



## **NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

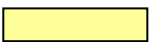
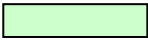
**Section 2** is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**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

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| <b>IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT</b> |
|---|

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](http://www.ramsar.org/contacts_en).

**NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: JAMAICA**

#### DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>                  | <b>National Environment and Planning Agency</b>    |
| <b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b> | Mr. Peter Knight J.P.<br>Chief Executive Officer   |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>                                   | 10 & 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica W.I. |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>                                     | 876-754-7540 / 876-754-7594                        |
| <b>Email:</b>   | peter.knight@nepa.gov.jm; ceo@nepa.gov.jm          |

#### DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Name and title:</b>  | Mr. Ainsley Henry<br>Director, National Environment and Planning Agency |
| <b>Mailing address:</b> | 10 & 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica W.I.                      |
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#### DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL ( STRP)

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Name and title:</b>       | Mr. Keron Campbell<br>Botanist                          |
| <b>Name of organisation:</b> | Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica |
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| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>        | 922-0620-6/922-1147                                     |
| <b>Email:</b>                | kcampbell@nhmj-ioj.org.jm                               |

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

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name and title:</b>       | Miss Dionne Rose<br>Manager, Public Education and Corporate Communication Branch |
| <b>Name of organisation:</b> | National Environment and Planning Agency   |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>      | 10 & 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica W.I.                               |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>        | 876-754-7540/876-754-7594  |
| <b>Email:</b>                | dionne.rose@nepa.gov.jm  |

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

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name and title:</b>       | Miss Ingrid Parchment<br>Executive Director        |
| <b>Name of organisation:</b> | Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation       |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>      | P.O. Box 33, Lionel Town, Clarendon, Jamaica, W.I. |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>        | 876-986-3327/876-986-3956                          |
| <b>Email:</b>                | iparchment@yahoo.com                               |



**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) Strategy 1.8: Wetland Restoration

Through the Government of Jamaica (GOJ)/European Union (EU)/United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction Project: Increasing Resilience of Coastal Ecosystems, which was implemented by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) work was conducted within wetland protected areas island-wide. This included the ecological restoration of 6.7 ha of mangrove forests in the Portland Cottage and Hellshire areas within the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA) which includes the Portland Bight Wetlands and Cays Ramsar Site (PBW&C-RS). Activities such as the preparation of the sites to restore and improve the hydrology to facilitate tidal flushing and natural regeneration overtime; planting of approximately 6,500 nursery grown red and black mangrove seedlings and planting 1,500 wild stock propagules. The project installed artificial reefs (150 wave attenuation devices and 19 modular turbulence generators) in PBPA and Negril Marine Park (NMP) on the west coast of the island. Data loggers to monitor sea temperatures were also installed in five marine protected areas across the country (this included the PBPA, Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area and Ramsar Sites [PPRPA&RS]). An additional activity undertaken by this project was the planting of 1,500sq.m. of sea grass in the NPA.

Also under the project the Alternative Livelihood Grant Program was implemented to engage and facilitate the training and capitalisation of options for persons to earn a living without the continued overexploitation of the resources in the coastal environment. This program was implemented in various wetland areas island-wide including the PBW&C-RS and the Bowden Morass and the Great Morass both in St. Thomas. The project introduced the participants to and provided start up funds for alternative livelihood programs such as ecotourism, and apiculture within the PBW&C-RS while sea moss farming, and apiculture were introduced in other wetland areas.

Funds provided by these projects also facilitated the installation of 23 mooring buoys in three Marine Protected Areas, including 12 in the PPRPA&RS and 42 marker buoys in PBW&C-RS. Funds were also provided to the University of the West Indies to enhance coastal plant nursery stock in order to provide red and black mangrove seedlings to be replanted in the coastal environment.

It should also be noted that as a consequence of development activities being undertaken by a Bauxite Company within the PBPA, the NEPA/NRCA mandated that mitigation funds be provided to the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM) to construct and deploy a 'Biorock' structure to act as a fisheries enhancement device within a fish sanctuary. C-CAM has since constructed a BIORock reef structure and has included regular enforcement and educational patrols in the three SFCAs within the PBPA as a part of the project.

C-CAM has gathered funding to conduct a mangrove restoration project within areas identified as the most vulnerable areas (Cays and exposed coastlines) within the PBPA (including the Ramsar Site). The project will be conducted in partnership with University of the West Indies (UWI) and NEPA and is slated to commence in September 2014.

#### 2) Strategy 4.1: Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Programme

The GOJ through the Administrative Authority (AA) and in collaboration with a wide cross section of stakeholders in civil and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as commercial interests were very actively involved in activities under the CEPA program. These activities had as their highlight the annual commemoration of World Wetlands Day

(WWD) and for which reports have been prepared and submitted for each year of the triennium.

In Jamaica, multi-stakeholder cooperation is critical in driving the CEPA efforts, especially WWD, and efforts are supported by other governmental organisations, NGOs, community based organizations (CBOs), community development committees (CDCs), cultural groups and the media. These campaigns are always executed under the annual themes highlighted by the Convention and target audiences including but not limited to resource users, community members, churches, NGOs, schools, informal groups and the wider society. The activities undertaken islandwide included community meetings, radio and television interviews, church services and notices, school and summer camp presentations, boat tours through Ramsar sites, mass media campaigns, mangrove replanting, exhibitions, debate competitions amongst secondary school students and use of social media such as updates on twitter and facebook as well as prominent placements on NEPA's website.

Additionally as an outcome of CEPA activities there has been the installation of Ramsar signs within the PBPA, PPRPA&RS as well as the Mason River Protected Area, Bird Sanctuary and Ramsar Site (MRPABS&RS). Over twenty signs were erected within the MRPABS&RS providing information along the trail and site information. Funding for this activity was provided by the 'Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Area System' Project.

C-CAM is currently engaged in the construction of Phase one of the Wetlands Interpretation Centre at Salt River in Clarendon. This centre will become the focus of educational outreach to the public and will also cater to school groups. It will include boardwalks through the mangroves, a wildlife observation pond and boat tours of mangroves within the Salt River area. The main building will feature permanent and semi-permanent displays on wetland themes to educate and entertain visitors. Other facilities will include a conservation nursery primarily to help propagate vulnerable local plant species as part of a promoting "conservation gardening" to be implemented by C-CAM. Phase One is scheduled for completion in October 2014.

### 3) Strategy 2.3: Strengthening Management & Financial Plans for Protected Areas (including Ramsar sites)

The Government of Jamaica through its agents NEPA, Forestry Department, Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) and Fisheries Division, is currently implementing a project entitled 'Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Area System (NPAS)'. This project aims to consolidate the operational and financial sustainability of Jamaica's National System of Protected Areas, this includes all areas designated as Ramsar sites. It is envisaged that this objective will be achieved through three components: (1) Strengthening of financial planning and revenue generation (2) Rationalizing and integrating the NPAS (3) Increasing the effectiveness of protected area management.

The project commenced in July 2010 and is slated to end July 2016. It is also anticipated that one key output of the project will result in steps being taken towards the designation of Jamaica's first Ramsar site, the Black River Lower Morass Ramsar Site (BRLMRS), as a protected area under local legislation. This will increase the amount of protection for this very important area and will result in the development and implementation of a Management Plan for the area. It should however be noted that while this work is being done the NEPA has stepped up efforts to monitor and enforce in order to facilitate



enhanced protection for the BRLMRS.

Another key component of the project is the development of management plans for eight areas inclusive of the following wetland areas: MRPABS&RS, Ocho Rios Marine Park Protected Area (ORMP-PA), PPRPA&RS, the Discovery Bay Special Fishery Conservation Area and the Pedro Banks. The plans listed are all at differing stages of development.

NEPA is also in the process of developing zoning plans for four protected areas, namely: the NMP, the Montego Bay Marine Park (MBMP), The Coral Spring/Mountain Spring Protected Area and the PPRPA&RS.

#### 4) Strategy 1.9 Invasive Alien Species

Jamaica was one of five Caribbean countries which participated in the 'Mitigating the Threat of Invasive Aliens Species in the Insular Caribbean' (MTIASIC) Project. This was a four year project which commenced in 2009 and ended in March 2014. The project was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and was being implemented by the UNEP and the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) for the Caribbean and Latin America.

The project aimed to mitigate against the threat to local biodiversity and the economy posed by invasive alien species (IAS) through: the development of National IAS Strategies; the establishment of Caribbean-wide cooperation in addressing IAS; the development of a Regional IAS Strategy; increasing general IAS awareness through the generation, management and dissemination of knowledge; and increasing the countries capacity to detect, respond, control, and manage the impact of IAS in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.

The Jamaican pilot project sites included the BRLMRS as well as other wetlands of scientific importance. Targets for the project included interventions aimed at controlling the invasive 'lionfish' (found in the marine components of all of our Ramsar Sites except Mason River) and the plants 'Paperbark Tree' (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) and 'Wild Ginger' (*Alpinia allughas*) which are of significant concern in the BRLMRS. The work on the lionfish included public education campaigns such as the 'Eat it to Beat it' campaign which encouraged the consumption of the fish as a means to control its dominance in the ecosystem through the selective harvesting of the species as food fish. This was also enhanced through programs geared towards educating people on the handling and preparation of the species. The Project was very successful as the incidence of the IAS in shallow waters has seen a significant decline (as reported by Dayne Buddo Ph.D., Lecturer & Academic Coordinator, Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory and Field Station) and broad acceptance as a food source as is evidenced by it being on menus and in seafood wholesale establishments islandwide.

#### 5) Strategy 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services

Jamaica continues to strengthen its system of marine protected areas through the added designation under the Fisheries Laws as Special Fishery Conservation Areas (SFCAs) which are no-fishing zones reserved for the reproduction of fish populations. There are now 12 such declared marine protected areas, three of which are within the Portland Bight Protected Area and Ramsar Site. It should be noted that this additional designation also results in increased resource allocations becoming available to enhance management, monitoring and enforcement.

C-CAM is currently engaged in implementing Community Based Live Fish (CLIF) monitoring surveys in the Salt Harbour and Galleon Harbour SFCAs within the PBW&C-RS. This program also includes a socio-economic and attitudes survey component which is conducted in the nearby fishing communities. Data collection is ongoing.

A national baseline survey of most of the existing SFCAs is ongoing islandwide. This survey is being conducted using a modified Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) survey protocol. The survey includes the SFCAs within the PBW&C-RS and this work is being spearheaded by C-CAM with an expected completion date of November 2014. This project will also provide basic water quality monitoring equipment for all the sites included.

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

##### 1) Development Pressure

The recessionary nature of the global economic environment has resulted in an increased thrust to stimulate development to foster economic growth in Jamaica. As a consequence there has been increased pressure in particular to the coastal environment. There are several major projects which have come to the fore within the last triennium: the enhancement of the corridor between the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) and the capital, Kingston, causing great conflict between the Government and the NGO community; the conflict surrounded the modification of nearshore resources. There is also an ongoing debate about a proposed transshipment facility in the PBPA and increased investment in tourism.

##### 2) Management of Ramsar Sites

The capacity to develop, implement and finalize mechanisms (management plans, zoning plans, financial sustainability plans etc.) for the management of designated Ramsar sites is recognized as inadequate.

##### 3) Partnerships

Forging and maintaining public/civic/private partnerships towards the management of Ramsar sites.

##### 4) Policies and Legislation

There is the absence of a clearly defined Policy and strategy towards the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Over the last triennium existing draft policies concerned with natural resource management has not been at the top of the legislative agenda as the focus has been on fiscal reform and economic development.

##### 5) Socio-economic Realities

The exploitation of natural resources for economic benefit continues to threaten the conservation of these systems. This has been a pervasive problem and remains an issue to be addressed.

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

1) The finalization of policies and strategies developed for the protection of wetland areas such as the 'Coastal Resources and Wetland Policy' and 'Protected Areas System Master Plan for Jamaica'.

2) Developing management plans for existing Ramsar sites and protected areas through the strengthening of enforcement and monitoring capabilities and development of mechanisms for financial sustainability.

3) The designation of the BRLMRS within the protected area system of Jamaica.

4) Continued research within wetland areas and forging critical arrangements with relevant institutions towards data gathering and the creation of a repository for Jamaica's information on wetlands.

5) Improving planning framework through the further promulgation of Parish Development Orders, the development of a National Spatial Plan and localized development plans.

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

In light of the threat that is posed to the majority of the Ramsar sites in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and in specific reference to Climate Change, The Secretariat should seek to prioritize the funding of research, training and programmes in the region in order to address the process of Climate Change Adaptation.

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)

The expansion of the geographic focus of the IOPs to include underserved regions (such as the Caribbean) should be made a priority.

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. Jamaica supports efforts to harmonize the formats for national reports that will facilitate better implementation, reduce overlap and promote more efficient use of scarce resources available to the Parties.

2. The MOUs already established between MEAs should be evaluated to determine their effectiveness and where possible additional linkages are encouraged.

3. Jamaica reaffirms its position that a thrust by educational institutions to use the Conventions as a teaching platform will facilitate improved understanding of the synergies between MEAs and promote more targeted planning and efficient use of resources.

4. Vision 2030: Jamaica – National Development Plan, is the long-term sustainable development framework for the country. Wetland considerations are continuously incorporated in the medium-term socio-economic framework (MTF) that guide its implementation. Furthermore, the commitments made under other MEAs are included in the MTF as priority activities. The design of each MTF (3-year cycles) is consultative and cross-cutting so as to reduce duplication and maximise on synergies.

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)?

Vision 2030: Jamaica National Development Plan is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary macro-level planning tool for the Government of Jamaica. It is anticipated that by ensuring that the objectives of the Ramsar Convention are incorporated cross-sectoral linkages and multi-stakeholder participation will be assured.

The benefits to be gained from the integration of efforts to provide sustainable or reliable water supplies, the treatment of waste water for reuse, water harvesting and food security (especially fisheries) needs to be more clearly defined and understood. This is of particular importance in the context of expansion of extractive industries and the need for indigenous energy supplies.

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

Jamaica reiterates a need for an evaluation of the role and function of the Scientific Technical Review Panel (STRP), especially with respect to the usefulness of the technical guidance being provided and the ease of implementation, especially by developing countries. The work of the International Resource Panel (of the United Nations) must guide the work of the STRP over the next triennium especially in respect to decoupling economic development and environmental degradation.

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

National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)

National Ramsar Committee (NRC)

Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica (NHMJ-IOJ)


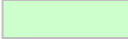
Environmental Risk Management Division, Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change

Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM)

Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)

## 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 |
| <p>1.1.1 Additional information:<br/>The National Ramsar Committee continues to compile available information on wetlands of Jamaica.</p> <p>NEPA continues to conduct ground-truthing exercises within mangrove wetland areas of Jamaica in order to verify coverage data compiled from desktop GIS analysis of mangrove areas - data extracted from digitized Google Earth Images collated in the previous triennium.</p> <p>Additionally, NEPA has in its repository shapefiles of the coverage of the following coastal ecosystems in Jamaica:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. seagrass beds</li> <li>b. mangrove forests</li> <li>c. coral reefs</li> </ol> <p>This data is also augmented with the mapping of ecosystem services such as sea turtle nesting beaches and important bird habitats.</p> <p>Partner Agencies such as C-CAM continues to conduct baseline surveys in fish sanctuaries within the PBPA including the Ramsar site.</p> |                 |
| 1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii  | C - Partly      |
| <p>1.1.2 Additional information:<br/>Wetland data is stored and readily available from the libraries of partner institutions such as the University of the West Indies (UWI), Univeristy of Technology (UTech), C-CAM, the Jamaica Clearing-house Mechanism hosted by NHMJ-IOJ. NEPA's Documentation Centre is a repository for wetland information as well as the Agency's D-Space Database.</p>   |                 |

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) O - No change
- b) N - Status deteriorated

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

Development activities such as port and harbour development and expansion, agriculture, residential development and other economic developments are some of the activities that continues to impact Jamaica's wetlands. Land-based sources of pollution as well as nutrient loading are among the most prevalent issues facing wetlands. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that climatic change, specifically sea level rise and increased sea surface temperatures are exacerbating pre-existing pressures in and around wetland areas.

Within some wetland areas including the BRLM&RS the impact of IAS such as the Wild Ginger and the Paperbark Tree have been tracked and measures implemented through the MTIASIC Project to mitigate against and manage the spread of these IAS. Another invasive alien species impacting wetland areas and addressed by the project is the lionfish. Partners Agencies such as Fisheries Division and the Discovery Bay Marine Lab has been conducting research into the spread of the species. A national management adaptive plan was developed under the MTIASIC project to address the spread of the lionfish. One component of the plan is the 'Eat it to Beat it' campaign which promotes to the consumption of the fish in order to manage population increase. Refer to A(1) above.

The GOJ/EU/UNEP Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project (CCADRRP) implemented by NEPA and Partner Agencies from 2011 - 2013 sought to address the impact of climate change on specific wetland areas in Jamaica including Ramsar sites. One component of the project resulted in the planting of mangrove seedlings in hurricane damaged areas of the PBPWC-RS. Prior to planting engineering work was conducted in the area to restore the hydrology ensuring the survival of newly planted seedlings and the growth of natural recruits. In NMP seagrass replanting was conducted to mitigate against the impact of coastal erosion. Refer to A (4) above.

**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)

C - In preparation

1.3.1 Additional information:

Jamaica is in the process of finalizing the 'Coastal Resources and Wetland' and 'Protected Areas System Master Plan' for Jamaica.

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

- a) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes
- e) A - Yes
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

1.3.2 Additional information:

The points outlined above are addressed in Vision: 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan, that is being implemented by all Government Agencies. Aspects of the Vision 2030 addressing sustainable development and environmental management are incorporated in the operational plan of the relevant agencies. Additional Government Agencies such as the Forestry Department and Fisheries Department develop and implement plans towards the protection of the forest areas inclusive of mangrove forests and SFCAs, some of which are within Ramsar Sites respectively.

Jamaica is implementing its Food and Nutrition Security Policy to ensure food availability, access, utilization and stability. The policy recognises that forests, watershed, wetlands, and marine resources are critical to safeguarding the objectives of the policy. As such, the policy seeks to, among other things, develop environmental management systems for the agriculture sector (more specifically, to develop sustainable land, water, forest and fishery management systems); retool farmers to practice conservation farming; and implement climate change adaptation measures as appropriate.

A draft Water Sector Policy has been developed and is being refined based on consultations with stakeholders. The policy articulates watershed management as a major strategy (including for floodwater control) and will elaborate aspects related to wetland conservation and rehabilitation as a means of ensuring water management, availability and security.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| 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:<br>.....   |            |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii  | A - Yes |
| 1.3.4 Additional information:<br>The Permits and Licences System (P&LS) instituted by the GOJ governs the granting of licences for developments in the country. One such component of the P&LS incorporates an assessment to determine the applicability of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) tool as part of the decision-making process. Each development is evaluated against the rules governing the EIA assessment tool to determine whether the magnitude and the potential impacts of the project requires an EIA or in some cases an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA). |         |

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}   | D - Planned |
| 1.3.5 Additional information:<br>The commitments of the country under the Ramsar Convention is incorporated into the drafted 'Coastal Resources and Wetland' and the finalized 'Protected Areas System Master Plan' for Jamaica. |             |

**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 | B - No |
| 1.4.1 Additional information:<br>.....  |        |

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

#### 1.4.2 Additional information:

The Government of Jamaica through the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) - national implementing entity - has secured grant funding from the Adaptation Fund for the implementation of adaptation measures and building resilience to climate change for livelihoods protection and food security. The programme, which began October 2012, is designed to contribute to building Jamaica's adaptive capacity. Two of the objectives of the programme are:

- Enhancing climate resilience of the agricultural sector by improving water and land management
- Improving institutional and local level capacity for sustainable management of natural resources and in disaster risk reduction.

The project will also have the added benefit of improving agricultural activities to reduce watershed degradation (and by extension wetlands). Lessons learnt and best practices will also be shared with other communities (including within vicinity of wetlands) as a way of promoting sustainable practices.

GOJ/EU/UNEP CCADRR Project sought to increase resilience of coastal ecosystems through restoration of seagrass beds, replanting of mangroves and the rehabilitation of sand dunes. It also implemented the Alternative Livelihood Grant Program which engaged and facilitated the training and capitalisation of options for persons to earn a living without the continued overexploitation of the resources in the coastal environment. This program was implemented in various wetland areas island-wide including the PBW&C-RS, Negril Great Morass and the Bowden Morass and the Great Morass both in St. Thomas. The project introduced the participants to and provided start up funds for alternative livelihood programs such as sea moss farming, ecotourism, organic farming and apiculture.

The project funded Phase II of the 'Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Project (RiVAMP II)' focused on the South Negril/Orange River Watershed including the Negril Great Morass had outputs including: i) land use and change detection maps (1968-2009); ii) a status report on the socio-economic and environmental conditions of the watershed (1968-2009); and iii) an automatic weather station in the Royal Palm Reserve and an intensity rain gauge at Cave Valley which is within the vicinity of the wetlands. Other wetlands-related activities included: i) establishment of an ecosystems database, ii) rehabilitation of coastal and forestry nurseries, and iii) installing dataloggers.

Additionally, as a part of the development of the interpretation site within the PBPA and the enhancement of tourism activities within the area, C-CAM is facilitating training and certification for community members to participate in tours of the wetlands in an attempt to diversify their income streams and reduce the overexploitation of natural resources.

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

C - Partly

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

Socio-economic assessments were conducted and results considered in determining the social and economic value of the resources within the boundaries of various Protected Areas across Jamaica over the past triennium; This has been achieved through surveys as well as the use of consultative and participatory methodologies during the development of management and zoning plans. These values are, as far as possible, integrated into the management and zoning plans developed. This is evidenced by the development of the zoning plans for Ocho Rios Marine Park and Negril Marine Park. It should also be noted that NEPA has also developed policy guidelines on the use of participatory processes to guide management and the development of management and zoning plans. These guidelines are one tool which assists in ensuring that socio-economic and cultural values are considered through research and consultation with local communities.

For the PBPA, C-CAM has just concluded the preparation of its most extensive consultative process which has led to the preparation of several management plans for the PBPA, the SFCAs and other sub-area management plans.

**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. B - No
- c. B - No
- d. B - No

1.5.1 Additional information:

.....

**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.*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:</p> <p>a. agriculture-wetland interactions</p> <p>b. climate change</p> <p>c. valuation of ecosystem services</p> <p>{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>   | <p>a. A - Yes</p> <p>b. A - Yes</p> <p>c. A - Yes</p> |
| <p>1.6.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Through the GOJ/EU/UNEP Climate Change Adaptation &amp; Disaster Risk Reduction Project: Increasing Resilience of Coastal Ecosystems implemented by NEPA work was conducted within wetland protected areas island-wide. Components of projects such as this included an experimental or research component. For example the project resulted in the beach restoration activities with the NMP as well as long term monitoring of changes in sea temperatures through the installation of data loggers in marine protected areas across the island.</p> <p>See 1.4.2</p> |   |

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <p>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</p>  | <p>A - Yes</p> |
| <p>1.6.2 Additional information:</p> <p>There are plans in place for the development of management plans for the PBPA, MRPABS&amp;RS as well as the BRLMRS and the Terms of Reference for the development of these management plans includes the gathering of scientific data to inform the process as well as very wide consultation with all identified stakeholders. Additionally zoning plans developed for key wetland areas in Jamaica such as the Montego Bay Marine Park (MBMP), PPRPA&amp;RS and the NMP are based on scientific research conducted within the areas.</p> |                |

**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.*

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <p>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</p>  | <p>D - Planned</p> |
| <p>1.7.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The GOJ, through its Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, is in the process of reviewing Jamaica's Water Sector Policy which highlights the importance of all water infrastructure at the national level. The Policy is presently going through intensive Public Consultations and is expected to be completed late 2014.</p> |                    |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see <a href="#">Resolution X.19</a> )? {1.7.3} | A - Yes |
| <p>1.7.2 Additional information:<br/>The Water Sector Policy is expected to include best practices including the CEPA tools as a part of the strategies to be implemented.</p>                                   |         |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii  | A - Yes |
| <p>1.7.3 Additional information:<br/>the GOJ/EU/UNEP Climate Change Adaptation &amp; Disaster Risk Reduction Project: Increasing Resilience of Coastal Ecosystems underlines the importance of wetlands in adapting to the effects of climate change. Through the ecological restorations component of the project activities were undertaken to enhance mangrove communities. Additionally with the implementation of alternative livelihood projects within variuos wetlands across Jamaica the project aimed to the reduce damaging socioenomic activities carried out on wetland areas.</p> <p>The Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change is currently revising the Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan (Green Paper). The Policy outlines strategies expected to be implemented in Jamaica to effectively respond to the impacts and challenges associated with climate change and makes specific reference to the important role of wetlands in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</p> |         |

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 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 |
| <p>1.7.4 Additional information:<br/><br/>See 1.4.2</p>   |             |

**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:

Over the last Triennium projects have been conducted within several wetland systems island-wide aimed at ecological restoration and IAS management. Details of the projects are provided in Section 2A. Further, more than seven sites have been identified within the PBPA for restoration and these are expected to commence in September 2014 under the Wetland Restoration Project being implemented by C-CAM. Refer to Section A5.

Also see 1.4.2

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:

Details of the projects are provided in Section 2A.

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

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

A - Yes

## 1.9.1 Additional information:

The Invasive Alien Species Working Group (IASWG) comprising of governmental, non-governmental, academia and experts in invasive alien species has worked to compile a list of invasive and potentially invasive species to the island.

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

A - Yes

## 1.9.2 Additional information:

An output of the MTIASIC project was the finalization of the National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (NIASSAP). This document is intended to guide efforts to minimize the impact of IAS. Another deliverable was the Pet Trade Pathway Toolkit which provides guidelines for preventing pets from becoming invasive alien species as well as guidelines for the introduction of non-native species through the pet trade. This toolkit is the first output of the 2014-2020 NIASSAP.

**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:

Through the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Permit and Licence regulations, developers are encouraged to minimize their environmental impact through the use of the 'wise use' principle.

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:

Ramsar Site:

A Memorandum of Understanding between NEPA and J. Charles Swaby-South Coast Safari (private tour operator along the Black River and within the Ramsar Site) has resulted in the installation of a permanent biodiversity display called "Black River's Treasures". This display is aimed at ensuring the continued education of locals and visitors to the Black River Area about the rich history and biodiversity found within the area as well as the role each individual can play in preserving them. The private interest, J. Charles South Coast Safari, has provided the space for the installation of the Black River's Treasures Biodiversity Display free of cost and will also allow free access to view the display, particularly to the schools within the surrounding areas for which the display is meant to be a teaching aid.

Wetlands in General:

The Sandals Foundation has worked on several environmental awareness projects over the triennium. Examples of these include the management of the Boscobel and Whitehouse Special Fishery Conservation Areas and an ongoing collaboration with the Bluefields Bay Fishermen's Friendly Society to facilitate monitoring and protection for marine turtles and their nesting beaches. Additionally in commemoration of World Wetlands Day, the Sandals Foundation partnered with the Montego Bay Marine Park Trust to replant 104 red mangrove saplings within an estuary, created where the Montego River and South Gully meet the sea.

**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

B - No

1.11.1 Additional information:

.....



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

B - No

1.11.2 Additional information:

.....

## GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

**STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation.** *Apply the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance' (Handbook 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

D - Planned

2.1.1 Additional information:

The GOJ had taken the decision that any future designations of Ramsar sites will be on the recommendation of the National Ramsar Committee (NRC) which has been set up and operates under the Strategic Framework of the Convention.

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

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

While the priority for the next triennium is the development and implementation of zoning and management plans for existing Ramsar sites, steps are being considered for an additional designation. Activities toward the enhancement of the management of Ramsar sites will be undertaken under various projects executed by the Administrative Authority.

**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

B - No

2.3.1 Additional information:

.....

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

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

0 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

0 sites

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

3 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

Though there are no finalized management plans extensive work has been done towards the development of management plans for three Ramsar sites (MRPABS&RS + BRLMRS + PPRPA&RS). It is expected that these management plans will be finalized and implementation will commence during the next triennium.

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

1 sites

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

The MRPABS&RS has a cross-sectoral management structure in two regards; by virtue of the designations and secondly because of its ownership status. The MRPABS&RS has four designations, three of which are evident by the name and the fourth is a designation as a National Heritage site by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT). The four designations oblige the three entities (JNHT, NHMJ-IOJ, NEPA) to manage/monitor/protect etc. this area collaboratively as per the designations.

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

4 sites

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

Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) were completed for all Ramsar sites at designation and the BRLMRS RIS has been updated and it expected that the PPRPA and PBWC will be updated within 12 months.

**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):

The AA uses the National Ramsar Committee as a conduit of information from the NGO committee and the academia on the current state of threats to wetlands in general and Ramsar sites in particular. Further the AA has a hotline which allows members of the public, civil society and NGOs to report on and seek information about activities perceived to be likely to result in ecological changes within Ramsar sites.

In specific reference to MRPABS&RS there is in-person communication between NEPA's Environmental Officers (EOs) and NHMJ personnel at the site when NEPA's EOs visit for quarterly routine monitoring. Additionally there is electronic communication between NHMJ/IOJ and the AA if there are any major changes to be made to the site.

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

C - Some cases

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):

During the last triennium there have been some adverse reports (PBW&C-RS & PPRPA&RS) made to the Convention about the stewardship of the AA/contracting party. Questions were asked and answers provided in those areas where information was currently available. It should be noted that there has been no significant adverse ecological change recorded in any of the existing Ramsar sites. The AA is aware of proposals which may have an impact at some point in the future but the nature and scope is still unknown.

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

Z - Not applicable

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

C - Partly

3.1.1 Additional information:

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Focal Point is the immediate Past Chairman of the National Ramsar Committee. The CBD Focal Point still participates as a member of NRC.

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

C - Partly

3.1.2 Additional information:

The AA, NEPA, has structured relationships with UNEP, UNFCCC, OAS and UNDP.

**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

A - Yes

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

The Regional Initiative for Caribbean Wetlands-CaRIWet was submitted by Jamaica and Cuba on behalf of the contracting parties who are members of the Initiative. The Initiative was approved at the 40th Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar, Irán, 1971). Jamaica and Cuba continues to collaborate with the Secretariat in the execution of administrative activities including the annual financial report to the Standing Committee of the Convention. Participation in CaRIWet includes Jamaica, Cuba, St. Lucia, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominican Republic, St. Vincent, Haiti, Guyana, Suriname, Netherlands and France.

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

B - No

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

No activities have been conducted in pursuant of this strategy in the current triennium.

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

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

Z - Not applicable

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

.....

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

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

.....

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}  | A - Yes |
| <p>3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):</p> <p>Global Enhancement Fund (GEF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Organization of American States (OAS), European Union (EU), CaMPAM, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Adaptation Fund, Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The C-Fish program through Caribsave, The GIZ/ CATS i.e. (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH / Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions) program and CIDA/CCDRM program (Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) Fund).</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 |
| <p>3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>.....</p>   |        |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv  | A - Yes |
| <p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Through publications, websites and reports generated by stakeholders.</p> <p>Information is made available through many mechanisms, such as the libraries and websites of the following institutions, NEPA, C-CAM, University of the West Indies (UWI), University of Technology (Utech), Jamaica Clearing House Mechanism (J-CHM), Science Library (NHMJ) and Institute of Jamaica (IOJ).</p> |         |

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



Ramsar Information Sheets are submitted to the Secretariat and are published on their website. Further there is the timely submission of Jamaica's National Reports to the Secretariat.

**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

Z - Not applicable

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

Z - Not applicable

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

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

Jamaica continues to participate in regional initiatives that are concerned with the recognition of the biological importance of transboundary wetland systems. These include the Western Hemispheric Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), BirdsCaribbean (formerly Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds [SCSCB]) and sea turtle recovery networks such as WIDECASST.

## GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

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

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

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

- a) A - Yes
- b) B - No
- c) B - No
- 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):

The AA has CEPA activities as a core function. There is a CEPA committee established under the NRC with is primarily responsible for the planning and execution of activities in celebration of WWD. The committee also encourages all stakeholders/members to incorporate wetland education in all other outreach activities throughout the year working in areas under their responsibility.

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) 4 centres
- b) 2 centres

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

Since the designation of Mason River Protected Area and Bird Sanctuary as a Ramsar site in December 2011 the field centre continues to accommodate tours for schools and interested groups.

C-CAM is currently engaged in the construction of Phase one of the Wetlands Interpretation Centre at Salt River in Clarendon. This centre will become the focus of educational outreach to the public and will also cater to school groups. It will include boardwalks through the mangroves, a wildlife observation pond and boat tours of mangroves within the Salt River area. The main building will feature

permanent and semi-permanent displays on wetland themes to educate and entertain visitors. Other facilities will include a conservation nursery primarily to help propagate vulnerable local plant species as part of a promoting "conservation gardening" to be implemented by C-CAM. Phase One is scheduled for completion in October 2014.

NHMJ Trans-Jamaica Highway: Jamaica Infrastructure Operators Biodiversity Centre was established in 2012 and offers tours to schools within the immediate areas including schools within the PBPA. These schools also participate in activities staged for WWD.

Establishment of a permanent "Black River Treasures" biodiversity display. The MTIASIC project for WWD 2014 launched its permanent Black River Treasure's display aimed at highlighting the important/diverse biodiversity within the Black River Lower Morass and Ramsar Site. It will also highlight other notable information about the BRLM&RS as well as Invasive Alien Species that are posing a threat to the biodiversity of the area.

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):

Through the National Ramsar Committee (NRC).

Enshrined in the EIA and the policy development processes are the guiding principles of public participation and consultation.

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

B - No

4.1.4 Additional information:

.....

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| <p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>  | <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>   |  |
| <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</p>   | <p>A - Yes</p>   |
| <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>The National Ramsar Committee is comprised of members from governmental institutions such as the Administrative Authority (NEPA), the Ministry with responsibility for Environment, Fisheries Division, Institute of Jamaica, Urban Development Corporation, Forestry Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Social Development Commission; NGO's such as: Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust, Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, St. Thomas Environmental Protection Association Benevolent Society, Portland Environmental Protection Association; Academia: University of the West Indies, College of Agricultural Science and Education and University of Technology; and experts in related fields.</p> <p>The NRC convenes quarterly meetings.</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</p> <p>b) other MEA national focal points</p> <p>c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>  | <p>a) C - Partly</p> <p>b) C - Partly</p> <p>c) C - Partly</p> |
| <p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>The AA and its parent Ministry are involved in a variety of other cross-sectoral committees through which information is shared and collaborative plans and approaches are implemented.</p>  |  |

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| 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 |
| <p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>Every year the AA and its partners embarks on a comprehensive suite of activities to celebrate WWD all of which are branded as Ramsar. Additionally where possible Ramsar branding is also included in other activities, such as, schools environmental programme, World Water Day Expo and UDC's Enviro Fair.</p> <p>Refer to section on MTIASIC Project.</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}  | A - Yes |
| <p>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>Wetlands is integrated into the public education programmes of NEPA, Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), C-CAM and MBMPT. e.g. MBMPT 'Care and Protect Jamaica Project' has a wetland education component, as does JET's Schools Environment Program which is partially supported by the NRCA/NEPA.</p> <p>International Coastal Clean-Up Day (ICCD) is traditionally celebrated annually on the third Saturday of September. On this specially designated day, volunteers all around the world visit beaches and waterways to remove accumulated debris and other garbage. The objective of this exercise is to clean-up the coastal areas as resources allow and to collect valuable local and international data on the type of solid waste that has accumulated along the coastline. It is also used as an opportunity to educate the public on what occurs when there is the absence of proper disposal of solid waste. Perennial partners NEPA and the UDC conducts annual clean-up activities within the PBPA at Half Moon Bay and within the PPRPA&amp;RS along the turtle nesting beaches. Many other entities also organize clean-up activities islandwide and this is supported by the private sector, public sector, community based organizations, NGOs, schools and the general public. Each year the number of participants increases at all sites as interest and education in this even continues to grow.</p> <p>NEPA, the AA, through the Crocodile Working Group hosted Jamaica's first crocodile conservation fair, "My Croc Adventure" in 2014. The Fair is one of a number of activities aimed at educating the Jamaican public about the importance of the American Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>), a key wetland species. It is hoped that this venture will be staged annually.</p> |         |

Seven local private companies have teamed up with the Government (public-private partnership) to invest funds into a new national recycling initiative 'Recycle Now Jamaica'. This Initiative aims to recover 15% of plastic wastes generated nationally which would otherwise have been deposited in waterways and coastal areas including wetlands. Public education is a critical aspect for the success of this initiative. It is also expected that this initiative will lead to some income substitution for marginalized citizens.

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

4.2.1

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

A - Yes

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

.....

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

B - No

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

.....

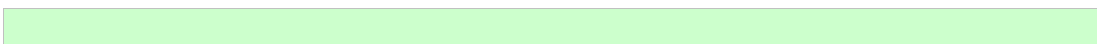
**STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness.** *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

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

A - Yes

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

The National Reports are reviewed throughout the triennium and the information is used to guide aspects of the work programme and reporting for the given period.



**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 | --- |
| 4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):<br>.....                               |     |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| 4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii   | B - No |
| 4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):<br>The country has participated in IUCN working groups for the generation of 'red list' categoraization of plant and fish species documented in the Caribbean. |        |