

JORDAN NATIONAL REPORT

**7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
San José, Costa Rica, 10-18 May 1999**

**Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in general,
and of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 1997-2002 in particular,
during the period since the National Report prepared in 1995
for Ramsar COP6 and 30 June 1998**

Contracting Party:

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

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Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 1

To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.

- 1.1 Describe any actions your government has taken (such as hosting regional or subregional meetings/consultations, working cooperatively with neighbouring countries on transfrontier wetland sites) to encourage others to join the Convention.

There was a discussion with the Regional Coordinator for Asia Rebecca D' Cruz during her last visit to Jordan about our willing to host sub- regional work shop for Arab countries to encourage them to join the Convention , but unfortunately still this matter not finalized.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 2

To achieve the wise use of wetlands by implementing and further developing the Ramsar Wise Use Guidelines.

- 2.1 Has a National Wetland Policy/Strategy/Action Plan been developed, or is one being developed or planned for the near future? If so:

a. What are/will be its main features?

A unit has been establish in the GCEP to follow up the implementation of the Ramsar convention in Jordan. For this purpose the unit is coordinating with other governmental and non-governmental organizations that works in the field of nature conservation and protection.

b. Was it, or is it, intended that the Policy/Strategy/Action Plan be adopted by the whole of Government, the Minister responsible for Ramsar matters or through some other process. Please describe.

The supervision of adapting the Strategy and action plan will be the responsibility of GCEP in association with the other governmental agencies such as the ministries of rural affairs & environment, water and agriculture.

c. How does it relate/will it relate to other national environmental/ conservation planning initiatives (e.g., National Environmental Action Plans, National Biodiversity Action Plans, National Conservation Strategies)?

A comprehensive plan was prepared, starting from 1994, to monitor the most important wetland sites in Jordan, taking into consideration the topographic data, hydrochemical and hydrogeological data, geographic location, altitude, the nature of this wetland if it is a dam, river, pool ... etc., the water quality, the surrounding activities, the chemical and the biological characteristics, the land productivity, determining if there is any threat on this wetland and its environmental impact and putting the required solutions to conserve such wetlands. This monitoring process was carried periodically (every 3 months). During the field trips water samples were taken from the different wetland sites and subjected to chemical and biological analyses at the Water Authority labs. A comprehensive report including all the obtained data and the data interpreting results during the past four years was prepared, which will give a general

overview on the environmental status of the most important wetland sites throughout the kingdom. The Ramsar site is guarded continuously by two rangers.

- 2.2 If a policy is in place, how much progress has been made in its implementation, and what are the major difficulties being encountered in doing so?
- 2.3 If a Policy/Strategy/Action Plan is in place, is the responsibility for implementing it with :
- a. a single Government Ministry,
 - b. a committee drawn from several Ministries, or
 - c. a cross-sectoral committee?

Please provide details.

The above plan is implementing by the General Corporation for the Environment Protection / Ramsar unit.

- 2.4 For countries with Federal systems of Government, are there Wetland Policies/Strategies/Plans in place, being developed or planned for the provincial/state or regional levels of Government? Yes/No

If yes, please give details.

- 2.5 Has a review of legislation and practices which impact on wetlands been carried out, and if so, has this resulted in any changes which assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Please describe these.

The Law of Protection of the Environment No. (12) , 1995 gives a special care for the issue of conserving and protecting wetlands in Jordan.

- 2.6 Describe the efforts made in your country to have wetlands considered in integrated land/water and coastal zone planning and management processes at the following levels:
- a. national
 - b. provincial
 - c. local

- 2.7 Have there been any publications produced, or practices documented, which could assist other countries to promote and improve the application of the Ramsar Wise Use of Wetlands Guidelines? Yes/No

Yes :

The Ramsar unit had published the first edition of a booklet entitled "Ramsar Convention and the Importance of the Wetlands" in Arabic and English for wider utilization. The booklet includes a chapter on the Ramsar convention, its objectives and articles, a chapter on the significance and functions of the wetlands, and a chapter on the most important wetland sites in Jordan.

For the general benefit and wider propagation for the Ramsar Convention, to other countries especially the Arab ones or those familiar with the Arabic language, we would appreciate it if Ramsar Bureau to finance printing more copies of this booklet;

as one of the multi-directional initiatives of Ramsar Bureau to achieve the objective of natural resources sustainable development and the wise use of the wetlands world widely.

If Yes, please provide details and copies.

2.8 Noting COP6 Recommendation 6.14 relating to toxic chemicals and pollution, please advise of the actions taken since then “to remedy and to prevent pollution impacts affecting Ramsar sites and other wetlands” (Operative paragraph 9).

For this issue, a study were conducted to investigate the use of agricultural chemicals in the Azraq Basin and assess their impact on water quality in the Ramsar Site.

Status:

A special committee that included experts (consultants) in the various related disciplines was formulated and started its work by the end of the 3rd quarter of 1995. Field visits were organized for the committee members in which they collected, according to a specific procedure determined by the committee in its first meeting, soil samples from different locations in the Azraq area. Part of the samples was subjected to chemical analyses for pesticides residues detection and the other samples were subjected to comprehensive chemical analyses except for pesticides detection. The final report including the recommendations have been submitted to the related agencies

2.9 Describe what steps have been taken to incorporate wetland economic valuation techniques into natural resource planning and assessment actions.

Carry out a full socio-economic assessment of the land uses and practices in the Azraq Basin and how these impact of the overall management of the land and water resources._

Status:

A socio-economic survey was carried out depending on a comprehensive questionnaire which was pilot tested and then approved. All the field work is done and data was collected (questionnaires filled in through personal interviews) in September 1994. Data was cleared and fed into the computer. The data was processed through the means of holistic statistics, analyzed and then reported in a final draft including the socio-economic implications of the resulted data as well as the recommendations.

2.10 Is Environmental Impact Assessment for actions potentially impacting on wetlands required under legislation in your country? Yes/No

Yes :

Prepare and enact national EIA legislation in support of the Department of the Environment's EIA unit and the EIA process.

Status:

Satisfactorily accomplished. The environmental law was prepared by the staff of the Department of the Environment (DOE) and was ratified by the Jordanian Parliament and his Majesty the King and was published on Oct. 1/95 in the official gazette as well. The must of undertaking EIAs for previous, ongoing, as well as to be implemented projects, is stated in the proposed law. A draft of relevant regulations are being prepared by the project juristic consultant in collaboration with the DOE. EIA Unit

staff in collaboration with the national consultants and the DOE staff started by the end of the 4th quarter of 1995 to prepare an EIA manual which was proposed by the Azraq project manager.

2.11 Is wetland restoration and rehabilitation considered a priority in your country? Yes/No.

Yes.

If Yes, describe the actions that have been taken to identify wetlands in need of these actions and to mobilise resources for restoration or rehabilitation.

- 1- The Government of Jordan by financial support from GEF has implemented the Azraq Oasis Conservation project during the period 1994-1997.**
- 2- Water Authority still pumping fresh water to the pools located at the reserve in Azraq.**
- 3- In order to follow up the activities done by Azraq Project recently a committee has been assigned from different agencies.**

2.12 Describe what actions have been taken to “encourage active and informed participation of local communities, including indigenous people, and in particular women, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.” (refer to Actions 2.7.1-4 in the Strategic Plan).

The Charity Women Associations (CWA) at Al-Azraq were frequently visited to determine how can the EIA Unit staff cooperate with these associations to benefit the Azraq inhabitants. In one of these visits the chairwomen of these associations were met and asked to submit a list of their respective association capabilities in order to study them and find ways to help these associations. In another visit a meeting was held between the EIA sub-project staff and the members of CWA at Azraq North where a brief summary was given about Ramsar Convention, the importance of the wise use of the natural resources and conservation and the importance of the woman role to support the local economy.

Friends of Azraq Society : the Friends of Azraq Society has been resurrected to some extent , following little recent action by the group. The directions and terms of reference of the group will be evaluated shortly.

Visitor Center : a visitor center is under development. The main structure will be completed during August 1998, after which landscaping will begin and the internal facilities of the center will be developed.

Local Community Awareness and Socio- economic Development : a member of staff has been appointed with the responsibility of raising awareness in the local community regarding environmental conservation , in addition to developing local socio - economic projects. A strategy for this work will be developed shortly.

2.13 Describe what actions have been taken to “encourage involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands” (refer to Actions 2.8.1-4 in the Strategic Plan). Has this included a review of fiscal measures (taxation arrangements, etc.) to identify and remove disincentives and introduce incentives for wetlands conservation and wise use? Yes/No

If yes, please provide details.

Yes :

Friends of Azraq Society : the Friends of Azraq Society has been resurrected to some extent , following little recent action by the group . The directions and terms of reference of the group will be evaluated shortly.

The Charity Women Associations (CWA) at Al-Azraq were frequently visited to determine how can the EIA Unit staff cooperate with these associations to benefit the Azraq inhabitants. In one of these visits the chairwomen of these associations were met and asked to submit a list of their respective association capabilities in order to study them and find ways to help these associations. In another visit a meeting was held between the EIA sub-project staff and the members of CWA at Azraq North where a brief summary was given about Ramsar Convention, the importance of the wise use of the natural resources and conservation and the importance of the woman role to support the local economy.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 3

To raise awareness of wetland values and functions throughout the world and at all levels

- 3.1 Is there a government-run national programme for Education and Public Awareness in your country which focuses on, or includes, wetlands? Yes/No? If yes, what are the priority actions under this programme and who are the target groups? (Refer also to question 9.4)

As for the preparation of educational materials, a booklet containing information and data about Ramsar convention and the importance of wetlands was prepared and updated to encompass more important wetlands in Jordan. Two calendars were prepared featuring the aesthetic and environmental values of the Azraq oasis. Three posters were published: one featuring a comparison between the past and current environmental situation of the Azraq oasis; another poster featuring the most predominant flora species in the Azraq oasis; and a third one featuring the most predominant insect species in the Azraq oasis. In addition to a documentary film about the Azraq wetlands sites and establishment of a core of a permanent herbarium for the AOCP.

For the purpose of upgrading the public environmental awareness and propagation for Ramsar convention, the issue was several times highlighted in the mass media and on the television news. In addition, lectures about Ramsar convention and the importance of wetlands were given to the school students and two environmental camps were organized for them as well. The AOCP staff participated in marshes and celebrations of different environmental occasions. A press release by Ramsar Bureau was translated into Arabic and disseminated to the mass media to be broadcast in the 2nd of Feb. which was declared by the Ramsar Bureau as the National Day For The Wetlands of each year.

The Charity Women Associations (CWA) at Al-Azraq were frequently visited to determine how can the EIA Unit staff cooperate with these associations to benefit the Azraq inhabitants. In one of these visits the chairwomen of these associations were met and asked to submit a list of their respective association capabilities in order to study them and find ways to help these associations. In another visit a meeting was held between the EIA sub-project staff and the members of CWA at Azraq North where a brief summary was given about Ramsar Convention, the importance of the wise use

of the natural resources and conservation and the importance of the woman role to support the local economy.

A meeting with the Azraq population was held to introduce the Azraq Oasis Conservation Project (AOCP) objectives and to improve their environmental awareness.

- 3.2 Describe the steps taken to have wetlands issues and Ramsar's Wise Use principles included as part of the curricula of educational institutions. Has this been at all levels of education (primary, secondary, tertiary and adult)? Please give details.

Visitor Center : a visitor center is under development . The main structure will be completed during August 1998, after which landscaping will begin and the internal facilities of the center will be developed.

Mature Trail : work has begun on a self - guided nature trail .

Dasha Nature Observatory : construction of a nature observatory over - looking the central marsh of the reserve has begun and is due for completion by late September 1998 . 'Me construction uses largely traditional techniques, including mud - bricks made on site, which will be a focus of subsequent interpretation material .

Local Community Awareness and Socio- economic Development : a member of staff has been appointed with the responsibility of raising awareness in the local community regarding environmental conservation , in addition to developing local socio - economic projects. A strategy for this work will be developed shortly.

It is planned by the ministry of education to introduce the topic of wetlands in the new edition of science books in the intermediate schools and for the secondary schools within the subject of earth sciences and environment.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 4

To reinforce the capacity of institutions in each Contracting Party to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.

- 4.1 Describe the mechanisms in place, or being introduced, to increase cooperation between the various institutions responsible for actions which can have an impact on the conservation and wise use of wetlands. If one of the mechanisms is a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee, please describe its composition, functions and *modus operandi*.

Recently a Wetlands Committee has been established and still the mechanism or the tasks of this committee is under preparation . The NGOs in Jordan will have a big participation in these comities

- 4.2 Of the following, indicate which have been undertaken:

a. a review to identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands Yes/No? If yes, please indicate the major findings of the review.

Yes.

The major fiddling is the most institutions and individuals are highly needed to be train how to achieve the sustainable development especially for practices within and around the wetlands.

b. a review to identify training opportunities for these people both within your country and in other countries. Yes/No?

Yes :

For this purpose the EIA unit staff was trained and the EIA unit's counter parts were trained by the consultants on conducting the different EIAs and conducting in limnological survey, bird survey, flora survey, chemical and biological analysis, producing public awareness materials and establishing a herbarium.

As for the in-country seminars, a training course (seminar) was held in August 1994. The training course was entitled (EIA for Development Projects). Specialists of various disciplines participated in this course. GCEP as well as employees from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Irrigation, RSCN, and other organizations attended the course. The EIA Unit staff participated in the in-country seminar held on the accomplishments of the AOCF during its implementation period on the 23rd of December 1996 where the EIA staff and consultants gave a brief description on the EIA unit's conducted accomplishments and activities.

In relation to the training fellowships, two of the GCEP staff members were financed to participate in a three months training course on "Geographic Information System (GIS) which was held in the Netherlands during the period from the 7th of December 1995 to the 7th of March 1996.

c. the development of training modules or a training programme specifically for wetland managers. If yes, please give details.

Regarding the international seminars, the Ramsar unit manager and the counter part attended several meetings workshops related to wetlands management, conferences and seminars held by different agencies and organizations during the past four years.

d. people from your country have gained wetland-related training either within or outside the country. Yes/No? If yes, please give details.

Yes :

In relation to the training fellowships, two of the GCEP staff members were financed to participate in a three months training course on "Geographic Information System (GIS) and it's uses in monitoring the wetlands which was held in the Netherlands during the period from the 7th of December 1995 to the 7th of March 1996.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 5

To ensure the conservation of all sites included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List).

- 5.1 Of the Ramsar sites in your country, how many have formal management plans:
a. being prepared?

- b. fully prepared?
- c. being implemented?

Please indicate in the attached table of Ramsar sites which sites these are and what category they fall into.

Revision of management plan : a large amount of work has been put in to fully raising the management plan for the reserve , which should be finalized during September 1998 . The plan will provide a detailed breakdown of tasks to be completed at the reserve during 1998 - 2002.

Reserve management building : a reserve management building has been renovated from a old pumping station and furnished.

- 5.2 Of the management plans referred to above, which ones have included a monitoring scheme or programme to allow changes in ecological character to be detected? Please indicate this in the attached table of Ramsar sites also.

Ramsar site in Azraq only.

- 5.3 Has there been a change in the ecological character (either positive or negative) at any of your Ramsar sites or is this likely to occur in the near future? Yes/No. If Yes, please give details.

Yes :

Water Buffalo Reintroduction Trail : ten hectares of the restored wetlands has been fenced and four water buffalo will be reintroduced in September 1998. This is a trial experiment that I run for one year (possibly two years) , in an attempt to reduce the dominance of *Phragmites australis* and create a 1: 1 ratio of open water and marsh communities. if successful, the feasibility of establishing a large buffalo herd within the reserve will be evaluated.

Water Distribution System : redevelopment of the water distribution system of the reserve was finalized in early August 1998 . Water now bypasses the former spring (Soda and Quasiya) , where large amount of water were being lost through infiltration down the relic spring holes . All water is now transported directly to the central marsh , where loss to infiltration is expected to be minimal.

Treatment Wetland System : Work has began on assessing the feasibility of recycling local sewage in order to provide water for Wetland restoration activities and help reduce pollution in the local environment . International consultants are expected to arrive in September 1998 in order to carry out a feasibility study for establishing a treatment Wetland system within the reserve . The consultants will work closely with local Jordanian hydrologists during the feasibility and design stage , and the latter will be responsible for constricting the final treatment wetland .

Archaeological Research : two groups of archaeologists from American universities have conducted research in the reserve and will be submitting summaries of their findings shortly.

- 5.4 In the case of Montreux Record Ramsar sites where the Management Guidance Procedure has been applied, what is the status of the implementation of the MGP report recommendations? What is the expected time-frame for removing the site from the Montreux Record?
- 5.5 For those countries referred to in COP6 Recommendations 6.17.1-4, "Ramsar sites in the Territories of Specific Contracting Parties", please provide advice on the actions that have been taken in response to the issues raised at that time.

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 6

To designate for the Ramsar List those wetlands which meet the Convention's criteria, especially wetland types still under-represented in the List and transfrontier wetlands.

6.1 Has a national inventory of wetlands been prepared for your country? Yes/No.

Yes :

A comprehensive plan was prepared, starting from 1994, to monitor the most important wetland sites in Jordan (15 SITES) , taking into consideration the topographic data, hydrochemical and hydrogeological data, geographic location, altitude, the nature of this wetland if it is a dam, river, pool ... etc., the water quality, the surrounding activities, the chemical and the biological characteristics, the land productivity, determining if there is any threat on this wetland and its environmental impact and putting the required solutions to conserve such wetlands. This monitoring process was carried periodically (every 3 months). During the field trips water samples were taken from the different wetland sites and subjected to chemical and biological analyses at the Water Authority labs. A comprehensive report including all the obtained data and the data interpreting results during the past four years was prepared, which will give a general overview on the environmental status of the most important wetland sites throughout the kingdom. The Ramsar site is guarded continuously by two rangers.

If no, are there plans for this to be done? Yes/No.

Where a national inventory exists please provide details of when it was finalised, where it is kept and what information it contains.

6.2 Does there exist a list or directory of "important" wetlands for your country or region? Yes/No.

If yes, please provide details of when it was finalised, where it is kept, what criteria for "important" were used, and the types of information it contains.

The Ramsar unit had published the first edition of a booklet entitled "Ramsar Convention and the Importance of the Wetlands" in Arabic and English for wider utilization. The booklet includes a chapter on the most important wetland sites in Jordan.

6.3 If it is known, please provide an estimate of the area of wetlands in your country at present and any information on rates of loss or conversion to other activities.

The booklet contains information about fifteen sites in Jordan.

If this information is available, please indicate what definition of "wetland" was used.

The term wetland is defined according to Ramsar Convention as "areas of marsh, fen, peat- land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the

depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters" (Dugan, Patrick J. (1990). Wetland Conservation).

- 6.4 Have any actions been taken in response to the COP6 Resolutions and Recommendations that Contracting Parties should give priority to listing Wetlands of International Importance which:
- meet the criteria for fish habitat (Resolution VI.2),
 - meet the 1% criterion for waterbird populations using data provided by the International Waterfowl Census (Resolution VI.4),
 - are subterranean karst or cave wetland systems (Resolution VI.5),
 - are peatland ecosystems (Recommendation 6.1)
 - are coral reefs and associated systems (Recommendation 6.7)
 - are under-represented wetland types (which apart from d. and e. above include mangroves and sea grass beds) (Strategic Plan Action 6.2.3)

Yes/No? If yes, please describe these actions.

- 6.5 If your government indicated at COP6 that it would be proceeding to list further specific sites, please advise of the status of this action.
- 6.6 Please advise which of the sites included in the Ramsar List from your country are transfrontier wetlands (Refer also to 7.1).
None.
- 6.7 Describe any plans, or actions being taken for further transfrontier sites to be listed (Refer also to 7.1).

Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 7

To mobilise international cooperation and financial assistance for wetland conservation and wise use in collaboration with other conventions and agencies, both governmental and non-governmental.

- 7.1 Briefly describe any bilateral or multilateral activities that have been taken, are under way, or are planned for the management of transfrontier wetlands or their watersheds/catchments (Refer also to 6.6 and 6.7).
- 7.2 Do you have Ramsar sites that are "twinned" with others, either nationally or internationally?
Yes/No.

If yes, please give details.
- 7.3 Where your country is also a signatory of any of the following Conventions, describe what mechanism(s) exist to assist regular dialogue and cooperative actions between the personnel responsible for their implementation and the Ramsar Administrative Authority:
- Convention on Biological Diversity
 - Framework Convention on Climate Change. (signatory)
 - Convention to Combat Desertification . (signatory)
 - Convention on Migratory Species
 - World Heritage Convention

Most of the above conventions are signed by the government of Jordan and mainly the General Corporation for Environment protection is the focal point for

the most of the above conventions so there is no problem in cooperation between the personnel responsible for their implementation.

- 7.4 Is your country cooperating as part of any bilateral or multilateral activities directed at the conservation of migratory wetland species? Yes/No.

If yes, please provide details.

- 7.5 Are there multilateral and/or bilateral donors supporting projects which contribute to implementation of the Ramsar Convention in your country? Yes/No.

If yes, please provide details.

- 7.6 Does your government make an annual budgetary allocation to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands within your country? Yes/No.

Yes

If yes, is this a specific allocation to a wetlands programme or as part of a larger environment or natural resource management budget?

The government make an annual budgetary allocation to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands as apart of natural resource management budget.

- 7.7 If your country has a development assistance programme, does it include funds earmarked for wetland conservation and wise use in other countries? Yes/No. If yes, please give details.

- 7.8 Is there a formal process in place for consultation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the development assistance programme in your country, where one exists? Yes/No

If yes, what is that process.

**Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 8
To provide the Convention with the required institutional mechanisms and resources.**

- 8.1 Has your government made voluntary financial contributions, other than the invoiced contributions or to the Small Grants Fund, to further the work of the Convention globally? Yes/No.

No.

If yes, please provide details.

- 8.2 If your country is in arrears with the payment of its annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention, please indicate the reasons for this situation and the prospects for paying these arrears in the near future.

Optional section - Participation of non-government organizations in the implementation of the Convention

These are optional questions relating to cooperation with and involvement of non-government organizations in the implementation of the Convention.

At COP6 some 42 NGOs made the “Brisbane NGO pledge of support for the Ramsar Convention”. The Standing Committee agreed that for COP7 there should be an effort made to gauge the level and type of cooperation which is occurring between government Administrative Authorities and the national and international NGOs with an interest in wetlands issues.

In this **optional** section of the National Report, you are asked to describe the nature of the cooperation and relationship with any other international, regional, national and provincial NGOs operating within your country.

- 9.1 Approximately how many NGOs have wetlands as part of their regular “business” in your country?

Please break this down between international, regional and national/provincial organizations.

- 9.2 Is there a regular forum or mechanism through which these NGOs express their views on wetland conservation and Ramsar implementation:
- to each other? Yes/No
 - to the government? Yes/No

If yes in either case, please give details.

- 9.3 Does your government include one or more NGO representatives on its official delegation to Ramsar COPs? Yes/No
- 9.4 Do any of the NGOs run programmes aimed at Education and Public Awareness about wetlands in your country? Yes/No. If yes, please give details (Refer also to question 3.1).
- 9.5 Where they exist, do Ramsar site management advisory committees include NGO representatives? If yes, please give details
- 9.6 Describe the themes of the Convention (refer to General Objectives 1-8 of the Strategic Plan) where you perceive the national/provincial NGOs to be most active.

Final comments:

- 10.1 General comments on implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan.
- 10.2 Observations concerning the functioning of, relations with, and services provided by:
 - a. The Ramsar Standing Committee
 - b. The Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel
 - c. The Ramsar Bureau
 - d. The Ramsar NGO partners

10.3 Any other general observations and/or recommendations for the future.

- 1. The Ramsar Standing Committee is not fulfilling the role that we are aiming to, whereas the communication between this committee and the convention members (Contracting Parties) almost is negligible , therefore we must take this matter in consideration in the future to activating this committee as well as The Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel.**
- 2. Regarding the small grants provided by Ramsar Bureau the cooperation between Ramsar Bureau and the Standing Committee is needed to review the policy of distributing these funds fairly in giving the chance for all the Contracting Parties asked for this type of funds.**