



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

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

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

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

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

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

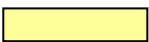
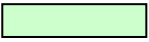
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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

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

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

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

1. All Sections of the COP12 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
2. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **1 September 2014**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP12.
3. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
4. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.
5. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word. You are only able to submit replies and information in the yellow or green boxes, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the structure and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties.
6. To select a yellow or green field you wish to complete, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
7. To move down through the sequence of fields, you can also use the 'Tab' key on the computer keyboard.

8. For a 'free-text' field, you can type in whatever information you wish. Note that there is only limited facility within the Microsoft 'form' format to make editorial changes in the 'free-text' box once text has been entered. Therefore, if you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate document, make all the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the box.
9. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic entry of data into the Secretariat's database. For that reason, please **do not use double quote marks " "** in the 'free-text' fields. Please **only use single quote marks ' '**. For the same reason, please **only use simple text in the 'free-text' fields: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
10. For each of the 'indicator questions' in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: 'Yes', 'No', 'Partly', 'In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
11. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).
12. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
13. An NRF is not usually completed by one person alone: for many indicators it is best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP11 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.
14. After each session, **remember to save the file** in Microsoft Word, .doc, 97-2003 format. A recommended filename structure is: COP12NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP12NRFSpain13July2014.doc
15. After the NRF has been completed, please **send it in this format to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (dufour@ramsar.org).**
16. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP12 National Report.**
17. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at www.ramsar.org/contacts_en.

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	National Parks and Conservation Service Ministry of AgroIndustry & FS
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr Manikchand PUTTOO Director NPCCS
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

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Email:	npcs@mail.gov.mu

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

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

Name and title:	Ms Houshna Banu NAUJEER Scientific Officer (Wetland Conservation)
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DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

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

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) Designation of new Ramsar Sites (Pointe D'Esny Ramsar Site)
- 2) Promoting Research and education on anthropogenic threats to Ramsar Sites
- 3) Public Education and Awareness on wetland conservation and wise use (World Wetlands Day celebration)
- 4) Monitoring of Ramsar Sites
- 5) National Ramsar Committee recommendations for development proposed on ESA

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

- 1) No proper legislation for wetland protection and wise use
- 2) Socioeconomic pressure for development on Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)
- 3) Training of Scientific personnel in wetland restoration, evaluation and migratory bird ringing and monitoring of bird population , their distribution and relative abundance, Gap assessing the Vulnerability of Migratory Birds to Climate change impacts in Mauritius
- 4) Inadequate Financial support
- 5)

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

- 1) Designation of new Ramsar Sites (Midlands Dam)
- 2) Establishment of a legislative framework for wetland protection and wise use through enactment of a Wetland Bill
- 3) Preparation of a Management Plan for Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary (RTREBS) Ramsar Site
- 4) Restoration OF Ramsar Site through planting of endemic plants adapted to coastal environment and removal of exotic weeds
- 5) Research and Education on wetland conservation and wise use

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

Improve intellectual capacity building through networking and sharing of resources- provide short and/or long term courses in: wetland conservation and wise; management of Ramsar Sites; conservation of ecological networks for migratory birds and monitoring migratory bird population; mapping of species distribution and abundance, assessing migratory bird vulnerability to climate change impacts

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)

Foster collaborative regional networking for sharing of information and resources on wetland ecology, mapping ecological character, restoration, evaluation, documentation, wise use, creating a wetland inventory database and research among the Small Developing Island States of the Indian Ocean regional network

- 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?

Fostering Collaborative Networks for sharing of knowledge and information in various specialised field of expertise; symposiums, workshops, seminars, conferences, tertiary education; specialised courses in wetland conservation up to Phd level
Exchange programmes among nations for transboundary learning of successful wetland conservation and wise use strategies and conflict management over resource use

- 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)?

Designation of Reservoirs and Dams as Ramsar Sites of International Importance (Nomination of Midland Dam as a Ramsar Site)
Community involvement in Conservation and Wise use of Ramsar Sites for livelihood (sale of artisanal product in Ramsar Sites; Ecological Guides)
Increase Wise Use of Ramsar Sites; ecotourism, renewable hydropower energy supply
Promote Collaborative Research and multistakeholders Consultative working groups for cross cutting issues in line with Maurice Ile Durable Policy Framework goals

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

Assist Contracting Parties in intellectual Capacity Building for research and restoration activities; creating database for wetlands inventory

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

National Parks and Conservation Service Ministry of AgroIndustry and FS
Ministry of Environment and SD
Ministry of Fisheries
Ministry of Public Utilities (Water Resources Unit)
Forestry Services
Force Vive De Roches Bois Community NGO
University of Mauritius

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	B - No
1.1.1 Additional information: Wetlands have been partly mapped under the Environmentally Sensitive Area Study commissioned by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Year 2008.	
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
1.1.2 Additional information: ESA Study report and guidelines including wetland maps circulated to relevant members of the National Ramsar Committee	

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) P - Status improved
- b) N - Status deteriorated

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

Integrated Coastal Zone Management policies and strategies to enhance coastal wetland and beach protection and environment best practices.

Ramsar site management and restoration to improve ecological character

Exponential growth in developments along the coastline of Island resulting in development pressure near wetland zone. However, enforcement actions reinforced against illegal backfilling of wetland.

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:

The National Development Strategy for Mauritius (a planning instrument of the Ministry of Housing and Lands) makes for provision for regulating developments on and around wetlands. Policy ENV2 on Wetlands of National Development Strategy 2003 (proclaimed on 17 June 2005) requires that wetlands should be protected from adverse effects of development.

This has been translated in the local plans through Policy EC3 of the Outline Planning Schemes for the Rural Areas (approved 2006 as subsequently modified in 2013) which stipulates that "Development should not normally be allowed within wetlands or buffer areas (30 metres from the edge of the wetland) except in cases for educational or environmental management purposes or where in the national interest and is acceptable on planning and environmental grounds.

The Draft Wetland Bill is still under revision at State Law Office prior to its endorsement by the Cabinet

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) A - Yes d) A - Yes e) A - Yes f) A - Yes g) A - Yes
<p>1.3.2 Additional information: National Policies such as Private Public Partnership and the Social Responsibility Corporate Scheme to sponsor environment projects including wetland conservation and restoration activities; National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee to overview coastal and marine resources management and use; National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan endorsed by National Parks and Conservation Services addressing wetland biodiversity conservation issues</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>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: The Environment Protection Act makes provision for Environment Impact Assessment for Listed Schedule activities that are likely to have an impact on Environmentally Sensitive Areas including 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: Development that are listed schedule activities under the Environment Protection Act require either an Environment Impact Assessment Licence and or a Preliminary Environment Report which takes into consideration the impacts and mitigation measures proposed and post EIA Monitoring schedule .</p>	
<p>1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}</p>	<p>C - In progress</p>
<p>1.3.5 Additional information: Draft Wetland Bill still need to be endorsed by Cabinet</p>	

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change

mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C - Partly
1.4.1 Additional information:	

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 Force Vive De Roches Bois Community works in close collaboration with NPCS for sale of artisanal products at Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary Ramsar Site.	

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): Three Ramsar Sites; Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary; Pointe D'esny and Blue Bay Marine Parks As per reports from the Ministry of Tourism and leisure, the Grand Bassin lake which is an important place of worship attracts around 400, 000 to 500, 000 pilgrims during the religious festival of Mahashivratae. It is also an attractive tourist site which draws 400 to 500 tourists daily.	

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:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. head of state b. parliament c. private sector d. civil society {1.5.2}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. --- b. --- c. --- d. ---
1.5.1 Additional information:	

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

<p>1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:</p> <p>a. agriculture-wetland interactions</p> <p>b. climate change</p> <p>c. valuation of ecosystem services</p> <p>{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>	<p>a. A - Yes</p> <p>b. B - No</p> <p>c. B - No</p>
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1.6.1 Additional information:

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<p>1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats to the wetlands? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
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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.*

<p>1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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1.7.1 Additional information:

Reservoirs ,Dams and Rivers are primary source of domestic water supply, irrigation purposes and generating electricity. They are managed sustainably by Water Resources Unit and Central Water Authority to ensure a constant supply of water.

<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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1.7.2 Additional information:

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<p>1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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1.7.3 Additional information:

A technical guidelines ESA Report prepared highlighting importance of protecting wetlands in Grand Baie region as a flood control mitigating measure.

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 World Wetland Day 2014 was celebrated at the village of Clemencia to sensitize people on the wise use of wetland resources and to show how a wide range of agricultural crops were wetland dependent. A food exhibition was held on wetland crops e.g Taro, Watercress etc. Agricultural tools and plantlets of wetland crops were distributed to vegetable growers. Pamphlets on wetland crops and aquaculture were distributed to planters and students to raise awareness on the importance of wetlands.

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:

The Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) Report had identified and proposed a wetland protection and restoration project for the regions of Belle Mare and Palmar. These coastal wetlands provide important ecosystem services that contribute in improving the water quality in the surrounding areas and the lagoon, regulate climate, act as accumulation sites for nutrients and provide vital breeding and nursery grounds for birds, fish and crabs. Wetland protection and restoration is in line with the Policy of the Government.

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

A few degraded wetlands have been restored. Coral reef transplant and zoning for permissible and non permissible nautical activities in Bue Bay Marine Park undertaken.

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
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1.9.1 Additional information:
Invasive Alien Species are controlled in Ramsar Sites.

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	D - Planned
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1.9.2 Additional information:
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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
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1.10.1 Additional information:
Private sector is encouraged to contribute for environmental programmes under the Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme

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

An ecotourism project for construction of a Bird Hide and establishment of craft shops was a public private partnership initiative through financial support from Shell Mauritius, Mauritius Port Authority, UNDP and government of Mauritius.

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

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes
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1.11.1 Additional information:
Public sensitisation campaigns (talks in schools, radio programme, press article, video shooting, brochures etc) on wetlands conservation and wise use cleaning day organised in Ramsar Sites

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

A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

Legal course of actions pursued against backfilling of wetlands

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

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

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

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:
.....

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):
Nomination process for Midlands Dam initiated in 2013
Nomination of Caverne Patate in Rodrigues Island is planned for year 2014 .

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 list of criteria established by Ramsar Convention are used as a guideline for establishing new Ramsar sites

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:

Effective day to day management is carried out to maintain the ecological integrity of Ramsar Sites while promoting their sustainable use

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	1 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: A management plan has been drafted and is being reviewed prior to seeking approval from the cabinet	

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	3 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary, Pointe D'Esny and Blue Bay Marine Park have cross sectoral management committee taking on board relevant stakeholders such as NGOs, local Fisherman associations, local surrounding communities, research institutions (university of Mauritius), Ministries (Environment, Tourism, Fisheries, Agroindustry, Local Government) etc	

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	3 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary Pointe D'Esny and Blue Bay Marine Park	

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

Year of assessment 2013; source annual report

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

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

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

There is an Environment Coordination Committee set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment & SD to monitor any pollution problems along Rivulet Terre Rouge feeder

The Management Committee for Marine Protected Areas in Mauritius is to ensure the protection and conservation of marine ecosystems, to oversee the overall sustainable management of MPAs in general. This includes the Blue Bay Marine Park.

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

Z - No negative change

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

.....

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

2.7.1 Additional information:

Midlands Dam managed by Water Resources Unit for maintaining the ecological integrity of site.

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. *Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).*

3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	A - Yes
<p>3.1.1 Additional information: Several Ministries which are designated as National Focal points to MEAs are represented at the National Ramsar Committee inter alia Ministry of Environment & SD National Focal Point to Nairobi Convention, Basel Convention, Minamata Convention, United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Basel Convention.</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	A - Yes
<p>3.1.2 Additional information:</p>	

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i	B - No
<p>3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):</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}	B - No
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3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

Participation in regional wetland training is considered as vital for networking and mutual sharing of knowledge and information on wetland conservation programmes the achievements and challengers faced at the regional level.

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

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

B - No

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

.....

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

B - No

3.3.2 Additional information:

.....

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}

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):

Establishing regional and international networks is crucial for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands most particularly for countries with restricted number of expertise in wetland management and conservation

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

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

Ramsar Sites of International Importance published on Ramsar Website and on Ministry of Agroindustry and Food Security website .

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

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

Ramsar Information Sheets of designated ramsar sites and national reports submitted to Ramsar Secretariat

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

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

Z - Not applicable

3.5.1 Additional information:

.....

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

Z - Not applicable

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

.....

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii

B - No

3.5.3 Additional information:

NPCS is national focal point to AEWA and CMS conventions.

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
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Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <i>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.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

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

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

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

A CEPA programme is established by NPCS to disseminate information on wetland conservation and its wise use to the local people and targeting the school community most particularly . Talks, open days and guided educational tours at Ramsar Sites, discussion forum, brochures, pamphlets, posters, factsheets, video and film shooting, press articles are undertaken.

<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
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- a) at Ramsar Sites
- b) at other wetlands

- a) 2 centres
- b) 2 centres

<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p>
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The Ramsar Sites are equipped with Visitors Centres facilities for dissemination of information to the public. Black River Gorges and Bras Deau national parks also have visitors centres displaying information boards on wetlands rich in native/endemic biodiversity

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>The National Ramsar Committee has one of the core objective of promoting stakeholders participation in wetland planning and management and taking on board relevant stakeholders collaborative management and policy formulation needs.</p>	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>Training is required in core fields of wetland conservation: drafting and implementing management plans; wetland delineation and ecological mapping using GIS tools; Wetland Ecosystem Valuation techniques; wetland restoration and rehabilitation techniques, wetland lymnological studies; wetland conservation and conflict management etc</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a) 0</p> <p>b) 0</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>Practical and hands on experience and on site training experience is more relevant for different types of wetlands that are found locally</p>	
<p>4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>A National Ramsar Committee is set up under the Ministry of Agroindustry and Food Security to advise the responsible Minister on wetland issues and formulate policies and legal frameworks to promote the conservation and wise use of wetland resources in Mauritius. The committee comprises of members from 16 institutions (ministries, NGOS, University of Mauritius etc) and meets every three months to provide reccomendations on development request near wetlands, ramsar sites management and other pertinent issues related to wetland conservation.</p>	

<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) A - Yes 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>Workshops and interministerial committees such as ICZM that deals with wetland conservation issues.</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>Since COP 11, NPCS organised several events (open days at Ramsar sites, talks, essay competition, video shooting, press articles, posters & brochures, distribution of symbolic gifts etc) for celebration of World Wetlands Day under the theme chosen by Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>A morning message on specific World Wetlands Day themes prepared by wetland section highlighting the key messages to be read in all primary and secondary schools</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>Open days organised at Ramsar Sites to celebrate other events such as World Biodiversity day. Regular talks conducted in schools on wetland biodiversity conservation. Cleaning day and tree planting activities organised by NPCS in collaboration with NGOs for awareness raising.</p>	

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

4.2.1 a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	
Payment of membership fees for year 2012 and 2013 effected. Awaiting for original invoice of membership fees from Ramsar Secretariat for current year 2014.	

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):	

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): IOPs could contribute significantly to contracting parties for successful domestication and implementation of the convention through trainings and sharing of information on international forum etc	

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
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4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):
contribution to Small Grant Fund and official member of IUCN.