



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.

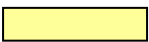

Section 2 is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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

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| IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT |
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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: LESOTHO

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Administrative Authority: | Ministry of Energy, Meteorology and Water Affairs |
| Head of Administrative Authority - name and title: | Emmanuel Lesoma, Principal Secretary |
| Mailing address: | P. O. Box 772, Maseru 100, Lesotho |
| Telephone/Fax: | +266 22322334 / 22310520 |
| Email: | emmanuel.lesoma@gmail.com |

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Name and title: | Mr. Makomoreng Fanana |
| Mailing address: | P. O. Box 772, Maseru 100, Lesotho |
| Telephone/Fax: | +266 22312383 |
| Email: | fananaml@gmail.com |

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

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name and title: | Dr. Botle Esther Mapeshoane |
| Name of organisation: | National University of Lesotho |
| Mailing address: | P.O. Roma 180, Lesotho |
| Telephone/Fax: | +266 22340601 |
| Email: | botlemapes@yahoo.co.uk; be.mapeshoane@nul.ls |

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

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name and title: | Mr. Molefe Mokhatla |
| Name of organisation: | Department of Water Affairs |
| Mailing address: | P.O. Box 772, Maseru 100, Lesotho |
| Telephone/Fax: | +266 22312383 |
| Email: | mfmokhatla42@gmail.com |

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

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name and title: | Mr. Thato Konstabile |
| Name of organisation: | Lesotho Council of Non Governmental Organisations |
| Mailing address: | Lesotho Council of NGOs, Private Bag A445, Maseru 100 |
| Telephone/Fax: | +266 22317205 / +266 58081751 |
| Email: | aenrc@lcn.org.ls |



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) The development of the National Wetlands Conservation Strategy
- 2) There has been a comprehensive capacity assessment on implementing the Ramsar Convention.
- 3) The development and implementation of projects on wetlands rehabilitation and restoration. The Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project and the Khubelu Sponges Project.
- 4) The development of the Letseng-la-Letsie Integrated Catchment Management Plan.
- 5) The ongoing public awareness strategies undertaken on the importance of wetlands.

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

- 1) There are a large number of formal and informal institutions/agencies dealing directly or indirectly with wetlands or their management. With so many institutions having partial and fragmented responsibilities, the need for coordination, collaboration and consensus becomes more than what such institutions are able to deliver.
- 2) Capacities at the national level to deal with wetlands are not just constrained by a wide distribution of roles and responsibilities; they are also very limited in terms of human and financial resources. While capacities at the national level are very modest and largely over-stretched, this is even stronger the case at the sub-national level. The weakness of local government institutions makes it extremely difficult to arrive at operational consensus and to develop and implement plans that respond to local demands and constraints,
- 3) Land tenure issues even worsened by the ambiguity of the traditional systems that are losing power and newly introduced modern systems of elected local government.
- 4) The development of management plans for wetlands.
- 5) The pending implementation of the Letseng-la-Letsie Integrated Catchment Management Plan.

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

- 1) Approval and Implementation of the National Wetlands Conservation Strategy.
- 2) Appointment of a lead agency for wetlands restoration, conservation and management – to give more momentum and clearer direction to the work on wetlands, but counterproductive if other departments would withdraw from such work.
- 3) Capacity buliding for the lead agency.
- 4) Introducing Integrated Catchment Management Planning as the overarching principle on which all other activities are founded.
- 5) Planning of implementation at District level.

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

The Ramsar Secretariat can assist in Capacity building for the Focal point institution within the country. The Secretariat can also assist in fundrasing efforts by the implementing agency as well as extension on relevant expertise to assist the country to implement the Convention.

- E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

The IOP's can assist with capacity building on all aspects of the convention implementation for Contracting Parties.

- 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?

By strengthening and maintaining communication between national focal points of the MEAs. There is need for collaboration and closer cooperation between the Focal Points of these MEA's.

- 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 national focal point needs to work in close collaboration with organisations, communities and departments which are already implementing these strategies.

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

The establishment of a Ramsar sub regional center for Southern African issues can be of assistance to the countries in the region on wetlands management.

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

Department of Environment
Department of Meteorology
Department of Range
National University of Lesotho
Bureau of Statiscs, Environment Unit
Khubelu Sponges Project
Letseng Diamond Mine
Department of Water Affairs.

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:

The distribution of wetlands is known and the status is being verified. There is a Wetlands Distribution Map. This is a Satellite Imagery Map acquired from the Maloti Drakensberg Transfronteir Project (MDTP) in 2007. Field verification took a long time due to a number of factors including financial constraints and the rough terrain.

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| 1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii | A - Yes |
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1.1.2 Additional information:

All stakeholders including consultants are given data on demand and without any charge at all

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

a) Ramsar Sites

b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

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

a) N - Status deteriorated

b) N - Status deteriorated

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

Letseng-la-Letsie Integrated Catchment Management Plan.

Strategic Performance Assessment (SPA) of the Lesotho Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project.

The principal driver of the changes are overgrazing.

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)

A - Yes

1.3.1 Additional information:

There is no Wetlands Policy. However issues concerning wetlands are incorporated in the Water and Sanitation Policy adopted in February 2007 and the Water Act, 2008. The Water and Sanitation Policy includes the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) which include taking cognisance of wetlands issues in managing water while the Water Act includes issues pertaining to the protection of wetlands. Moreover, there is a Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Strategy and the Strategy is currently awaiting cabinet approval.

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| <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) C - Partly e) C - Partly f) C - Partly g) A - Yes</p> |
| <p>1.3.2 Additional information: </p> | |

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| <p>1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii</p> | <p>A - Yes</p> |
| <p>1.3.3 Additional information: This is embedded in the Lesotho Water and Sanitation Policy paragraphs (h) and (i): Promote Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of policies and strategies, programs and plans for water resources development in order to enhance sustainable development.</p> | |

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| <p>1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii</p> | <p>A - Yes</p> |
| <p>1.3.4 Additional information: Environment Act 2008. This is also embedded in the Lesotho Water and Sanitation Policy. Adopt environment impact assessment (EIA) for all water resources development with emphasis on environment protection, poverty alleviation and reduction of the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic.</p> | |

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| <p>1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}</p> | <p>D - Planned</p> |
| <p>1.3.5 Additional information: Lesotho has the Water and Sanitation Policy 2007, the Water Act 2008 and the Long Term Water and Sanitation Strategy and the National Wetlands Conservation Strategy. However the two strategies are yet to be adopted.</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.*

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| 1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii | A - Yes |
| <p>1.4.1 Additional information: A number of studies have been undertaken under Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project (WRCP), 2008-2013. These include the WRCP Wetlands Baseline Assessment (2009), the Strategic Performance Assessment of the Lesotho Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project (2013) and the Integrated Catchment Management Plan for Letseng-la-Letsie, March 2013.</p> | |
| 1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i | A - Yes |
| <p>1.4.2 Additional information: The Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project The Project is a USD 4.9 million component of the Lesotho Compact intended to help Lesotho address widespread overgrazing and degradation of alpine wetlands, which are prevalent throughout the highlands and that are an important ecological and economical resource to the country and its people. The Project was implemented in three pilot areas that were selected on the basis of their representativeness for the wetlands in the highlands of Lesotho in terms of biophysical structure, land use and governance and accessibility. These areas are predominantly hilly rangelands and alpine wetlands that are primarily used for livestock grazing.</p> <p>The Khubelu Sponges Project(KSP) The Project pilots an approach to protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the wetlands as an integrated part of the natural resources in the Khubelu catchment in the northern highlands of Lesotho. The project aims at improving sustainable use of wetlands in the Khubelu catchment of the Lesotho Highlands: The Project is an intervention under the SADC Water Sector Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses, for which ORASECOM has been established in 2000 through an agreement as an implementing commission between Botswana, Lesotho Namibia and South Africa.</p> | |
| 1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii | A - Yes |
| <p>1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): 1. Letseng-la-Letsie.</p> | |

STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention. *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.*

1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
- b. parliament
- c. private sector
- d. civil society
{1.5.2}

- a. D - Planned
- b. D - Planned
- c. D - Planned
- d. D - Planned

1.5.1 Additional information:

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STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

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

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

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

1.6.1 Additional information:

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1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats to the wetlands? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

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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:

The Long Term Water and Sanitation Strategy and the National Wetlands Conservation Strategy. The two strategies are yet to be approved by cabinet.

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| 1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.3} | A - Yes |
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1.7.2 Additional information:
The following national documents deal with catchment /river basin planning and management - The Long Term Water and Sanitation Strategy, the National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and the Lets'eng-la-Letsie Integrated Catchment Management Plan. Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness CEPA, expertise and tools have been incorporated into all these documents.

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| 1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii | A - Yes |
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1.7.3 Additional information:
The National Wetlands Conservation Strategy.

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| 1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v | D - Planned |
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1.7.4 Additional information:
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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.*

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| 1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i | A - Yes |
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1.8.1 Additional information:
Wetlands in the Northeastern part of the country have been identified as priority sites for wetlands restoration. More than 80 % of the wetlands are found in this area and are sources of major rivers.

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

The Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project (WRCP) - (September 2008-September 2013)

The aim of the WRCP was to identify measures of promoting rural livelihoods and enhancing the economic well-being of the poor via integrated watershed management. The key feature of the WRCP is the design and piloting of restoration and land conservation strategies in three catchments in the Lesotho highlands.

The Khubelu Sponges Project (KSP) 2012 - 2015

The Project is an intervention under the SADC Water Sector Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses, for which ORASECOM has been established in 2000 through an agreement as an implementing commission between Botswana, Lesotho Namibia and South Africa.

The Project will pilot an approach to protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the wetlands as an integrated part of the natural resources in the Khubelu catchment in the northern highlands of Lesotho

The project aims at improving sustainable use of wetlands in the Khubelu catchment of the Lesotho Highlands.

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

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

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information:

Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Project (MDTP) - Biodiversity Spatial Assessment Report 2007
Lesotho invasive alien species 2005, 2007.

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

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information:

Invasive Alien Species Management Plan 2013.

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:

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of: a. Ramsar Sites b. Wetlands in general {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii | a. D - Planned b. A - Yes |
|---|------------------------------|

1.10.2 Additional information:
 The Letseng Diamond Mine (LDM) is undertaking rehabilitation of aquatic habitat through the creation of a high-altitude engineered wetland using native plant species in the Maloti Mountains - Qaqa wetland.

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

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| 1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i | D - Planned |
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1.11.1 Additional information:

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|--|-------------|
| 1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i | D - Planned |
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1.11.2 Additional information:

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. *Apply the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance' (Handbook 14, 3^d edition).*

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the *Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?* {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

D - Planned

2.1.1 Additional information:

.....

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

2 sites

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

Phofung (Mount-aus-Sources) and Letsa-la-Senqu. Anticipated year of designation is 2015.

The delay in designating more sites partly comes from the issues that the country is yet to implement the management plan for its first and only Ramsar site. With the lessons learned from this site then more can be designated and management plans developed accordingly.

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

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

Management planning processes are currently being developed for the sites being prepared for Ramsar designation.

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

0 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 plan has not been fully implemented and this is in part because of the pending adoption of the National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and in part because of lack of institutional capacity.

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

1 sites

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

Lets'eng-la- Letsie.

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):

Letseng-la-Letsie.

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'.*

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| 2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i | A - Yes |
| <p>2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):</p> <p>A number of studies have been undertaken under the Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project (2008-2013). These include the WRCP Baseline study (2009) , the Strategic Performance Assessment () and the Integrated Catchment Management Plan for Letseng-la-Letsie, March 2013.</p> | |

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 | D - Planned |
| <p>2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):</p> <p>.....</p> | |

| | |
|---|--------|
| 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 |
| <p>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> <p>.....</p> | |

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| 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 |
| <p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>.....</p> | |

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

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

D - Planned

2.7.1 Additional information:

.....

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| GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION |
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Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " ": use single quotes ' ' instead.

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|---|
| <p>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p> |
|---|

| | |
|---|----------------|
| <p>3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p> | <p>A - Yes</p> |
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|---|
| <p>3.1.1 Additional information: The national focal points of UNCCD and the UNFCCC.</p> |
|---|

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| <p>3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p> | <p>D - Planned</p> |
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| <p>3.1.2 Additional information:</p> |
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| <p>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i></p> |
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| | |
|--|----------------|
| <p>3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i</p> | <p>A - Yes</p> |
|--|----------------|

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

The Khubelu Sponges Project(KSP)

The Project pilots an approach to protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the wetlands as an integrated part of the natural resources in the Khubelu catchment in the northern highlands of Lesotho. The project aims at improving sustainable use of wetlands in the Khubelu catchment of the Lesotho Highlands.

Development of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Plan for the Orange Senqu River Basin.

These interventions are under the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC), Water Sector Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses, for which the Orange/Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) has been established through an agreement as an implementing commission between Botswana, Lesotho Namibia and South Africa.

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}

D - Planned

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

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:

.....

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| 3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3} | A - Yes |
| <p>3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):</p> <p>Lesotho is undertaking a project on wetlands restoration and conservation contributing to watershed management funded by the GIZ through the Orange/Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) which is made up riparian states to the Orange/Senqu River (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa).</p> | |

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

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|--|-------------|
| 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} | D - Planned |
| <p>3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>.....</p> | |

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|--|---------|
| 3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv | A - Yes |
| <p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>There is a website that has been carried over from the Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Projects (2008-2013). However there are some challenges in maintaining this website and they are currently being addressed.</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 | D - Planned |
| <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.*

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| <p>3.5.1 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i</p> | <p>D - Planned</p> |
| <p>3.5.1 Additional information:</p> | |
| <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</p> | <p>D - Planned</p> |
| <p>3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):</p> | |
| <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</p> | <p>B - No</p> |
| <p>3.5.3 Additional information:</p> | |

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

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| <p>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

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

- a) D - Planned
- b) D - Planned
- c) D - Planned
- d) D - Planned

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

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

.....

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

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

- a) 0 centres
- b) 0 centres

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

.....

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

a) 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):

Stakeholder workshops and meetings are held regularly through which wetland planning and management issues are discussed and comments solicited.

| | |
|---|--|
| 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 | A - Yes |
| 4.1.4 Additional information: The Strategic Performance Assessment of the Lesotho Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project (2013) – There is limited expertise on wetlands Issues. | |
| 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) 0 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): As part of its efforts to improve the conservation and management of wetlands in Lesotho, a National Wetlands Committee was established. The role of this committee is to facilitate the formulation, implementation and monitoring of wetlands projects, facilitate research activities on wetlands and formulate guidelines and standards for sustainable use of wetlands. Institutions dealing with wetlands management are members of this committee. These are Range Management, Soil and Water Conservation, Department of Environment , Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, National University of Lesotho, Local Government, Department of Water Affairs, Non Government Organisations, Community based Organisations and Traditional Local Structures. The Wetlands Unit of the Department of Water Affairs has been given the role of a lead institution in the management of wetlands. The committee meets once in three months. | |
| 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) D - Planned b) D - Planned c) D - Planned |

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:

.....

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):

Activities carried out were all related to the World Wetlands 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:

Payment for 2012 was made. Lesotho is yet to receive invoices for 2013 and 2014. The country is ready to pay the Ramsar contributions as soon as the invoices are received.

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

D - Planned

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

The previous Ramsar National Report has been used to monitor progress in some areas, and has shown that the country has not fully satisfied its plan in the implementation of the Convention and in the designation of additional Ramsar Sites.

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

B - No

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

.....

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):

.....