



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

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

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

## The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

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

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

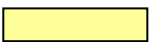
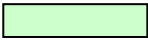
**Section 2** is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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

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

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

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

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

## NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

### SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

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

**NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: SAMOA**

#### DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	<b>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)</b>
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Mr. Suluimalo Amataga Penaia Chief Executive Officer
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<b>Email:</b>	amataga.penaia@mnre.gov.ws

#### DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

<b>Name and title:</b>	Mr. Moafanua Tolusina Pouli Assistance Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Division
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#### DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL ( STRP)

<b>Name and title:</b>	Ms. Elizabeth Kerstin Principal Forestry Research and Development Officer, Forestry Division
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<b>Email:</b>	elizabeth.kerstin@mnre.gov.ws

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

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

<b>Name and title:</b>	Dr. Walter Vermullen, Director
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Matuaileoo Environment Trust Incorporation (METI)
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**SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION  
PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES**

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

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

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

1) Awareness programs implemented to improve understanding of wetland conservation. Programs including commemoration of the Ministry's national events (i.e. World Wetlands Day on February, World Water Day, World Forest Day and Biodiversity Day on May, and Environment Week on November every year) at the national level. Other awareness programs include monthly school programs/activities, monthly advertisement through local newspapers (i.e. children's corner), community consultations at different levels by different projects/programs. Wetlands has been incorporated into school curriculum and primary, secondary and tertiary level (i.e. mangroves conservation, coral reefs etc).

2) Protected area network increased - 60 new mangrove stands have been discovered and recorded for Samoa in addition to the 18 mangrove stands initially identified. This work was covered by ground-truthing work, conducted by 'Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihood' (MESCAL).

3) The completion of 4 major survey's; the 'Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of Upland Savaii' (BIORAP) for uplands forests in Savaii 2012, the 'National Forestry Inventory' (NFI) 2013, MESCAL Survey and the Baseline Ecological Surveys for 'Integration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience into Forestry Management in Samoa' (ICCRIFS) project sites including two National Parks; Lanotoo (Ramsar Site) and Mt. Salafai and 14 villages from Laulii - Falevao, 2014. The information generated from these surveys are crucial in establishing the ecological baseline data and gaps for these areas in understanding species diversity from flora (plants/vegetation), avifauna, reptiles and invertebrates, freshwater species as well as the presence of invasive species in wetland areas. These data also contributes tremendously in strengthening existing MNRE ecological data to provide biodiversity information needed for the development or review of the conservation and management plans.

4) Mainstreaming environmental sustainability and wetlands conservation have been significant - now effectively mainstreamed and integrated in national and sector level development plans. The 'Strategy for the Development of Samoa' (SDS) 2012-2016 identifies Environment Sustainability as another Priority Area - Indicator 3, Critical ecosystems referred to in the indicator includes wetlands. The 'State of Environment' (SoE) report 2013 and the National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) 2013 have identified wetlands as a key priority. Activities for the sustainable management and conservation of wetlands have also been incorporated into project proposals (i.e. GEF5: Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Management Approach to Critical Landscapes (SMSMCL)).

5) One of the highlights of communication products is the development of the participatory four dimensional models for the Ramsar site Lanoto'o National Park. Participatory 3D modeling is a fully collaborative exercise that combines community mapping with open discussions on land-use and land-use planning scenarios. It combines geographic precision with local, individual spatial knowledge and 'mind-maps' of locality and familiar settings. During a P3DM exercise, all participants contribute to make a physical, hands-on wood-and-paper model, to scale, of their village or community. The P3DM is a useful map as it is used to plan for protection and restoration of key natural features especially wetlands. The first for the Laulii-Falevao ICCRIFS project site (14 Villages) and the second for the Mt Salafai project ICCRIFS site with villages from Iva – Faga ( 8 Villages) the third for Lake Lanotoo project site - Ramsar Site (3 Villages) and the fourth for the Fuluasou, Gasegase, Loimata o Apaula catchments (20 Villages), all of these are area with ecological importance.

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

1) Impact of natural disasters (i.e. Cyclone Evan, prolonged in drought period) on the biophysical environment of Samoa - flooding in low lying and coastal areas, saline intrusion, coastal erosion and increased rates of coral bleaching impacting the habitats of fish species. Drought temperature fluctuation and changes in precipitation patterns lead to changes in the habitats of endangered and endemic species which are found in wetland areas. The intense wave activity of storms overturned much of the coral near shore and severely damaged corals to depth of up to 10 meters (30ft).

2) The need for external funding to promote and implement conservation and protection management initiatives throughout the country to cover all wetlands.

3) Difficulties in wetland management in areas under customary owners control. 80% of land is under community ownership. The lack of community appreciation of the value of wetland ecosystems which required awareness and support for protecting wetlands in customary owned land. Hence there is a need to consult and seek authorisation by communities before conservation activities can be conducted in wetland areas. There is also an issue of proper demarcation of land boundaries of national parks due to communal ownership of surrounding lands hence in many occasions there is encroachment of people and agricultural activities in protected areas.

4) Administrative support, training and capacity building for the coordination and implementation of sectors and projects activities with wetland priorities.

5) Monitoring and Enforcement in terms of access and isolation of wetland areas (i.e. Lanotoo National Park, hence this creates a barrier to implement activities in a periodic manner.

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

1) Enforce environmental compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CEM) of actions and activities relates to wetlands.

2) To implement and support ongoing awareness programs to increase knowledge and people to appreciate the value and the significance of wetlands.

3) Secure funding opportunities through project proposals and programs to support activities required for better management of wetlands in Samoa.

4) Strengthen capacity of responsible staff to be able to conduct trainings on ecological survey on wetland areas, payment of ecosystem services (PES), environmental-flow (e-flow), water quality testing (water testing parameters).

5) Compensation for taking of lands by government due to national priority for protection and safeguard of Key Biodiversity Areas 2010 (KBA) identified.

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

To secure funds to assist with the implementation of activities and reporting requirement of the Convention - ongoing networking to generate more interests

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)

We recommend that the IOPs provide assistance through technical support, data sharing, reports and resources which are relevant to achieving Ramsar's overall goal and objectives. The Ramsar IOPs (IUCN, WWF, Birdlife International) have really good technical field expertise and that could help with Ramsar implementation at the national level.

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?

This could be achieved through the harmonisation of national strategic and implementation plans for all Conventions and MEAs with closer collaboration and communication that lead to achieving joint on the ground implementation. It is also a need to harmonize national reporting to biodiversity-related MEAs as in order to reduce administrative burden.

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)?

To consider an intergrated ecosystem based approach in policies/strategies and decision making that affects the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character and recognizes the important role of wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation

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

No futher comments

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

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)

## SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

### REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

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

## GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A - Yes
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1.1.1 Additional information: A comprehensive National Wetland Inventory was conducted for mangrove ecosystems in 2012 through the support of MESCAL project. <a href="http://www.mnre.gov.ws">www.mnre.gov.ws</a>	
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1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
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1.1.2 Additional information: All relevant stakeholders were consulted before and after the inventory and all information are now accessible online at <a href="http://www.mnre.gov.ws">www.mnre.gov.ws</a>	
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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) P - Status improved

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

- a) Immense improvement for Lanotoo National Park including installation of signages to guide visitors, upgrading of walking trail particularly in dangerous zone, re-routing of the walking trail to ensure the safety access of tourist and the general public, restoration of degraded area with native plant species and removal of invasive plant species infested the area.
- b) The government has taken action regarding the growing development taking place at the vicinity of rivers and water catchment areas. Specifically providing compensation or taking of land.

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

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

D - Planned

1.3.1 Additional information:

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) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes
- e) A - Yes
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

## 1.3.2 Additional information:

Different projects and programs implemented at the National Level which addressed these issues (i.e. Samoa Agriculture Competitiveness Enhancement Project (SACEP), Samoa Agroforestry and Tree Farming Program (SATFP), ICCRIFS, Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) etc)

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

A - Yes

## 1.3.3 Additional information:

Several surveys has been completed (as mentioned in Section 2) which contributed to develop policy, policy review etc

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}

C - In progress

## 1.3.5 Additional information:

The MNRE Bill has been developed and is targeted to approve late 2014

**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

A - Yes

## 1.4.1 Additional information:

ICCRIFS baseline ecological survey has completed and presentation of preliminary results was presented to all relevant partners. Full report is yet to finalize and will be available on [www.mnre.gov.ws](http://www.mnre.gov.ws)

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:

SATFP, SACEP, MESCAL, Integrating Climate Change Risks into the Agriculture and Health Sectors in Samoa (ICCRAHS)

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):

The Management Plan of Lanotoo National Park was developed which includes socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands.

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

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

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

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

1.5.1 Additional information:

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

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

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

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

1.6.1 Additional information:

Valuation of ecosystem services was conducted by MESCAL and climate change is covered by ICCRIFS as one of its key components.

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:

**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:

Water management has been integrated into the Water Sector Plan

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:

There were 4 P3D developed which promoted community and school participation and awareness. A Communication Strategy was also developed by ICCRIFS - [www.mnre.gov.ws](http://www.mnre.gov.ws)

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:

A Climate Change Policy has been developed, the Forest Policy 2007 is now under review, the Water Resource Policy was also developed for the management of catchment areas

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:

Agroforestry Farming Systems has been promoted by ICCRIFS, ICCRAHS, SACEP and SATFP (i.e. agroforestry practices, climate resilient alternatives practices etc)

**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: There are six (6) wetland types have been identified for Samoa and more additional sites will be added onto the list as a results of recent surveys conducted.	

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: Several programs and activities was implemented under the government programs and through the support of 'Implementing Sustainable Water Resources and Wastewater Management in Pacific Island Countries' (IWRM) including river clean-up/riparian zones (sediments built up at estuaries have been dredged to allow the flow of water to the sea without restraining), critical areas have been restored and proposed restoration work for other national parks	

**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: A NFI was conducted in 2013 through the support of the People of Japan which included invasive plant species	

1.9.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRa 1.9.iii	A - Yes
1.9.2 Additional information: The National Invasive Species Action Plan was developed and required review.	

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

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

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. A - Yes

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

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**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

1.11.1 Additional information:

Taking of lands for water catchment area mostly in nearby vicinity of Malololelei, Afiamalu and Tapatapao. This has been prioritized by the MNRE since last year. Payment of Ecosystem Services have been considered and will implement in the near future

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

D - Planned

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<sup>rd</sup> edition).*

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

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

Priority list have been developed and is now under review

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):

- 1) O le Pupu Pue National Park
- 2) Mauga o Salafai National Park

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

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

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

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

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

A - Yes

## 2.3.1 Additional information:

**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: The Management Plan for Lanotoo National Park is now under review to reflect international open standards and climate change component.	

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	0 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): .....	

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	0 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Lanotoo National Park - Official Number: 1412	

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

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

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

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

D - Planned

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

.....

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

B - No

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

.....

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

.....

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

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

.....

### 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

D - Planned

3.1.1 Additional information:

3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv

A - Yes

3.1.2 Additional information:

This includes meetings, consultations, workshops set up etc.

**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

3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each 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	Z - Not applicable
3.3.2 Additional information: .....	
3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	A - Yes
3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11): Funding support received; IUCN German funded regional project (MESCAL), ICCRIFS (GEF), IWRM (GEF)..	

**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}	C - Partly
3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): A national environment committee have been established which covers mangrove ecosystems, rivers and streams, water catchment etc	
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:	

Yes they are available at [www.mnre.gov.ws](http://www.mnre.gov.ws)

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:

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

<p><b>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.</b> <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) C - In progress
- b) C - In progress
- c) A - Yes
- 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> <p>.....</p>
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<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) 0 centres
- b) 0 centres

<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p> <p>.....</p>
---

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p>	
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- a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

- a) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p>
---

Stakeholders are always invited to participate in consultations, meetings, workshops conducted to discuss wetlands related issues

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii	B - No
4.1.4 Additional information: .....	
4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands	Number of opportunities:  a) 0 b) 1
4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training): MESCAL offered trainings for local community representatives for the wise use of mangrove resources. NGO's also provided training programs at the national level for different community levels.	
4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	D - Planned
4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): .....	
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): There were no specific meetings to share Ramsar guidelines, however, these guidelines and information were discussed in other internal meetings nevertheless.	
4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}	A - Yes
4.1.8 Additional information:	



As mentioned in Section 2

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):

.....

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

4.2.1

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

B - No

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

Partial payment has been made in April 2014, remaining balance to be paid with the submission of invoice (pending submission of invoice, request has been made to the RAMSAR secretariat July 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

B - No

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

.....

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

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

<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received): Not specifically for Ramsar but through MESCAL project (IUCN support).</p>	

<p>4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided): .....</p>	