

.....

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

C - Partly

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

D - Planned

3.4.3 Additional information:

.....

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:

.....

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

B - No

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

.....

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

D - Planned

3.5.3 Additional information:

.....

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) C - In progress
- b) C - In progress
- c) D - Planned
- d) C - In progress

(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):

.....

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) 0 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) D - Planned
- b) D - Planned

{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):

.....

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
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The agreement of the Ministry of Water Resources and : India Iraq Economic Cooperation Council to set up specialized training courses to staff working in the area of wetlands, related to</p> <p>Integrated wetland management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wetland management – general introduction 2. Wetland management planning 3. Wetland identification and prioritization 4. Methods of wetland restoration and rehabilitation 5. Valuation of wetlands 6. Legal and regulatory frameworks for wetland conservation 7. Communication, education and public awareness <p>At the end of 2013 and it is hoped to start courses this year after the approval for the Iraqi budget and launches disbursement to the government institutions.</p>	
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	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a) 0</p> <p>b) 0</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>.....</p>	
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
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>Annex (2)</p>	

<p>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:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) D - Planned b) D - Planned c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>The communication and cooperation mechanism of the center for restoration Iraqi marshes and wetlands (Administrative Authority) with other parties from through its chock units: as follows:</p> <p>The National scientific and technical communication unit: the Ministry of Science and Technology is executing the functions and duties of this unit (Specializes in the implementation of projects, studies and research in the wetlands) / has a central committee for the purpose of cooperation with other ministries, research centers, civil society organizations, these are including: Ministries (water resources, Higher Education, Environment, Oil, Relics and Tourism, Industry and Minerals), Marshes Research Center, Marine Science Centre, Nature Iraq Org. .</p> <p>Coordination and control Unit: the Ministry of Environment is executing the functions and duties of this unit (Specializes in monitoring and implementation of environmental projects in wetlands).Coordinate work with all sections of the environment in the ministries and government institutions and nongovernmental. However Civil society organizations concerned the environment</p> <p>Cultural communication unit: the Iraqi Media Network is executing the functions and duties of this unit (Specializes in the implementation of education programs and awareness of the importance of wetlands and the judicious use of them and the sustainable development of natural resources).Coordinate work with all sections of the media in the ministries and government institutions and nongovernmental organizations, and with civil society</p> <p>The connection between the center and these units through periodic meetings and the works in the sites.</p>	
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

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

Nature Iraq Org. had been done the activities like lectures, an exhibition of photographs about biodiversity and wetlands, environmental awareness posters.....ext.

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):

Iraq volunteered to bear the expenses of travel and scholarship for thier participants to attend the conference COP12 and its preparatory meetings.

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

B - No

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

.....

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
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<p>4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ramsar secretariat ----- consulting visit by experts to Hawizeh marsh(Ramsar site). 2. Ramsar secretariat ---- Grant to Nature Iraq Org. for Hawizeh Stakeholder project/ 2014 3. Italian Ministry of environment---- Grant for Technical assistance in field survey(socio- economic and biodiversity), writing the management plan, and capacity building. 	
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4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii	D - Planned
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<p>4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):</p> <p>.....</p>	
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Annex (2)

operational cross- sectoral national ramsar/ wetlands

The mechanism of action of Iraq in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention

