



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.

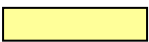

Section 2 is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	The Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Azbayev Bagdat Orazaldyevich - The Committee of Forestry and Hunting's Chairman, the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Mailing address:	010000, Astana, Left Brink, Orynbor street, 8, 5 porch «Ministries' House», 6 th floor, cab. 618
Telephone/Fax:	+7 7172 743288
Email:	ecokloh@eco.gov.kz

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Duisekeyev Bakytbek Zadinovich – Wildlife Management's Head, the Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP)

Name and title:	Dr Sergey Yerokhov
Name of organisation:	Kazakh Agency for Applied Ecology
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Email:	syerokhov@mail.ru

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

Name and title:
Name of organisation:
Mailing address:
Telephone/Fax:
Email:

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

Name and title:	Dr Sergey Sklyarenko
Name of organisation:	Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK)
Mailing address:	off.203, 40, Orbita-1, Almaty, 050043, Kazakhstan
Telephone/Fax:	+7 727 2203877
Email:	sergey.sklyarenko@acbk.kz



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) Elongation of New Ramsar sites confirmation (2 new territories)
- 2) The confirmation of international and republic importance wetlands' list (54 waterbodies)
- 3) The continuation of work due to Management plan for Ramsar Sites
- 4) Alteration of legislation for wetlands better conservation (2012 year).
- 5) Inclusion of protected areas with Ramsar sites (Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, Alakol Nature Reserve, Ak-Zhaiyk Reservat) in the biosphere reserves network of UNESCO

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

- 1) The shortage of water by natural causes
- 2) The increscent water consume in transboundary rivers by neighbouring countries
- 3) The ongoing reorganization of state system of natural resources management
- 4) Limited understanding of importance of wetlands for biodiversity by local authorities
- 5) Gaps in legislation not guarantees the biologically necessary water income into wetlands after taking of water for irrigation etc.

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

- 1) To continue the work on inclusion of wetlands to Ramsar List
- 2) To develop a national strategy for conservation of Kazakhstan's wetlands with it's inclusion in the system of state planning documents (including the Action plan for the conservation of biodiversity)
- 3) Public awareness and special awareness for local authorities near wetlands (especially Ramsar sites); some changings in legislation
- 4) Improvement (or development) of the management plans for Ramsar sites on participatory base (with local authorities, communities etc.)
- 5) Identifying the local and national needs of the country for the implementation of the Convention and for good management of all wetlands sites

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

During the inclusion in the lists of new Ramsar Sites Kazakhstan permanently recieves the necessary help & consultations from the Secretariat of the Convention and the Regional Coordinator. The consultations required and use of international experience in the workout and adoption of new legislation helping to an effective management of Ramsar Wetlands.

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)

Kazakhstan cooperates with the CMS' Secretariat and in present time in the frame of AEWA agreements is in contact with Technical Committee. There is no special recommendations to additional help.

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?

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)?

The problem of wetlands' conservation and water management are state priorities, these questions are included in the long-term economical development of the country in the direction of "green economy" that is associated with the problems of sustainable development, energysaving, the fight against poverty and etc. In the same way constructed actual state programm of sustainable using of natural resources "Green development". Convention can be better alinged with concrete problems tying up to more detailed workout of issues of government programs' implementation at the local level, through the decrees of akimats (local government offices) and joint planning of wetlands using by local communities, land users and specially protected nature areas (SPA).

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

No

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

RCU "Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan"

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

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

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A - Yes
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<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>.....In the period of the workout of Kazakhstan's National Strategy Program for biodiversity conservation on 1996-2000, there was conducted an inventory of most foreground wetlands in all geographic areas of the country. Next time there was held full and detailed inventory of the most foreground wetlands in the framework of GEF, WWF, BirdLife International, IBA projects. According to the results of the projects implementation there was created a database managed by state authorized authority the Committee of Forestry and Hunting (its subordinate structures), there are also IBA databases and others. The work on single state cadastre of biological resources is started, it will include wetlands datas.</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:</p> <p>The databases are managed and information may be available to interested parties upon request; direct public access through the internet has not provided yet.</p> <p>Information on wetlands, with the status of IBA, published in Russian and English in a mass-circulation publication (2008). General information about the state of Kazakhstans water resources in particular about habitats and animals was published in special edition of the UNDP in Kazakhstan (2004). In special editions, there were published detailed datas about separate group of wetlands - between Tobol and Ishim rivers (2002), Ile-Balkhash basin (2008), Teniz-Korgalzhyn lakes system, delta of Ural river and Caspian Sea coast (2007), Alakol-Sasykkol' lakes system and some others.</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) <input type="radio"/> - No change b) <input type="radio"/> - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>a) The condition of Ramsar Sites in Kazakhstan during the report period remained sufficiently stable within the natural cycles, watering of some reservoirs improved, watering level of some others – fell.</p> <p>b) The ecological condition of the majority of Kazakhstan's wetlands located in the northern half of the state primarily depends on climatic conditions, mainly – from the amount of annual precipitation (rain, snow) connected to natural cycles. The past three years as well as 2008-2010 characterised by a rather low snowfall and as result many lakes in northern region remain dry and beneaped. Some improving a number of lakes is visible, but there is no talk about serios or meaningful improvement.</p> <p>c) Overall condition of Kazakhstanis wetlands over the past 3 years remained satisfactory. But it should be noted the ever-increasing water taking from the transboundary watercourses of Ile, Kara Yertys rivers (China), it can be negatively affect the state of Lake Balkhash, Bukhtarma reservoir and other wetlands linked to them.</p>	

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

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

There is no National Wetland Policy as such, but there are some articles and regulatory provisions in various legal acts (codes, rules, laws, regulations, etc.). These are:

- "Ecological Code of Kazakhstan"
- Law "On Specially Protected Nature Areas"
- Law "On protection, reproduction and use of animal world"
- "Code of Kazakhstan on administrative offences"
- "Rules for labelling of wetlands as havind the category of national and international importance"
- "Rules of fishing in the Republic of Kazakhstan"
- various "Building norms and rules"
- (and others)

The question on wetlands conservation included in drafted Action plan and Conception on conservation of biodiversity and long-term conception of "Green economy".

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) B - No
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) C - Partly
- e) A - Yes
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

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:

Environmental area issues and evaluation of its condition are indispensable for the formation of Programms and Actions plans which could have a negative impact on wetlands, particularly, as a source of drinking water. First of all, these questions included in the law of RK on Environmental Protection and in Water Code of RK.

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
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: RK legislation envisaged obligatory actions for companies doing such impacts. These campaigns must evaluate and then to trace possible negative effects in two stages: pre-EIA - preliminary estimation of the impact on the environment, EIA - estimation of impact on the environment (already more detailed). This EIA has to be done for any development projects in any types of landscapes, including projects that might have indirect impact. In EIA various aspects of possible impact - e.g. water, air- and sound pollution, water use, disturbance, social effects etc. - are to be explored and discussed.</p>	

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	A - Yes
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: In 2012, the version of the law article on EPA devoted to wetlands of international importance was changed (refined). Now they should be included in especially protected areas. In the autumn of 2013 according to Order of the Minister of Environment and Water Resources Ministry of RK (regulatory act) the list of 10 wetlands of international importance (all Ramsar Sites in Kazakhstan) and 44 wetlands of republican value (all of them are IBA) was approved. Thus, Ramsar Sites in the country must be included in protected areas, and 44 wetlands that are also IBA, should be preserved anyway, at the discretion of government officials.</p>	

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.4.1 Additional information: Estimation the benefits of wetlands (without exact economic calculations) were made in the framework of GEF/ UNDP/ Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2006-2011) project 'Integrated Conservation of Priority Globally Significant Migratory Bird Wetland Habitat: A Demonstration on Three Sites' on 3 areas: Tengiz-Korgalzhyn Lakes, Alakol-Sasykkol Lake system and delta of Ural river. All of them are Ramsar Sites.</p>	
1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i	A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information:

.....All wetlands management plans include the issues of water consumption safety.

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):

All existing plans on Ramsar Sites management (mostly its protected areas) and other wetlands (having some management plans) include all issues of social-economy importance. Management plans are in all of Ramsar Sites in Kazakhstan which are protected areas excluding "Syrdarya delta Lakes and the small Aral sea", Ili delta and southern coast of Balkhash Lake". These territories are managed in the framework of region development plans where the socio-economic importance is taken into the consideration.

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. D - Planned

1.5.1 Additional information:

.....The main reason of not contacting the above mentioned target groups is lack of capacity (very low number of staff and wide range of tasks) in the responsible governmental body - in the Committee of Forestry and Hunting.

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

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

1.6.1 Additional information:

.....

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

C - Partly

1.6.2 Additional information:

.....Only the protected territories have management plans based on comprehensive scientific grounds. A number of local management plans based on limited assessments (for example, only the indicators of filling reservoirs, etc).

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

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

.....

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}

B - No

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

D - Planned

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

B - No

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

D - Planned

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:

Since 2004 a large-scale project is successfully carried out to restore the Small Aral Sea (Northern part of Aral) by its separation by the dam from the rest of the Aral Sea and the organization of rational water use of Syrdarya river. Further work is planned to improve the condition of this part of the Aral Sea and delta lakes of Syrdarya (Ramsar Sites).

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

C - Partly

1.9.1 Additional information:

.....There is fragmented but quality and reliable information on invasive species in wetlands, but special programs to identify them and to prevent adverse effects haven't been conducted.

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

B - No

1.9.2 Additional information:

.....

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	C - Partly
<p>1.10.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Big job for introduction of Ramsar principles into practice of private sector was done in frame on GEF/UNDP Wetlands Project (2004-2011) at 3 project sites; there were special seminars, meetings with SPAs administration etc. In the meantime, the Ramsar handbooks for wise use of wetlands were not used. Unfortunately the handbooks are not used (but maybe they used by private managers themselves) directly for public&private sector awareness in Kazakhstan.</p> <p>The private sector is only forced to implement the nature protection legislation.</p>	

<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. B - No</p> <p>b. A - Yes</p>
<p>1.10.2 Additional information:</p> <p>.....b) Some of Kazakhstan wetlands which biodiversity corresponds to Ramsar criterions have been transferred to private sector management as a hunting areas or fishery ponds. An example – Lakes system Zharkol' and Kulykol' Lake in Kostanai region. Managing structures provide an effective management of these wetlands that's why their resources are updating and increasing. Similar examples we have in other regions of Kazakhstan.</p>	

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
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <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	B - No
<p>1.11.2 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</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:

.....Since 2006, the Committee of Forestry and Hunting approved the list of prospective Ramsar Sites of 18 wetlands, using Ramsar criteria. 10 of them are already included in the Ramsar list.

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

4 sites

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

Chardara reservoir (2015), Kyzylkol' lake (2016), Markakol' lake (2017) and delta of the Black Irtysh River with adjacent waters of Lake Zaisan (2018).

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:

The management plan will be definitely ready (and it is already in place) for Markakol State Nature Reserve; the possibility of preparation of action plans for other planned Ramsar Sites will be discussed (the problem is these sites are not SPAs still and unlikely they become SPAs in the nearest future)

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

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	6 sites
2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	6 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:	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	3 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):Tengiz-Korgalzhyn Lakes system, Alakol-Sasykkol' Lakes system, delta of Ural River and adjacent coast of the Caspian Sea. The Committees have been established in the framework of the project on wetlands GEF/UNDP/ Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2006-2011).	
2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	10 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):Environmental descriptions were prepared for all Ramsar Sites in the framework of PA establishment or in the process of description forms preparation for Ramsar (RIS) - i.e. RIS for all Ramsar sites have been filled and updated. No additional environmental descriptions were prepared after Ramsar sites designation, but annual monitoring is being done at all Ramsar sites which are included in Protected Areas	

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

C - Some sites

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

.....Evaluating the effectiveness of management was made for Tengiz-Korgalzhin Lakes system (2012), Alakol'-Sasykol' Lakes system (2012), delta of Ural river and adjacent coast of the Caspian Sea (2012), Naurzum Lakes (2012), lakes of lower reaches of Turgai and Irgiz rivers (2012), in the framework of assessment activity of the Protected Areas. Source of information – annual PA reports to the Committee of Forestry and Hunting.

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

C - Some sites

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

.....

The basic mechanism is annual and operational reporting of PAs for 6 Ramsar Sites.

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

Z - No negative change

2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

.....

<p>2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii</p>	<p>Z - Not applicable</p>
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken): </p>	

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

<p>2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i</p>	<p>C - Some sites</p>
<p>2.7.1 Additional information: Potential Ramsar Sites – Markakol' Lake and Chardara reservoir - are under regular monitoring, but for example, actions for managing water level in potential Ramsar Sites haven't been conducted. The regulation of level in Chardara reservoir depends on agricultural needs.</p>	

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

A - Yes

3.1.1 Additional information:

.....There is no special Ramsar Committee, but the Committee of Forestry and Hunting responses for all Conventions related to biodiversity and accordingly there is a constant mutual informing of decision-makers and national partner organizations.

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

A - Yes

3.1.2 Additional information:

.....All these major conventions coordinated by the FHC MEAWR or MEAWR; FAO on some specific issues, etc. coordinates with Ministry of Agriculture. Special Institutional coordinating body is not formed.

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):

.....National key persons for Ramsar Convention cooperate with analogic structures in other Central Asian countries. They are working to conserve and wisely use the wetlands with high regional importance. The Ramsar guidelines on the formulation and operation of Regional Initiatives are not used directly; the collaboration is mainly non-formal, at expert and officers level. The experts and officials coordinated the countries positions for international meetings and initiatives (such as Central Asian flyway initiative).

3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}	B - No
3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):	

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

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i	B - No
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	B - No
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
3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11): Two major projects of GEF/ UNDP - 'Integrated Conservation of Priority Globally Significant Migratory Bird Wetland Habitat: A Demonstration on Three Sites', and the project for conservation of Siberian Crane (in Kazakhstan - conservation of habitats) were completed during the reporting period.	

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}	C - Partly
<p>3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>.....Current and summary information on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Kazakhstan regularly posted on the website of FHC of the Republic of Kazakhstan PK: www.fhc.kz</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	C - Partly
<p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>.....During the reporting period a special website was acting, which provides information primarily on the implementation of the GEF project on globally significant wetlands, as well as some datas about other wetlands of Kazakhstan. In the second half of 2011 this website was closed due to the completion of project activities. Currently, information on a number of wetlands (mainly PA) is available on the website of FHC MEAWR. Information on IBA is available on the ACBKs website (www.acbk.kz).</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	C - Partly
<p>3.4.3 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	

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
<p>3.5.1 Additional information:</p> <p>.....In Kazakhstan there is a number of cross-border flows with neighbouring countries and a number of wetlands that meet the criterias: Ili Balkhash basin (cross-border with China), Ob'- Irtysh basin (transboundary with China and Russia), Shu-Talas (transboundary with Kyzgyzstan), Aral-Syrdarya (transboundary with Uzbekistan) and Ural-Caspian (transboundary with Russia).</p>	

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii	C - Partly
<p>3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):</p> <p>.....There is an agreement with China on joint management of water resources in the Ili-Balkhash and Ob'-Irtys' basins, also there are agreements with Kyzgystan and Uzbekistan on transboundary rivers (water use). Implementation of all agreements faces several challenges.</p>	
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
<p>3.5.3 Additional information:</p> <p>.....Currently regional initiatives are absent, there are only global programmes (IBA, International Waterbird Count и т.п.).</p>	

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.*

<p>4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i</p> <p>a) At the national level b) Sub-national level c) Catchment/basin level d) Local/site level</p> <p>(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)</p>	<p>a) B - No b) B - No c) B - No d) B - No</p>
<p>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 CEPANFPs):</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>a) 4 centres b) 0 centres</p>
<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p> <p>.....a) There are visitor centers for 'Tengiz-Korgalzhyn Lakes system', 'Alakol'-Sasykkol' Lakes system', delta of Ural river and adjacent of the Caspian Sea, 'Naurzum Lakes' in appropriate PAs (reserves, conservice areas).</p>	
<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>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?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) C - Partly b) C - Partly</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>.....a) & b) Local communities and other interested organizations are involved in the development of management plans and its implementation in the</p>	

territories which are Protected Areas.

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:

..... Identifying the local and national needs of the country for the implementation of the Convention and for good management of all wetlands sites has to be done (see Section 2).

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv
a) at Ramsar Sites
b) at other wetlands

Number of opportunities:

a) 5
b) 0

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

..... a) 5 trainings were organized for the staff of Ramsar Sites in the last 3 years in frame of routine procedure of qualification improvement for Protected Areas staff. The trainings were not specifically for Ramsar convention implementation but for general management & conservation questions; Ramsar handbooks were not used.

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

B - No

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

.....

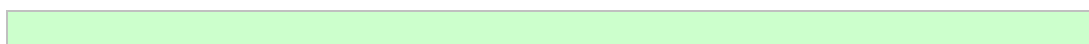
4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:

- a) Ramsar Site managers
 - b) other MEA national focal points
 - c) other ministries, departments and agencies
- {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

a) C - Partly
b) C - Partly
c) C - Partly

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

..... Special mechanism is absent, information is sending by e-mail upon receipt. Realization issues of the Ramsar Convention are considered at meetings of Scientific-technical Council of Forestry and Hunting Committee and intersectoral meetings of MEAWT of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



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>.....The World Wetlands Day – 2d February. To 2011 there were held events in three priority wetlands devoted to raise awareness of the globally significant biodiversity of wetlands including the demonstrations of films “Birds road”, “Secrets of reserved land”, a film about the creation of Natural Reserve “Ak Zhaiyk”; at the national press-club Astana the annual scientific-practical conferences on wetlands issues were conducted.</p> <p>In 2012-2014 there were nor large-scale activities but information on the WWD was distributed with internet- and media-resources of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting, as well as Ministry on Environment and Water Resources and UNDP-Kazakhstan.</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>ACBK conducted a campaign for raising awareness in 2011-2013 in a few IBA wetlands in the framework of projects on conservation supported by the Small Grant Program of GEF.</p>	

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
<p>b) If ‘No’ in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p> <p>.....</p>	

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 previous report was used to compare information on implementation given before and new information received for the current report. This was done to a) avoid duplication especially for end of the previous reporting period; b) to understand what was achieved and where are the gaps (e.g. the clear gap was realized - it is incomplete use of Ramsar handbooks).	

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

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received): ACBK received technical assistance and some financing to work on the Ramsar Convention issues (conservation of IBA, monitoring and etc.) from Birdlife International and Wetlands International.	

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):	