

Ramsar National Report to COP13

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 <http://www.ramsar.org/search-contact>.

Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP13 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)

> REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[COP13_report_Marshall_Islands_Endorsement.jpg](#)

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

> Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

> Mr. Bruce Kijiner, Secretary

Mailing address

> P.O. Box 1349 Majuro, MH 96960

Telephone/Fax

> +692.6253181 or +692.6253012 / +692.6254979

Email

> kijinerb@gmail.com

Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title

> Ms. Moriana Phillip, RMI Environmental Protection Authority (RMI-EPA) - General Manager

Mailing address

> P.O. Box 3122 Majuro, MH 96960

Telephone/Fax

> +692.6253035 or +692.6255203 / +692.6255202

Email

> morianaphillip_rmiepa@gmail.com

Designated National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

Name and title

> Karl Fellenius, Coastal Resource Adviser

Name of organisation

> RMI-Environmental Protection Authority (RMI-EPA)

Mailing address

> P.O. Box 3122 Majuro, MH 96960

Telephone/Fax

> +692.6253035 or +692.6255203 / +692.6255202

Email

> karl@fellenius.net

Designated Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)

Name and title

> Mr. Barry Rilang, Conservation Officer

Name of organisation

> RMI-Environmental Protection Authority (RMI-EPA)

Mailing address

> P.O. Box 1322 Majuro, MH 96960

Telephone/Fax

> +692.6253035 or +692.6255203 / +692.6255202

Email

> barryrilang@gmail.com

Designated Non-Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)

Name and title

> Martin Romain, Interim Director

Name of organisation

> Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) / VC CMAC

Mailing address

> P.O. Box 649

Telephone/Fax

> +692.4564415

Email

> martin@atollconservation.org

Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP12 reporting)

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

- 1)
 - › Information sharing and awareness-raising campaign on wetland conservation engaging school students and community members in replanting of mangroves, and other trees and plants of a similar nature.
- 2)
 - › Passing of the Protected Areas Network Legislation on September 2015, which integrates all protected areas including the Ramsar Sites into a single system; allows more effective monitoring and enforcement; provides mechanism for funding distribution to protected areas; benefits priority issues in Biodiversity (including wetlands), Climate Change Adaptation, and Disaster Risk Management and Food Security.
- 3)
 - › Continued implementation of the Reimaanlok (National Conservation Area Plan for the RMI) which helps strengthen commitments within the RMI government and the local communities to establish and manage community-based conservation areas. Moreover, Reimaanlok helps revive the physical and spiritual connection of the people to their environment to ensure sustainable use of resources and food security and to conserve areas of moderate to high biodiversity.
- 4)
 - › Lib Island is undergoing assessment for potential designation as the 3rd Wetland of International Importance ('Ramsar Site') in the RMI. Some of this assessment follows protocols under the Reimaanlok Conservation Area Planning Process.
- 5)
 - › Implementation of the Reimaanlok marine survey at the Namdrik Atoll Ramsar Site (2012) and progress towards the conservation area management plan. While the marine survey is on coral reefs deeper than 6m, the management planning process includes shallow coral reef wetlands and deeper areas bounded by shallow reefs.

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

- 1)
 - › No government funding is allocated for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the RMI. For example, resources are needed to visit the Ramsar-listed sites to update the Ramsar Information Sheets and also to promote the Convention and its importance to the RMI, along with funds to support NGO involvement in Ramsar-specific activities and reporting.
- 2)
 - › Limited human resources within the Environment Protection Authority to carry out the wetlands work and meet the obligations under the Ramsar Convention.
- 3)
 - › Misconceptions about specific applications of the 'shallower than 6m marine water/coral reef' definition of Wetlands, and how exactly to apply this in the RMI since shallow coral reefs cover much of the land area of the country. Moreover, that deeper coral reefs can be included if bounded by shallow areas (i.e. all atoll lagoons). Our interpretation is that these definitions can be used to justify all of Namdrik Atoll as a Ramsar site, which it is. But it also raises questions as to the uniqueness of one atoll over another, as it pertains to future Ramsar designations in the RMI.
- 4)
 - › The implementation of Reimaanlok has complementary conservation actions to Ramsar, but differences are not currently accounted for in monitoring regimes.
- 5)
 - › Changes in leadership at the RMI-EPA since the first implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the RMI more than a decade ago has led to varying degrees of emphasis on some sites over others, relevance to Reimaanlok and coral reefs, and therefore the extent of integration with the guidance of the RMI Coastal Management Advisory Council and the manner in which public awareness is carried out.

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

- 1)
 - › Coordinate Ramsar Convention activities via the RMI Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), implement via the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (member of CMAC), and report back via the RMI-EPA (member and current Chair of CMAC). All implementation should strive to be nested within the Reimaanlok community planning process. Reconcile coral reef wetland definition by including coral reefs shallower than 6m, as well as deeper areas between shallow coral bommies in lagoons, but excluding lagoons as a whole (other than current designation for all of Namdrik Atoll). Seek clarification on precise Ramsar boundary for Jaluit Atoll.
- 2)
 - › Revive the traditional conservation methods or "Mo's" by promoting and raising awareness on the importance of wetlands to traditional leaders, communities, local government and Marshallese people in general.
- 3)
 - › Continue to integrate wetland ecosystem and biodiversity conservation education into school curriculum via coordination with the Ministry of Education.
- 4)
 - › Obtain additional support and policy recognition from the National Government for the importance of wetlands, most importantly for food security, shoreline protection, and traditional medicinal purposes.
- 5)
 - › Finalize the designation of Lib Island as RMI's 3rd Ramsar Site.

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

- › To continue to have the Ramsar Officer for Oceania, as she has been very instrumental and very supportive not only in assisting with seeking outside funding but as a support network for better implementation of the Convention.

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)

- › Technical assistance from these organizations to provide capacity building in the identified priority needs of communities of the Marshall Islands (via Reimaanlok) and to conduct a survey of what resources exist, including mapping and inventory of all non-coral wetlands in the country.

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' (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), World Heritage Convention (WHC), and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?

- › The RMI Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) has been formalized under the Protected Area Networks (PAN) Act, which consists of national partners who are focal points for the Conventions. CMAC meets once a month to discuss issues related to conservation and climate change, and other matters related to the environment. As such, CMAC is a good platform to improve synergy between various Multilateral Environmental Conventions.

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)?

- › There needs to be better understanding in the Marshall Islands of the importance of the Ramsar Convention. Other strategic initiatives such as the revision of the Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management (JNAP for CCA and DRM) can reference the Ramsar Convention, and highlight wetland conservation benefits across sectors.

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

- › There needs to be more recognition of individual countries in Oceania (liaise with countries) by the member representing their region in the Ramsar Convention Standing Committee.

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

> RMI-Environmental Protection Authority (RMI-EPA), SPREP, SPC, Ramsar Secretariat, Marshall Islands Conservation Society, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, and CMAC.

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

Target 1

Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.

1.1 Have wetland issues/benefits been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

Please select only one per square.

a) National Policy or strategy for wetland management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
b) Poverty eradication strategies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
e) Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
f) National forest programmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
i) National policies on energy and mining	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

j) National policies on tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
k) National policies on urban development	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
l) National policies on infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
m) National policies on industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

1.1 Additional information

> The Reimaanlok Conservation Area Plan is the National Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plan for the RMI. It has yet to be formally recognized as such, but this is the intent. Coral reefs are well-identified in national plans, and broadly referenced across natural resource sectoral plans as well as policies on economic development. As stated earlier in the challenges, part of stating how Wetlands are managed in the RMI (and therefore referenced in national and local plans) depends on the extent to which the Convention includes coral reefs (e.g. to 6m depth). Other types of Wetlands are not well-referenced in national plans, but are recognized in Reimaanlok community plans.

Target 2

Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone

2.1 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2) ? 1.24.

B=No

2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands (Action r3.4.iv)

B=No

2.3 Have Ramsar Sites improved the sustainability of water use in the context of ecosystem requirements?

X=Unknown

2.3 Additional Information

> The Ramsar Information Sheet for Jaluit Atoll has not been updated since 2003 and that for Namdrik Atoll since 2012.

2.4 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12) been used/applied in decision-making processes. (Action 3.4.6.)

B=No

2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed (Action 3.4.ix.)

C=Partially

2.5 Additional Information

> Implementation of Reimaanlok activities on Namdrik Atoll.

2.6 How many household/municipalities are linked to sewage system? SDG Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

2.6 Additional Information

> Sewage system is only on Majuro Urban Area, Ebeye and Kwajalein. No sewage systems on atolls with Ramsar sites, other than household septics.

2.7 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (percentage)

> 75

2.7 Additional Information

> Majuro urban areas and Ebeye, Kwajalein

2.8 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine? SDG Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (percentage)

> 25

2.8 Additional Information

> Majuro and Kwajalein Rural Areas and Outer Islands

2.9 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG Target 6.3.1.

B=No

2.10 How do the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology perform? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

2.11 How many centralised wastewater treatment plants exist at national level? SDG Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (plants)

> 0

2.11 Additional Information

> Both systems on Majuro and Ebeye are currently not functioning, but the former is planned and the latter upgrade is ongoing

2.12 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? SDG Target 6.3.1.

B=Not functioning

2.13 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG Target 6.3.1.

B=Not Functioning

2.14 Is there a wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.

B=No

2.14 Additional Information

> There is no waste water reuse system available in the RMI.

2.15 What Is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

Target 3

Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. {1.10}

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

C=Partially

3.1 Additional Information

> Through consultations with the local communities in the outer islands.

3.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the conservation, wise use and management of {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Sites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
b) Wetlands in general	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

3.2 Additional information

> a) Namdrik Atoll Coastal Management Plan and b) Agriculture/Food Security Projects

3.3 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

3.3 Additional information

> Through national consultations with local governments and communities; implementation of Reimaanlok.

3.4 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

3.4 Additional Information

> RMI-EPA's Coastal Management Framework, Reimaanlok Management Plan, National Climate Change Policy, coastal/fisheries management plans in the outer atolls.

Target 4

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

4.1 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

4.1 Additional information

> National Invasive Species Strategic Action Plan (NISSAP) through the Ministry of Natural Resource and Commerce. The majority of invasive alien species are terrestrial.

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

D=Planned

4.2 Additional information

> To be addressed through the implementation of the NISSAP.

4.3 How many invasive species are being controlled through management actions.

G=More than (species)

> 10

4.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information

> Continuous assessments for managing invasive species.

4.4 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?

C=Partially

4.4 Additional information

> Through annual meetings of the Regional Invasive Species Committee, monitoring and evaluation reports from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce fisheries and agriculture.

Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}

5.1 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

5.1 Additional information

> Lib Island.

5.2 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

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have an effective, implemented management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i

E=Exact number (sites)

> 1

5.4 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

E=Exact number (sites)

> 1

5.5 For how many Ramsar Sites is effective management planning currently being implemented (outside of formal management plans ? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

E=Exact number (sites)

> 1

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information

> Namdrik Atoll Ramsar Site

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (through formal management plans where they exist or otherwise through existing actions for appropriate wetland management ? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

C=Partially

5.6 Additional information

> Reimaanlok Community Resource Management Plan in progress.

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 1

5.7 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites

> Namdrik Atoll Ramsar Site.

5.8 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution X.15)? {2.4.5}{2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v

E=Exact number (sites)

> 2

5.8 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites

> The Ramsar Information Sheets of Namdrik Atoll (no.2072) and Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area (no.1389) are available.

5.9 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i

B=No

Target 7

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.

7.1 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

7.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established

> NEPA ACT

RMI-EPA Regulations

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

B=No

7.3 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

B=No

Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

Target 8

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

A=Yes

8.1 Additional information

> National Forestry Inventory commenced and in progress - Database established. Protected Area Network via Reimaanlok currently on track to meet Micronesia Challenge targets for terrestrial and marine areas.

8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?

B=No

8.2 Additional information

> National Forestry Inventory commenced and in progress – Database currently established. Protected Area Network via Reimaanlok currently on track to meet Micronesia Challenge targets for terrestrial and marine areas.

8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

A=Yes

8.3 Additional information

> At the current Ramsar Sites and the newly proposed Ramsar Site, Lib Island.

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

A=Yes

8.5 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3}

Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the 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

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Sites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N=Status Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> O=No Change <input type="checkbox"/> P=Status Improved
b) Wetlands generally	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N=Status Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> O=No Change <input type="checkbox"/> P=Status Improved

8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

> A & B) Through stories from some of the communities from the Ramsar Sites, climate change has been a major impact to the wetlands. Reimaanlok implementation shows the status of corals, mangroves, water quality etc. The 2014-2016 coral bleaching events have been particularly damaging.

8.6 Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a baseline figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2017. SDG Target 6.6

X=Unknown

Target 9

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.

9.1 Is a Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands 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

9.1 Additional information

> It is integrated in the recently endorsed Protected Areas Network Legislation as well as Reimaanlok Plan (National Conservation Area Plan for the RMI) that is the implementation mechanism of the PAN Legislation.

9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5} {1.3.6}

B=No

9.3 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? {1.7.1} {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

A=Yes

9.3 Additional information

> Ground water and ponds

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

A=Yes

9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.3} {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

A=Yes

9.5 Additional information

> JNAP and WATSAN (Water and sanitation policy)

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

A=Yes

9.6 Additional information

> (MIOFA) Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

Please select only one per square.

a) agriculture-wetland interactions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
b) climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
c) valuation of ecosystem services	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned

9.7 Additional information

> (a) Agroforestry-Vegetative Dashboard Project

(b) Reimaanlok; National Climate Change Policy

c) EPA's EIA Process

Coastal Management Framework

Fisheries Management Plans for Outer Atolls

9.8 Has your country submitted a request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.10 ?

B=No

Target 10

The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.

10.1 Have the guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used or applied?.(Action 6.1.2/ 6.1.6)

A=Yes

10.1 Additional information

> Through the Reimaanlok process where traditional leaders and community members all play an important role.

10.2 Have case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands

been compiled. Resolution VIII.19 and Resolution IX.21? (Action 6.1.6)

A=Yes

10.2 Additional information

If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands

> Through RMI Historic Preservation Office work.

10.3 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied. (Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)

A=Yes

10.3 Additional information

If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or application of the guidelines

> Through the Reimaanlok process.

10.4 Traditional knowledge and management practices relevant for the wise use of wetlands have been documented and their application encouraged (Action 6.1.2)

A=Yes

10.4 Additional information

> Through the Reimaanlok process and traditional conservation methods.

Target 11

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.}

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

C1=Partially

11.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

> Through local consultations with community members including local Government officials (Reimaanlok - Namdrik; and other - Jaluit).

11.2 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

C=Partially

11.2 Additional information

> 1) Through local consultations with community members including local Government officials (Reimaanlok - Namdrik Atoll Ramsar Site; and other - Jaluit Atoll Ramsar Site).

2) Implementation of activities under the National Water and Sanitation Policy

3) Implementation of activities under the National Food Security Policy

4) Reimaanlok

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

C=Partially

11.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

> Through the Reimaanlok process. The socio-economic values are being integrated into the management plan of Namdrik Atoll Ramsar Site.

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

C=Partially

11.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

> Cultural values are always included, since most sites are also used for medicinal purposes.

Through the Reimaanlok process. The cultural values are being integrated into the management plan of

Target 12

Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. {1.8.}

12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

B=No

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

C=Partially

12.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored

> Through the Reimaanlok process and rehabilitation projects.

Target 13

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods

13.1 Have actions been taken to enhance sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands?

A=Yes

13.1. Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken

> Incorporating sustainability measures in strategic plans of different key sectors of the government - but not specific to Jaluit and Namdrik atolls.

13.2 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.3} {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii

A=Yes

13.2 Additional information

> Incorporating sustainability measures in strategic plans of different key sectors of the government - but not specific to Jaluit and Namdrik atolls.

13.3 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries that may affect wetlands? {1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

A=Yes

13.3 Additional information

> Through the RMI NEPA Act and the Coastal Conservation Act.

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

Target 15

Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. {3.2.}

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

A=Yes

15.1 Additional information

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

> The proposed Ramsar Regional Initiative/Center for Oceania (Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Samoa).

15.2 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}

A=Yes

15.2 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s)

> The proposed Ramsar Regional Initiative/Center for Oceania (Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Samoa).

Target 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

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

Please select only one per square.

a) At the national level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
b) Sub national level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
c) Catchment/basin level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
d) Local/site level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned

16.1 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

> Through the Reimaanlok planning process and mandated obligations of different sectors within the government.

16.2a How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

a) at Ramsar Sites

E=Exact Number (centres)

> 1

16.2b How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

b) at other wetlands

G=More than (centres)

> 5

16.2 Additional information

If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks

> A. Ramsar - Namdrik Community Center

B. Coastal Management Advisory Council (no actual center yet. It is hoped that once the Protected Areas Network office is set up, this will be the one stop shop for all relevant information and documentation).

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

Please select only one per square.

a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned

16.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved
 > Through the Reimaanlok process - CMAC and RMI-EPA.

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

B=No

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

A=Yes

16.5 Additional information

If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has

> CMAC ranging members from both government and NGOs - monthly meetings, coordinating coastal and environment initiatives.

16.6 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), b) or c) below? {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi:

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Site managers	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
b) other MEA national focal points	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
c) other ministries, departments and agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned

16.6 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place
 > Through CMAC, social media and mayors' association.

16.7 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 COP12? {4.1.8}

A=Yes

16.7 Additional information

> Every year since COP12 WWD activities have been executed.

16.8 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP12 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

16.8 Additional information

If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this
> With funding from the Nagao Wetland Fund a project is being implemented to assess Lib Island for designation as a potential 3rd Ramsar Site of RMI. This project has a component to raise awareness of the local communities on Lib Island about the importance of wetlands in general, which has been implemented partially to date.

Target 17

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}

17.1a Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2015, 2016 and 2017? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

B=No

17.1b If 'No' in 17.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment

> Partial payment for 2015 has been paid, but not for 2016 and 2017.

17.2 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

17.3 [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

17.4 [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

17.5 [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

17.5 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12

> Funding was received from Japan through the Nagao Wetland Fund administered by the Ramsar Secretariat and funded by Nagao Natural Environment Foundation in Japan. Travel support was received from Australia to attend the 7th Oceania Regional Meeting of the Ramsar Convention that took place in Nadi, Fiji in March 2017.

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?

A=Yes

17.6 Additional information

If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities

> Funds allocation to execute WWD celebrations.

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

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

D=Planned

18.2 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)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv

A=Yes

18.2 Additional information

> Through CMAC

18.3 Has your country received assistance from one or more UN and other global and regional bodies and

agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO) or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii.

The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, WWF and Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT).

A=Yes

18.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received

> IUCN, UNEP, World Bank, UNDP, SPREP, SPC, TNC

18.4 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

18.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved

> CMAC, Local Governments of Namdrik and Jaluit atolls.

18.5 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

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

A=Yes

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

Z=Not Applicable

18.7 Additional information

> Through the Reimaanlok process.

18.8 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

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

B=No

Target 19

Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.

19.1 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

B=No

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?

B=No

19.3a How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

a) at Ramsar Sites

E=Exact number (opportunities)

> 0

19.3b How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

b) at other wetlands

E=Exact number (Opportunities)

> 0

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

D=Planned

19.4 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring

> Lack of monitoring funds

