



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.

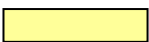

Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: PORTUGAL

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF)
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Paula Sarmento (President)
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Email:	paula.sarmento@icnf.pt

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:	Ana Mendes (Biologist)
Name of organisation:	University of Évora- Department of Biology - Laboratory of Ornithology
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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:	Paula Abreu (Biologist)
Name of organisation:	Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF)
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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:
Name of organisation:
Mailing address:
Telephone/Fax:
Email:

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) Designation of three new Ramsar sites in Portugal (Lagoon of Pateira de Fermentelos and Valleys of rivers Águeda and Cértima - 1559,20 ha, Ribeira do Vascão - 44331,48 ha and Praia da Vitória Marsh - 16,00 ha)
- 2) Designation of the Ramsar national focal point for communication, education, participation and awareness matters
- 3) Action Plan 2012-16 for Conservation of the Saramugo *Anaocypris hispanica* (an endemic species classified as 'Critically Endangered', with the distribution limited in Portugal to the Guadiana river basin)
- 4) Establishment of a large visitor centre in the Tejo estuary (EVOA, led by a private company in cooperation with the Nature Reserve)
- 5) Decrease the pressure of building touristic resorts and other infrastructures devices developments within the Ramsar sites, partly because of the financial crisis of the country during the last years

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

- 1) Financial and human resources are insufficient
- 2) Lack of priority of Ramsar Convention in relation to other international commitments regarding environmental and biodiversity issues, and no national committee in activity.
- 3) Local authorities involvement on Ramsar sites management and public awareness for wetlands conservation is not enough.
- 4) Dilution of the work of the national wetland centre (CEZH) into diferent governamental departments with specific wetland competences at a national and regional scale.
- 5)

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

- 1) Increase the capacity building of the management staff of the Ramsar sites
- 2) Finalisation of management plans for all the Ramsar sites
- 3) The efective implementation of the national wetland committee, including representatives of the autonomous regions of Madeira and the Azores
- 4) Preparing a manual in Portuguese for the correct implementation of Ramsar in Portugal, to be distributed to all relevant national agencies and individuals
- 5) Providing legal conservation protection to all Ramsar sites and encourage co-management of the Ramsar sites (NGOs, municipalities, etc.)

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

Yes, Ramsar information has been scarce and there is the need to inform and make decision makers more aware of the importance of the impementation of the convention in the worldwide countries. The Secretariat should promote more awareness, information and training to the national institutions.

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)

No

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

Through an effective implementation of the national wetland committee that since its establishment never met. This committee should have close relation to the committees of other conventions in the country and bringing together the different focal points of each convention.

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)?

Through an effective implementation of the national wetland committee that since its establishment never met. There has been a poor communication about the Ramsar strategy with other relevant state and non-governmental institutions. There is an urgent need to involve other governmental agencies in direct application of Ramsar in the country.

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

No

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

SPEA, BirdLife partner in Portugal

Regional Secretariat for Agriculture and Environment of the Azorean Government.

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	B - No
1.1.1 Additional information: No national inventory has been carried out. Despite the development of the methodologies during the MedWet initiative and the pilot inventory done some years ago.	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	B - No
1.1.2 Additional information: At the moment the MedWetnet database is not available online due to technical reasons.	

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

- a) Ramsar Sites
- b) wetlands generally

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).

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

- a) O - No change
- b) P - Status improved

1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):

The continuous implementation of European Commission water quality policies improved the overall quality of the wetlands in some regions and the decrease of pollution. Also, the financial crisis stopped many urban developments that were previewed. Many municipalities are more aware for the importance of their wetlands and some of them are developing conservation actions at local level (e.g. Sesimbra, Barreiro, Águeda, Ponte de Lima, etc.).

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

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i

(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

B - No

1.3.1 Additional information:

In Portugal there is no specific wetland policy, nonetheless, various policy instruments are in place, such as the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, the National Water Plan and the River Basin Management Plans. In the Autonomous Region of the Azores Water Framework Directive is implemented through the Regional Plan for Water (Regional Legislative Decree n. 19/2003/A) and the Management Plan of the Hydrographic Region of the Azores (since 2012), in which most of the watersheds and river basins coincide with Ramsar Sites.

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) B - No
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) C - Partly
- e) C - Partly
- f) C - Partly
- g) A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

There is no valid National Strategy for Biodiversity in place since 2011; review of this strategy and updating it to the next decade is on going.

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

A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information:

The European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, applied in Portugal through specific environmental regulations, combined with regulations that determine wetlands as sensitive areas (most of them designated as Sites of Community Importance or Special Protection Areas, under the Habitats or Birds Directives respectively), requires Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as mandatory for a variety of plans and programmes (i.e. prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use). Thus, most development plans/programmes have been subject to proper SEA procedures and this led often to the abandonment of large-scale projects or to court cases. Strategic Environmental Assessment was also applied to the Management Plan of the Hydrographic Region of the Azores.

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:

The Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment applied in Portugal through specific environmental regulations, combined with regulations that determine wetlands as sensitive areas (most of them designated as Sites of Community Importance or Special Protection Areas, under the Habitats or Birds Directives respectively), requires Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as mandatory for a variety of projects (including new industrial and turistical buildings, new roads, extractive industry, Hydropower developments, windpower structures) according to the dimension and characteristics of the projects, as established in the Annexes of the EIA Directive. Smaller projects likely to have a significant negative effect on one or more Natura 2000 sites are also subjected to an Appropriate Assessment procedure in accordance with Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive in order to assess the implications of that plan or project on the site(s).

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

B - No

1.3.5 Additional information:

.....

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:

Some new studies for the assessment of ecosystem services and benefits provided have been done during the last years, e.g. Tejo estuary in the region of Alcochete by the Instituto Superior Técnico (of the Technical University) team or the Arrábida coast by the University of Lisbon.

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

B - No

1.4.2 Additional information:

.....

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

C - Partly

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

In the management plan of the Ramsar Site "Fajãs dos Cubres e Caldeira de Santo Cristo", made in 2005. This plan suggests management actions and measures that guarantee sustainable economic activities, the preservation of natural resources and meet the social and economic expectations of local population.

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:

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

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

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

- a. A - Yes
- b. D - Planned
- c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

For c) see above 1.4

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

B - No

1.6.2 Additional information:

No new management plans have been developed in the last triennium

STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins?

{1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

Hydrographic catchment area plans have been carried out and are legally binding the land use legislation of the country

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:

In the Azores watershed/river basin management plans are included actions of public participation and also several educational and awareness measures. We highlight the two new visitor centers which were inaugurated, for the environmental interpretation of these protected areas: the “Casa do Parque das Sete Cidades” (2014) – located in Ramsar Site Complexo Vulcânico das Sete Cidades, about the River Basin of Lagoa das Sete Cidades; and the “Centro de Interpretação da Serra de Santa Bárbara” (2014) – located in Ramsar Site Planalto Central da Terceira (Furnas do Enxofre e Algar do Carvão).

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

C - Partly

1.7.3 Additional information:

.....

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

B - No

1.7.4 Additional information:

.....

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

B - No

1.8.1 Additional information:

.....

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:

Wetland restoration programmes are planned to the Pateira de Fermentelos and to Lagoa de Albufeira Ramsar sites. In the Azores the “Regional Plan of Erradication and Control of Invasive Flora Species in Sensitive Areas” executed the removal of invasive plant species in several Ramsar Sites (Planalto Central de São Jorge-Pico da Esperança, Fajãs das Lagoas de Santo Cristo e dos Cubres de São Jorge, Complexo Vulcânico das Furnas, Complexo Vulcânico das Sete Cidades, Complexo Vulcânico do Fogo, Caldeira do Faial, Caldeira da Graciosa-Furna do Enxofre, Paúl da Praia da Vitória) and is planned to be done in Caldeirão do Corvo and Planalto Central das Flores (Morro Alto), intending to promoted the plantation of autoctonous and endemic species in those areas.

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

D - Planned

1.9.1 Additional information:

The Decree-Law 565/99 on invasive alien species (nowadays under review) includes a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species.

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

1.9.2 Additional information:

Regionally eradication of exotic species plans were applied: water lily (plant), *Xenopus laevis* (amphibian), *Lepomis gibbosus*, *Cichlasoma facetum*, *Micropterus salmoides* (fish) and *Procambarus clarkii* (Crustacean), among others. The Azores "Regional Plan of Erradication and Control of Invasive Flora Species in Sensitive Areas" includes works done in Ramsar Sites and other protected wetlands, integrated in the Regional Network of Protected Areas of the Azores.

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

B - No

1.10.1 Additional information:

.....

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

a. Ramsar Sites

a. A - Yes

b. Wetlands in general

b. B - No

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

1.10.2 Additional information:

Companhia das Lezirias was responsible for establishing a large visitor centre in the Tejo estuary and restoring a significant part of the wetland. In Alcochete, the salinas of Samouco have been managed by a private company Lusoponte associated to the construction of a big bridge between Lisbon and Alcochete.

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>B - No</p>
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p>	

<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>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.11.2 Additional information: Through law reinforcement under the Water Framework Directive</p>	

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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

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

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

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

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

Three new sites were submitted to the Ramsar Convention

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

1 sites

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

Ria de Aveiro. Ria de Aveiro is a wide estuarine area resulting from the delta of river Vouga, and is one of the most important wetlands in North Portugal.

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:

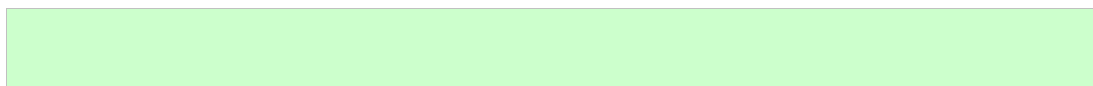
.....

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	9 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	2 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	0 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: 2.4.1. Estuário do Tejo; Paul de Arzila; Lagoa de Albufeira; Estuário do Sado; Lagoa de Santo André; Sapal de Castro Marim; Lagoas de Bertandos; Paul da Tornada; Fajãs das lagoas da Caldeira de Santo Cristo. 2.4.2. The two Ramsar sites with management plan is being implemented are Lagoa de Bertandos and Lagoa de Albufeira.	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	1 sites
2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): Lagoas de Bertandos and S. Pedro de Arcos	
2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	0 sites
2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites): The former Ramsar Information Sheets were updated in 2014 and will be send after final technical revision.	

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	B - No
2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):	



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	B - No
2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):	

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):	

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	Z - Not applicable
2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):	

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	---
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2.7.1 Additional information:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

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

<p>3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p>	D - Planned
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<p>3.1.1 Additional information:</p>

<p>3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	B - No
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<p>3.1.2 Additional information:</p>

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<p>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i></p>

<p>3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i</p>	A - Yes
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<p>3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):</p>

<p>Portugal have been involved since the very beginning in the MedWet initiative for the Mediterranean. Lately not much was happening but a focal point for the initiative is in place and actively participating in the MedWet Committee and other meetings of the initiative whenever possible</p>

<p>3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}</p>	B - No
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<p>3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):</p>

.....

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	B - No
3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11): Portugal has some intervention as a donor in Portuguese-speaking countries (Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau, São Tomé e Príncipe, Angola, Moçambique and Timor-Leste), through CPLP, the IPAD and Camões Institute. However no specific action related with Ramsar Convention has been undertaken through these mechanisms.	
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	B - No
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}	Z - Not applicable
3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):	

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}	B - No
3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):	

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A - Yes
<p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>A - Yes. Through the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forest website, publications and events at local level (www.icnf.pt/).</p>	
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	B - No
<p>3.4.3 Additional information:</p>	

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
<p>3.5.1 Additional information:</p> <p>All transboundary wetland systems are well known and include both riverine and estuarine systems on the border with Spain. Most of these systems are designated as Natura 2000 according to the Birds and Habitats Directives of the European Union, although just one of them (Sapal de Castro Marim) is designated as a Ramsar site</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	C - Partly
<p>3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):</p> <p>A management of the river flows in the rivers with large hydroelectric dams is done jointly by Portugal and Spain, especially important for the prevention of large floods and the shared use of the electricity capacity. Also on Natura 2000 areas and transboundary protected areas, contacts are regularly done between the administrations of the Protected Areas of both sides, e.g. Douro Internacional, Tejo Internacional.</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	A - Yes
<p>3.5.3 Additional information:</p> <p>Many wetlands are part of the Natura 2000 network for their value for the conservation of migratory species. Also, monitoring of those sites is</p>	

included in regional or international schemes, e.g. International Waterfowl Counts

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

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

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) B - No
- b) B - No
- c) B - No
- d) B - No

(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):

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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) 2 centres
- b) 0 centres

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

EVOA at Estuário do Tejo and improvement of the visitor centre of Lagoa de Albufeira

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) C - Partly
- b) C - Partly

{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):

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	B - No
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) 0 b) 0
4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):	
4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	B - No
4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):	
4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the 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) B - No c) B - No
4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):	
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: Each year a significant number of events are promoted in Ramsar sites including workshops and educational activities. It's frequent the presence of the government by the Nature Conservation Secretary of State and non-	

governamental organizations.

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):

Under the scope of local protected areas management activities. There is also a environmental awareness national project on rivers (The River project) aiming engage people in monitoring and conservation of river sections.

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

B - No

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

Only 2012 and 2013 (and partly 2014).

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

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

.....

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

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

B - No

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	B - No
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4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii	B - No
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4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):
