



## **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.

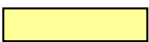
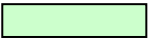
**Section 2** is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**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: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

#### DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Ms Nosipho Ngcaba
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Private Bag X447, PRETORIA, 0001
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+27123999007
<b>Email:</b>	NNgcaba@environment.gov.za

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

<b>Name and title:</b>	Tshilidzi Edward Netshithothole; Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: International Advisory Services
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#### DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL ( STRP)

<b>Name and title:</b>	Mmbofheni Stanley Liphadzi, Dr
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Water Research Commission
<b>Mailing address:</b>	PRIVATE BAG X03, GEZINA, 0031
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<b>Email:</b>	Stanleyl@wrc.org.za

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

<b>Name and title:</b>	Stanley Tshitwamulomoni, Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Bio Policy Implementation Management
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Department of Environmental Affairs...
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Private Bag X447, PRETORIA, 0001
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+27123999589
<b>Email:</b>	StanleyT@environment.gov.za

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

<b>Name and title:</b>	N/A
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	.....
<b>Mailing address:</b>	.....
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	.....
<b>Email:</b>	.....

**SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION  
PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES**

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

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

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

- 1) Designation of uMgeni Vlei Nature Reserve as a Ramsar site
- 2) Publication of both the National Biodiversity Assessment, and the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas.
- .....
- 3) .....
- 4) .....
- 5) .....

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

- 1) None
- .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....
- 4) .....
- 5) .....

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

- 1) Removal of Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth Ramsar sites from the Montreux Record
- 2) Development of a national wetland monitoring programme, which is currently under development
- 3) .....
- 4) .....
- 5) .....

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

No

.....

**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)**

IOPs should work closely with Contracting Parties, particularly those Contracting Parties in whose territory the IOP offices are located

**F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the ‘biodiversity cluster’ (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?**

The NBSAPs should be used as vehicle for implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs

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)?

These strategies should include a chapter or section on wetlands conservation and wise use, which are the backbone of the Ramsar Convention

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

No

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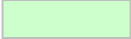
I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
South African National Biodiversity Institute  
South African National Parks  
Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Limpopo Provincial Government  
CapeNature  
Makuleke Communal Property Association  
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife  
Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Free State Provincial Government  
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Gauteng Provincial Government  
Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency  
North West Parks and Tourism Board  
Water Research Commission  
Department of Water and Sanitation  
Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, Northern Cape Provincial Government  
BirdLife South Africa  
Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

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## 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
<p>1.1.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The national wetland inventory project has to date mapped 2,4 million hectares of wetland, covering approximately 2,9% of the country's surface area. This work is ongoing, in order to improve the accuracy of mapping and the extent of attribute data collected on individual wetlands.</p> <p>A national classification system for wetlands and other aquatic ecosystems has been adopted by South Africa and applied to all wetlands included in the national wetland inventory.</p> <p>National wetland inventory data was combined with other relevant data to produce an atlas of National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas in 2011. These maps constitute a single, nationally consistent information source of strategic spatial priorities for conserving freshwater ecosystems. The maps provide guidance on which rivers, wetlands and estuaries should remain in a natural or near-natural condition to support the water resource protection goals of the National Water Act 36 of 1998. They are also directly relevant to the listing of threatened freshwater ecosystems and bioregional planning processes provided for by the Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004, and to the expansion of the protected area network through the Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003.</p> <p>The information generated through this project allowed wetlands to be incorporated into the 2012 iteration of the National Biodiversity Assessment, which is undertaken every five years. The results of this Assessment showed that wetlands are the most threatened ecosystem type in South Africa.</p> <p>Current priority areas of work for the inventory include ground-truthing and improvement in the quality of inventory data in priority catchments, the development of software tools and methods to aid in ground-truthing, and citizen science initiatives to encourage the collection and submission of inventory data by a wide range of people.</p>	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The most recent version of the National Wetland Map, together with the maps of the Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas mentioned in 1.1.1 are available as both image and GIS files via the web-based Biodiversity GIS platform maintained by the South African National Biodiversity Institute. Inventory information has also been synthesised into a range of reports, including the National Biodiversity Assessment, Guidelines for Wetland Offsets, Atlas of High Risk Wetlands for Mining, National Water Resource Classification and provincial and municipal Biodiversity Sector Plans.</p>	



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) ---

b) ---

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

None of the options provided in the dropdown list are applicable. Monitoring systems are not yet in place to be able to undertake the systematic monitoring required in order to generate the data necessary to answer these questions.

A National Wetland Monitoring Programme is under development through the Water Research Commission, on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation. It is envisaged that the development of the Programme will be completed by January 2016. The Programme will provide decision makers with appropriate information on the condition of wetlands. The information generated by the Programme, which would utilise information generated by other aquatic programmes such as the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas database, would allow wetland managers to make informed decisions on the development of wetlands and of the associated trade-offs to be considered.

A major expected outcome would be to design and implement a monitoring and evaluation system that would be easy to implement. An overarching outcome would be to contribute to an increased knowledge of wetland condition, functioning, contribution to rural livelihoods and an improved understanding of how they are positioned in complex socio-ecological systems.

The monitoring and evaluation system would monitor the state of Ramsar sites, strategic wetlands within the national wetlands inventory and also priority wetlands identified by the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas.

The Programme would be of great benefit in enabling Ramsar site managers to meet international reporting and monitoring obligations under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

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

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i

(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

A - Yes

## 1.3.1 Additional information:

South Africa has opted not to develop a stand-alone wetland policy, but to incorporate objectives relating to wetland conservation and wise use into relevant sectoral policies, including those covering environment, agriculture, biodiversity and water. The 'mainstreaming' of wetlands into those sectors with a high potential to impact on wetlands was considered to be the advantage of this approach. This made wetlands part of the business of these sectors, rather than creating a separate 'wetlands sector' whose ownership was seen to lie with a traditional wetland champion like an environmental department.

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

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

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

## 1.3.2 Additional information:

One of government's most substantial responses to unemployment and poverty has been the creation of the Expanded Public Works Programme. Within the Environment and Culture Cluster of this Programme, a range of sub-programmes focus on the labour-intensive restoration and management of natural resources, including wetlands. A specific sub-programme, titled Working for Wetlands, has been operational since 2000 and focuses on the restoration, protection and wise use of wetlands in a manner that optimises employment creation, skills transfer and enterprise development.

The second National Water Resource Strategy, approved by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs in 2013, explicitly incorporates wetlands, since are defined as water resources in the National Water Act 36 of 1998. The Strategy is the first government policy instrument to formally recognise the concept of wetlands as 'ecological infrastructure'.

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
<p>1.3.3 Additional information:</p> <p>South Africa developed an Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) Series in 2004. The IEM is a key instrument of South Africa's National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998. This promotes the integrated environmental management of activities that may have a significant effect (positive and negative) on the environment. The IEM provides the overarching framework for the integration of environmental assessment and management principles into environmental decision-making. It includes the use of several environmental assessment and management tools that are appropriate for the various levels of decision-making.</p> <p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) forms part of the IEM framework. The SEA is complementary to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and determines the the environmental implications of policies, plans and programmes. Whilst the EIA focuses on the positive and negative impacts of a specific development project once it has been formulated, the role of SEA is to allow for the decision-maker to proactively determine the most suitable development type for a particular area, before development proposals are formulated. Through the integration of environmental, social and economic objectives into the policy and planning process, SEA has the potential to assist in the implementation of the concept of sustainable development.</p> <p>.....</p>	
1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.3.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2010 regulate the procedure relating to the submission, processing and consideration of, and decision on, applications for environmental authorisations for the commencement of activities in order to avoid detrimental impacts on the environment, or where it can not be avoided, ensure mitigation and management of impacts to acceptable levels, and to optimise positive environmental impacts, and for matters pertaining thereto. The regulations list activities where environmental authorisation is required prior to commencement of that activity. They define 'sites or areas listed in terms of an International Convention' as any area and its buffer, unless specifically defined, of 5 kilometres extending from its listed boundary, listed in terms of an international convention, including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.</p>	
1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	B - No
<p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	

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

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	B - No
<p>1.4.1 Additional information:</p> <p>While ecosystem services provided by Ramsar sites have not been assessed nationally, the Working for Wetlands Programme referred to under 1.3.2 above, aims to maintain and restore South Africa's wetlands in order to ensure that the per capita ecosystem service levels provided by wetlands keep pace with a developing population and its growing demands on the resource base. Rehabilitation projects are selected using a list of criteria which include ecological, hydrological and socio-economic elements. All rehabilitation interventions are undertaken within the context of improving the integrity and functioning of wetland ecosystems, and include measures that address both causes and effects of degradation. Priority is given to restoring and maintaining ecosystem services provided by Ramsar sites.</p>	
1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i	A - Yes
<p>1.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Refer to the information on Working for Wetlands provided under 1.3.2.</p> <p>Furthermore, wetlands are being factored into the classification of water resources and development of Resource Quality Objectives. These form part of the set of Resource Directed Measures included in the National Water Act 36 of 1998 to protect aquatic ecosystems in order to secure ecologically sustainable development and use of water resources. The National Water Resource Classification System categorises water resources (rivers, springs, wetlands, lakes, surface water, estuaries and aquifers) into management classes, which in turn determine the balance between the use and protection of individual water resources. The system uses social, economic and environmental criteria to identify which resources need protecting and which will be heavily used to accommodate social and economic needs. Associated with the management class of a water resource are a set of Resource Quality Objectives, which set out the quantity, quality and pattern of water; assurance of instream flow; and character and condition of instream and riparian habitat and biota. The classification of water resources and development of Resource Quality Objectives is currently underway in eight of the country's 9 Water Management Areas.</p>	
1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>The management plans of all Ramsar sites in the country have been developed in accordance with Ramsar Handbook on managing wetlands, and followed the recommended structure and content of a management plan for a Ramsar site or other wetland in that Handbook. Evaluation of socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands are integral parts of the recommended structure.</p>	

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

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

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

- a. B - No
- b. B - No
- 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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

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

## 1.6.1 Additional information:

Research on agriculture-wetland interactions has focused on understanding wetlands as social-ecological systems and identifying the opportunities they present for improving food security through small-scale farming. This has included development of techniques to reduce the trade-offs between crop production and other ecosystem services in wetlands. Within the sugar industry, research has also been undertaken on the role of natural wetlands as sinks for pest species affecting sugarcane.

In previous triennia research was undertaken, through the Water Research Commission, on the impact of climate change on water resources and associated ecosystems. Within the current triennium research has also examined the capacity of individual wetlands and associated species of plants and animals to respond to climatic stresses. The first phase of the Long Term Adaptation Scenarios Flagship Research Programme, which came to an end in 2013, fundamental climate modelling and related sector-based impacts and adaptation scoping were conducted and synthesised. Reports summarising the climate change impacts for primary sectors, including water, were produced. The report focusing on water included an examination of the potential implications for of climate change for freshwater ecosystems, and their potential to form part of adaptation strategies.

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

A - Yes

## 1.6.2 Additional information:

Scientific studies, including consultation with indigenous and local communities, were carried out prior to the development of management plans of all Ramsar sites in accordance with the Convention guidelines.

**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:

Refer to the information provided on the National Water Resource Strategy in 1.3.2, and on water security strategies in 1.4.2

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}

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## 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

B - No

## 1.7.3 Additional information:

There is currently no specific policy or guidelines established for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change. However, South Africa's Climate Change Response Policy recognises the integral role of healthy ecosystems in responding effectively to climate change. The Policy also recognises ecosystem based adaptation as one of the key response measures to help society to adapt to climate change and also encourages for the conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of natural ecosystems that have the ability to reduce the impacts of climate change e.g. wetlands and mangroves.

The National Biodiversity Assessment (2011) recognises that South Africa's poor state of wetlands has direct implications for the ability to adapt to climate change, while the South African National Biodiversity Institute's "Life: State of Biodiversity" Report (2012) indicates that the extreme bouts of drought and flooding expected to come with climate change means that South Africa's wetlands will become more critical for water management.

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:

.....

**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:

Wetlands have been prioritised on a national, provincial and river basin scale through the Working for Wetlands Programme referred to in 1.3.2 above.

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:

In the current triennium Working for Wetlands has rehabilitated 307 wetlands across the country, in the process providing 4 727 employment opportunities. Approximately USD 22,716,158 was spent on this work, including labour costs.

**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:

South Africa has a national inventory of invasive alien species although there is no inventory list created specifically for alien invasive species that threaten wetlands (or Ramsar sites). Lists or compilations of alien invasive species include aquatic alien invasive species that prefer freshwater sources (i.e. rivers, dams, lakes and wetlands).

Alien and Invasive Species Lists, covering plants and animals, have also been drawn up under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act. These lists also cover species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands.

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

A - Yes

## 1.9.2 Additional information:

Legislations (e.g. the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act No. 43 of 1983, and the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act No. 10 of 2004) and policies exist to control the spread of, and eradicate invasive alien species. These tools have further emanated into programmes such as Working for Water and Working for Wetlands. These tools, however, do not offer specific control of alien invasive plants in wetlands.

Regulations relating to the control of Alien and Invasive Species lists described in 1.9.1 above have been gazetted for public comment. The Working for Water Programme has guidelines and procedures in place for the control of invasive alien plant species, especially those impacting on water resources. Many of the species targeted by this programme impact directly on wetlands.

**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. B - No

b. A - Yes

## 1.10.2 Additional information:

There have been positive examples of wetland stewardship by forestry companies, where important wetland sites on land owned by these companies have been accorded formal protected status under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003, along with the commitment to manage these sites.

**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:

Land owners and local communities are encouraged to maintain intact ecosystems, restore the natural environments of degraded land, and use natural resources sustainably for tax rebates. In this way, there is recognition that landowners and communities face opportunity costs in foregoing certain economic activities to preserve and restore natural environments and that compensation is necessary to make these costs acceptable, particularly for poor people.

In addition, through the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme, priority biodiversity on land outside of state-owned protected areas is being secured, i.e. on privately/communally owned land where the landowner/user is willing to enter into an agreement. The biodiversity on this land is secured through a biodiversity stewardship agreement and incentives may be provided to the owner/user to enable this to occur. Biodiversity stewardship guidelines have been developed.

.....

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

B - No

## 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

B - No

2.1.1 Additional information:

.....

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

1 sites

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

False Bay Ecology Park, 2015

.....

**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

A - Yes

## 2.3.1 Additional information:

.....

<b>STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character.</b> <i>Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.</i>
---

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	21 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	21 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	0 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: .....	

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	9 sites
--	---------

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

Makuleke Wetlands (Joint Management Board which comprises representatives from Makuleke Communal Property Association, and South African National Parks);

Management of estuarine ecosystems

South Africa has a national estuarine management protocol which provides guidance to estuarine managers at all levels. South Africa's estuaries have a diversity of management requirements, often unique to individual systems, and are governed by a variety of authorities, from national to local level.

The protocol framework follows an adaptive management approach, which requires the setting of a vision and resource objectives, the development of strategies, implementation, monitoring and an assessment of the results. The protocol facilitates a more rational use and more effective environmental protection, leading to better coordination of policy-making and management across sectors and geographically.

All Ramsar sites which are estuaries or part thereof have a cross-sectoral management body comprising stakeholders involved in their management. These are Orange River Mouth, De Hoop Vlei, De Mond (Heuningnes Estuary), Verlorenvlei, Kosi Bay, Lake Sibaya, St. Lucia System, Turtle Beaches/Coral Reefs of Tongaland, and Langebaan

.....

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	21 sites
--	----------

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

.....

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

2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i	A - Yes
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2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):

Management effectiveness of South Africa's protected areas is assessed every year using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. The management effectiveness of the following Ramsar sites has been assessed in the last two years, i.e. 2012 and 2013: Barberspan, De Hoop Vlei, De Mond (Heuningnes Estuary), Makuleke Wetlands, Ndumo Game Reserve, Ntsikeni Nature Reserve, Nylsvley Nature Reserve, St. Lucia System, Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve, uMgeni Vlei Nature Reserve, Verloren Valei Nature Reserve, and Verlorenvlei.

Source: The Department of Environmental Affairs can provide details of these assessments

.....

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

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

At the national Ramsar committee of 10 June 2014, the Administrative Authority requested management authorities to submit information regarding negative human-induced changes or likely changes as soon as they become aware of these changes or likely changes. This will allow the AA and the management authorities to proactively deal with these issues rather than responding to queries from third parties since the latter may tarnish the image of the country.

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>For Ndumo Game Reserve: a report was submitted to the Secretariat in August 2013</p> <p>For Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve: a report is outstanding and will be submitted in due course.</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	A - Yes
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>South Africa has two Ramsar sites on the Montreux Record, viz. Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth. In an attempt to remove these sites from the Montreux Record, several actions have been undertaken:</p> <p>With regard to Blesbokspruit, a stakeholder consultation meeting was held on the 30th August 2013. Stakeholders present at the meeting felt that there were still issues that needed to be addressed before the site could be removed. Consequently, the Management Authority, which is the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Gauteng Provincial Government, was assigned with a task to investigate and find possible solutions. An Environmental Management Plan to guide the management of the site has since been compiled, and it's awaiting approval by the relevant authorities. A report on the progress made since the August stakeholder meeting has also been compiled by the management authority. This report was submitted to the Secretariat.</p> <p>A final stakeholder meeting to assess the status of the site and to implement appropriate intervention measures identified is planned for August 2014. We hope that these measures will lead to the removal of the site from the Montreux Record, as well as facilitate long term management of the site.</p> <p>With regard to Orange River Mouth, a process for its declaration as a nature reserve in terms of a domestic act (National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003) is at an advanced stage. A notice for its declaration has been signed by all relevant stakeholders and further consultation is currently underway (attached). The intention is to remove the site from the Montreux Record once the declaration process has been completed since the Act requires that all protected areas declared within its provisions should have a management plan.</p> <p>.....</p>	

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

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

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

A proposed Ramsar site should be a protected area listed under section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003, or should be part thereof, prior to its designation as a Ramsar site

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

<p><b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.</b> <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p>
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<p>3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i &amp; 3.1.iv</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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3.1.1 Additional information:

The CBD, CMS and UNCCD national focal point sits on the National Ramsar Committee

.....

<p>3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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3.1.2 Additional information:

.....

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

.....

<p>3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

.....

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

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

Z - Not applicable

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

.....

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

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

.....

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

B - No

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

.....

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

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}

A - Yes

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

Every year wetland specialists and other stakeholders gather at a national wetlands indaba to share information on experiences, challenges and successes relating to wetland conservation and wise use, including lessons learned.....



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
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3.4.2 Additional information:

Refer to 1.1.2 for the availability, via the web, of wetland inventory information

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	B - No
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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	A - Yes
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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	A - Yes
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3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

Orange River Mouth, which is a transboundary wetland between South Africa and Namibia, has an Interim Management Committee comprising delegates of these two State.

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
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3.5.3 Additional information:

The Department of Environmental Affairs participates in the International Working Group for the implementation of the Lesse Flamingo single species action plan.

.....

## GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

**STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.** *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.*

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

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

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):

Wetlands are part of the Environmental Awareness Programme run by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Free State Provincial Government. This is one of the nine provincial governments in the Republic.

.....

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

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

- a) 0 centres
- b) 1 centres

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

BirdLife South Africa Wakkerstroom Tourism and Education Centre

.....

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>Stakeholders are involved through provincial wetland forums which exist in 8 of the 9 provinces</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv &amp; 4.1.viii</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a) 0</p> <p>b) 0</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>The following courses were conducted since COP11:</p> <p>1. Tools for wetlands assessment and rehabilitation, offered by Rhodes University.</p> <p>This course is meant for practitioners working in conservation field, impact assessment, wetland management, agriculture, environment, national, provincial, district and local government officials responsible for wetlands management.</p> <p>The course provided participants with novel approaches and tools that can strengthen their work in the area of wetland assessment which included wetland delineation, assessment of wetland ecosystem services, assessment of wetland health as well as guidelines for developments on wetlands.</p> <p>2. Wetland management : rehabilitation principles, offered by University of Free State</p> <p>It covers introduction to wetlands, wet-assessment, wet-rehab, impacts and legal implications, rehabilitation monitoring.</p> <p>This course can be attended by landowners, conservationists, official from local, provincial and national government, town and regional planners, developers</p>	

and students in environmental sphere.

These courses are conducted every year. They do not use Ramsar Handbooks, but have specific course materials.

.....

4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

A - Yes

4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):

The committee was established in 2009. Its membership includes National and provincial government departments, public entities and a community property. The committee has met 3 times since COP 11, the latest of which was on 10 June 2014. The committee:

- a. Advises the Minister on issues of national implementation of the Convention and COP Resolutions.
- b. Serves as a platform for national programmes relating to CEPA and to the work of the STRP. This includes inter alia: Advice and assist the Department of Environmental Affairs and Ramsar site management authorities to:
  - i. Raise public awareness of the Ramsar sites and the Ramsar Convention,
  - ii. Identify training and capacity building needs,
  - iii. Identify research gaps and needs;
- c. Coordinate the management of Ramsar sites in the country;
- d. Create a platform for exchange of advice and information;
- e. Network and exchange experiences relating to the management of Ramsar sites;
- f. Provide mechanism for resource mobilization;
- g. Providing advice to the process of removing Ramsar sites listed on the Montreux record and the designation of new Ramsar sites;
- h. Provide advice on general management performance and monitoring of Ramsar sites;
- i. Undertake ad hoc tasks that the administrative authority responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention may give the committee;
- j. Assist with the identification and recommendation for a need to develop a policy, strategy, plan, guideline etc. for the purpose of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention; and
- k. provide expert input to National Reports, and South Africa's positions on Draft Resolutions for COPs.

.....

<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) B - No c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>Through Provincial Wetland Forums mentioned above</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year at national, provincial and local levels</p> <p>In addition, BirdLife South Africa conduct World Wetland Day (WWD) celebrations at the Wakkerstroom Tourism and Education Centre. Open days are being held at the Centre where schools are given the opportunity to visit the Wakkerstroom wetland and participate in a hands-on guided tour through the wetland itself. The focus of these open days has been guided by the WWD theme each year.</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>The national wetlands indaba also provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide.</p> <p>Over the past six years, BirdLife South Africa has had two foci points relating to activities implemented around the wetland – that of community involvement as well environmental education at both a school and tourist level. These activities have varied in scope and the numbers reached.</p> <p>Community activities have included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The support of small businesses linked directly to the wetland (i.e. resource harvesting) and indirectly through the promotion of local groups (i.e. traditional dance groups)</li> <li>2. Further development of bird guides from the area particularly towards</li> </ol>	

environmental education: principals and practice.

BirdLife South Africa's environmental education programmes have greatly varied, mainly due to funding received. In addition to activities mentioned under 4.1.8 above, other activities include:

1. The Vodacom Foundation sponsored Nature Based Education programme: this is a programme where over 1000 learners attended a structured one day excursion to the Wakkerstroom grassland and wetland ecosystems. Schools received a grassland and wetland resource pack consisting of lessons to support further classroom teaching. The participating schools received a follow up visit in order to plan and implement an action taking project, specific to the school, using the action taking framework – a coordinated and streamlined approach to addressing environmental issues.
2. Talks to the community on wetlands and related fauna and flora
3. Hosting quizzes for the local community
4. Supported the local Enviro Club – Indwe on various wetland topics
5. Involvement with the local Smiley's Group with birdwatching in and around the wetland
6. Support of the local Bird Club and its activities/walks and talks
7. Ongoing support to local high and primary schools with regards to wetland information and particularly around the theme of wetland birds

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Free State Provincial Government, runs an Environmental Awareness Programme in the province.

.....

**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.*

<p>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</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>4.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):</p> <p>.....</p>	

**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>B - No</p>
<p>4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):</p> <p>.....</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> <p>.....</p>	