



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

**National Reports to be submitted to the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,  
Uruguay, 2015**

Please submit the completed National Report in Microsoft Word format (.doc, 97-2003), as an electronic file (not a printed copy) and preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org)) by **1 September 2014**.

## The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

The COP12 National Report Format (NRF) is in four sections:

**Section 1** provides the institutional information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

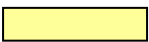

**Section 2** is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**Section 3** provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional ‘free-text’ section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

**Section 4** is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

## General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

<b>IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT</b>
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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](http://www.ramsar.org/contacts.en).

**NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: MALAWI**

#### DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE
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#### DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

<b>Name and title:</b>	MR. GERVAZIO THAMALA
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## 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) Raising awareness of the importance of wetlands through commemoration of the World Wetlands Day. Key Government Sectors, NGOs and local communities join hands in commemorating World Wetlands Day. For example the 2013 and 2014 World wetlands days were well publicised through the live Television Panel discussions on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation State TV in the local language

2) Increased multi-stakeholder involvement in the management of wetlands and other wetland related activities. For example, the Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme (LCBCCAP) which is a five-year programme jointly implemented by Leadership for Environment and Development Southern & Eastern Africa (LEAD SEA); World Fish Centre, and the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM) in collaboration with Machinga, Phalombe and Zomba district councils, and University of Malawi, Chancellor College. The overall goal of the programme is to secure the livelihoods of 1.5 million people in the Lake Chilwa Basin and enhance resilience of the natural resource base.

Specifically, the programme aims to strengthen local and district institutions to manage natural resources sustainably and build resilience to climate change; facilitate and help build cross-basin and cross-sector natural resource management and planning for climate change throughout the Basin; improve household and enterprise adaptive capacity in Basin hotspots; and finally mitigate the effects of climate change through improved forest management and governance.

Secondly, the development of GAWI (Guidelines on Agriculture and Wetland Interactions) to analyze agriculture and wetland situation in order to identify ways in which benefits can be maximised and risks of wetland loss and degradation minimized. A case study was undertaken particularly in Kasungu District in Simlemba. The case study was based on five years of work undertaken in collaboration with Malawi Enterprise Zone Association (MALEZA), a Malawian NGO which has been working in the Simlemba area. The work focused on improving food security in general and building up community institutions to engage in development initiatives.

3) The Department of National Parks and Wildlife has facilitated the development of the Bird Management Plan for the Lake Chilwa Wetland.

4) Under the Shire River Basin Management Program (SRBMP), there are plans which are currently in progress for studies of the ecology, hydrology and natural resource exploitation in the Elephant marshes wetland in Lower Shire valley, and participatory management planning to establish community wetland management aimed at enhancing the value of the area for environmental services particularly flood attenuation, livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. The plans also include to designate the Elephant Marsh as a Ramsar Site. A number of stakeholder consultative workshops and meetings are being undertaken.

5) A multi-stakeholder Team comprising of Officers from several Government Sectors undertook a study training tour to Okavango wetland in Botswana.

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

- 1) A small proportion of Malawi's wetlands are protected whilst the rest are under open access regime and prone to overexploitation .
- 2) Key to achieving sustainable management of wetlands is through community participation which is constrained by lack of an enabling wetlands policy and legal framework to regulate sustainable use of wetlands. Malawi does not have a specific wetland policy and there are many existing sectoral policies and legislation that address wetland management and use. These existing policies do not comprehensively deal with wetland management and use, and therefore there is need to develop policy tools to guide wetland utilization and management.
- 3) Inadequate operational financial resources for the National Wetlands Committee and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife which is the Secretariat
- 4) Inadequate skills and technical knowledge on wetlands management and wise use.
- 5) Threat of heavy mineral exploration.

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

- 1) Listing of the Elephant Marsh as a Ramsar Site.
- 2) Strengthening coordination among private sector, government, NGOs and local community resource users
- 3) Development of specific wetland policy and legal framework to guide management and sustainable utilization.
- 4) Enhancing participatory community management action planning .
- 5) Enhance the visibility of wetlands and general public awareness.

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

Need for Technical and Financial assistance in light of potential anthropogenic and economic development needs.

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)

Need for the Ramsar Secretariat to organise a platform for the IOPs where they can network and interface with AA.

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?

The development of a national Integrated wetlands policy will consider different sectors' roles in managing wetlands, networking and information sharing and exchange.

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 development of a national integrated wetlands policy and strategy will consider different sectors' roles in managing wetlands.

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

The Technical skills and Capacity of the focal points both Government and NGO to be enhanced.

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

B.K.Kumchedwa, Department of National Parks and Wildlife

W.O.Mgoola, Department of National Parks and Wildlife

R.M.Jiah, Department of National Parks and Wildlife

G.Thamala, Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi.

## 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 regional wetlands inventory was carried out by the SADC Wetlands Programme in 1995.



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
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Information about the Lake Chilwa Ramsar Site can be obtained from the (i) Environmental Affairs Department who coordinated the surveys by DANIDA in 1995-98 for the establishment of the Ramsar Site (ii) Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi, Zomba Branch who have projects in the area, (iii) the Danish Hunters' Association who worked with the Bird Hunters' clubs to form one Bird Hunters' Association between 2004 and 2006. Currently there is the Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Adaptation Programme going on and information can be obtained from LEAD at Chancellor College</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) N - Status deteriorated</p> <p>b) N - Status deteriorated</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>a) Additional information: A regional wetlands inventory was carried out by the SADC Wetlands Programme in 1995.</p> <p>Information about the Lake Chilwa Ramsar Site can be obtained from the (i) Environmental Affairs Department who coordinated the surveys by DANIDA in 1995-98 for the establishment of the Ramsar Site (ii) Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi, HQ and Zomba Branch who have projects in the area, (iii) the Danish Hunters' Association who worked with the Bird Hunters' clubs to form one Bird Hunters' Association between 2004 and 2010.</p> <p>Leadership for Environment and Development (University of Malawi- Chancellor College).</p> <p>b) The Malawi State of Environment and Outlook Report 2010 highlights that human population increase, poverty and climate change poses threats to wetlands. There is increasing overexploitation and degradation of the wetlands.</p>	

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

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>1.3.1 Additional information: It is being planned to have an integrated national wetland policy by the end of the triennium</p>	
<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Poverty eradication strategies</li> <li>b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans</li> <li>c) Coastal and marine resource management plans</li> <li>d) National forest programmes</li> <li>e) National strategies for sustainable development</li> <li>f) National policies or measures on agriculture</li> <li>g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD</li> </ul> <p>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A - Yes</li> <li>b) A - Yes</li> <li>c) C - Partly</li> <li>d) A - Yes</li> <li>e) A - Yes</li> <li>f) C - Partly</li> <li>g) A - Yes</li> </ul>
<p>1.3.2 Additional information: The Malawi National Strategy for Sustainable Development articulates poverty eradication strategies, water resource management, national forest programmes, sustainable development strategies under its nine themes.</p> <p>The Malawi National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan outlines status of and strategies to ensure conservation, management and sustainable utilization of biodiversity resources in Malawi.</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>C - Partly</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: strategic environmental assessment practices are applied when reviewing policies and plans. However there are several policies and legislations which are sometimes conflicting regarding wetlands.</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>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: Any major development projects are preceded by the EIA in wetlands as provided for in the Environmental management Act.</p>	

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	D - Planned
1.3.5 Additional information: Plans are underway to review the wildlife policy.	

**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	D - Planned
1.4.1 Additional information: Under the Shire River Basin Management Program, assessment of ecosystem services planned for areas within the Basin which includes the Elephant Marsh wetland which is not yet a 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	A - Yes
1.4.2 Additional information: The Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme (LCBCCAP) jointly implemented by Leadership for Environment and Development Southern & Eastern Africa (LEAD SEA); World Fish Centre, and the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM) in collaboration with Machinga, Phalombe and Zomba district councils, and Chancellor College. The overall goal of the programme is to secure the livelihoods of 1.5 million people in the Lake Chilwa Basin and enhance resilience of the natural resource base. Specifically, the programme aims to strengthen local and district institutions to manage natural resources sustainably and build resilience to climate change; facilitate and help build cross-basin and cross-sector natural resource management and planning for climate change throughout the Basin; improve household and enterprise adaptive capacity in Basin hotspots; and finally mitigate the effects of climate change through improved forest management and governance.	

1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	A - Yes
1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): Studies have been conducted in the Lake Chilwa Ramsar Site under the Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme.	

**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. A - Yes
- b. B - No
- c. A - Yes
- d. A - Yes

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. D - Planned

1.6.1 Additional information:

Research on agriculture-wetland interactions have been carried out in some wetlands in Malawi.

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:

The Lake Chilwa wetland management plan is a product of the various wetland research studies that have been carried out.

**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 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan provides for integrated watershed management.

1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see [Resolution X.19](#))? {1.7.3}

D - Planned

1.7.2 Additional information:

.....

1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) guides adaptation priorities for Malawi on climate change and recognizes the role of wetlands in sustaining food production.

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

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

The Greenbelt initiative whose major objective is to increase food production and productivity from wetlands, and also the National Adaptation Programme of Action recognizes the role of wetland in sustaining food production. However, the challenge is to strike a balance between use of ecosystem services and ecological integrity.

**STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration.** *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

D - Planned

1.8.1 Additional information:

Vwaza Marsh, Elephant Marsh.

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

D - Planned

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

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information:

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan on theme Two (Aquatic Biodiversity) outlines the invasive alien species that impact the ecological character of wetlands

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

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information:

The Fisheries Policy and the Water Development Policy have details on the control of invasive species.

**STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector.** *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information:

The proposal by a company for heavy mineral extractive activity in Lake Chilwa wetland underwent EIA processes and were given guidelines regarding wetlands and extractive industries.

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:

a. Ramsar Sites

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

b) Wetland Action in partnership with the Malawi Enterprise Zone Association (MALEZA), a Malawian NGO have been working with local communities focusing on improving food security in general from wetlands and building up community institutions to engage in development initiatives.

<p><b>STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures.</b> <i>Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.</i></p>
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<p>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</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>1.11.1 Additional information: .....</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>	

## GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

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

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

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

The National Parks and Wildlife strategic plan includes the designation of other Ramsar sites

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

1 sites

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

Elephant Marsh Wetland to be designated by 2018

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

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

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

The designation of the Elephant Marsh as a Ramsar site will follow the guidelines and criteria on wetlands of international importance.

**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:

The plan to designate the Elephant Marsh as a Ramsar site will start with ecological research surveys followed by participatory management planning with the local communities who use the wetland on a daily basis.

**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 various issues concerning Lake Chilwa wetland are in the management plan	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	1 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): The Department of National Parks and Wildlife, and the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi organised the Lake Chilwa Bird Hunters' Association which are local community institutions to ensure sustainable bird hunting.  Also the Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme (LCBCCAP) is being jointly implemented by Leadership for Environment and Development Southern & Eastern Africa (LEAD SEA); World Fish Centre and the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM).	
2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	0 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): .....	

**STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness.** *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance'.*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i	B - No
2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information): .....	

**STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status.** *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i	B - No
2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established): .....	

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i	A - Yes
2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made): Guidance was requested for Lake Chilwa wetland on the proposed plan for mining in the wetland.	

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	A - Yes
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2.7.1 Additional information:

The ecological integrity of wetlands such as Lake Malawi, and Vwaza Marsh has not been compromised.

<b>GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>
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**Note:** in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " ": use single quotes ' ' instead.

<p><b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.</b> <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p>
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<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 &amp; 3.1.iv</p>	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information:

For example, the Department of Environmental Affairs which is the National Focal Point on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is also a member of the National Wetlands Committee.

<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>	A - Yes
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3.1.2 Additional information:

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife collaborates with other Government Sectors and International Organisations and is also a party to other Conventions such as CITES, World Heritage Convention.

<p><b>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives.</b> <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>	D - Planned
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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):

The planned initiative is for Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Contracting Parties

<p>3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}</p>	B - No
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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:

.....

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}

B - No

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

.....

**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
<p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>A number of publications about Lake Chilwa Wetland were made public and are available at Chancellor College library. Also currently, the Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme has a webiste (<a href="http://www.lakechilwaproject.mw/publications.php">http://www.lakechilwaproject.mw/publications.php</a> ) which can easily be accessed.</p>	

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii	A - Yes
<p>3.4.3 Additional information:</p> <p>The Lake Chilwa Ramsar Site was updated in September 2007. Additionally, request was submitted following the proposal for mining extractive activity to have a Ramsar Advisory Mission to provide guidance.</p>	

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

3.5.1 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	A - Yes
<p>3.5.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Malawi is a signatory to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Shared Water Courses which outlines the requirements and obligations on shared watercourses..</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	B - No
<p>3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):</p> <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	A - Yes
<p>3.5.3 Additional information:</p> <p>For example Malawi participates in Pan-African Ornithological Congress meetings.</p>	

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

<p><b>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.</b> 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>
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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):

The development of the Lake Chilwa bird management plan for the Bird Hunters Association involved the grass root level participation of 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 a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands	Number of opportunities:  a) 0 b) 1
4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):  One Officer attended the training of trainers course on the flyway approach on the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands.	
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):  (b) The committee does not meet regularly due to financial constraints. Managed to meet once this year in April 2014.  The composition of the Committee is as follows: -Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture: Secretariat -Environmental Affairs Department, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources -Department of Lands, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources -University of Malawi, Chancellor College -University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture -Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security -Forestry Department, Ministry of Energy and Mines -Department of Water Development, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development -Irrigation Department, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development -Department of Community Health, Ministry of Health -Department of Land Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security -Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) -Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE) (C) the main responsibility is to provide technical guidance and expertise on the management of wetlands and wise use	



<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) C - Partly b) A - Yes c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>The Department of National Parks and Wildlife works in partnership with other Government Sectors such as Forestry, Environmental Affairs, Fisheries and NGOs such as WESM, Coordinating Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE), Center for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) and Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) among others.</p>	
<p>4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>.Raising awareness of the importance of wetlands through commemoration of the World Wetlands Day involved key Government Sectors, NGOs and local communities joining hands in commemorating World Wetlands Day. For example the 2013 and 2014 World wetlands days were well publicised through the live Television Panel discussions on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation State TV in the local language, and as well as print media coverage.</p>	
<p>4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>Under the Shire River Basin Management Programs, several awareness activities have been undertaken that highlight the importance of wetlands including the organisation of yearly national conferences on the importance of the Shire Basin that draws a diverse range of stakeholders</p>	

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

4.2.1

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

B - No

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

The delayed payment was due to the financial difficulties that the country is experiencing. However, the Government is committed to pay the arrears by the end of the year.

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

B - No

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

.....

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

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

A - Yes

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

The triennium national report submitted for COP 11 is often referred to as one of the planning tools for implementing the Convention

**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):

.....