



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.

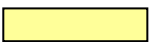
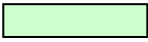
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: LAO PDR

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE)
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Noulinh SINBANDHIT, Minister
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 7864; Vientiane Capital; Lao PDR
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Email:	noulinh@gmail.com

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

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Email:	kkhampadith@gmail.com

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

Name and title:	Mr. Sinthavong VIRAVONG, Deputy Director
Name of organisation:	Living Aquatic Resources Research Centre (LARReC), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Mailing address:	
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Email:	sviravong@yahoo.com

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

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Name of organisation:	Environmental Promotion Division, Department of Environmental Quality Promotion; MoNRE
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Telephone/Fax:	(856 20) 99961390; Fax: (856 21) 218712
Email:	chithanom@hotmail.com

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

Name and title:	Mr. Raphael GLEMET
Name of organisation:	IUCN LAO PDR
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 4340; Vientiane Capital; Lao PDR
Telephone/Fax:	(856 21) 216401; Fax: (856 21) 216127
Email:	raphael.gleMET@iucn.org

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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

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

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

- 1) Completion of a management plan for Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar site, which brought together community members, local and national government representatives and other stakeholders in dialogue and discussion.
- 2) Study on customary rights governing the use of natural resources in the Xe Champhone Ramsar site and drafting of a site regulation based on this.
- 3) Organization of regional workshops to exchange expertise on wetland management and Ramsar implementation
- 4) Biodiversity inventory of the two Ramsar sites for birds and mammals
- 5) Conservation of the Siamese crocodile in the Xe Champhone Ramsar site (collection of eggs from inside the Ramsar site and raising crocodile hatchlings in captivity before releasing them) carried out by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

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

- 1) Mandate for district steering committee is not clearly defined
- 2) Unclear boundaries for Ramsar sites limiting effective governance
- 3) There are currently no statutory laws or regulations aimed at the conservation of wetlands
- 4) Lack of funding for studies on site (hydrology, more detailed biodiversity surveys)
- 5) Lack of capacity at site level.

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

- 1) The development of a management plan for Xe Champhone Ramsar site.
- 2) Review of the Lao National Steering Committee at all levels to include more pertinent ministries.
- 3) National decree by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for the conservation of wetlands and Ramsar sites in Lao PDR
- 4) Continuing the support to Siamese crocodile conservation led by the Wildlife Conservation Society in the Xe Champhone Ramsar site.
- 5) Strengthening the transboundary approach and international cooperation with Thailand and Cambodia.

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

A Ramsar regional initiative is needed in the Lower Mekong Basin to support the countries in implementing the Convention in the region and support transboundary approach.

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)

IUCN Lao PDR has been supporting the Lao government in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and is now the official IOP. IUCN Lao PDR also hosts the CEPA focal point.

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?

No suggestions at this time.

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)?

We plan to revise the composition of the Ramsar Site Steering Committees to include additional relevant ministries and/or departments (Department of Irrigation, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao National Mekong Committee, etc)

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

See (D) above. A Ramsar regional initiative would help by having better local coordination and improving support for the contracting parties in the Lower Mekong Region.

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

MoNRE; IUCN Lao PDR

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

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

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

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

A - Yes

1.1.1 Additional information:

A detailed wetland inventory was published by IUCN and UNEP in 1996. The development of a new methodology for an updated wetland inventory was completed in 2011/2012 by IUCN Lao PDR and the Department of Water Resources with support from the Mekong River Commission. This methodology has been tested and will be implemented within the next triennium.

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
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1.1.2 Additional information:

A digital version of the wetland inventory is made available on the IUCN website. However, as was previously explained, this information has not been updated since it was published in 1996. Frequently updated information on Lao PDR's two Ramsar sites is widely available in print and online through the IUCN and Ramsar websites. The development of the updated methodology (1.1.1, above) included the development of a database that will be published online when completed.

1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}	
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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):

1.1.3 a) The status of Ramsar sites in Lao PDR has remained about the same since the last triennium.

1.1.3 b) The status of wetlands generally has deteriorated because there are no laws governing their conservation. Encroachment due to infrastructure development and agriculture is common, for example in the That Luang Marsh in Vientiane Capital and the wetlands from the Xe Champhone and Beung Klat Ngong areas (outside the boundaries of the Ramsar sites).

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

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

The Department of Water Resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) is currently in the process of developing a National Wetland Policy (to be completed in 2016). The policy will deal with issues such as restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands, reclamation and conversion, over-exploitation of wetland resources, alien invasive species, poverty and food security.

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <p>a) Poverty eradication strategies b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans c) Coastal and marine resource management plans d) National forest programmes e) National strategies for sustainable development f) National policies or measures on agriculture g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD</p> <p>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) Z - Not applicable d) A - Yes e) B - No f) A - Yes g) A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.2 Additional information:</p> <p>There is the National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change and the National Strategy on Climate Change in Lao PDR. NAPA includes strategy for agriculture, forestry, water and water resources sector though this are not discussed in the specific framework of wetlands.</p>	
<p>1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}</p>	<p>C - In progress</p>
<p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p> <p>A review of customary law in Xe Champhone Ramsar site was carried out (IUCN Lao PDR and MoNRE, 2013) and the beliefs of local people regarding natural resource conservation (e.g. sacred sites and animals) in and around the site were studied. The results of the assessment have been shared with key policymakers. Based on these, a proposal for a Prime Minister decree on Ramsar site conservation as well as a draft for a regulation of Xe Champhone Ramsar site have been created following this project but endorsement is still being sought.</p> <p>The Lao government is currently revising its National Law on Water Management and including a substantial component on wetlands to make it compatible with the Ramsar Convention.</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

1.4.1 Additional information:

There has been an analysis of the ecosystem services and benefits provided by the Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar site. The information is published in the baseline report for the site and available online. Ecosystem service valuation has yet to be carried out for the Xe Champhone Ramsar site but an assessment of livelihood mechanism at village level has been carried out by IUCN in ten of fourteen villages of the Xe Champhone Ramsar site.

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

C - Partly

1.4.2 Additional information:

Through the Mekong Water Dialogues, a project funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and led by IUCN Lao PDR, MoNRE is working to set up community fisheries and promote traditional rice farming as well as promote eco-tourism in viable areas in Beung Kiat Ngong. Proposals have been developed by MoNRE, FAO and IUCN to work on livelihood adaptation to climate change in Xe Champhone. The Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat jointly with Department of Environmental Quality Promotion MoNRE and IUCN developed a proposal for a project on 'Lower Mekong Basin Wetland Management and Conservation' funded by KfW. The main objectives of these two proposals is to support local livelihoods and income in tandem with conservation of the wetlands.

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):

Yes for Beung Kiat Ngong for which a management plan has been drafted and is currently being implemented. The development of eco-tourism through the promotion of the tradition of domesticating elephants and the plans to build a museum in Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar site; and through the study of customary law in Xe Champhone Ramsar site and evaluating the belief systems that govern the use of natural resources in the site. In addition, two short movies are being developed by IUCN Lao PDR to highlight the sacred and cultural values of the two sites.

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.*

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

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

- a. D - Planned
- b. A - Yes
- c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

Under the Mekong Water Dialogues, MoNRE and IUCN have conducted a vulnerability assessment for the Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar site based on scientific climate change projection as well as an impact assessment with local communities. A similar study was published in 2011 for the Xe Champhone Ramsar site under an MRC/ICEM/IUCN study.

The upcoming MoNRE/FAO/IUCN project 'Climate Change Adaptation in Wetland Areas' will address the issues of interaction between agriculture and wetlands as well as climate change in the next triennium.

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:

The management plan of Beung Kiat Ngong is based on existing scientific and local knowledge, and the gaps of knowledge have been identified and will be addressed as part of the management plan (hydrology studies, fish studies). For Xe Champhone, additional studies are being carried out before creating the management plan. These will include hydrology and fish studies. Climate change projection will be included and available within the two wetland sites.

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

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

D - Planned

1.7.1 Additional information:

The new National Law on Water Management currently being revised will include wetlands management as one of the ways in which improved water management and water quality can be achieved.

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

B - No

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

B - No

1.8.1 Additional information:

.....

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	B - No
1.8.2 Additional information:	

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	B - No
1.9.1 Additional information: There is no national inventory, but a biodiversity survey of birds and mammals was carried out in Xe Champhone Ramsar site that included some work on one invasive species, <i>Mimosa pigra</i> . Another survey on birds and large mammals is planned for Beung Kiat Ngong that will also include a survey of invasive species in the site. Still much more work is needed on this topic.	

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	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
1.10.1 Additional information: In Beung Kiat Ngong, private tourism agencies were involved in the drafting of the eco-tourism action plan which targetted an improved benefit sharing from elephant tourism with local communities.	

<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. B - No</p>
<p>1.10.2 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	

<p>STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. <i>Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.</i></p>

<p>1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands?</p> <p>{1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <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</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<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

B - No

2.1.1 Additional information:

.....

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

0 sites

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

.....

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

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

.....

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

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

B - No

2.3.1 Additional information:

.....

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

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	1 sites
2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	1 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	0 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: The drafting of a management plan for Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar site was completed in January 2013. Planned preparation of the management plan for Xe Champhone is set for 2015/2016.	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	2 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Both Xe Champhone and Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar sites have Provincial Ramsar Committees and District Implementation Teams and , who are in charge of the management of the sites. These are comprised of district and provincial officers from pertinent national ministries including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.	
2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	1 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Beung Kiat Ngong. Biodiversity surveys of birds and mammals have been completed for both sites that included a partial survey of invasive species. Further habitat mapping and biodiversity surveys on fish and insects need to be carried out.	

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):

Since the implementation of the management plan just started, there has yet to be an assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar Site management. A planned assessment using METT as an assessment tool will be carried out within the next triennium.

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 District Implementation Teams for both Ramsar sites are responsible for reporting negative impacts to the Provincial Ramsar Committee, who in turn report to the National Ramsar Steering Committee.

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

B - No

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

.....

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

B - No

2.7.1 Additional information:

.....

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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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. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i>
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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	B - No
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3.1.1 Additional information:
--

3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv	B - No
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3.1.2 Additional information:
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STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i>

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	B - No
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3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):
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IUCN Asia and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat recently developed a proposal for Mekong WET, a regional Ramsar initiative for the Lower Mekong Basin countries. The final response concerning the proposal is expected for 2015. Work will commence soon after. The National Focal Point of Lao PDR is one of the political partners included in the proposal.

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

Local government, community members and members of the provincial Ramsar Secretariat participated in expertise exchange trips in Cambodia; Lao PDR hosted a workshop on wetland governance which included Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, India and Bangladesh. The Secretariat of Lao National Steering Committee participated in the training workshop on wetland management at the Regional Ramsar Center for East Asia (RRC-EA) South Korea.

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

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

Yes. Funds have been received through the channel of IUCN from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland; Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan; Mekong River Commission (funding from various sources); Ramsar Regional Center for East Asia (RRCEA)

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

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}

B - No

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

.....

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

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

Wetland Inventory in Lao PDR 1996 was published and widely disseminated. Wetland information is available on IUCN and NAFRI websites. Translation of the Ramsar Convention into Lao for distribution has been completed. The RIS for Ramsar sites and respective management plans are available online.

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

MoNRE and IUCN send information on projects and activities from all Ramsar sites to the Ramsar Secretariat. Some of these documents have been published on the Ramsar website.

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

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

B - No

3.5.1 Additional information:

The Mekong River wetland system has been identified but further assessment of transboundary wetland systems have to be carried out for the border between Lao PDR and Vietnam.

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

C - Partly

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

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) has a mission for cooperation between the nations of the Mekong River but further cooperation/initiatives are needed.

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:

Lao PDR participates in regional networks for the Giant Mekong Catfish *Pangasianodon gigas*.

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) B - No
- b) B - No
- c) B - No
- d) B - No

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

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

.....

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

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

- a) 0 centres
- b) 0 centres

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

There is one center planned for the Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar site under the KfW funded project.

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):

Since ratification, stakeholders and local people have provided relevant information such as natural condition, socio-economic data, legislation issues, institutional bodies when choosing the two Ramsar sites. In addition, the drafting process of the management plan for Beung Kiat Ngong

encouraged the participation and contribution of all stakeholders.

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:

.....

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

Number of opportunities:

a) at Ramsar Sites

a) 0

b) at other wetlands

b) 0

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

.....

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

A - Yes

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

The National Ramsar Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism and other pertinent ministries has met once since COP11.

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

a) B - No

b) other MEA national focal points

b) B - No

c) other ministries, departments and agencies

c) B - No

{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

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

.....

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

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information:

World Wetlands Day is observed annually in at least one Ramsar site. Events are centered around the annual themes. World Wetlands Day activities are coordinated with the support of IUCN Lao PDR.

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

A - Yes

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

These have been carried out during other days of international and national significance such as UN Water Day, World Environment Day, National Tree Plantation Day, and National Fish Releasing Day.

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

4.2.1

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

A - Yes

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

.....

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

A - Yes

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

Additional donation of US\$ 10,000 from the government of South Korea for implementation of Ramsar 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

B - No

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

.....

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

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

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

A - Yes

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

As previously mentioned, IUCN Lao PDR is the main Convention IOP and provides technical, organization and monetary support (through projects) for many of Lao PDR's Ramsar activities.

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

A - Yes

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

Yes. Although this support is not monetary, the government of Lao PDR provides technical and organizational support to IUCN Lao PDR in implementing the Ramsar Convention in Lao PDR.