



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.

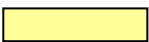
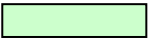
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: NETHERLANDS (CARIBBEAN PART OF THE KINGDOM)

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Economic Affairs
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Drs. R.P. van Brouwershaven, Director of the Department Nature and Biodiversity, Ministry of Economic Affairs.
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Drs. A.J. Pel, Policy Officer
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Telephone/Fax:	06-467 146 94
Email:	a.j.pel@minez.nl

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

Name and title:
Name of organisation:	Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands
Telephone/Fax:
Email:

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

Name and title:	Drs. A.J. Pel, Policy Officer
Name of organisation:	Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, the Netherlands
Telephone/Fax:	06-467 146 94
Email:	a.j.pel@minez.nl

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

Name and title:	Vacant
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) On 5-2-2013 the government of the Netherlands has designated four new coastal and near-coastal Ramsar sites on the island of Curaçao, a constituent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in the Leeward Antilles 70 kilometer north of Venezuela. The sites are Malpais/Sint Michiel (1,100 ha), Muizenberg (65 ha), Northwest Curaçao (2,441 ha) and Rif-Sint Marie (667 ha). These are the first Ramsar sites at Curacao.

2) The Bonaire zoning law, providing greater protection for wetlands on the island and establishing bufferzones around the Ramsar sites, was an important milestone.

3) Other notable developments were the start by Stinapa Bonaire, the protected areas management organization, of a shorebird monitoring program in 2010 focusing on the salinas—hypersaline inland bays—including Slagbaai and Goto, two of the 5 Ramsar sites. Much attention was focused on the Lac Ramsar site by a mangrove restoration pilot project, a conch restoration project, a seagrass protection project, and a survey of recreational use. These activities are currently ongoing.

4)

5)

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

1) The small islands in the Caribbean face the problems that are typical for small island developing states: With their small area and small populations they have to deal with limited capacity, very few and limited resources, and no hinterland. Their economies are completely dependent on outside factors and in most cases tourism is the main driver of the economy. This results in a constant pressure to develop more area to accommodate more tourism and thus provide for economic growth. This is one of the greatest threats to the coastal (wetlands) ecosystems, the loss of which would eventually destroy tourism. Yet biodiversity conservation is generally perceived on the islands as being in conflict with economic development instead of being an integral factor for economic development.

Consequently it is very difficult to argue the need to protect wetlands. However the fact that Bonaire did adopt zoning- and nature legislation that generally protects wetlands and coastal areas shows that the island understands its dependence on its nature resources.

2)

3)

4)

5)

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

1) Caribbean Netherlands Priorities: For Bonaire one of the priorities is to expand the Slagbaai Ramsar site to the extent that it will include the Goto Ramsar area and all the salinas of the northern half of the island. Other priorities are the hydrological mangrove restoration of Lac, a management plan for Pekelmeer, reforestation of Klein Bonaire and reducing overgrazing of herbivores adjacent to Lac and Slagbaai.

2) It is considered important that the Dutch Ramsar Sites in the Caribbean, five on Bonaire, four on Curacao, one on Aruba and one (potential site) on St. Maarten, be (also) integrated in the Caribbean database rather than the European database.

3) Participation from the Caribbean Netherlands in the Wetlands Caribbean Initiative (now named CaRIWet) is considered important. The former Netherlands Antilles always actively participated in the regional Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol and the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC). This will be continued through the Caribbean Netherlands and close cooperation between SPA, IAC, and the Ramsar Caribbean Initiative will be supported and promoted. To this end the Caribbean Netherlands has provided information for a document on the presence of sea turtles in Ramsar sites.

4) The Nature Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2013-2017 focuses on the Caribbean Islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius, which are special municipalities of the Netherlands. One of the actions concerns an inventory of all wetlands and an evaluation of the management of current Ramsar sites in the Caribbean Netherlands.

5) St. Maarten is in the midst of efforts aimed at having the island's Mullet Pond, the last mangrove ecosystem at the Dutch part of the island, designated under the Ramsar Convention.

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

For the Caribbean Netherlands the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative is felt to be important and it is recommended that this initiative be facilitated by the Secretariat as much as possible.

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)

Birdlife International's Dutch partner, Vogelbescherming Nederland, has developed a support program for the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) the umbrella organization for the protected areas management organizations of all six Dutch islands in the Caribbean. This support strengthened DCNA, an important partner for nature conservation in the islands, and led to several bird monitoring training workshops in the Dutch Caribbean, providing important capacity building for conservation of wetlands.

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?

SPAW Protocol

The SPAW Protocol is the main regional instrument to implement the CBD and protection of wetlands (mangroves, coral reefs, sea grasses, coastal nature conservation) is an important part of its work. SPAW has an Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention. Mutual participation in meetings is satisfactory.

IAC:

The inter-American Sea Turtle Convention shares many common goals with Ramsar in the protection of wetlands since sea turtle nesting beaches and foraging areas are all located in wetlands. The Lac Ramsar site on Bonaire has been identified as a very important foraging area for sea turtles that grow faster there than anywhere else in the Caribbean. Protection of sea turtles in Lac goes hand in hand with the protection of the seagrasses of this wetland area. The 2nd meeting of the Ramsar Caribbean Wetlands Initiative held on Bonaire in July 2011, recommended that a Memorandum of Cooperation be developed between the two organizations. This MoC was finalized and signed in 2012. Currently the IAC and Ramsar are jointly working on an information document specifying the importance of Ramsar sites for sea turtles in all IAC Party countries.

CITES:

Conch (*Strombus gigas*) is listed on appendix II of CITES and is an important fishery target species both on Bonaire and on St. Eustatius. Wetlands with seagrasses are very important to these shellfish and sustainable use of conch is dependent on protection of these wetlands. A conch restoration project was started in 2010 in the Lac Ramsar Site that not only looks at these shellfish but also at the seagrass beds they feed on.

A monitoring program of conch is now under way on St. Eustatius. Based on the findings of the monitoring program a level of sustainable harvest will be calculated as a basis for a CITES 'non-detriment finding' (NDF). This is not only a requirement of CITES but also aids in the protection of island's shallow waters with seagrass beds.

WHMSI:

The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative is an informal platform of countries in the Western Hemisphere to cooperate in the protection of migratory species. As many migratory species are dependent on wetlands there is natural overlap of the objectives of WHMSI and Ramsar. Ramsar has a seat on the Steering Committee of WHMSI and we are satisfied with this cooperation. A draft resolution for CMS COP 10 includes inter alia a close partnership between the CMS and WHMSI and requests the development of an Action Plan.

ICRI:

The Caribbean Netherlands are an important coral reef area and the participation of the former Netherlands Antilles in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) will be continued for the Caribbean Netherlands. The Klein Bonaire Ramsar Site includes some of the most pristine coral reefs of Bonaire and protection of this wetland area must take into account the protection of its coral reefs. The Caribbean Netherlands is hosting a joint ICRI Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and SPAW workshop to revitalize monitoring of coral reefs in the Caribbean, on Curacao in August of 2014.

WHC

Bonaire is working towards a World Heritage Site Nomination for its entire marine park. This would largely include the Ramsar Sites of Lac and Klein Bonaire. Also, buffer areas

of the further three areas extend into the marine park. For Bonaire, future linkage of the Ramsar Convention should be sought with the World Heritage Convention.

- 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 first Caribbean Netherlands Nature Policy Plan 2013-2017 provides the opportunity to link various strategies.

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

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

Directorate of Spatial Planning and Development (DRO), Bonaire

Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature (GMN), Curacao

Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA)

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

D - Planned

1.1.1 Additional information:

One of the actions in the Caribbean Netherlands Nature Policy Plan 2013-2017 concerns an inventory of all wetlands and an evaluation of the management of current Ramsar sites in the Caribbean Netherlands (islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius). For Curacao an inventory of nine potential Ramsar sites has resulted in the designation of four sites on 5-2-2013.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	C - Partly
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>An advanced network of monitoring, data storage and data sharing as in the Netherlands is lacking for the Dutch Caribbean islands. Much data had been collected, but no central data coordinating unit was set up to guarantee the availability of these data to stakeholders. Data and studies were widely scattered and hard to access by managers or policy decision makers. Past couple of years however a Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database has been set up and now contains information on over 4000 species: http://www.dcbd.nl/</p> <p>A start has also been made to develop a knowledge system for the Caribbean Netherlands which brings together all available biodiversity information for the islands and also includes a database for monitoring data.</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) N - Status deteriorated b) P - Status improved</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>The status of the Goto site on Bonaire has deteriorated due to the Bopec fire which resulted in adverse impact to the macrofauna which in turn resulted in the disappearance of waterbirds such as the flamingo (source: Salina Goto and reduced flamingo abundance since 2010, Imares Wageningen UR, December 2013).</p> <p>The status of the southern wetlands of Bonaire has improved due to the creation of a Tern nesting Island, which has already proved to be very successful and resulted in a major breeding increase. On the other hand over the last decade the flamingo population has shown a decrease, the causes of which are as yet unclear.</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>	A - Yes
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1.3.1 Additional information:

The Netherlands Antilles was an autonomous Caribbean country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Aruba seceded in 1986 as a separate country, and the rest dissolved on 10 October 2010, resulting in two new constituent countries, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, and the so-called Caribbean Netherlands, comprising the islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, joining the Netherlands as "special municipalities". The Wetland Policy for the Caribbean Netherlands is an integral part of the Caribbean Netherlands Nature Policy Plan 2013-2013. A nature policy plan for Aruba, integrating wetlands, is being prepared as well as a nature policy vision for St. Maarten. Curacao does not have a National nature or wetland policy.

1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
- b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
- c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
- d) National forest programmes
- e) National strategies for sustainable development
- f) National policies or measures on agriculture
- g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

- a) Z - Not applicable
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) C - Partly
- e) B - No
- f) A - Yes
- g) C - Partly

1.3.2 Additional information:

- A sewage water treatment plant has recently been constructed, among others to avoid discharge of sewage water at the coastal coral reefs.
- Many marine parks, some of which Ramsar sites, exist around the Caribbean islands, for which management plans have been implemented.
- The Caribbean Netherlands, Curacao and St. Maarten participate in the implementation of a management plan for the Exclusive Economic Zone.
- Some successful small scale reforestation projects were carried out on Curacao and the Ramsar site Klein Bonaire, among others to restore the indigenous (formerly overgrazed) vegetation.
- Horticulture is limited in the Caribbean. The policy on agriculture mainly concerns the management of (currently) free-roaming livestock aiming to avoid overgrazing and consequently the erosion of soil which would sediment and harm wetlands like mangroves and coral reefs.
- The Caribbean Netherlands Nature Policy Plan 2013-2017 includes a biodiversity strategy which also includes wetland conservation. Aruba discussed a draft nature policy plan in a multi-stakeholders meeting in June 2014. Curacao has several park management plans, but no nature policy plan. St. Maarten has Ministerial working groups and a commission at work on a nature policy vision.

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	B - No
1.3.3 Additional information:	
1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii	A - Yes
1.3.4 Additional information:	
1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	A - Yes
1.3.5 Additional information: The Law on Spatial Planning for Bonaire adopted in 2009 enacted bufferzones around the Ramsar sites in order to improve the protection of these sites. The Development Plan Klein Bonaire (2000) has taken into account the Ramsar Convention. The Nature Ordinance Bonaire (2008) and its underlying decrees (2010) are applicable to the Ramsar sites focussing specifically on species and habitat protection.	

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: A TEEB study on Bonaire (which includes 5 Ramsar sites) has been published in 2012. TEEB-studies on Saba and St. Eustatius (which have no designated Ramsar sites) have been published in 2014.	
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	B - No
1.4.2 Additional information:	

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):

For the Lac Ramsar Site on Bonaire.

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

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

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

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

1.5.1 Additional information:

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

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

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

1.6.1 Additional information:

In the past a variety of research projects/monitoring have been conducted in the Bonaire Ramsar Sites.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has funded three research programs for the (Caribbean) Netherlands to be carried out by the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

- "Beleidsondersteunend onderzoek" (Policy Support Research): this research supports the realisation of the societal task of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
- "Wettelijke onderzoekstaken" (Legal Research Tasks): research to support laws and regulations.
- "Kennisbasisonderzoek" (Knowledgebase Research): research for the development of knowledge that will become relevant on a medium term for the Ministry of Economic Affairs and other social parties.

The topics on agricultural interactions, climate change and valuation of ecosystem services are all covered by these three research programs. Among others, a project on socio-economic valuation of nature of Bonaire, including the Lac Ramsar Site and other wetlands was finalized by the end of 2011. Another study was looking at grazing effects by goats on mangroves in the Lac Ramsar Site as part of a broader study of the Lac site. Waterquality monitoring and birdmonitoing is ongoing in the salinas.

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

C - Partly

1.6.2 Additional information:

All Ramsar sites in the Netherlands are protected through the Natura 2000 legislation. But, for the wetlands in the Dutch Caribbean, wetland management planning will need special attention. The Caribben Netherlands Policy Plan 2013-2017 aims for an evaluation of wetland management.

Of the Ramsar sites on Bonaire, the Lac site has its own management plan based on sound research and forms part of the Bonaire Marine Park. Also, the Klein Bonaire site is part of the Bonaire Marine Park which has a sound management plan. The Goto and Slagbaai sites fall within the Washington Slagbaai Park for which there is also a sound management plan. Only the Pekelmeer Site has no management plan but is managed as a strict reserve where no use whatsoever is allowed.

The Spaans Lagoen Ramsar site on Aruba does not have a management plan. All Ramsar sites on Curacao do have a management plan.

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

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

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

A - Yes

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:

1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v

B - No

1.7.4 Additional information:

In the Caribbean Netherlands there are no fresh water wetlands relevant to farming systems. With the exception of karst systems that hold underground fresh water all wetlands are saline to hyper-saline. On the other hand there exists a system of dams to seasonally collect rainwater for irrigation. Such dams result in many cases in seasonal wetlands, that provide resting and feeding areas for migratory waterbirds and nesting areas for some resident waterbirds. A project is expected to start this year on Bonaire to restore a number of neglected dams that do not hold water anymore, as well as restore a number of gravel mining pits into seasonal 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

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

The Lac Ramsar Site on Bonaire is the location of a pilot project to restore mangrove vegetation and protect it from grazing.

Successful reforestation projects have also been carried out on the small islands of Klein Curacao and the Klein Bonaire Ramsar site.

A project to remove goats and donkeys from Washington/Slagbaai will benefit the Slagbaai Ramsar site.

On Bonaire a restoration project for dams and abandoned mining pits has been formulated and is expected to start this year.

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 "Team Invasieve Exoten" (team on invasive alien species, Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority) supports the Ministry of EL&I on the implementation of its policy to control invasive species. One of the main activities of the team is to (let) carry out risk analysis and monitoring of invasive species. Furthermore, the team established an alien species surveillance network, consisting of volunteers and professionals. These activities are relevant to all habitats, including wetlands.

For the Caribbean Netherlands as well as for Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten an inventory of invasive species has been completed and a strategy to address the invasive species was completed in 2014.

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

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information:

Inventories for invasive species are available for all Dutch Caribbean islands, and strategies to manage these species are underway. Each island already has a management plan to deal with invasive Lionfish. Bonaire has identified certain invasive species (i.e. Lionfish) upon which eradication procedures have been established through nature legislation.

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:	
1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of: a. Ramsar Sites b. Wetlands in general {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii	a. A - Yes b. A - Yes
1.10.2 Additional information: - Dive operators active on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands routinely instruct their customers on how to behave on sensitive coral reefs. They also actively help with their customers to eliminate invasive lionfish, like on Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao and St. Maarten. - At the Lac Ramsar Site some of the private operators have helped to fund awareness/information programs and in one case a resort has taken on the maintenance of floating lines to protect sea grass. Two kayak tour operators work closely with the management organization and play an important role in creating awareness and compliance with the rules for use of the area. -Cargill Salt Company manages the Pekemeer Ramsar site and contributes to monitoring of birdspecies and communicates with government regarding conservation issues. A concrete management plan still needs to be developed with Cargill for the area	

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

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i	B - No
1.11.1 Additional information:	
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	Z - Not applicable
1.11.2 Additional information:	

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”; use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

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

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

C - Partly

2.1.1 Additional information:

One of the actions in the Nature Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2013-2017 concerns an inventory of all wetlands and an evaluation of the management of current Ramsar sites (Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius).

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

0 sites

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

Mullet Pond on St. Maarten is the last designation (2014). No new designations are foreseen yet for the period 2015-2018.

All Ramsar sites of The Netherlands, including the ones in the Dutch Caribbean are listed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Bonaire is aiming at designating all of the northern wetlands as one wetland area, including the Slagbaai and Gotomeer Ramsar sites.

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

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

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

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

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i	C - Some sites
<p>2.3.1 Additional information: The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA, established in 2005) is a regional network of protected areas set up to help and assist the park management organisations on the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St Eustatius and St Maarten. Despite improvements, these parks (Ramsar sites included) still lack sufficient capacity and funding for adequate management planning processes.</p>	

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	8 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	4 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
<p>2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: Four of the five Ramsar sites on Bonaire have a management plan or are part of a larger protected area with a management plan. The mgt plan of the Lac site is not being implemented fully yet due to a lack of capacity. The results of a currently ongoing study of the area may lead to revision of the management plan. The mgt. plan for the Washington/Slagbaai Park, which includes the Goto and Slagbaai Ramsar sites, is currently being reviewed through stakeholder input. The four sites on Curacao each have a management plan but these are still being finetuned and are not yet fully implemented. The site on Aruba is not managed.</p>	

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	4 sites
<p>2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Four of the five ramsar sites on Bonaire fall under the management of the National Park Foundation, Stinapa Bonaire. The Board of Stinapa Bonaire consists of representatives of all relevant sectors. In addition, nature management decisions are subject to advise from the Island Nature Commission which includes representatives from various sectors. Once the management plans of the four sites on Curacao are fully implemented, they will include strong involvement of the local community.</p>	

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	6 sites
<p>2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):</p> <p>On Bonaire: site # 199 Het Lac site # 202 Het Gotomeer site # 203 De Slagbaai</p> <p>All four sites on Curacao: site # 2117 Malpais/Sint Michiel site # 2118 Muizenberg site # 2119 Northwest Curaçao site # 2120 Rif-Sint Marie</p>	

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
<p>2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):</p> <p>Although management effectiveness assessments for the protected areas under management of Stinapa Bonaire have been carried out through DCNA, the assessments did not look at specific effectiveness with regard to the Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>One of the actions in the Nature Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2013-2017 concerns an inventory of all wetlands and an evaluation of the management of current Ramsar sites (Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius).</p>	

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

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i	C - Some sites
<p>2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):</p> <p>For the Caribbean sites there is still a lack of capacity and funding for adequate monitoring of human induced changes or likely changes of the ecological character.</p>	
2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i	A - Yes
<p>2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):</p> <p>Gotomeer Ramsar site</p>	
2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii	Z - Not applicable
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>A Ramsar Advsiroy Mission was requested and conducted for a potential negative development in the Lac Ramsar site. Development was not executed.</p>	

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

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i	A - Yes
<p>2.7.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The ecological character of these sites has been maintained or improved due to measurements taken in light of the protection under the SPAW-protocol.</p> <p>For one potential Ramsar Site on Bonaire (Lagun) the ecological character has possibly not been maintained due to an adjacent landfill.</p>	

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " ": use single quotes ' ' instead.

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

3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv

B - No

3.1.1 Additional information:

The focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands for Ramsar, SPAW, IAC, WHMSI and ICRI is based on Bonaire in the Caribbean and consequently cannot easily participate in a Netherlands based Committee. However there is close contact with the National focal points in the Netherlands. As yet there is no Ramsar/Wetland Committee for the Dutch Caribbean

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

C - Partly

3.1.2 Additional information:

The focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands for the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean, which is the legal instrument of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme for the Caribbean, is also the focal point for the Ramsar Caribbean Initiative, assuring short communication lines between UNEP and Ramsar at the regional level.

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

3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i

A - Yes

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

The Netherlands, through the focal point in the Caribbean Netherlands, is actively involved in the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative.

3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}

B - No

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

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

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

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

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}

Z - Not applicable

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}

A - Yes

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

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) is the umbrella organization of the protected areas (terrestrial and marine) management organizations of all six

islands of the Dutch Caribbean. It functions as an effective network that regularly meets for knowledge exchange, organizes staff exchanges, and a wide range of training workshops, in many cases very relevant to management of wetlands.

In 2014 a workshop on wetlands was organized by DCNA together with Birds Caribbean, targeting local educators and nature tour guides. As a result ties with Birds Caribbean have been strengthened.

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

C - Partly

3.4.2 Additional information:

The DCNA website lists all protected areas, which includes most of the Ramsar areas, but they are not highlighted separately.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) has devoted a webpage to seagrass protection in the Lac Ramsar site. As part of this project signs were placed at the most visited area of the Lac site with information about the site and its regulations.

The Bonaire Spatial Plan has incorporated the Ramsar sites and inherent buffer areas together with legislature and regulations. The Spatial plan is posted online and made public.

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:

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

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a range state for many Caribbean species. It is noted that the Netherlands, through its focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands based on the island of Bonaire:

Is now an active partner in the UNEP Regional Seas Program for the Caribbean, and its legal instrument, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention), in particular its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol). It has been actively involved in the development of a Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean, adopted by the Parties to the SPAW Protocol in 2009 and is now exploring the possibilities to designate all of the waters of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Caribbean a marine mammal sanctuary in cooperation with a similar initiative by France for its Caribbean waters as well as the existing sanctuaries of the USA and the Dominican Republic.

Noting the scarcity of CMS Parties in the Caribbean region, is actively engaging with the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) which is uniting and supporting various initiatives for the conservation of migratory birds in the Americas such as the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds as well as initiatives for the conservation of other migratory species such as sea turtles, bats, and marine mammals.

Actively participates in the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and hosted the IAC's 5th Conference of Parties on Bonaire;

Engages with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI); and

Participates in the Ramsar Wetlands Caribbean Initiative and hosted this Regional Initiative's 2nd Meeting on Bonaire.

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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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) A - Yes
- c) ---
- d) ---

(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):

The management organization for the Ramsar Sites on Bonaire has a general nature education program and awareness activities which includes information on the Ramsar sites, in particular the Lac site, and other wetlands. The STCB (Sea Turtle Conservatino Boanire) has a public awareness campaign for sea turtles and seagrass focusing on the Lac Ramsar Site.

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) 1 centres
- b) 0 centres

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

Currently there is only one Education/recreational centre for the Ramsar sites of the Dutch Caribbean: Washington Slagbaai (Bonaire).

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) C - Partly

{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):

Within the framework of the management plan for the Lac site on Bonaire, stakeholders are informed and consulted about recreational use, and the conch restoration project.

Local stakeholders, especially dive shop owners and volunteers participate in the elimination of invasive Lionfish, like on Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao and St. Maarten.

On Bonaire 'Dive Friends Bonaire' started Debris Free Bonaire in December 2012. As of October 27th, 2013, Debris Free Bonaire volunteers have collectively removed over 100 cubic meters of marine plastic debris..

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) 0
4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):	

4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	B - No
4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): No such Committee has been established yet for the Dutch Caribbean, but is present in The Netherlands. For more details, see the non-Caribbean part of the National Report.	

4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and: a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi	a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) A - Yes
4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in	

place):

Regular information exchange meetings are held on Bonaire between the focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands, the island government, the protected areas management organization, and other relevant NGOs. The focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands is in close contact with the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the NFPs in the Netherlands.

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}

B - No

4.1.8 Additional information:

On Bonaire World Wetland Day 2014, Stinapa Bonaire organized several presentations at a local agricultural market fair, featuring the theme of "Wetlands & Agriculture, partners for growth",

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

A - Yes

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

The results of the TEEB-studies on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius have been presented to the public. Also a TV-documentary has been developed on TEEB-Bonaire (which island includes five Ramsar-sites).

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

4.2.1

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

A - Yes

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

.....

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

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

A - Yes

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

WWF Netherlands has provided support for the conch restoration project in Lac Ramsar site through Stinapa Bonaire.

WWF-NL also provides support for STCB helping them to do important awareness and protection work at the Lac site.

Vogelbescherming Nederland (Dutch partner of Birdlife International) provided support through DCNA for bird monitoring, GIS training and other capacity building efforts for all the islands.

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

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

The Ministry of EZ provided support for WWF Netherlands' program for the Caribbean Netherlands, including the support for activities in the Lac Ramsar Site