



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

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,  
Romania, June 2012**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **15 September 2011**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org))

### Introduction & background

1. This National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee in Decision SC41-24 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2009, and its Decision SC40-29, this COP11 National Report Format closely follows that used for the COP10 National Report Format, which in turn was a significantly revised and simplified format in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In addition to thus permitting continuity of reporting and implementation progress analyses by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP10 NRF), this COP11 NRF is structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP10 as Resolution X.1, and the indicators speak to relevant Key Result Areas (KRAs) for each Strategy in the Strategic Plan.
4. The COP11 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee, certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in light of its work on assessing effectiveness indicators, and by the CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention. The format also includes indicator questions concerning the use of the "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands", as requested in Resolution X.3 (2008).
5. This COP11 NRF includes 82 indicator questions. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply additional information concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.
6. The COP11 Format also now includes an additional, optional, section (section 4) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, if it wishes to, on indicators relevant to individual Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

### The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's website.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
  - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
  - ii) capture lessons and experience to help Parties develop future action;
  - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
  - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable for their commitments under the Convention;

- v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and to plan its future priorities; and
  - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP11 consideration.
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
    - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 6);
    - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP10 DOC. 7); and
    - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP10 DOCs 8-13);
  - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP. Examples at CO9 and COP10 included:
    - Resolution IX.15 and X.13, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
    - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar Sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC. 15), *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC. 25), *Overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2006-2008* (COP10 DOC. 16, and *Background and rationale to the Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character* (COP10 DOC. 27);
  - iii) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development

of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010); and

- iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the COP10 NRF indicators have been used extensively in 2009 in the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems that was being considered by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3).

### The structure of the COP11 National Report Format

12. The COP11 National Report Format 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.

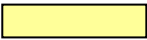

**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**Section 3** provides the 82 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; and a further “free-text” section for adding further information on other aspects of implementation of that Strategy.

**Section 4** ([www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc)) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). This has been included at the request of a number of Parties.

### Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP11 National Report Format

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT**

13. All of the first three Sections of the COP11 National Report Format should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **15 September 2011**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP11.
15. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
16. Fields with a pale green background  are optional free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since experience

shows that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.

17. In order to assist Contracting Parties in providing such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the “Additional implementation information” fields.
18. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the form and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties. If you need to work with an unlocked version of the Format, please contact Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org)), who will advise on how that can be done.
19. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, 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.
20. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
21. For a “free-text” field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow “free-text” box, it is recommended that you 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 – this is because within the Microsoft “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes in the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
22. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic data entry into our database for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ] °°°° in the “free text” fields.
23. 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”, etc. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
24. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
25. 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.
26. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party’s overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the

work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given. When filling in this form, it is also advised to refer back to the National Report submitted for COP10 for purposes of continuity and consistency.

27. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP11NRF [Country] [date].
28. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, e-mail: [dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org). The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in this electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
29. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP11 National Report.**
30. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP11 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

## SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

<b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: MALTA</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	<b>Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA)</b>
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Dr Petra Bianchi, Director of Environment
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Malta Environment and Planning Authority Environment Protection Directorate Floriana FRN 1230 Malta
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+ 356 2290 7302 / + 356 2290 2295 (Attn Dr Petra Bianchi)
<b>Email:</b>	ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Darrin T. Stevens, Unit Manager
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Malta Environment and Planning Authority Environment Protection Directorate Ecosystems Management Unit St. Francis Ravelin Floriana FRN 1230 Malta
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+ 356 2290 7102 / + 356 2290 2295 (Attn. Mr Darrin T. Stevens)
<b>Email:</b>	ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt, darrin.stevens@mepa.org.mt
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Malta Environment & Planning Authority
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Malta Environment and Planning Authority Environment Protection Directorate St. Francis Ravelin Floriana FRN 1230 Malta
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+ 356 2290 7102 / + 356 2290 2295 (Attn. Unit C - Environment Protection Directorate)
<b>Email:</b>	ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt, nature.protection@mepa.org.mt
<b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Malta Environment & Planning Authority
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Malta Environment and Planning Authority Environment Protection Directorate St. Francis Ravelin Floriana FRN 1230 Malta
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+ 356 2290 7102 / + 356 2290 2295 (Attn. Unit C - Environment Protection Directorate)

<b>Email:</b>	ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt, nature.protection@mepa.org.mt
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	
<b>Mailing address:</b>	
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	





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

**In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP10 reporting):**

A. What new steps have been taken to implement the Convention?

In Malta there are two Ramsar sites - L-Għadira (l/o Mellieha) and Is-Simar (l/o San Pawl il-Bahar) - which are also protected via the subsidiary legislation of the Environment and Development Planning Act (Cap. 504), namely the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended) and the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 79 of 2006, as amended). Through the provisions of the above-mentioned legislation, both sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation of International Importance, Special Protection Areas and Bird Sanctuaries. Both L-Għadira and Is-Simar have been declared as lakes under the Water Policy Framework Regulations, 2004 (Legal Notice 194 of 2004), which transposes the Water Framework Directive and moreover the sites have also been scheduled as Areas of Ecological Importance and Sites of Scientific Importance.

Since COP 10, BirdLife Malta (a non-governmental organisation) together with the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (the Ramsar Administrative Authority) and the Office of the Prime Minister, have continued with the management of both the L-Għadira and Is-Simar sites.

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

Management measures are being implemented at both sites.

C. What have been the greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

The main difficulty which was encountered is related to resource constraints, which unfortunately hindered Malta in participating fully in the Convention's activities and meetings.

D. What are the priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

Consideration could be given to assess the potential for designation of more Ramsar sites in Malta.

E. Does the Contracting Party have any proposals concerning adjustments to the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan?

No

F. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

N/A

G. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)?

N/A

H. 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?

National implementation is already taking into account of the link between some of the aspects of implementation of the Ramsar Convention with some of the other MEAs to which Malta is Party. For most of the above-mentioned MEAs, responsibility for implementation lies within the same entity in Malta, namely the Malta Environment & Planning Authority (MEPA). This facilitates matters, as communication and co-ordination is inevitably better than if separate entities were involved. National implementation could possibly be improved further if joint actions were proposed by the various MEAs involved, as this would indirectly instigate national linkages when considering work on the MEAs in the question.

- I. How can Ramsar Convention implementation be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

It is acknowledged that a strong link exists between Ramsar Convention implementation and specifically implementation of water policies, especially through river basin management. Greater awareness, even within the relevant responsible authorities, is necessary to ensure that appropriate consultation takes place in order that the obligations arising out of the various policies are fulfilled. The biodiversity aspect of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention is currently being integrated with other policies through the compilation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NBSAP is viewed as an important tool for implementing measures at a national level, while mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into all public sectors including amongst others, the production sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism, and national sustainable development plans. By mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes, the crucial role that biodiversity has for human well-being is acknowledged and actions are taken to safeguard this resource.

- J. Does the Contracting Party have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

N/A

## SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

### Guidance for filling in 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, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then 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 designed for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ], °°°° in the free text box.
5. To assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP10, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP10 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 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
1.1.1 Additional information: Wetlands have been identified, and have been afforded legal protection under various legislation.	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	C - Partly
1.1.2 Additional information: All environmental data is made accessible in accordance with the Aarhus Convention. MEPA website links: <a href="http://www.mepa.org.mt/impnatareas-wetlands;">http://www.mepa.org.mt/impnatareas-wetlands;</a> <a href="http://www.mepa.org.mt/impnatareas-pas-int-n2k-dsmap">http://www.mepa.org.mt/impnatareas-pas-int-n2k-dsmap.</a>	

1.1.3 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}

- a) Ramsar Sites
- b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the nature 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 comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

\* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

O - No change  
O - No change

1.1.3 a) Additional information:

In general, all sites have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas under the EC Habitats Directive and EC Birds Directive respectively.

The two local Ramsar sites are managed by a local NGO, which records and monitors the status and trends of relevant species, as part of the ongoing management.

1.1.3 b) Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

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

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i  
(If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

B - No

1.3.1 Additional information: Although there is no specific National Wetland Policy, wise use is ensured through various other policy instruments.

As indicated in Section 2, the two Maltese Ramsar sites have been also protected through local legislation, namely the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended) and the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 79 of 2006, as amended), which transpose the EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Directive 92/43/EEC) and the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Directive 2009/147/EC), respectively.

Through the provisions of the above-mentioned legislation, both sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation of International Importance, Special Protection Areas and Bird Sanctuaries, and consequently form part of the EU Natura 2000 network. Both sites are also declared as lakes under the Water Policy Framework Directive (WFD). The obligations arising out of these EU Directives ensure the wise use of these wetlands.

Activities, projects and plans which are likely to affect Natura 2000 sites are subject to assessment in terms of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, thereby ensuring that no significant adverse effects will impact these sites. In addition, the River Basin Management Plan which is required by the WFD will also ensure the wise use of wetlands.

In the Maltese Islands, land-use policy is guided by the Environment and Development Planning Act (Cap. 504) and its Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands, which was drawn in 1990. The Plan provides strategic guidance on land-use in the Maltese Islands and contains 320 policies on settlements, the built environment, housing, social and community facilities, commerce and industry, agriculture, minerals, tourism and recreation, transport, urban and rural conservation, ecology and public utilities. Through this Plan, a considerable number of wetlands have been protected as Areas of Ecological Importance and/or Sites of Scientific Importance - including the two Ramsar sites. Such designation affords further detailed protection policies which are applied whenever proposed development projects affect these areas. Work has initiated on a Strategic Plan for Environment and Development (SPED), which is intended to replace the Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands of 1990, and provide a strategic spatial policy framework for both the environment and development up to 2020. Further information: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/sped>.

1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}

Z - Not applicable

1.3.2 Additional information:

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

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

{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

Z - Not applicable

C - Partly

C - Partly

Z - Not applicable

A - Yes

C - Partly

D - Planned

### 1.3.3 Additional information:

1.3.3 (b) Wetland habitats have been identified to be important ecological niches under the Water Framework Directive and their management has been integrated into the Water Catchment Management Plan for Malta. Monitoring programmes for the Ramsar wetlands have also been established.

1.3.3 (c) Through the implementation of the national Water Catchment Management Plan, which safeguards all waters including coastal, inland surface waters and groundwater, actions and measures have been proposed which address the management of water resources and target to provide a significant improvement in their status by 2015. More specifically the Water Catchment Management Plan in the Maltese Islands aims to ensure the wise use of wetlands by means of establishing the appropriate means of classifying the ecological and chemical quality of Għadira and Simar. The carrying out of monitoring programmes at these sites is enhancing Malta's limited knowledge base of these wetlands enabling continuous improvement of management of these sites

In addition as mentioned in 1.3.3 (g), both the Malta's National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP) and the National Environment Policy (NEP) shall also incorporate actions/ policies concerning wetlands/ inland ecosystems.

1.3.3 (e) In 2002 the Maltese Government set up the National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD). That same year, a task force was appointed by the NCSD, to oversee the preparation of a strategy for sustainable development. The overarching goal of the strategy is "primarily aimed at helping society work towards improving the quality of life of all members of society, promoting convergence between the interests of different sectors and layers of society and between the interest of current and future generations." The National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSSD) was adopted by the National Commission in 2006. The Strategy encompasses wetlands under the generic term of "habitats" in the strategic directions identified for the policy area "nature and biodiversity"

1.3.3 (f) Certain policy measures adopted for the agricultural sector aim at reducing their impacts on habitats including wetlands. Examples include the Rural Development Plan for Malta (2007-2013), the Nitrates Action Programme and the Code of Good Agricultural Practice.

1.3.3 (g) Malta's NBSAP has been developed over the past years, following preliminary consultations with various stakeholders. Noting that consultations will be completed in the first quarter of 2012, actions are not yet finalised. However, the NBSAP does incorporate wetlands/inland water ecosystems in proposed actions under the thematic areas on:

- species and habitats,
- ecological network of protected areas
- climate change
- sustainable use of natural resources, and
- enforcement

Other national policies that consider habitats including wetlands/inland water ecosystems include:

- Malta's Water Catchment Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive
- Malta's First and Second Communications to the UNFCCC
- Malta's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- National Environment Policy
- Structure Plan Policies
- Management Plans For Ramsar Sites

1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii	A - Yes
1.3.4 Additional information: In Malta, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2005 (Legal Notice 418 of 2005), which transpose the EU Directive on the Assessment of the Effect of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (Directive 2001/42/EC), provide the regulatory framework for carrying out such assessments on strategic policies, programmes and plans that may impact the environment, including wetlands.	

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	A - Yes
1.3.5 Additional information: Proposals of projects, which may impact the environment, are formally screened against legally established criteria to determine whether they qualify for mandatory formal assessments, such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and various other Environmental Permitting Instruments such as Strategic Environment Assessments (SEAs).	

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	A - Yes
1.3.6 Additional information: Relevant Ramsar commitments have been included in a number of subsidiary legislation of the Environment and Development Planning Act (Cap. 504), namely the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended) and the Water Policy Framework Regulations, 2004 (Legal Notice 194 of 2004, as amended).	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation:

**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 conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	B - No
1.4.1 Additional information:	

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i	Z - Not applicable
1.4.2 Additional information: It is deemed that poverty is not a direct concern in relation to wetlands and wetland management in Malta.	



1.4.3 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {1.3.4} KRA 1.4.iii

B - No

1.4.3 Additional information: .

1.4.4 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.1.5} KRA 1.4.iii

C - Partly

1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): The benefits of the two Ramsar sites to the Maltese society and the economy have been taken into consideration during the management planning process being carried out during the development of the Management Plans for the Natura 2000 sites. Management plans shall be co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) under Measure 323 of the Rural Development Programme for Malta, 2007- 2013.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

**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 Have you taken steps to ensure that your national focal points for other environmental conventions are contributing to the application of Ramsar Convention implementation mechanisms? KRA 1.5.i

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

1.5.2 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

B - No  
A - Yes  
A - Yes  
A - Yes

1.5.2 Additional information: The "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands" was brought to the attention of a number of non-government organisations.

1.5.3 Has the “Changwon Declaration” been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?

A - Yes

1.5.3 Additional information:

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?

Z - Not applicable

1.5.4 Additional information: The Changwon Declaration was originally drafted in English, which is one of Malta's official languages.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

**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

KRA 1.6.i

B - No

B - No

B - No

1.6.1 Additional information:

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

D - Planned

1.6.2 Additional information: Both L-Għadira and Is-Simar shall have new management plans which shall be co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

**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 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i	A - Yes
1.7.1 Additional information: The regulation of water resources falls within the competency of the Malta Resources Authority (MRA). Water resources are also covered through the provisions of the Water Policy Framework Regulations, 2004 (Legal Notice 194 of 2004, as amended), whose competency is shared between MRA and MEPA. Programmes of work in relation to water resource planning and management are presently being planned; these should take into consideration the wise use of wetlands.	
1.7.2 Does your country's water governance and management treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? KRA 1.7.ii	B - No
1.7.2 Additional information: Though wetlands are an integral part of water resource management, it must be kept in mind that wetland environments in the Maltese Islands constitute a very small part of the water catchment. The two Ramsar sites in Malta (L-Għadira & Is-Simar) are very small amounting to a total area of 6 and 5 ha respectively.	
1.7.3 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.4.2}	A - Yes
1.7.3 Additional information:	
1.7.4 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {1.4.3}	A - Yes
1.7.4 Additional information: Integrated Coastal Zone Management planning and decision-making is regulated by the relevant policies included in the Structure Plan of the Maltese Islands (referred to in the Additional Information of 1.3.1)	
1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii	B - No
1.7.5 Additional information:	
1.7.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands and water in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? KRA 1.7.v	B - No
1.7.6 Additional information:	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation:

**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?  
{1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

D - Planned

1.8.1 Additional information: The Management Plans for the Natura 2000 sites, which are co-financed by the EAFRD, shall help identify the sites where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial. Measures related to habitat restoration have been included in the National Environment Policy. In addition, the restoration of habitats is also considered in the draft National Strategy on Adapting to Climate Change. One measure in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan calls for guidelines on habitat management and restoration to be adopted, while another measure calls for an assessment of the linkages between inland water ecosystems and climate change, and identification and rectification of risks of water shortages for freshwater-dependent species.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

D - Planned

1.8.2 Additional information: Projects for restoration of Il-Maghluq (l/o Marsaskala) and Is-Salini (l/o Naxxar) are currently being planned. L-Għadira and Is-Simar are currently being managed by a local NGO and their management includes plans for restoration.

1.8.3 Has Ramsar guidance (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidance on wetland restoration been used in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {1.5.2}

B - No

1.8.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

**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?  
KRA 1.9.i

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information: MEPA has commissioned two studies to list alien plant and animal species found in the whole of the Maltese Islands and not just in wetlands.

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

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information: A policy document titled "Guidelines on managing & restoring native plant communities in terrestrial settings in the Maltese Islands" has been issued for public consultation. This document shall assist in the planning and implementation of management programmes aimed at counteracting the spread of plant invaders. (These policy guidelines shall also be applicable to wetlands).

In addition, the management plans for the two Ramsar sites shall also take into consideration the localised impact of alien species found in these wetlands.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

**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? {4.2.1} KRA 1.10.i

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information: The two local Ramsar sites are managed by a local NGO, which records and monitors the status and trends of relevant species as part of the ongoing management.

In addition, activities in protected wetlands are regulated through the aforementioned Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended) and any development considerations are to follow the provisions of the Environment and Development Planning Act. These are both administered through MEPA and are supplemented by various supplementary guidance documents.

Moreover, management plans with stakeholder consultations are currently being drafted through the aforementioned EAFRD and the Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands would be used in such instances, where applicable.

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of:

a. Wetlands in general

b. Ramsar Sites

KRA 1.10.ii

B - No

B - No

1.10.2 Additional information:

1.10.3 Have awareness-raising materials been made available to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices? KRA 1.10.iii

A - Yes

1.10.3 Additional information: Birdlife Matla is the local NGO who is responsible for the management of Malta's two Ramsar sites. As part of the organisation's public education initiatives they have published various related documents and posters.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

**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? {4.3.1} KRA 1.11.i

D - Planned

1.11.1 Additional information:

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i

D - Planned

1.11.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation: A Water Catchment Management Plan has been adopted. This plan addresses all waters including protected inland surface waters and groundwaters found in the Maltese Islands. The principal goal of the plan is to achieve "good status" in all surface waters & groundwater by 2015.

Moreover, the Malta Resources Authority has launched "A Water Policy for the Future" initiative, as part of its efforts in developing a water policy that seeks to ensure the sustainable use of water resources in the Maltese Islands.

## GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

**Note.** An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP11 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on any of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

**STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation.** *Apply the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance" (Handbook 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition).*

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?</i> {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	B - No
2.1.1 Additional information: Various 'protected areas' have been designated and protected at a national and international level through various criteria set by the Environment and Development Planning Act and its subsidiary legislation. The more important freshland wetlands have already been designated as Ramsar sites.	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	B - No
2.1.2 Additional information: The Ramsar Sites Information Sheets are being updated and will be submitted in due course.	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.3 Additional information:	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	0 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation):	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

**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? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii	B - No
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2.2.1 Additional information: The Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools are not used in view that Malta only has two Ramsar sites, and other national information/databases are utilised.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

**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? KRA 2.3.i

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2.3.1 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation:

**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? {2.3.2} KRA 2.4.i

1 sites

2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i

1 sites

2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i

2 sites

2.4.4 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being revised or updated? KRA 2.4.i

0 sites

## 2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

2.4.1 L-Ghadira wetland has an approved management plan for the years 2010 to 2014. A workplan for both L-Ghadira wetland and Is-Simar wetland is currently being drafted and will cover until the end of 2012.

2.4.2 L-Ghadira and Is-Simar are being managed in collaboration with MEPA (Competent Authority on Protected Areas Management), BirdLife Malta (non-Governmental NGO Site Managers) and the Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Environment.

2.4.3 Currently MEPA is preparing Management Plans for all Terrestrial Natura 2000 sites, including L-Ghadira and Is-Simar which also form part of this ecological network. It is predicted that the management plans will be completed by 2014.

2.4.4 Currently no revision or updates to existing management plans are being carried out, since new management plans shall be prepared for the Natura 2000 terrestrial sites.

2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii

A - Yes

## 2.4.5 Additional information:

The mission set by BirdLife Malta (non-Governmental NGO Site Managers) is to maintain Ghadira Nature Reserve as a safe refuge for species of flora and fauna, especially migratory water birds and species which rely on wetlands. A special emphasis is placed on increasing breeding avifauna species and also ensuring that all species with threatened local and international status here are given attention through research and specialised projects. Education is also one of the top priorities for BirdLife Malta with school and public visits given particular importance to ensure the message of nature appreciation is transmitted.

The following objectives relate to maintaining the ecological character of the Ghadira Nature Reserve:-

Management Objective 1: Maintain the site as a disturbance free refuge for flora and fauna species.

Management Objective 2: To maintain and where necessary restore habitats and species to a favourable conservation status.

2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv

0 sites

2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):

2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v

2 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number): Detailed datasheets were prepared for each of the Ramsar sites.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

**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 Ramsar Site management effectiveness been carried out? {2.3.4} KRA 2.5.i

A - Yes

2.5.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available): A component for facilitating management effectiveness evaluation is being included in the revised management plans for both Ramsar sites.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

**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 arrangements 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? {2.4.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established): The Administrative Authority oversees the management of the two Ramsar sites and the site managers are managing the site through a contractual tri-partite management agreement, which requires financial and progress auditing of the activities carried out by the Administrative Authority (MEPA) and the Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Environment. Thus, changes in the ecological character of the sites would be known.

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,? {2.4.2} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.2 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some cases”, please indicate for which Ramsar Sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made): Such reporting to the Ramsar Secretariat was not necessary since the ecological character of the Maltese Ramsar sites remained stable.

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? {2.4.3} KRA 2.6.ii

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

**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? KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information: Most of the Maltese wetlands are legally protected and subject to management plans in line with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended). These plans shall be co-funded through the EAFRD.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

<b>GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>
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<b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.</b> <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i>
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3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.ii	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information: Most Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are dealt with by MEPA. Indeed, the work-plan of the Environment Protection Directorate (EPD) within this Authority already integrate various provisions of multilateral environmental agreements, since MEAs are mostly administered by the same Unit or National Focal Point within the EPD. Moreover, e-groups have been set up to ensure that correspondence from the Secretariat reaches all relevant MEPA staff (e.g. ramsar@mepa.org.mt, cbd.malta@mepa.org.mt, cms.malta@mepa.org.mt, etc).
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Furthermore, particularly in relation to treaties with overlapping responsibilities (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), MEPA has also set up a European Union and Multilateral Affairs Unit (EUMA) to ensure further co-ordination with other institutions and agencies.

In some areas, Memoranda of Understanding are being drafted. In the case of water policy, a Memorandum of Understanding has been already signed between the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the Malta Resources Authority on the shared competency and implementation of the aforementioned Water Policy Framework Regulations, 2004 (Legal Notice 194 of 2004, as amended).

3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	---
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3.1.2 Additional information: Not Applicable
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3.1.3 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, etc)? KRA 3.1.iv	A - Yes
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3.1.3 Additional information: Most of the environmental related United Nations bodies are administered either by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority within the Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Environment (MTCE) or the Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs. Moreover, in some instances joint management agreements are in place.

3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii

Z - Not applicable

3.1.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:

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

3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i

B - No

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

3.2.2 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {4.10.1}

B - No

3.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):  
Unfortunately, most training available does not directly tally with the situation of the Maltese wetlands, which are often transient/ temporary, subject to considerable fluctuations in temperature, nutrients and salinity and very small.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

**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 development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i	Z - Not applicable
3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10):	

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? 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? {4.5.2}	Z - Not applicable
3.3.3 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10):	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

**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? {3.2.1}	B - No
3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):	

3.4.2 Has information about your country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.2.2}	A - Yes
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3.4.2 Additional information: Education campaigns have continued in both of the Ramsar sites. It is to be noted moreover, that these sites are open to the public during scheduled times. Moreover guided visits, including school visits, with talks and publications have also been provided.

Information about the sites is also included on the website of BirdLife Malta, the NGO responsible for the management of these sites. Reference to the sites moreover is also available on the MEPA website, which includes information on the boundaries of the sites, a habitat types map, as well as data on the habitats and species found in the area and their conservation status, threats to the site and its vulnerability and other related information. This information is included in standard data sheets which have been employed for the identification of the sites as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. MEPA website links:

<http://www.mepa.org.mt/impnatareas-pas-int-n2k-dsmap>;

<http://www.mepa.org.mt/impnatareas-wetlands>.

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

B - No

3.4.3 Additional information: However, information on the Ramsar sites is available on the MEPA's website. (For the type of information which is available there, vide the additional information given in Pt 3.4.2 above)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

**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/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

Z - Not applicable

3.5.1 Additional information:

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {2.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

Z - Not applicable

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

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

Z - Not applicable

3.5.3 Additional information:



Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

<b>GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY</b>
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<p><b>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.</b> <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>a) At the national level</p> <p>b) Sub-national level</p> <p>c) Catchment/basin level</p> <p>d) Local/site level</p> |  |
|---|--|

	<p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p> <p>B - No</p>
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<p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)</p>	
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<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>	
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<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	
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	<p>2 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)): The two Ramsar sites in the Maltese Islands form part of the Ecological Network of protected areas as established through the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended). Both sites are currently administrated by a local NGO on behalf of the Administrative Authority MEPA.</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p>	
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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> |  |
|---|--|

	<p>C - Partly</p> <p>C - Partly</p>
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<p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved): Public participation is encouraged both for site management and the potential selection and identification of new Ramsar sites.</p>	
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4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii	B - No
4.1.4 Additional information:	
4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv	0 opportunities
4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):	
4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}	B - No
4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):	
4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and a. Ramsar Sites managers? b. other MEA national focal points? c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi	A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes
4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place): A working e-group (nature.requests@mepa.org.mt) was assigned to address any nature related queries. Moreover, since all site managers are acquainted with the Ramsar and other MEA national focal points this facilitates communication. In addition, close links also exist between the relevant ministries, government departments and agencies.	
4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}	A - Yes
4.1.8 Additional information: As part of the World Wetlands Day celebrations Malta's school children visited the L-Għadira and Is-Simar nature reserves for a special education tour to celebrate the occasion. This activity was organised by Birdlife Malta together with their major educational sponsor Bank of Valletta. Moreover, the NGO also extended the invitation of this visit to the Ramsar sites to the general public.	

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this): Currently, the compilation of a national strategy aimed at identifying strategic goals and actions for raising public and community awareness on Natura 2000 sites is underway (the two Ramsar sites are also Natura 2000 sites). This strategy will not only address wetlands, but all types of Natura 2000 sites. However, since most of the important wetlands in Malta do form part of the EU Natura 2000 network, these will therefore be catered for through this strategy. In addition, a project shall commence in 2012, which would include the preparation of the management plans of all Maltese Natura 2000 sites, whilst ensuring consultation with all stakeholders and communities, and awareness raising. Thus, community awareness will be raised for those wetlands that fall within the Natura 2000 network for Malta.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

**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 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} 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? {4.6.2} KRA 4.2.i

B - No

4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities): N/A

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

**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 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii □	D - Planned
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4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i	---
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4.3.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

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

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
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4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided): The two Maltese Ramsar sites are administered and managed by Birdlife Malta who provide their expertise in relation to avifauna and management of the sites. The management of the site is funded by Government through a tripartite Management Agreement, established through the vires of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended), between the Ministry for Tourism, Culture & the Environment, MEPA and Birdlife Malta. Through this agreement Birdlife Malta receives annual funding for the management of the site. Moreover, Government has seconded Government employees to BirdLife Malta, to assist in the implementation of the management plans of the sites.

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
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4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided): Vide the information provided in Pt. 4.4.1 above.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

**Section 4 ([www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc))** is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).