



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

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

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

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

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

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

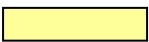

Section 2 is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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

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

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

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

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

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

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

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

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: UGANDA

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

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

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

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

Name and title:	Mr. DOUGLAS LUGUMYA , DIRECTOR
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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) Demarcation of critical wetland systems for waste water treatment, water supply, fisheries and biodiversity conservation
- 2) Revision of management plans including Lake George Ramsar Site Management Plan
- 3) Updated the National Wetland Information System (NWIS) which is now connected and accessible to 20 District Local Governments. Over 100 district and technical staff trained in use and management of the NWIS .
- 4) Detailed assessment of wetlands systems undertaken in Awoja and Doho Namataala Wetland systems and Nabajuzi wetlands. In addition 2 Framework Management Plans and 20 District Wetland Action Plans have been prepared
- 5) Production of the National Wetland Atlas for awareness creation and guidance in decision making in advanced stages due in 2015

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

- 1) Population pressure leading to over exploitation of wetland resources
- 2) Limited quantitative and qualitative data on wetlands values and benefits to guide decision making
- 3) Insufficient funding for wetland management and enforcement programmes
- 4) Lack of viable alternative options for community wetland use
- 5) Development pressure especially infrastructure which is irreversibly degrading wetlands

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

- 1) Demarcation of all critical wetland systems starting with urban wetlands by 2016
- 2) Inventory of degraded areas of critical wetland systems
- 3) Economic valuation and detailed assessment of wetlands to generate information for informed decision making and contribution to the Gross Domestic Product
- 4) Designation of new Ramsar Sites (including transboundary systems)
- 5) Staffing and strengthening the operation of the Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA) and continued Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness activities

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

Increased dissemination of the convention implementation guidelines, undertaking Ramsar Advisory Missions, strengthening technical cooperation with relevant MEAS

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)

Solicit financial and technical support for the implementation of the Convention

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?

Through joint planning and reporting as well as the establishment of a National Coordination Unit and National Advisor Committee for MEA. There is need to develop a national resource mobilisation strategy which should guide the allocation of funds coming from major funding partners of all MEAs. There is need to provide details on how a framework for harmonised online reporting system for all CBD related conventions can benefit.

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)?

Integrating wetland issues into the second National Development Plan; increased participation in the catchment planning coordinated by the Directorate of Water Resources Management, integrating the wetland issues into the currently being reviewed National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, NBSAP, aligning the wetland issues to the vision 2040

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

There is need to strengthen the science base for the implementation of the Convention through research and development. This can be made possible by strengthening National institutional arrangements, information management and enhancing Science to policy interface. There is need for proper implementation of existing biodiversity strategic plan through enhancing the existing capacity and improving on the resource mobilisation

- Enhanced scientific and technical capacity to implement the conventions
- Enhanced institutional and policy-making capacities to implement the conventions
- Increased participation of stakeholders in convention implementation
- Enhanced implementation of the conventions
- Coherent national position on biodiversity-related issues
- More efficient preparation of national reports to the biodiversity-related conventions
- Improved awareness of what other focal points are doing

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

Nature Uganda, Environment Alert, Directorate of Water Resources Management, Uganda Wetlands Forum, Uganda Wildlife Authority, WWF-Uganda Office.

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: The National Wetland Information System (NWIS) has been linked to 20 District Local Governments and scaling up is underway. Over 100 district and central government technical staff have been trained in operation of the NWIS	
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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: Currently accessed by 20 of the 112 District Local Governments and the Ministry of Water and Environment	
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<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) P - Status improved b) O - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b): Research studies done to specific wetland systems, monitoring through the Birdlife recommended status, pressure and response (SPR) monitoring tool</p>	

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

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.1 Additional information: National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetland Resources (1995).</p>	

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <p>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</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) Z - Not applicable d) A - Yes e) A - Yes f) A - Yes g) A - Yes</p>
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1.3.2 Additional information:

- a) Wetland issues are integrated in the National Development Plan, Vision 2040, and District Development Plans
- b) Included in the planning for four Water Catchment Management Zones of Kyoga, Victoria, Albert and Upper Nile
- d) Wetland issues are integrated in the National Forestry Sector Strategic Plan
- e) The Kalagala Offset Sustainable Management Plan caters for wetland resource management
- f) A project on Agriculture irrigation has been developed to be implemented in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), guidelines have been developed for Livestock watering and grazing in wetland areas, as well as review of paddy rice cultivation and wetland edge gardening guidelines
- g) Wetlands are included in the National Biodiversity Strategy for Uganda
- h) Wetlands issues included in to the the REDD+ programme
- i) Wetlands issues have been incorporated into the National Climate Change frame work in the implementation of adaption programmes
- j) Wetlands have been included in the Protected Areas Network of the country

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:

The Albertine Region Strategic Environment Assessment Strategy addresses issues surrounding Ramsar Sites of Lake George, Rwenzori Mountains and Murchison Falls

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:

Under the National Environment Act, any project with a bearing on wetlands is required to undertake an EIA prior to commencement

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:

Input on wetlands has been made during the review and ammendment of the National Environment Policy, National Environment Act and the National Tourism Policy and National Wildlife Policy

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

A - Yes

1.4.1 Additional information:

Assessments have been done for Nabajjuzi Wetland Systems, and Lake Bisina Opeta Ramsar Sites these included Ecological studies, bio mass and silt load studies. An assessment of Ecosystem Services of Lutembe Wetland Ramsar site was done through the application of The Economics of EcoSystems and Biodiversity TEEB

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:

These include Managing Wetland Resources for Improved Food Security Project in Uganda supported by International Development Research Centre and the Community Based Wetland Biodiversity Conservation Project with support from UNDP/GEF. Additionally, a Local Empowerment Project assisting Local Conservation Groups to develop and manage livelihoods micro projects is supported by Jensen Foundation.

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):

This has been done particularly for Lake George, Lake Bisina - Opeta, Nakivale and Nabajjuzi Ramsar Sites and Sango Bay, Musambwa - Kagera through FFI managed project on cultural values and tourism.

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

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

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

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

1.5.1 Additional information:

This has been done during the reporting to the Parliamentary Natural Resources Committee, during the Water and Environment Sector Performance review meetings and at various fora where Civil Society Organisations are involved such as the Wetlands Advisory Group, ENR CSO Network

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
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1.6.1 Additional information:
This has been undertaken through
a) The National Wetlands Programme supported by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Managing Wetland Resources for Improved Food Security Project in Uganda supported by International Development Research Centre;
b) Research on peatland is being undertaken by researchers under the Uganda Carbon Bureau
c) Economic valuation of Nabajuzzi Ramsar Site is being undertaken by the Wetlands Management Department, The Economics and Ecosystems services and Biodiversity of Lutembe is being done through Makerere University and National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) collaboration

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
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1.6.2 Additional information:
This is based on inventory and monitoring reports

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
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1.7.1 Additional information:
Wetland issues are considered in the management of water resources and are fully included in the Catchment Management Plans being prepared within the four Water Management Zones of Kyoga, Victoria, Upper Nile and Albert. Wetlands are treated as natural water infrastructure which are integral to water resources management at the catchment and Water Management Zone level

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: This is done through the designing and dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, stakeholder dialogues and media campaigns	

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: Wetlands are integrated in the National Climate Change Policy and plans are under way to develop wetland specific guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and adapting to climate change	

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: Through the Agriculture irrigation Project and the Livestock Watering and Grazing guidelines through the Managing Wetland Resources for Improved Food Security Project in Uganda supported by International Development Research Centre;	

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: These include degraded sections of wetlands in urban centres	

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	A - Yes
1.8.2 Additional information: A programme to rehabilitate sections of the wetlands systems of Okole and Tochi is being supported by the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services project coordinated by Nature Uganda	

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:

This was carried out under the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) under the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)

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:

Still at research level through the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

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:

Guidance is provided through the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) the coordinating body for private sector and also through Community Based Organisations involved in work close to wetlands

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:

a) The studies on Biodiversity 'fish, herpes and birds' status of Murchison Ramsar site was commissioned by a private sector (Total E & P)

b) The Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services project developing the Wetlands Management Plans of Tochi and Okole wetlands is being supported by the British American Tobacco Biodiversity Partnership which is spearheaded by the private sector.

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
<p>1.11.1 Additional information: Through the soil and water conservation program in Lake Mbuo Nakivaale Ramsar Site, introduction of upland rice and eco-tourism in Katakwi District (Lake Bisina Opeta Ramsar Site), enhancement of livelihoods micro projects in Lutembe and Mabamba Bays, strengthening Sustainable Organic Agriculture and tourism around Lake George with a focus on Katwe.</p>	
1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes
<p>1.11.2 Additional information: Rose Bud Flower Farm was advised to carry out Environment Impact Assessment for section of Lutembe Bay Ramsar Site which had been cleared for expansion of flower farm</p>	

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

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

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

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

A priority list for new Ramsar Sites is available pending research prior designation

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

8 sites

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

a) Lake Victoria, Lake Wamala, Kiyanja Wetland, Lumbuye wetland and Kisozi wetland.

b) Considerations are being made for Bunyonyi and surrounding wetlands, Kiyanja wetlands and Rwebicere wetland in Bushenyi district.

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:

Information on Bunyonyi and surrounding wetlands, Kiyanja wetlands and Rwebicere wetland in Bushenyi district.

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

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i	C - Some sites
2.3.1 Additional information: This include Lake Victoria and Kiyanja wetland, Bunyonyi and Rwebicere wetlands	

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	12 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	12 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	12 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lake Bisina Wetland System.no. 1633, 2. Lake George no. 394 3. Lake Mburo-Nakivali Wetland System.no. 1634, 4. Lake Nabugabo wetland system no. 1373, 5. Lake Nakuwa Wetland System.no. 1635, 6. Lake Opeta Wetland System no. 1636, 7. Lutembe Bay Wetland System no. 1637, 8. Mabamba Bay Wetland System no. 1638, 9. Murchison Falls-Albert Delta Wetland Systemno. 1640, 10. Nabajjuzi Wetland System no. 1639, 11. Rwenzori Mountains Ramsar Site no. 1861, 12. Sango Bay-Musambwa Island-Kagera Wetland System (SAMUKA) no. 1641 	

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	12 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): As above	

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

C - Some sites

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

Lake George Ramsar Site in 2013 and routine assessments done every five years by UWA for protected area management RAMSAR sites

(Rwenzori, Mbuoro and Murchison) to review the implementation of the GMP

Lake George Ramsar Site in 2013 and routine assessments done every five years by UWA for protected area management RAMSAR sites (Rwenzori, Mbuoro and Murchison) to review the implementation of the General Management Plans

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool done for Lake Opeta-Bisina and Lake Mbuoro - Nakivali Ramsar Sites

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

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

A - Yes

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

This is done through regular monitoring and assessment and information is provided through the monitoring and assessment reports as well as reports from District Wetland and Environment Officers and NGOs working near the Ramsar sites

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

C - Some cases

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):

Lake George Ramsar Site which was reported to be affected by industrial influent IBA status and trends report makes a summary of threats in all Ramsar sites. In addition report is being prepared for Lutembe Bay Ramsar site which has come under intense pressure from flower farms and human settlements

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>Uganda is in process of requesting the Ramsar Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to assess the impact of flower farms on Lutembe Ramsar Site in Wakiso District and Cobalt mining on Lake George Ramsar Site in Kasese District</p> <p>Impact of agriculture on wetland systems in Doho - Namatala and the Bisina - Opeta wetlands has been done with technical support from JICA</p>	

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

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i	A - Yes
<p>2.7.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Kisozi wetland is maintained because of its role in livestock farming, also Bigodi wetland in Kabarole district has been maintained due to the ecotourism activities by local communities, Kiyanja wetland in Kyazanga and Rwebicere wetlands in Bushenyi is being maintained because of the breeding sites of Grey crowned Crane, Lake Bunyonyi is being maintained because of tourism and rare birds species and Makanaga Bay, an annex to Mabamba Bay Ramsar site is being maintained because of the habitat for good population of Shoebill.</p>	

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

<p>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p>

<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 & 3.1.iv</p>	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information:

NFPs of all the MEAs in Uganda are members of the Wetlands Advisory Group which is also 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>	A - Yes
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3.1.2 Additional information:

There is collaboration at all levels including Project implementation

<p>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <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>	A - Yes
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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):

Was involved and spearheaded the development and establishment of the Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa

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

The Wetland Management Department collaborates with Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute on the International Course on African Wetland Management and Climate Change

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 has been received through the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNDP

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):

This is one of the priorities under the RAMCEA initiative. It is proposed to twin Lake Natron Ramsar site in Tanzania with Lake George Ramsar site in Uganda

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: Posters have been produced and disseminated, information has been generated in collaboration with stakeholders for production of billboards and information sheets	

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	C - Partly
3.4.3 Additional information: Lessons from implementing 'Extending Protected Areas Network to include Wetland - COBWEB' in Uganda and arrangements are being made to share with the Ramsar secretariat	

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

3.5.1 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	A - Yes
3.5.1 Additional information: These include 1. Kagera River Basin shared by Uganda and Tanzania 2. Sio-Siteko River shared by Uganda and Kenya 3. Lake Edward shared by Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo and 4. Upper Nile shared by Uganda and Sudan 5. The Nile basin (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda Burundi, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt)	

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
3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place): This includes Nile Basin Initiative East African Environment and Natural Resources Protocol Sectoral Committee of the East African Community Kagera River Basin Initiative and Mount Elgon Environment Resources Conservation Project (MERECEP)	

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:

Uganda is a signatory to CMS and its subsidiary African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement

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

<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

- a) A - Yes
- b) C - In progress
- c) C - In progress
- d) C - In progress

(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):

At National Level the Wetlands Management Department is implementing the Information, Education and Communication Strategy which is based on the Ramsar CEPA Strategy

In addition, Processes have been initiated to develop CEPA Strategies and action plans at Directorate level within the Ministry of Water and Environment

At Sub-National, local/site and Catchment Level- Initiative is made to develop CEPA Action Plans to guide awareness programs on any wetland related activity

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) 6 centres
- b) 2 centres

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

Organisations involved in the establishment of such centers include Nature Uganda, WWF and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

(a) The centres are at Lake Opeta, Lake Bisinia, Lake George 'Katwe', Mabamba Bay, Mburo - nakivali, Lutembe.

(b) The centres are in Bigodi wetland and Lake Bunyonyi wetland

(c) WWF entry of 2 Visitor centres in wetlands established under SENR MCAM

project (WWF/UNDP): 1) Bigodi Visitor centre, Fort Portal established by communities. 2) Makanga wetland visitor centre currently being established through a grant from the project to Uganda Wildlife Education Centre

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

a) A - Yes

b) A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

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

New Ramsar Sites are pronounced by the District Local Councils

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

A - Yes

4.1.4 Additional information:

This was carried out through the Ramsar Center for Eastern Africa

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

Number of opportunities:

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

a) 0

b) 0

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

International Course on African Wetlands Management held at Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute, Naivasha Kenya; Training of Ramsar Site Managers organised by RAMCEA

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 Wetlands Advisory Group (WAG) acts as the National Ramsar Committee and meets on a quarterly

basis. The WAG is responsible for for advising the Ministry of Water and Environment in general and the Wetlands Management Department in particular on the wise use, management and conservation of wetland resources in conformity with the National Wetlands Policy and the Wetlands

Sector Strategic Plan. The WAG also endorses all new Ramsar site designations

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

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

{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):

This is done through trainings and sectoral meetings

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:

World Wetlands Day has been celebrated at national level and District Local Government (at specific wetlands sites) on an annual basis.

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):

CEPA activities are part of the demarcation and restoration programs of the Ministry of Water and Environment. In addition Civil Society Organisations at the National and Local Community level carry out CEPA activities and Wetlands Management Department Staff provide technical back up

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

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

.....

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

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

A - Yes

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

.....

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

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

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

Support has been provided through WWF International, IUCN, and Wetlands International

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

A - Yes

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

Assistance is provided through recommending of IOPs e.g WWF International for the implementation of conservation projects in Uganda

