



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

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

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

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

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

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

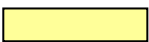
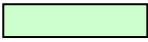
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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

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

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

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

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

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

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

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

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: INDIA

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr Shashi Shekhar, Special Secretary
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

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

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Email:	b_sikka@yahoo.com

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

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Name of organisation:	Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
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SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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

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

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

- 1) In February 2013, considering the commonalities in conservation and management approaches adopted for lakes and wetlands, the two schemes of National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) were merged into a unified scheme called ‘National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems’ (NPCA) to enable application of uniform policy & guidelines and promoting application of integrated & multi-disciplinary approach with a common regulatory framework. NPCA envisages conservation of lakes and wetlands in the country by promoting a cross sectoral planning and decision making perspective. Integrated management, funds convergence, cross sectoral governance, complementing regulation and mission mode implementation form the core strategies of the revised programme. The overall budgetary allocation for wetland & lake conservation has also increased.
- 2) Information base on wetland extent has been significantly improved. National and State level wetland atlases have been prepared and placed in public domain. The atlases present maps of wetlands at 1:50000 scale. Atlases on high altitude wetlands and Ramsar Sites of India have also been produced and placed in public domain.
- 3) Wise use principle is accorded a central position in implementation of NPCA. A process for integrated management planning building on ecological character description and diagnostic evaluation of threats has been outlined. These plans formulated in accordance with wise use principles will form the basis of investment in site management.
- 4) Integration of wetlands in national policies has increased. National Biodiversity Targets developed under the framework of Convention on Biological Diversity’s Aichi Targets 2011-2020, specifically include wetland related targets in 3 of the 11 targets. National Water Policy of 2012 includes conservation of wetlands as a means to address water availability, flood management and related issues.
- 5) TEEB-India Initiative (TII) which aims to bring to focus the economic basis for conservation of ecosystem and biodiversity. Inland wetlands have been included as one of the three ecosystems being assessed in the first phase. In seven sites, the initiative will demonstrate mechanisms for mainstreaming wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity values in developmental planning and decision making.

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

- 1) Given the role played by wetlands in water and food security, the site designation criteria need to include consideration of hydrological services of wetlands. The current site designation criteria are biodiversity centric.
- 2) Mechanisms for monitoring of Ramsar Site's ecological health need to be more clearly defined.
- 3) The Convention does not link to a financial mechanism for supporting management of Ramsar Sites, building capacities for site management, or promoting outreach on wetland values and functions.
- 4) As developmental pressures continue to impact wetland functioning, better approaches and tools are required to enable mainstreaming of wetlands in developmental planning and decision making. The current suite of guidance on assessing wetland ecosystem services, demonstrating value of wetlands for other sectors and integrating values in inter-sectoral decision making framework is weak.
- 5) Convention, as of yet, does not provide an effective mechanism for sharing best practices, lessons and challenges in implementation of wetland management programmes. Such processes need to be strengthened. A majority of Convention Guidance do not directly address the day to day challenges faced by wetland managers. There is very limited practical demonstration of concepts and approaches contained in the guidance.

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

- 1) Promoting integrated management of wetlands, particularly their mainstreaming in developmental planning and decision making. Emphasis will also be placed on creating cross sectoral governance mechanisms at the State level.
- 2) Enhancing capacity of wetland managers in designing and implementing integrated wetland management programmes. Participatory and diagnostic approaches for wetland management planning will be promoted.
- 3) Improving research – management interface in wetland conservation and wise use. Research aimed at improving effectiveness of site management will be made an integral part of implementation of site management plans. Emerging issues as assessing vulnerability of wetlands in changing climate will be commissioned.
- 4) Assessing management effectiveness for representative wetlands. It is also proposed to put in place a generic mechanism for periodic management effectiveness assessment to inform necessary adaptations in implementation of NPCA.
- 5) Improving communication and outreach on wetlands. Curricula for school children and graduate level students are envisaged to be developed as a means of changing societal behaviour towards wetlands and promote conservation stewardship of these 'kidneys of landscape'.

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

Ramsar Secretariat may consider providing financial and technical support to management planning processes for new Ramsar Sites. Simplified and exemplified versions of technical guidance on ecological character description and evaluation of change, integration of wetlands in water management, and assessing climate vulnerability of wetlands will help strengthen existing capacities. The Secretariat must also aim to enable a process of sharing of experiences and best practices in wetland management including provision for study tours and training of wetland managers and policy makers.

- 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)

Wetlands International South Asia and World Wide Fund for Nature-India collaborate with the Ministry on various programmes related to wetlands. Further engagement in supporting State Governments in development of integrated management plans and outreach on wetlands is required.

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

Wetlands have been integrated in the recently formulated National Biodiversity Targets, in concordance with CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020. Nationally, as Ministry is the focal point for all environment related MEAs, there are synergies in implementation. However, an analysis of opportunities for integrating wetlands in the strategic plans / implementation plans across all Conventions will be a useful reference point for Contracting Parties.

- 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)?

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change works with all concerned Ministries and government agencies to ensure that wetlands are adequately represented. However, this task can be supported if specific opportunities and actions required from various sectors are available in a synoptic language. The Convention should also aim to collaborate with international agencies dealing with sectoral issues to strengthen the case for cross sectoral integration of wetlands.

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

Some of the areas wherein implementation of Convention can be strengthened are: a) inclusion of ecosystem services, particularly water related services as criteria for site designation; b) development of protocols for assessing management effectiveness; c) improving interface with Administrative Authorities, particularly on the technical matters related to integrated management of wetlands; d) improving exchange of information on best practices and lessons learnt.

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

Compilation of the National Report has been supported by information sourced from a number of Ministries, key being Water Resources, Agriculture, Rural Development. Inventory information was sourced from Space Application Center. Several State Governments, Wetland Authorities and subject matter experts have also contributed information to the Report.

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

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

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

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

A - Yes

1.1.1 Additional information:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change sponsored the 'National Wetland Inventory and Assessment' project, which was executed by Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad to map wetlands of the country at 1: 50,000 scale. Using a 19 wetland type classification, State and Union territory wise wetland maps have been prepared. The overall extent of wetlands in India has been assessed to be 15.26 million ha, equivalent to 4.63% of geographical area of the country. The National Wetland Atlas is available in public domain.

Atlases on High Altitude Lakes and Wetlands of International Importance and have also been prepared and published in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The national as well state and district level maps and statistics are available in public domain and can be downloaded from the Ministry's website.</p> <p>In addition to the national maps, several sites have developed detailed inventories to support management. These inventories are developed in consultation with stakeholders, and efforts made for their proactive dissemination.</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) O - No change</p> <p>b) ---</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>In general, there is no significant change in adverse ecological character of Ramsar Sites. Efforts for integrated management of sites as Chilika and Loktak are yielding positive results. In Keoladeo National Park, efforts have been made by the State Government to ensure adequate availability of water.</p> <p>Given the diverse wetland regime within the country, high level of dependence, and increasing needs of food and water security, pressures do exist on some wetlands, particularly those located in urban areas. NPCA includes necessary safeguards to deal with these pressures. The emphasis on integrated management complemented with effective regulatory regimes will ensure maintenance of ecological character of Ramsar Site network. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is also proactively engaging with other Ministries, government agencies and civil society to secure conservation and sustainable management of wetlands.</p>	

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

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

The policy framework for wetlands is articulated in the National Environment Policy (2006). The policy recommends integration of wetlands in developmental planning, management based on prudent use strategies, promotion of ecotourism, and implementation of a regulatory framework. Integration of wetlands in river basin management is identified as a strategy for management of river systems.

A regulatory framework for wetlands was introduced in the form of Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The rules stipulate prohibition and regulation of a range of developmental activities within a wetland notified under its provision by the State / UT governments. A Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) was constituted for the purpose of enforcement of the rules, evaluate proposals for wetland notification sent by the State Governments and set thresholds for activities to be regulated. Besides, several State Governments (notably West Bengal, Odisha, Kerala, Manipur, Assam) have also enacted their own legislations pertaining to wetlands. The Wetland Rules, 2010 are being revised with special emphasis on ecological character based regulation and management, as well as creation of State Wetland Authorities.

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

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

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

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

1.3.2 Additional information:

- a) The flagship rural employment programme, which is one of the major, poverty alleviation initiatives of the government, includes opportunities for rural employment generation through engagement in wetland restoration and management, particularly village ponds.
- b) National Water Policy of 2012 includes conservation of wetlands as a means to address water availability, flood management and related issues
- c) The national programme on conservation of mangroves and coral reefs brings in specific focus on the needs of coastal and marine wetland ecosystems. The programme supports mangrove and coral reef conservation in all maritime States and Union territories.
- d) The National Biodiversity Targets set in concordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan includes wetlands within targets 3, 6 and 8. These targets will guide investment of resources for biodiversity conservation in the country.

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

A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information:

Project review processes pay specific attention to impacts on wetlands and mitigation measures are suggested to ensure conservation of wetlands.

1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

A - Yes

1.3.4 Additional information:

Wetlands are considered as high ecological value entities within EIA processes. Specific consideration is made to ensure that no adverse impacts on wetlands emerge on account of developmental projects. In several instances, Ministry has directed reconsideration and reformulation of developmental projects considering their impacts on wetlands.

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

A - Yes

1.3.5 Additional information:

A regulatory framework for wetlands was introduced in the form of Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The rules stipulate prohibition and regulation of a range of developmental activities within a wetland notified under its provision by the State / UT Governments. A Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) was constituted for the purpose of enforcement of the rules, evaluate proposals for wetland notification sent by the State Governments and set thresholds for activities to be regulated. Besides, several State Governments (notably West Bengal, Odisha, Kerala, Manipur, Assam) have also enacted their own legislations pertaining to wetlands.

The Wetland Rules are being further revised in line with the approaches envisaged under the NPCA, with special emphasis on ecological character based regulation & management. Under the revised Rules, creation of State Wetland Authorities in each State is envisaged, which will be nodal State level agencies for policy, planning & regulation of wetland resources.

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

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

C - Partly

1.4.1 Additional information:

Assessment of ecosystem services is included as a part of management plan formulation. Ministry has also commissioned research projects on economic valuation of wetlands so as to inform developmental planning and decision making. In 2011, the Ministry has initiated the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) India initiative (TII) focused on economics of ecosystems services of wealth of our national natural resources and biodiversity. At seven wetland sites, the initiative will demonstrate pathways for mainstreaming wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity values in developmental planning and decision making.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i

A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information:

Wetlands in India have a significant contribution to local livelihoods, and thereby sustaining wetland dependant livelihood systems is made part of integrated management plans. In several instances as Chilika lake, management of Ramsar Site has provided opportunities for significant livelihood improvement. The NPCA also lays significant emphasis on community engagement and livelihood improvement within design and implementation of wetland management plans.

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

A - Yes

1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

Formulation of management plans includes evaluation of socioeconomic and cultural values. To address these values and their appropriate integration in intervention strategies, tools for community engagement as Participatory Rural Appriaisal (PRA), Focal group Discussions (FGDs) and livelihood assessments are used within management planning processes. Participatory approaches adopted for Loktak and Chilika are examples of stakeholder led management.

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

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

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

- a. B - No
- b. B - No
- c. B - No
- d. B - No

1.5.1 Additional information:

While no specific action has been taken to promote Changwon Declaration, the design of NPCA builds on the elements of cross sectoral engagement and promoting inter-sectoral coordination. Integration of wetlands in sectoral policies, and efforts to promote ecosystem service values of wetlands also support implementation of Changwon Declaration.

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.*

<p>1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. agriculture-wetland interactions b. climate change c. valuation of ecosystem services <p>{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>	<p>a. A - Yes b. A - Yes c. A - Yes</p>
<p>1.6.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Several projects on economic valuation of wetlands have been implemented in the country. Inland wetlands have been included as one of three priority ecosystems for which the existing evidence based on economic values of ecosystem services is analysed, and pathways for mainstreaming these values in developmental planning and decision making demonstrated through pilot projects.</p> <p>On the aspects on agriculture-wetland interactions, research has focused on assessing the impacts of land use transformation, and impacts of intensification of wetland processes. Research has also been carried out on sustainable agro-practices.</p> <p>Recently, several studies have indicated the high carbon storage potential of coastal wetlands as mangroves. A project on assessing vulnerability of wetlands to changing climate with Chilika as a demonstration site is also being implemented. On a national scale, assessment of overall variability in water resources with respect to climate change scenarios has been carried out.</p>	
<p>1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats to the wetlands? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.6.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Wetland management plans are formulated based on evaluation of information on hydrological, ecological, socioeconomic and institutional aspects. All existing information on status of wetland features and factors governing the features is incorporated in the management plans.</p> <p>In NPCA design, research is included as a part of management plan. The research – management interface is also being strengthened, through involvement of stakeholder and subject matter experts in setting research priorities.</p>	
<p>STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. <i>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.</i></p>	
<p>1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

1.7.1 Additional information:

The National Water Policy (2012) refers to conservation of wetlands considering their role in buffering floods, as well as groundwater recharge. The policy on an overall promotes a river basin approach. The National Environment Policy (2006) underlines the need to integrate wetlands in river basin management. Water resources planning and decision making interventions are increasingly building on these connection, to promote natural infrastructure approaches. However, much needs to be done to improve these sectoral interlinkages, considering a history of emphasis on structural water management approaches.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in collaboration with Wetlands International South Asia organized a National Consultation Workshop on 'Integrating wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity in water management' on May 22, 2013 – the eve of International Day of Biological Diversity, in concordance with the 2013 theme – Water and Biodiversity. The Workshop brought together participants from Central Government Ministries and agencies, State Government departments, research organizations, international agencies, donors and non-government organizations, to identify challenges and opportunities for integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services within water management and enable development of a joint work programme for policy makers and managers within the two sectors. Presentations and discussions during the Workshop highlighted that while wetlands contributed significantly to water, food and energy security, wetland conservation and wise use are yet to sufficiently reflect in water management objectives, ultimately leading to lost opportunities for both the sectors and degradation of vital ecosystem services. Inability to define and communicate sectoral interests and limited capacities of field managers were identified as major challenges. The joint work programme that resulted from the dialogue included specific interventions related to knowledgebase development, policy dialogue, capacity building and networking and communication and outreach.

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

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

CEPA is an important tool to increase cross sectoral awareness and participation in integrated management. CEPA is an important component of all wetland management plans. Most of the management plans are formulated and implemented on a catchment based planning. In Chilika, an environmental flows assessment was conducted and implemented to secure integration of wetland values and functions in operation of water infrastructure. In Loktak, a water allocation plan for balancing needs of wetland functioning with water use for human needs is being worked out. Similar models and approaches are also being applied in other wetlands.

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

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

The National Climate Action Plan includes conservation of wetlands.

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

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

Smallholder farming systems are a common feature of several Indian wetlands. The management planning processes aim to ensure sustainability of production systems, and to balance livelihood needs with that of ecological functioning.

STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.*

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

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

179 wetlands, including urban/peri-urban lakes, have been already prioritized for restoration in consultation with the State Governments.

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

Restoration/conservation programmes are under implementation for the prioritized wetlands, including programmes implemented with State Government's own resources.

STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species. *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i

C - Partly

1.9.1 Additional information:

The status of plant and animal invasives is documented in several site management plans and research studies. However, a comprehensive inventory is yet to be completed.

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

B - No

1.9.2 Additional information:

While no national policy has been made in regard to invasive species, their management and control is an important aspect of site management. Several models have been tested in this area, which involve regulation of drivers creating enabling conditions for invasion (for example promoting organic agriculture to reduce nutrient loading from agriculture) and economic use (eg. handicrafts from Eichhornia)

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

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

C - Partly

1.10.1 Additional information:

The Ministry encourage corporate sector to consider wetland conservation in their areas of operation. The guidelines of Ramsar Convention are a useful reference point. The Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 provide the regulatory framework for wetland conservation in the country.

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

- a. Ramsar Sites
- b. Wetlands in general

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

- a. B - No
- b. A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

There have been some instances of private sector participation in wetlands conservation. The Western bank of the Thane Creek is the single largest mangrove belt in Mumbai. A substantial tract of mangrove land is adjoining the Godrej & Boyce township, Pirojshanagar, in Vikhroli a suburb of Mumbai. Vast area under mangroves has been conserved by Soonabai Pirojsha Godrej Marine Ecology Centre, supported by Godrej. Under the Mangroves for Future Initiative coordinated by IUCN, a wetland restoration initiative is being developed in Gujarat in partnership with Tata Chemicals. It is expected that overall private sector engagement in wetland conservation will increase in the recent times to come.

STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Union Government provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments to implement integrated management plans. At local level, management plans include investments in sustainable livelihood options for communities as a means of promoting local community stewardship. In Chilika, restoration of ecological health has been the basis for evolving community managed ecotourism (at Manglajodi) and undertaking mangrove restoration. States as Gujarat have introduced species conservation centric incentive mechanisms.</p>	
1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes
<p>1.11.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The regulatory regime for wetlands has been introduced to discourage any further degradation of wetlands. The Wetland Rules, 2010 in conjunction with various environment protection and conservation laws proactively inhibit adverse changes in wetland health.</p>	

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”; use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

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

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

D - Planned

2.1.1 Additional information:

India has so far designated 26 Ramsar Sites based on the Convention's criterion. As per the strategy outlined in NPCA, there is an intent to bring added focus on ecosystem service values of the sites, in addition to the biodiversity and species criteria being used at present. There is also an intent to declare additional sites to ensure wider geographical as well as wetland type representation.

Efforts are also being made to update RIS as per the new format, for which communication has been sent to all concerned State Governments.

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

5 sites

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

The RIS for the proposed sites are being developed using the revised format, so as to improve information base as well as support management.

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

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

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

Process for preparation of RIS for the new sites involves using the RSIS & its tools, including the new format for RIS.

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

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

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

Efforts are being made for designating Wetland Authorities at State / Union Territory level as nodal agencies for planning and policy making for all wetlands within the jurisdiction of concerned State Governments/ UT Administration. The States of Odisha and Bihar has already constituted Wetland Authority at State level. The NPCA promotes setting up of cross sectoral governance mechanisms for wetlands as a fundamental building block for managing wetlands of the country.

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i

24 sites

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

24 sites

2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

2 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

The Union Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations for implementation of Management Action Plans. Use of New Guidelines for Management Planning is promoted to ensure a diagnostic and participatory approach for design of management action plans. Realizing the gap in resource requirement for integrated management of Ramsar Sites, a model of convergence financing is proposed to be adopted for NPCA, wherein funds from existing development sector programmes of the Union as well as State Governments will be leveraged to support implementation of wetland management programmes.

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

24 sites

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

Several of the Ramsar Sites, notably Loktak, Chilika, East Kolkata Wetlands and Wular have designated Wetland Management Authorities which serve to act as cross sectoral management committees representing interests of diverse stakeholder groups. Steering Committees have also been constituted at the level of States.

The NPCA has a specific emphasis on cross sectoral governance mechanisms. It is envisaged to constitute State / UT level Wetland Authorities in all States as nodal agencies for policy, planning and implementation.

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

26 sites

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

Description and evaluation of ecological character is made as a part of management plan, supporting diagnosis of threats and suitable response options. Ecological Character Description for Chilika and Loktak is being used as a model for other Ramsar sites.

The NPCA recommends ecological character description and evaluation as a mandatory step in formulation of management action plans.

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

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

C - Some sites

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

The Ministry periodically commissions a third party evaluation of implementation of the national wetland programme, the ambit of which includes Ramsar Sites. The evaluation draws on ecological, socio-economic and institutional aspects to assess the changes brought in site's status as well as management arrangements due to investments made. The recommendations of the evaluation process have been discussed with the concerned state governments for incorporation in implementation.

A systematic performance based evaluation system has been incorporated in the design of the NPCA programme.

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

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

C - Some sites

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

Several sites, such as Chilika lake, have sophisticated ecological and hydrological monitoring mechanisms which are capable of detecting any human induced adverse changes in ecological character. However, the Ministry also encourages any direct communication on the status of all Ramsar Sites, as well as other wetlands. Such communications are evaluated based on available information, and the respective State Governments requested to take necessary action.

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

B - No

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

Not applicable

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

A - Yes

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

Three Indian Ramsar Sites were listed under Montreaux Record. Lake Chilika was removed from the Record based on integrated management and hydrological intervention put in place since 2000. Measures have also been taken to address the root cause of ecological character change in Loktak Lake, Manipur and Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan. In the case of Loktak Lake, an integrated management plan has been implemented since the last five years resulting in significant improvement in ecological and hydrological status. Similarly, in Keoladeo National Park, mechanisms for restoring hydrological regimes have been put in place. Necessary documentation is being done in consultation with State Governments to prepare a request for Ramsar Advisory Mission.

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

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

C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information:

The Union Government with support of State Government is putting in necessary efforts and resources to bring the wetlands under the ambit of integrated management. However, mainstreaming wetlands in developmental planning and decision making is a challenge. The NPCA is being remodelled to ensure implementation of integrated approaches for all priority wetlands, with development of cross sectoral governance architecture and dovetailing with development sector programming.

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. *Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).*

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

A - Yes

3.1.1 Additional information:

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is the focal point for all environment related MEA. National positions for each of these MEAs is developed in consultation with all concerned, so that a unified view can be taken on implementation.

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

A - Yes

3.1.2 Additional information:

The Ramsar AA is also the focal point for a number of other global agencies, which provides opportunities for taking a consistent and synergistic view on matters related to wetlands across various agencies.

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

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

A - Yes

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

India played a leading role in development and conceptualization of Himalayan Wetlands Initiative that aims at conservation and wise use of wetlands and wetland complexes in the region by promoting collaboration between governments of the countries sharing the region and between other relevant institutions. This initiative has its roots in the various calls of action of regional consultation workshops held at Urumqui (2002), Kathmandu (2003), Sanya (2004), Evian (2005), New Delhi (2006) and Changwon (2007), which underlined the need for a regional strategy and a vision for wetlands of the Himalayan Region. In particular, the participants at the Evian Encounter (2005) stressed the need for integrated approaches to water resources management taking into account values and functions of high altitude wetlands. The initiative was endorsed as a regional initiative of the Ramsar Convention in 2009 and is supported by ICIMOD, WWF International, Wetlands International and IUCN, and has ICIMOD as the host institute. The initiative was designed as an open informal regional partnership of the Ramsar focal points, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, international and regional partners, and national organizations. However, the final and formal endorsement of the initiative is yet to take place.

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

A - Yes

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

India is a regular participant as well as a resource for training courses conducted by Ramsar East Asia Regional Center.

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

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

Z - Not applicable

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

.....

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii	Z - Not applicable
3.3.2 Additional information:	

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	A - Yes
3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11): Under the Global Environment Facility, India has a committed funding of US\$ 4.2 million under STAR 5 allocation for a national project on wetland ecosystem services. The project is currently under development with UNEP as the GEF Agency and Wetlands International South Asia as lead technical partner.	

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

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}	C - Partly
3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): The Ministry periodically funds training and exchange programmes wherein wetland management issues are discussed, with an intent of sharing best practices and improving delivery of national programme.	

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A - Yes
3.4.2 Additional information: Monographs and fact sheets for 19 Ramsar sites are available. The management plans for several Ramsar sites are also placed in public domain. Wetland Atlases have also been placed in public domain.	

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

C - Partly

3.4.3 Additional information:

Presently, the World Wetland Day is being used as an event to share information with the Secretariat. The Ministry is keen to have discussions on how communication between the Contracting Party and the Secretariat can be made more frequent to make the relationship more strategic, and supporting wetland conservation and wise use.

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

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

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

Three major transboundary wetland complexes, namely Rann of Kutch (shared with Pakistan) , Pangong Tso (shared with China) and Sunderbans (shared with Bangladesh) have been identified.

Under the GEF Transboundary Water Assessment Programme, a concept of identifying and promoting conservation and wise use of wetlands based on functional approaches and ecosystem service based interlinkages is also being promoted.

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

C - Partly

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

There is information sharing on a limited scale on wetlands in Ganges and Brahmaputra Basin, two major international basins harbouring significant wetland regimes.

Information on Glacial Lakes is frequently shared, especially to prevent occurrence of and to minimize risks of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods.

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

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

India participates and contributes to species action plans under Convention on Migratory Species.

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

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

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

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

- a) C - In progress
- b) B - No
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes

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

4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):

The National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) includes enhancing awareness on wetland values and functions within stakeholders at all levels as a core strategy area. A National CEPA Plan is intended to be developed under the programme.

At site level, CEPA is integrated within site management plans. State Governments are encouraged to involve stakeholders in all stages of management planning and decision making. There is also a focus on promoting awareness on values and functions of wetlands within local communities, school children, and policy and decision makers. Events such as World Wetland Day also help communicate the multiple values of wetlands. The Ministry also supports capacity building programmes for wetland managers to enable them deliver integrated management, and equip them with latest advancements in the field.

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

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

- a) 10 centres
- b) 10 centres

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

.....

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>Stakeholder participation is central to formulation and implementation of management plans. The management plan design process includes stakeholder consultation, wherein the needs and capacities of stakeholders are factored in identification of interventions. The success of management of Lake Chilika is primarily attributed to stakeholder participation.</p> <p>Within NPCA, the Ministry is working with the State Governments to ensure constitution of State Wetland Authorities which will be an established mechanism for ensuring stakeholder engagement in management planning and decision making on wetlands.</p>	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>Periodic assessment of needs and capacities for wetland management and implementation of Convention is made through regional training workshops. A systematic national level capacity needs assessment is proposed to be done during the coming year.</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a) 2</p> <p>b) 8</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>Around 10 training programmes were organized in different parts of the country at local, state, national and regional levels to train people about techniques used for wetland management. People are taught about methodology at conceptual level to understand wetland conservation ethos. Training is imparted on various components of wetland conservation which include wise use, catchment treatment, Hydrological aspects, Research Methodology, Preparation of Management Action Plans, GIS, Economic value of wetlands etc. to make them professional managers.</p>	

<p>4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>Presently under the Central Wetlands Rules 2010, a Central Wetland Regulatory Authority is in place, which is chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. It has representatives from Ministries of Water Resources, Agriculture, Tourism, Social Justice, Central Pollution Control Board and subject specialists/experts in the field on ornithology, limnology, ecology & hydrology. Under the scheme of NPCA, it is envisaged to constitute a National Committee on Aquatic Ecosystems, with requisite representation of the concerned Ministries & subject specialists/experts, which inter-alia will also play the role of the National Wetland Committee.</p>	
<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>Ramsar implementation guidelines are shared with site managers and concerned State Government agencies through Workshops and seminars. These Workshops also provide a platform for sharing experiences and lessons related to implementation of management plans.</p> <p>The Ministry is in regular communication with various Central and State Government agencies regarding implementation of Convention, and dissemination of its Guidelines.</p>	
<p>4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>World Wetlands Day is organized each year in collaboration with the State Governments. For 2014, the theme 'Wetlands and Agriculture' was highlighted through a thematic event organized at Harike lake, Punjab, a Ramsar site. In addition, Wetland Day is organised by various States at other locations across the country. Wetland authorities also use the day to draw attention to the values of wetlands.</p>	

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}	A - Yes
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – India Initiative (TII) has been launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2011 with an aim to highlight the economic consequences of loss of biological diversity and associated decline in ecosystem services. Inland wetlands have been identified as one of the three priority ecosystems under the initiative. In seven wetlands of national and international importance, economics based approaches are being piloted to improve effectiveness of restoration measures.</p> <p>The World Bank assisted BCRLIP (Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project) addresses integration of biodiversity conservation and livelihoods in landscape scale management. Little Rann of Kutchch has been identified as an implementation site.</p> <p>A GEF project on wetland ecosystem services for water and food security is under development.</p> <p>Several state governments regularly organize outreach programmes on wetlands.</p>	

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

4.2.1 a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
<p>b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p> <p>.....</p>	
4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i	B - No
<p>4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):</p> <p>.....</p>	

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

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

A - Yes

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

The National Report aims to present a synoptic view of implementation of Convention in the country. Drafting of this reports includes review of information contained in previous submissions, and an internal review of progress. Efforts on improving information base, promoting integrated management, strengthening cross sectoral governance, and mainstreaming in developmental planning and decision making have been partly stimulated by strategic review of implementation of Convention in the country.

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? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

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

Wetlands International South Asia supports implementation of the Convention in the country by providing technical advice and support.

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

A - Yes

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

India is a member country of Wetlands International, and pays an annual subscription towards membership fees. Financial support is also provided by the Ministry to Wetlands International South Asia and WWF-India to implement various projects related to wetland conservation.