



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.

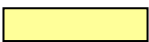

Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Peiman Seadat Director General for Environment and Sustainable Development
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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)

Name and title:	Masoud Bagherzadeh Karimi - Deputy Director General for Wetlands and National Parks.
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DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Arezoo Ashrafizadeh - Senior Expert of Wetlands.
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DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Hossein.z.Rafi ,Directing Manager
Name of organisation:	Baabgroup NGO
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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) Promotion of ecosystem-based management in 10 demonstration wetlands (Urmia, Shadegan, Parishan, Helle, Harraye minab, Mighan, Zarivar, Alagol-Almagol-Ajigol, Choghakhor, Hamoons).
- 2) Implementation of ecosystem-based management of wetlands that has been previously articulated in National Laws (Articles 187, 191, 193 of 5th development plan Act 2010-2015)
- 3) Celebrating WWD 2014 in several local points across the country in cooperation with NGOs for duration of one week
- 4) Establishment of a National Committee for rescue of Lake Urmia, and developing an action plan for crisis management and starting its implementation
- 5) Organizing a technical international roundtable for Iranian wetlands focused on three Ramsar sites (Hamoons and Urmia) in Iran

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

- 1) Drought and climate change
- 2) Lack of inflow of some transboundary wetlands whose water resources are in other countries
- 3) Water and soil pollution, overgrazing, soil erosion, water drainage in wetlands basin
- 4) Unsustainable development approach in implementing of infrastructural projects
- 5) Lack of an integrated applicable approach according to the socio-economic and ecological situation for determining environmental water right of wetlands

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

- 1) To develop ecosystem-based management plans for all Ramsar sites in collaboration with all stakeholders
- 2) To restore degraded wetlands particularly the ones in Montreux list
- 3) To designate new Ramsar sites and update RISs
- 4) To ratify National Law for conservation and restoration of Iranian wetlands
- 5) To enhance transboundary and regional cooperation

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

1. Strengthening the cooperation between Ramsar Secretariat and Wetlands International and water-related organisations with regard to the climate change and drought to assist parties in developing projects
2. Capacity building for the parties by the Convention in deliberation and implementation of strategic plan
3. Assisting the parties in developing business plans for WPAs and Ramsar sites.
4. providing technical assistance for removing wetlands from montreux list

- E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

Technical assistance from IOPs for restoration and management of Hamoon Wetlands and Lake Urmia and its satellite wetlands

It is also suggested that IOPs develop more guidelines and deliver services regarding the management of wetlands in arid areas.

- 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?

Sustainable Development National Committee in which there are expertised subcommittees related to the above-mentioned conventions, is the best opportunity for better coordination and to share tasks prescribed under conventions at national level. National committee of Biosphere Reserve plays also very important role in this regard.

- 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)?

It has been well established two council namely Supreme council of water and Supreme council of environment which are dedicated to consider and make decisions at National Level on the matters mentioned above.

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

Holding regional workshops through RRC-CWA

It is also suggested to provide further assistance to RRC-CWA in technical and training fields and to extend exchange of information and experiences among the Parties.

encouraging provision of technical assistance by IOPs for training of experts of contracting parties and site managers.

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

Department of Environment, Conservation of Iranian Wetlands project, RRC-CWA, Ramsar national committee, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, CEPA focal point, STRP focal point, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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	C - In progress
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1.1.1 Additional information: - Follow -ups on national wetland databank completion - Revision of photomap of wetlands - Prepare a book on Iranian wetlands titled: Directory of Iranian Wetlands (Annex) 	
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1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
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1.1.2 Additional information: - Publish and distribute Directory of Iranian Wetlands in national and international events - Publish wetland-related publications in Ramsar forum 	
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<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) N - Status deteriorated b) N - Status deteriorated</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>The status has been to certain extent deteriorated mainly due to continuing drought and climate change</p>	

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

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project in cooperation with DOE and other Habitat and protected areas bureau stakeholders has developed "National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan".</p> <p>A national act titled Conservation and Restoration of Wetlands has been developed and proposed to the Parliament for approval.</p> <p>Also agreed water allocation for river and wetland's ecosystem have been followed for some other wetlands and rivers.</p>	

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <p>a) Poverty eradication strategies b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans c) Coastal and marine resource management plans d) National forest programmes e) National strategies for sustainable development f) National policies or measures on agriculture g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD</p> <p>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<p>a) C - Partly b) A - Yes c) A - Yes d) C - Partly e) A - Yes f) A - Yes g) C - Partly</p>
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1.3.2 Additional information:

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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:

A Strategic Environmental Assessment Project is defined between UNDP and DOE. It is a capacity building project. Within the project a core team including representatives of different organizations, NGOs and universities are trained so that they could be source persons to develop human resources technical capacities in the country.

SEAP is not a regulator but within the project the necessary legal studies are done to provide draft regulations for approval (not approved yet).

For some wetland basin with high sensitivity such as Lake Urmia, Zayande rood and Karoon Basins this assessment is being implemented.

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:

EIA is essential for all development projects, particularly the ones which are located in high sensitive ecosystems and wetlands. EIA national committee is in charge of these cases.

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:

The agreed definition of wetlands by the convention and its functions have been widely used in all regulations relevant to water resource management. Besides in 5th socio-economic plan Act, ecosystem approach is highly emphasized in wetlands management.

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:

A rapid assessment on ecosystem benefits and services has been carried out for some wetlands such as Choghakhor, Hamoons, Helle, Harraye minab and Alagol complex.

The economic valuation of some Ramsar sites such as Miankale, Shadegan and Arjan-Parishan have been accomplished.

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	C - Partly
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1.4.2 Additional information:

- In some areas sustainable agriculture practices have been implemented (Parishan and Urmia)
- Traditional fishery in Shadegan Wetland have been organized
- Ecotourism has been widely promoted in Kanibarazan Wetland managed by local communities .
- Restoration Programm of Kamjan Wetland has been accomplished by a local NGO which has been led to rehabilitation of local communities livelihood.

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

As management planning process for 7 new wetlands (Choghakhor, Hamoons, Helle, Harraye minab and Alagol complex, Zarivar, Mighan) is being done on the basis of ecosystem approach in which socio-economic and cultural values are incorporated.

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

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

1.5.1 Additional information:

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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: Based on sustainable agriculture pilot site practices, more than 40 new sites with the coverage of 40,000 Ha is being implemented in the basin of Lake Urmia and introduced to some other wetlands.</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: The recent management plans which are based on the ecosystem approach, consider all scientific baseline studies and also threats.</p>	

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.*

<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>
<p>1.7.1 Additional information: According to IWRM, the environmental water right of some wetlands have been determined and in any dam construction projects it should be taken into consideration as well as EIA. In general there are decent guidelines and legislations regarding this issue. But there are also some cases where wetland issues have been neglected in basin water management.</p>	

<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.7.2 Additional information: In recent management plans which are based on ecosystem approach, one of the management goals relates to CEPA activities.</p>	

<p>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</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
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1.7.3 Additional information:
some previous guidelines and policies are being revised and to be adapted to climate change

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

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:
- This has been done in some cases in the country:
1. A new project on sustainable agriculture practices started in lake Urmia basin in collaboration with local farmers.
2. Involvement of Ab-bandan-daran in management of wetlands and conservation of Siberian Crane in Fereydoonkenar, Ezbaran and Sorkhrood
3. In collaboration with Agricultural Jihad Office in villages around Lake Parishan, there have been carried out a couple of projects on sustainable agriculture and IPM.

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:
The Ramsar sites which in Montreux Record are in high priority for restoration measures. In some of them such as Lake Urmia, Hamoon wetlands, Anzali lagoon and Shadegan marsh the restoration activities are being done. Besides that management planning based on ecosystem approach for 7 other wetlands have been started.

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:
the restoration activities in Aji gol, Kamjan, Parishan, Zarivar wetlands are being implemented partly by local community and NGOs with some supports from DOE.

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
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1.9.1 Additional information:
Some measures have been undertaken regarding invasive alien species. But there is not a comprehensive national inventory of them.

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	C - Partly
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1.9.2 Additional information:
There is a need for a comprehensive national policy. Fish farming is just permitted if the fish is indigenous.
"IUCN guidelines for the prevention of biodiversity loss caused by invasive species" has also been translated to Farsi and published.

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
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1.10.1 Additional information:
In some cases mostly regarding ecotourism, wise use guidelines are applied.
Effort is now on the way to develop the management plan for all the wetlands and explore those area which are more attractive for private sector like ecotourism for their investment.

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. D - Planned b. A - Yes
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1.10.2 Additional information:
Keshavarzi Bank in cooperation with UN has defined a project on green banking which support environmental friendly agriculture especially in wetlands basins.

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

<p>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</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
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1.11.1 Additional information:

<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</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
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1.11.2 Additional information:
 There have been a couple of measures such as prohibition of shooting, overfishing and perverse agricultural practices. Also marking wetlands boundaries helps this issue a lot.

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:

It has been planned to designate one Ramsar site every year. 84 important wetlands have been studied and 35 of them have been designated as Ramsar sites under 24 titles.

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

2 sites

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

Two site Zarivar and Milmoghan wetlands have already been submitted to the secretariat. Jask and gandoman wetlands will also be submitted during next triennium.

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:

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

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i	C - Some sites
2.3.1 Additional information: Only for Zarivar site management planning process has been established.	

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	10 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	4 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	5 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan, Shadegan, Anzali, Miankale, Harra, Hamoon, Zarivar, Choghakhor and Amirkelaye Wetlands have management plans and the management plans are being implemented in Urmia, Parishan, Shadegan and Anzali.	

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	6 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Parishan, Shadegan, Urmia, Anzali, Gharegheshlagh and Ghoorigol wetlands have a cross-sectoral management committee in place.	

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	24 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): For 24 Ramsar sites ecological character is available in books and reports, but they are not well-classified. For 4 sites, baseline studies have been published.	

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
<p>2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):</p> <p>A review of Lake Parishan Management plan including management effectiveness has been started in coordination and with the participation of local and provincial stakeholders</p> <p>Monitoring Plan and Protocols for Shadegan wetland followed up to review management effectiveness as part of CIWP activities</p> <p>Rapid Assessment on Mighan and Zarivar, Shadegan wetlands has been done including review of management effectiveness</p>	

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

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i	A - Yes
<p>2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):</p> <p>DoE offices at provincial and local levels are regularly monitoring situation of Ramsar sites and trained guards, NGOs and local community report the situation to the offices</p>	
2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i	C - Some cases
<p>2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):</p> <p>.....</p>	
2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii	A - Yes
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>An Advisory Mission done by the Secretariat in request for consideration of how to improve the situation of and rescue satellite wetlands of Lake Urmia and also Hamoon Wetlands.</p>	

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

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

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

All wetlands in Iran are being conserved and managed by DOE whether they are Ramsar sites or not.

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

C - Partly

3.1.1 Additional information:

For some of meetings depending on agenda, focal points of other MEAs are invited for the meetings

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:

International projects in DoE are fully engaged and cooperate with UNDP office in Iran

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):

The secretariat of RRC_WCA which is a research and training centre, is in Iran. An international round table on Iranian drying wetlands has been held in March 2014 in cooperation among DoE, UNDP and CIWP. Iran has also hosted technical team from neighboring countries as regional initiatives

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):

RRC-CWA provides technical and financial support for participation of countries in the region, several workshops were organized and several documents provided by 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):

The ecological management of Anzali Wetland has been defined and is being implemented in cooperation with Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Some support has also been received from UNDP/GEF Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project en

Government of Japan provided fund for developing sustainable agriculture in Lake Urmiah basin

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

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

A - Yes

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

A network of wetland management secretariat has been established in provincial DoEs around the country and training provided for all staffs

A national wetland data bank developed and launched for Ramsar sites and other important wetlands on DoE website www.doe.ir

At national level there are good mechanisms for knowledge sharing of experts and managers such as in-service training courses, consulting workshops, distributing scientific reports and maps.

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:

Within past three years a good media coverage was done regarding the Situation and Baseline Data of Wetlands. The latest news regarding wetlands management, conservation and restoration activities are uploaded on DOE and CIWP websites.

Besides that due to critical situation of Lake Urmia it has got a separate website for daily monitoring of the lake situation.

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

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

They were uploaded in Ramsar Forum website.

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:

<p>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</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):</p> <p>At regional level some cooperation have been started for the shared management of Hamoon Wetland and transboundary rivers</p>	
<p>3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.5.3 Additional information:</p> <p>Iran is one of the countries located in the migration corridor of Siberian Crane and is involved in a joint project for conservation of wetland habitats of this species in the region.</p> <p>Iran is also a member of Tehran Convention (Caspian sea environmental issues) and ROPME.</p>	

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) C - In progress
- c) C - In progress
- d) D - Planned

(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):

A workshop held for further development of CEPA Action Plan at national level.
For Lake Urmia's basin a CEPA action plan is in progress.

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) 8 centres
- b) 2 centres

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

For all Ramsar sites, it has been established or planned for future.
for other wetlands, such as Hashilan, visitor centre has been established.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

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

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

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

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

As participation is very much emphasized according to the ecosystem approach,

it has been planned using ecosystem-based management in the management planning process of wetlands, particularly in Urmia, Shadegan, Anzali and Parishan, mighan, Zarivar, Choghakhor, harraye_minab, Helleh, Hamoons, Alagol_Ajigol_Almagol wetlands. For this the key stakeholders have been involved in the planning process and also implementation phase of wetlands management.

There are also some local communities who are actively participating in the management of wetlands, such as Kamjen, Kaniborazan, Yadegarloo, Hasanloo, Dorge sangi, Parishan and etc.

Some candidate wetlands for new Ramsar sites have been proposed from local communities through the participatory approach.

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

D - Planned

4.1.4 Additional information:

4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv
a) at Ramsar Sites
b) at other wetlands

Number of opportunities:

a) 4

b) 4

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

Since COP11

- 6 staff have attended the training course in Japan under JICA facilities.
- 6 TOT workshops (as titled Wetland Ecosystem-based Management) has been taken place for all local DOE 's wetland experts for capacity building
- National and Regional Workshops were held by RRC-CWA such as:
 - 'Improvements of Ramsar Convention' held in Kyrghizistan
 - 2 workshops titled as: Wetland Ecosystem-based Management held at Bndar-e-Anzali and Ramsar

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

A - Yes

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

National Ramsar Committee is active and holds its meetings on a regular basis.

Members: DOE habitats office, Conservation of Iranian wetlands project, RRC-CW, Coastal wetlands management office, sustainable development national committee, DOE water and soil office, fisheries, ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Jihad-E-Agriculture, Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Road and Housing, Universities, NGOs.

Besides that a National Wetlands Committee will be established in near future.

That would be a high-level committee which follows all issues related to the management of wetlands in Iran.

4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:

- a) Ramsar Site managers
- b) other MEA national focal points
- c) other ministries, departments and agencies

{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

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

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

There are some bilateral/multilateral governmental committees such as: Supreme Council of Water, Supreme Council of Environment, Water and Environment Committee, Environment and Fisheries Committee, Forest and Environment Committee.

In provinces that have Ramsar site there is a provincial committee related to wetland conservation and management.

4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information:

DOE celebrates WWD every year. The event usually takes place in a Ramsar Site wetland. Along with this event there are some other events in the provinces and at local level, which are led by NGOs or DOE provincial offices.

Besides the above mentioned activities, every year on WWD, DOE, RRC-CWA and CIWP hold a Wetland Championship.

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):

- Different awareness raising activities at schools (book reading competition, painting competition, etc)
- Some TV programmes have been prepared and broadcasted by Ministry of Energy, CIWP, provincial DOE
- Awareness raising activities such as "Iranian Wetland Challenges Exhibition" have been done for high level Authorities, including governors and parliament representatives.
- An Engineering and Management Conference on wetlands was held in 2012 by DOE with participation of universities and research centers from all over

the country.

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

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

The contribution for 2012,2013 has been paid and for 2014 is under process.

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

A - Yes

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

-1.5 milion USD from national budget as non-core funded was allocated to the construction of Ramsar Regional Centre in west and central Asia's building and also annual budget is allcoted for the center activities.

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

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

A - Yes

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

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

* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (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): UNDP/GEF and UNEP have given technical/financial assistance.	

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):	