NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

National Reports to be submitted to the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Republic of Korea, 28 October – 4 November 2008

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **31 March 2008**.

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

Introduction & background

1. This Ramsar COP10 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Republic of Korea, October/November 2008).

2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 35th meeting in February 2007, and its Decisions SC35-22, -23 and -24, this COP10 National Report Format has been significantly revised and simplified in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.

3. In particular this National Report Format provides a much smaller number (66) of implementation "indicator" questions, compared with the much larger suite of questions on all aspects of national implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 included in previous NRFs.

4. The COP10 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee (Decision SC35-24), certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) and CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention.

5. The 66 indicator questions are grouped under each of the implementation "Strategies" approved by the Parties at COP9 (Resolution IX.8) in the Convention's "A Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006 -2008 period" (www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_08_e.htm). The indicators have been selected so as to provide information on key aspects of the implementation of the Convention under each of its Strategies.

6. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply **additional information** concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.

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

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention, and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's Web site.

8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:

   i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
   ii) capture lessons/experience, so as to allow Parties to develop future action;
   iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention through Convention processes;
   iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable against their obligations under the Convention;
   v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and plan for its future implementation and priorities; and
   vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.

9. In addition, the data and information provided by Parties in their COP10 National Reports now have another important purpose, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation will provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP10 consideration.

10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.

11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:

    i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each COP on the global and regional implementation, and progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at COP as a series of Information Papers including:

    - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 5);
    - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 6); and
    - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP9 DOCs 10-13);

    ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at COP. Examples at CO9 included:

    - Resolution IX.15, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
    - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC 15) and *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC 25);

    iii) providing the source of time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention, included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (3rd edition, 2007); and

    iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for the CBD for wetlands.

The structure of the COP10 National Report Format

12. In line with Standing Committee Decisions SC35-21 and SC35-22, the COP10 National Report Format is in three sections.

13. **Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

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

15. **Section 3** provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy, and with a "free-text" section under each Strategy in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of the Strategy and its indicators.

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP10 National Report Format

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

16. All three Sections of the COP10 National Report Format should be filled in, in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).

17. The deadline for submission of the completed National Report Format is **31 March 2008**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received from Parties after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP10.

18. All fields with a pale yellow background must be filled in.

19. 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 in the COP10 NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since it is the experience of the Secretariat that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.

20. In order to assist Contracting Parties in their provision of such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the "Additional implementation information" fields.

21. The Format is created as a "Form" in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to, and between, each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information. All other parts of the form are locked.

22. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form, and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.

23. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the "Tab" key on the computer keyboard.

24. For a "free-text" field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow "free-text" box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box. This is because within the "Form" format there is limited facility to make editorial changes within the "free-text" box once text has been entered.

25. 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 asked in the indicator, but are in general of the form: "Yes", "No", "Partly", "In progress", etc.

26. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can provide this in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.

27. 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.

28. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given.

29. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP10NRF [Country] [date].

30. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by email, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, email: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in electronic (Microsoft Word) format.

31. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP10 National Report**.

32. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP10 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: EGYPT	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	**Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency – Nature Conservation Sector**
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Prof. Moustafa Fouda Executive Director of Nature Conservation Sector
Mailing address:	30 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Rd., 7th flr, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
Telephone/Fax:	+20 2 2527 1391, Fax 2: +20 2 2524 8792
Email:	foudamos@link.net
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT *(DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY)* FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Prof. Moustafa Fouda Executive Director of Nature Conservation Sector
Mailing address:	30 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Rd., 7th flr, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
Telephone/Fax:	+20 2 2527 1391, Fax 2: +20 2 2524 8792
Email:	foudamos@link.net
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Prof. Moustafa Fouda Executive Director of Nature Conservation Sector
Name of organisation:	Nature Conservation Sector
Mailing address:	30 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Rd., 7th flr, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
Telephone/Fax:	+20 2 2527 1391, Fax 2: +20 2 2524 8792
Email:	foudamos@link.net
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Mr. Adel Soliman, Information Technology & Public Awareness Officer
Name of organisation:	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency - Nature Conservation Sector
Mailing address:	30 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Rd., 7th flr, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
Telephone/Fax:	(Tel: +20 2 524 8792 / Fax 1: +20 2 527 1391,
Email:	adelnbu@yahoo.com
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title:	Mr. Gabriel Mikhail, CEPA Expert
Name of organisation:	IMAGE HOUSE
Mailing address:	13 Road 9, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
Telephone/Fax:	Tel : +202 380 6527 / Fax: +202 380 6527
Email:	helpdesk@egyptcd.com

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP9 reporting):

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

Egypt started the implementation of its national wetland strategy which was prepared in 2005. The first step was issueing three Priministreal Decrees to establish the National Supreme Committee of the Integrated Wetland and Biodiversity Conservation, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and Climate Change. The supreme National Committees are chaired by the Minister of Environment and representatives of the relevant governmental and local communities. The second step was the better coordination with relevant stakeholders dealing with wetlands. The third step was the incorporation of emerging issues into our programmes in conservation of wetland. Emerging issues included application of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. New steps are being developed to synergize activities on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) of Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification.

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

There are many successful aspects of the convention implementation. These include rehabilitation and restoration programmes implemented with assistance of local communities, more and better information on wetland sites (incorporated in the national database on biodiversity), CEPA campaign on the importance of wetlands especially Ramsar sites, preparation of Montoreux record files for the possible removal of the two listed sites (Brullus and Bardawil), improved capacity building for management of wetlands in Egypt,

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

1- Limited awareness of principles of sustainable use.

2- Complex inter-governmental management process.

3- Limited resources.

4- Growing human processess.

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

Our future priorities are based on:

- Biodiversity strategy and action plan (up to 2017)
- National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)
- Emerging issues (e.g. invasive species, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), mainstreaming of biodiversity and 2010 target of CBD)
- Egypt's commitment to international and regional conventions (e.g. Ramsar, CBD) and agreements (PERSGA for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Mediterranean Action Plan, River Nile Basin Initiative and NEPAD)
- Egypt's social / economic / environmental needs.

We are proposing 3 main components in our future work. These are:

A- Development and management of protected Areas, including wetlands of

international importance (Ramsar)

B- Continue biodiversity monitoring and assessment

C- Supporting measures for biodiversity

With regards to component (A), we plan to improve the existing PAs system plan, apply effectiveness evaluation of management of protected areas as indicator for biodiversity target, improve local community development by applying precautionary, participatory, and ecosystem approaches, improve existing infrastructure in protected areas, recruit and train more staff, and hope to reach self-financing of protected areas. We also plan to encourage / support captive breeding programmes in collaboration with private sector.

Concerning component (B), we shall continue dealing with biodiversity challenges (data availability, information needs, and monitoring indices). It is hoped to be able to improve our knowledge on trends of biodiversity , and continue improving our Red Data book as a measure to progress towards 2010 target. Attempts will continue to establish indicators for biological invasion, biosafety implementation for GMOs through risk assessment and risk management. In addition, our dream for establishing a national natural history museum will continue until it is visualized.

Concerning component (C) (supporting measures for biodiversity), we shall focus on establishing Nature Conservation Egypt as a separate agency, improve the existing legislation and prepare and implement new laws for Wildlife and Biosafety, improve partnership with civil society / local communities, obtain more funded projects concerning PAs and CEPA, and continue our obligations to international communities.

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

Egypt recommends that the Ramsar Secretariat should provide technical assistance that facilitates obtaining funds for better implementation of the convention. We have requested technical assistance repeatedly before, and the response was not encouraging.

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

Threats facing the convention implementation at the national level are beyond the capabilities and resources of the National Administrative Authority. We need more international organization partners to enable us to solve some of the problems we are facing to achieve the wise use of wetlands in Egypt.

G. 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?

Joint programmes between MEAs are recommended. We have tried a joint programme between biodiversity conservation and combating desertification to be funded by GEF, the results were not encouraging. Most of conventions still act in isolation from each others inspite of the continious efforts to synchronize, synergize and mainstreaming of activities, but most actions are still restricted to attend joint meetings. The most important actions is providing the enabling environment that ensures the necessary capacity be developed to fulfill global/national biodiversity obligations and priorities.

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

The Supreme Committee on Integrated Management of Wetlands and Biodiversity Conservation will be in charge of:

Creating a network for Egyptian wetlands, and implementing its management plans.
Studying Climate Changes impacts on Wetlands, coastal Zones and Biodiversity.
Exchanging and transferring experiences and information, linking entities working in the field of wetlands, Biodiversity conservation regionally and internationally.
Studying social, environmental and economic dimensions of Wetlands and Biodiversity conservation on achieving sustainable Development objectives.
General supervision on aquatic surfaces of Wetlands, specifying development limits, control & following-up methods for applying laws and directives, eliminating violations, discussing the improvement of environmental & administrative status plans for them and the best investment for available environmental & fish resources.
Rehabilitation of deteriorated Wetlands exposed to environmental pressures or deteriorations as a result of wrong human activities.
Harmonizing all Wetlands` activities among ministries and stakeholders to implement integrated management for those lands through formulating and designing general guide lines for all activities including EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) studies for projects and activities expected to be held in Wetlands.

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

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each "indicator question", please select one answer from the "drop-down" list in the yellow box.

2. If you wish to add any additional information on either one or more of the specific indicators for each strategy, and/or for other aspects of the national implementation of this strategy, please provide this information in the green "free-text" boxes below the indicator questions for each Strategy.

3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green "free-text" box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box.

4. So as to assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP9, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP9 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1: *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1}	A - Yes
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	A - Yes
1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed]	A - Yes
1.1.4 If the answer is "Yes" in 1.1.3, does this information indicate that the need to address adverse change in the ecological character of wetlands is now greater, the same, or less than in the previous triennium, for: a) Ramsar sites b) wetlands generally	 C - Less B - the same

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.1.1 – 1.1.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.1.3: [.. additional information …]"

1.1.1 - Egypt has made a comprehencive wetland inventory for several sites including Lake Bardawil, Burullus, Nabq, Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun lakes. In addition, a prelimenary inventory assessment was made for the the 12 site groups that were included at the National Wetland Strategy.

1.1.2 - Wetland inventory data and information are available, and data is maintained in various forms (e.g. website, http://www.wetlands.org/rsis/ , see also http://www.egyptchm.org/chm/implementation/cross_cutting_pas_implementation.htm several books such as Wadi Rayan, Lake Burullus, Lake Bardawil and Lake Nasser, and official reports (ITTO final report on the mangroves , so information are accessible to all stakeholders. see (http://www.egyptchm.org/CBD Thematic Programmes/Forest Biodiversity

1.1.3 - Yes information about status and trends of the ecological character of some sites are available. For examples, connection between the sea and coastal lakes (2 Ramsar sites) was closed, resulted in changing the ecological character of the site, where fresh water and brackish water dominated the sites for several years, and fresh water fish and weeds were dominant. In addition, some sites (e.g. lake Manzala) became polluted by sewage and industrial aquatic waste. Furthermore, overfishing resulted in smaller fish became the most prominent componant of the catch. Mangroves were interrupted by construction of roads, leading to disconnection with the sea.

1.1.4 - Available information indicated a greater need to address adverse changes in the ecological character of wetlands. Efforts made resulted in that changes in some sites have been improved than before. For examples, most of Boughazes (water inlets) are well-maintained, the results are more sea water and marine fish are available now. Meanwhile, fresh water weeds became less than few years ago. Artificial wetlands were constructed to reduce pollution pressure from sewage as well as other waste from industry and fish farms. Furthermore, all mangrove sites have been demarkated, and rehabilitation and restoration programes were implemented, resulted in an increase of the mangrove area. Water quality is maintained regularly and actions are taken when there is a change in water quality. For example, during winter where water level at River Nile is less than other seasons, leading to a very clear change in water quality due to industreal aquatic waste, actions were taken to flush more fresh water into the Nile system to remove all aspects of pollutions.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.2: *Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supranational policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied, where possible specifying the appropriate policy instrument(s) in each Contracting Party which ensures wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

1.2.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {2.1.1} [If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes

1.2.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {2.1.2}	A - Yes
1.2.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development (including National Poverty Reduction Plans called for by the WSSD and water resources management and water efficiency plans)? {2.1.2}	A - Yes
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	C - Partly
1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.2.1 – 1.2.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.2.3: [.. additional information …]”

1.2.1 - Egypt's wetlands strategy is based on its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which in turn is in response to the Convention of Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It describes the current wetlands in Egypt, the threats, goals, guiding principles, objectives, and actions required. Wetlands are recognized as ecological and national assets to be managed for the benefit of the present and future generations. The main objectives of the strategy are:

1- To conserve and wisely manage, on sound ecological bases, wetlands as integral elements of the nation's natural resources;

2- To manage, rehabilitate or restore wetland sites with the support of governmental agencies and local communities;

3- To create and promote institutional arrangements required for effective implementation of the planned actions;

4- To ensure community recognition of wetlands as natural assets, and so promote public support for programs of action for sustainable management of wetlands sites;

5- To identify, on a scientific basis, wetlands sites that are ecologically important at the local, national and international levels, and ensure their conservation;

6- To survey the wetlands of Egypt, build up a comprehensive inventory of these wetlands and their resources, and to make this information accessible.

The National Action Plan on conservation of Wetlands intends to complement the existing Protected Areas, and comprises the following programs:

1.Establishment of a national council of wetlands (which is already established)

2.Survey of wetlands (ecology, hydrology, biodiversity, socioeconomics); an ongoing activity

3.Selection of sites for wetland nature reserves as a national wetland network and proposals for a tentative list made international (Ramsar) sites;

4.Research programs in selected wetland sites;

5.Formulation of management plans for each site;

6.Public awareness programs;

7.Establishment of a national wetlands databank;

8.Training and capacity building program;

9.Inventories of cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge of wetlands in Egypt

10.Consolidation of national laws for wetlands and means of enforcement

11.Financial mechanisms to support programs of action.

1.2.2 - Yes, the National Wetland Policy incorporate the World Summit on Sustainable Development Targets and actions, which require collaborative actions among governmental agencies, legislative bodies and NGOs. Work plans consider societal, economical and cultural factors and ecological constraints, and endeavour to achieve the harmony that ensures sustainable development, conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

1.2.3- Treatment of wastewater via engineered wetlands at Lake Manzala is a new low cost technology to the Middle East and the Lake. The project aims to explore the suitability of using treated water in breeding some fish species that have already declined from the lake under pollution stress. Meanwhile, the project is keen on involving the local community in the operation and maintenance of the facility to increase awareness on the technology and reduce the risks of pollution.

1.2.4- The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources has prepared national water resources plan till 2017. The strategy has a policy in protecting public health and environment. Priority is giving to measures that prevent pollution. This includes reduction of pollution by stimulating clean products and relocation of certain industries. Agriculture will be encouraged to use more environmentally friendly methods and products. If pollution can not be prevented treatment is the next option. The plan includes a considerable increase in treatment of municipal sewage and waste water.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.3: *Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defence, climate change mitigation, food security, poverty reduction, cultural heritage, and scientific research, with a focus on under-represented ecosystem types, through developing and disseminating methodology to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

1.3.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar sites? {3.3.1} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in the Additional implementation information below, the year of assessment and from where or from whom this information can be obtained]	A - Yes
1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4}	A - Yes
1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}	E - Not applicable
1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.3.1 – 1.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.3.3: [.. additional information …]"

1.3.1 - An assessment has been conducted for the ecosystem benefits / services provided by Ramsar sites and other wetlands. At Brullus Lake, fish catch from about 300 km2 is 60,000 tons of fish whereas fish from aquaculture facilities around the lake in an area of 120 km2 is 146000 tons of fishes. Thus, fish production is estimated annually by about 300 million US $. The potential and actual economic uses of plants were also assessed, based on field observation, information collected local inhabitants and literature review. The economic uses are classified into major categories:grazing, fuel, medicinal uses, human food, timber and other uses. The domestic and wild animals graze and browse 101. species. They represent 71.6% of the total economic species of flora. A total of 13 species are subjected to cutting for fuel. In addition, 55 species are of popular medicinal uses, fruits, flowers, vegetative and underground parts of 32 species are eaten by local inhabitants. Only 4 species are used for timber. Other uses include making mats, baskets ropes, chairs, ornamental uses, beach beds, sand binder, soap, manufacture and oil and dye extraction. Details of the socio-economic features are presented in the two books on Lake Brullus and Lake Bardawil (see enclosed two books). Wise use wetland programmes / projects have been and still being implemented to contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and / or food and water security.

The National Biodiversity strategy and action plan, National Environmental Action Plan of Egypt, Recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development including Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), recommendations and decisions of COPs of different conventions including CBD and Ramsar, have been incorporated in our work programmes for protected areas in Egypt. Our NCS vision is to preserve the natural character of the Egyptian environment for future generations while using it innovatively to enhance sustainable local productivity and alleviate poverty (see enclosed book on biodiversity conservation capacity building). Thus, while we are protecting our natural resources, we allow wise use of these resources for the benefit of local communities and the national economy. We have encouraged establishment of NGOs and have provided them with necessary training to execute specific programmes in our protected

areas. These included rehabilitation and restoration programmes (e.g. removal of weeds, maintaining the connection between the seawater and the lakes), transplantation of mangroves and other trees, establishing honey bee hives, encourage handcrafts of local inhabitants, etc.

1.3.2 – A task force was established to review the CBD program of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and prepare Egypt's response in the form of actions to be taken. The five elements of the program of work are: (1) implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management; (2) assessment of marine and coastal biological resources; (3) establishment of marine and coastal protected areas; (4) assessment of Mari culture; (5) assessment of invasive species. Research programs are being implemented for the main habitats (e.g. coral reefs, mangroves) and key species (e.g. sharks, dolphins, dugong, turtles, breeding birds) which are either endangered or threatened. Other actions include determining best practice for fishing activities; applying rehabilitation and restoration programes (especially for mangroves and coral reefs); promoting principles of eco-tourism; establishing of no-use and multi use areas; protecting hot-spot areas; developing sustainable uses of marine and coastal biodiversity by applying the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines; involving local communities, NGOs and the private sectors in planning, implementation and assessment of management of living resources; promoting teaching and research on coastal and marine biodiversity; implementing public awareness programs; promoting applications of the ecosystem approach beyond national boundaries.

1.3.4 - National action has been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands and other protected areas. Cultural heritage is a set of ideas, attitudes and habits developed by people so help them in their conduct of life. It has many manifestations: art, architecture, morals, laws, customs, beliefs, etc. It is divided into two components: material and intangible heritages. There are very clear links between natural and cultural heritage. Natural resources are the basis for human development since prehistoric times. Nature has provided the physical and spiritual background for important civilizations. Thus, nature hosts important cultural values, which represents a significant legacy which has been handed down over many generations to date. Biodiversity is represented in: religions, languages, art and traditional knowledge. Thus, cultural diversity has arisen in response to biodiversity. Loss of cultural diversity can contribute to the loss of biodiversity.

Egypt has one of the best cultural heritages in the world spanning the entire human history. Archaelogical sites of various ages, types and sizes are scattered throughout the entire landscape, including protected areas and wetlands. Unprecedented archaelogical resources, particularly small and unstudied sites to increasing risk of loss and degradation. The question is how to incorporate new technologies, so that traditional values are maintained and enchanced. The power derives from technology transfer stem from deciding what is acceptable and what to reject.

Role of protected areas and wetlands in preserving cultural values are: help protect cultural sites from degradation, preserve cultural landscapes, preserve indigenous knowledge and tradition; and to promote equitable benefit sharing from traditional knowledge. This can be achieved by giving indigenous people their right, reach consensus, and allow them to participate fully in the management of protected areas.

Various studies have been made on the cultural values in the protected areas, including their traditional knowledge and customs. Work is being documented, and a new law is being drafted to protect their knowledge. Meanwhile, many activities are being conducted in the protected areas where local people are included at the early stage of planning, implementation and even evaluation.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.4: *Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river*

basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change, all in the context of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Indicator questions:

1.4.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been used/applied in decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {3.4.2 – r3.4.xiv}	A - Yes
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	A - Yes
1.4.3 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5}	A - Yes
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.4.1 – 1.4.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.4.3: [.. additional information …]"

1.4.1 – The research program of the national Wetland Strategy calls to studies on the hydrology of wetland sites, with special attention to:
(i) defining the catchment areas;
(ii) assessing the volumes of inflows and outflows, and the water balance in the site.
(iii) measuring the quantity and quality of pollutants collected from the catchment area and flowing to the site.
Results have been published in the two books on Lakes Burullus and Bardawil (see enclosed).

1.4.2 – CEPA expertise and tools have been incorporated into catchment , River basin planning and management (see above 1.4.1 and also management plans of Burullus and Bardawil).

1.4.3 – Integrated Coastal Zone Management National Strategy has been prepared recently where wetlands are included in the strategy. The strategy has a well defined principles, institutional organizations, and clear objectives. A national committee for Integrated Coastal Zone Management was recently established, chaired by the Minister of Environment and representatives of the relevant governmental institutions, NGOs, private sector, and civil society. The Convention's Guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management has been taken into consideration in the national strategy.

1.4.4 – Implication of climate change and the expected rising sea water level are anticipated to have serious effects on coastal wetlands in Egypt. Assessment of their potential impacts are being made, and results will be presented very soon to the national committees dealing with climate change, wetlands and biodiversity conservation.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 1.5: *Identify priority wetlands 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.*

Indicator questions:

1.5.1 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {4.1.2} [If "Yes", please identify any major programmes or projects in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
1.5.2 Has the Convention's guidance on wetland restoration (Annex to Resolution VIII.16; Wise Use Handbook 15, 3rd edition) been used/applied in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {4.1.2}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.5.1 – 1.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.5.2: [.. additional information …]"

1.5.1 - There were several restoration and rehabilitation programs that were and are still being implemented in wetlands in Egypt. In lake Brullus, when freshwater dominated the lake for several years, due to the closure of connection (Boughaz) with the sea, weeds dominated most of the lake. Therefore enomorous efforts were made to remove weeds from the lake. These included hiring workers to remove weeds, establishing NGOs to coordinate activities and providing incentives to locals to participate in the whole campaign. Meanwhile, other efforts were made where the governor of Kafr EL Sheik together with the wetland committee and the General Authority for Development of Fish Resources worked together to clear sediments blocking Boughazes (connection with the sea). The result was marine water flushes regularly into the lake as well as marine fish, where fish catch now is a mixed freshwater and marine fish. Locals are also regularly cleaning weeds from the lake. Similarily, the governor of North Sinai together with the wetland committee participated in a campaign to clear deposits from the Boughaz at Zaranik lake.

Along the Red Sea coast where mangroves are scattered in more than 20 sites, silviculture activities included three types of implementation tactics: (A) direct re- transplantation of seedlings from the wild and from nurseries into selected areas; (B) initiating a new system by implementing the same activity in selecting sites void of mangrove plants but have potentialities for actions; and (C) rehabilitation of example of degraded mangrove stands applying additional needed measures.

By end of December about 50 acres were added as mangrove expansion transplanted areas. Further 7.5 acres were dredyed for self regeneration at Wadi Arair. About 50.000 Avicennia marina seedlings were transplanted from the established nurseries and from the wild. Successful introduction of Rhizophora propagules were made at Hamata and Quseir

The NCS rangers and technical staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and Local Communities have earned basic knowledge to apply mangrove transplantation and rehabilitation procedures. Scheduling monitoring of the established locations assures evaluating the changes in the concerned locations and several indicators for future plans.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 national implementation:

1.5.2 - Rehabilitation or restoration of a wetland sites are implemented with support of government agencies and community organizations concerned with the site.
1) Promote education and empower local people to become involved in the planned management activities.
2) Information collected from ecological inventories and research are avialable to people and their organization in the Wetland site.
3) Provide means for community consultation in the preparation, review and implementation of management plans.
4) Explore means including incentivites, encouraging stakeholders, landowners of fish farms, tourist facilities to participate in programmes of action.
5) Apply capcity building of government institutions and non-governmental organizations to help the implementation of this strategy.

STRATEGY 1.6: *Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems.*

Indicator questions:

1.6.1 Have national policies, strategies and management responses to threats from invasive species, particularly in wetlands, been developed and implemented? {r5.1.ii}	C - Partly
1.6.2 Have such policies, strategies and management responses been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organisations/processes? {r5.1.ii}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.6.1 – 1.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "1.6.2: [.. additional information …]"

1.6.1 - National policies, strategies and management respond to threats from invasive species in wetlands are being developed, based on studies made, consultation with experts,attending meetings, workshops and corresponding with regional and international agencies related to invasive species. However, there were two successful stories for controlling one marine species, cown of thorn starfish in the Red Sea coral reef habitats, and another terrestrial invasive plant at Gebel Elba.

1.6.2 - The Egyptian Environmental Affair Agency (EEAA) took many steps at both national and international level to achieve its plan for invasive species.

The Natural Conservation Sector (NCS) work within the framework of cooperation with international bodies and global organizations by responding to the questionnaire from the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) under the title 'Assessment of Capacity Needs for the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species', as well as respond to the questionnaire from the RAC / SPA for the preparation of a Report on the progress made in implementing of Action Plan concerning species introduction of invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea. This report was submitted to the Eighth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs)June 2007). A full brief on the current situation in Egypt was attached to this questionnaire with the clarification of the most important policies and administrative frameworks related to the issue of invasive alien species.

In cooperation with the (RAC/SPA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)and the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), a training course was held in the Natural Conservation Training Centre (NCTC) on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species (Sharm El-Sheikh, 3-6 February 2008).

In the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan on marine invasive species to the Mediterranean Sea environment, 40 species were recorded, of them: 6 plants, 12 marine crustaceans, 20 marine bony fishes, one of annelid worms and one species of Coelenterate (Jellyfish). The inventory of invasive alien species has been updated including a total number of 152 invasive species belonging to the various taxonomic groups of organisms.

Main Activities by NCS:

The Nature Conservation Sector (NCS), has made considerable program where many consultations, workshops and meetings were held. National experts were hired to report on the status of specific invasive species. A task team was formed, at NCS, of national experts. The task team was assigned to review all invasive species in Egypt through available literature, communication with experts, and interviews with governmental institutions. They also consulted literature available from Global Invasive Species Program. A list for Alien Invasive Species introduced to Egypt is developed (152 species were listed).

A database was established at the Biodiversity Department. Primary case studies about species invasion in Egypt are prepared, (e.g. Red palm weevil Rhynchophorus ferrugineus, the crayfish Procambarus Clarkii, and Water hyacinth Eichhornia crassipes).

Review to the current activities, legislation administrative decisions dealing with invasive alien species were made.

Guidelines for a strategic plan on invasive species were prepared. This strategic plan includes specific goals, purpose, results and activities.

Within the framework of increasing environmental awareness of invasive species, the NCS has developed a training program for the employees and the rangers of national protectorates, providing them with definition of invasive alien species and methods of control.

The (NCS) work to strengthen the exchange of information and experiences among all relevant actors and interested agencies through the CHM of the CBD.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 national implementation:

Invasive alien species represent the second major disruption for all biotic systems including terrestrial and aquatic, managed and wild. Invaders can have enormous economic and human health impacts as well as degrading many system properties that society values, including

biodiversity. Invasive alien species can cause significant irreversible environmental and socio-economic impact at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels.

In Egypt, the aquatic floating weed water hyacinth causes serious problems to various types of water bodies in Egypt. The total infested area is estimated to be 487 km2 covering most of the drainage and irrigation canals in different governorates of Egypt, and about 151 km2 covering lakes. The total amount of water loss by evaporation from water hyacinth infested areas was estimated to be 3.5 billion m2 per year. This amount is sufficient to irrigate about a further 432 km2 every year. Water hyacinth caused Choking of waterways, alters habitats (including by reduction of light). It also prevents sunlight and oxygen from reaching the water column and submerged plants. It's shading and crowding of native aquatic plants dramatically reduces biological diversity in aquatic ecosystems (Zahran, 1976).

The freshwater crayfish, Procambarus clarkii (Girard, 1852) is one of the alien invasive species on the Egyptian environment. It was introduced into the Egyptian freshwater bodies in early 1980s. Through the last decade, the invader has become a substantial member of the Egyptian aquatic fauna in considerable areas of Egypt. It is considered as one of the largest crustacean animal in the most freshwater systems. Two species were recorded in Egypt; the red swamp crayfish Procambarus clarkii and the white river crayfish P. zonangulus (Ibrahim et al. 1995 and 1997). p. clarkia had invaded most of the governorates of upper and Lower Egypt. Its distribution has extended from Northern Delta to Assuit (Saad and Emam, 1998). P. clarkia is a polytrophic or omnivorous animal i.e. it is not fastidious to any kind of food. It was found that this crayfish consumes fragile snails which act as intermediate hosts for some important diseases. On the other hand, cannibalism is a common phenomenon during periods of food depletion or starvation (Ibrahim et al. 1995).

The presence of this animal in Egypt in large numbers without any control or natural enemies caused several troubles for both farers and fishermen. Its burrowing behavior caused considerable agricultural damage to irrigation systems and crops. They burrow in the barriers or dams between the fields causing the water to flood the fields; and they feed on the shoots of some crops (Huner and Barr, 1991). Also, they cause damage to the fishing nets and may attack the fishes inside them.

The Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) requested parties; regional and international agencies to consider this issue, prepare and implement programs on invasive species. During the last 4 years, Egypt, through the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS), had made considerable program for invasive species and took many steps at both national and international level. The Department has worked to achieve certain goals, including:

A task team was formed, at the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) and assigned to develop a list of marine Alien Invasive Species which introduced to the Egyptian environment, 152 invasive species include 43 marine invasive species, belong to the various taxonomic groups of organisms were recorded and dilated as following:

Type	Terrestrial species	Freshwater species	Marine water species	Total
plants	31	27	6	64
Crustaceans	-	2	13	15
Insects	14	-	-	14
Arachnids	1	-	-	1
Bony fishes	-	12	20	32
Mammals	3	-	-	3
Birds	3	-	-	3
Reptiles	-	1	-	1
Amphibians	-	1	-	1
Micro-organisms	7	-	-	7
Nematodes	3	-	-	3
Molluscs	-	4	-	4
Echinoderms	-	-	1	1
Coelenterates	-	-	1	1
Polychaetes	-	-	2	2

National experts were hired to report on the status of specific invasive species, to identify the

goals, priorities and follow up progress towards these goals. Review all invasive species in Egypt through available literature, communication with experts and governmental institutions. Also consulted literature available from Global Invasive Species Program.
The NCS, worked to strengthen the exchange of information and experiences among all stakeholders and interested, through developed a mechanism for exchange information and to facilitate scientific and technical research, all information for listed Invasive species are available in the CHM database at the website http://egyptchm.org/.
A primary case studies about biological invasion in Egypt was Prepared, (e.g. the freshwater crayfish Procambarus Clarkii, Water hyacinth Eichhornia crassipes).
A training program for the employees of the Egypt's protectorates was held, provided them with basic information about the biological invasion, methods of control and some examples for invasion 'The first basic training course for Rangers in the protected areas' - Training Centre in Sharm Al Sheikh.
NCS, co-operated with international bodies and global organizations by responded to the questionnaire from the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) under the title 'Assessment of Capacity Needs for the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species', as well as respond to the questionnaire from the RAC / SPA, in the preparation of a Report on the progress of implementing the Action Plan concerning species introduction in the Mediterranean Sea, which submitted to the Eighth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas- SPAs, June 2007.
A workshop about 'the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species' was held by the co-operation of NCS with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas- RAC/SPA, United Nations Environment Programme- UNEP, Mediterranean Action Plan- MAP, the workshop was held at the Natural Conservation Training Centre- NCTC at Sharm El-Sheikh, 3-6 February 2008.
A work plan on invasive species was prepared. This work plan has specific goals, purpose, results and activities. It has 9 main tasks for prevention, detection, control, rehabilitation, restoration, education, new legislations, management and coordinated activities.

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

STRATEGY 2.1 *Apply the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Handbook 7, 2nd edition; Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

Indicator questions:

2.1.1 Have a strategy and priorities been established for any further designation of Ramsar sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {10.1.1} [If further Ramsar site designations are planned, please indicate in Additional implementation information, the number of sites and anticipated year of designation]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

2.1.1 - The objective 5 of the National Wetland Strategy is to identify, on scientific basis, wetland sites that are ecologically important at local, national and international scales, and ensure their conservation. There are 12 generic types of wetlands that have been recognized in Egypt. These include the coastal lakes along the Mediterranean (Matrough), Wadi Natroun lakes, Qaroun-Rayan lakes, agricultural drainage water depressions in the Nile Delta, water springs along the Red Sea, River Nile, Lake Nasser, Toshka spill way, littoral salt marshes along the Mediterranean coast, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba and Suez (mangroves, coral reefs), and Suez Canal lakes. Database is currently being collected for priority areas (Qaroun – Wadi Rayan lakes).

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.2 *Maintain the Ramsar Sites Information Service and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the Ramsar Sites Database as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.*

Indicator questions:

2.2.1 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {10.2.3}	B - No
2.2.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its database used in national implementation of the Convention concerning Ramsar site issues?	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.2.1 – 2.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "2.2.1: [.. additional information …]"

2.2.1: The oldest Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) versions for wetland sites in Egypt are accessible on the Ramsar Sites Information Service (http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_status.htm). Enclosed is the updated the RIS for two Ramsar wetland sites of Egypt (Annex 1)

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 national implementation:

2.2.2: The Ramsar Sites Information Service data base are used in the wetland sites in Egypt where all the data concerning two Ramsar sites are stored and managed. These data includes the list of fauna and flora species, geographical distributions for these species, habitats and ecological charactaristic features of the sites. The database has main categories, which are about; Catchment area (Location, Physiography, Hydrology/Geology, Population, …etc), wetland site (Location, Description, Area, Water regime, Presence of water, Ecological Information, …etc.), wetland habitat description (Class, type, Dominant, Permanency, Salinity, Area, Max. Depth, Artificiality, …etc.), biodiversity (Fauna & Flora), Human activities and Impacts (Activity, Position, trend, importance, Cover, …etc.), Metrological data, References.

STRATEGY 2.3 *Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites.*

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	A - Yes
2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised]	A - Yes
2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If "Yes" or "Some sites", please name the sites in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out? [if "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.3.1 – 2.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "2.3.3: [.. additional information …]"

2.3.1 - Ecological character is the structure and interrelationships between biological, chemical and physical compartments of the wetland. It derives from the interactions of individual pressures, functions, attributes and value of ecosystem. The two Ramsar sites in Egypt (Burullus and Bardawil) were studied in details, the results were published recently (see enclosed books). Ecological characters of the two sites included the general characteristics of each site (location, geology, geomorphology, climatology, hydrology, habitat types and biotic community), water properties (physical, chemical), sediment properties, flora and vegetation, phytoplankton, zooplankton, macrophytes, fishes and fisheries, and socioeconomic features.

2.3.2 – Management plan for each Ramsar site has been developed and being implemented. Each management plan is based on evaluation (ecological and socioeconomic criteria, and potential value). The long-term objectives were established, followed by operational objectives, implementation and action plan.

2.3.3 Cross-sectoral management committees have been established for each Ramsar sites in Egypt. Each committee is chaired by the Governor, Secretary General, manager of the Ramsar site, local representatives from the ministries of Agriculture, Health, Housing, Coast Guards, Fishermen co-operatives, NGOs and private sector. The cross-sectoral management committee meets regularly to discuss progress of implementation of the management plan, and to resolve

any conflict that may arise during day-to-day management of the site.

2.3.4 Management effectiveness evaluation of the Protected Areas, including Ramsar Sites, in Egypt was made during the last 2 years, and it is a continuous process (see enclosed report on Capacity Building in Egypt). The tool applied was the Rapid Assessment of Protected Area Management (RAPAM), based on available literature from IUCN and WWF sources, with modifications to suit the Egyptian situation. Meetings were conducted by the Director of NCS attended by consultants and Protected Areas Managers and senior staff of NCS. This was followed by a series of workshops attended by a large number of staff.

Main findings were presented, followed by a response to the management effectiveness evaluation of Egypt's Protected Areas. During 2008, detailed evaluations of the Ramsar sites will be made.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.4 *Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Secretariat without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

Indicator questions:

2.4.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {r11.2.iv} [If "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
2.4.2 Have all cases of change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {11.2.4} [If "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which Ramsar sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made]	C - Some cases
2.4.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record? {r11.2.viii} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.4.1 – 2.4.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "2.4.3: [.. additional information …]"

2.4.1- Wetland areas under protection (10 protected areas) are managed by the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) under the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). Monthly reports are sent concerning progress in management plan and changes in ecological characters. Other wetland areas are being reported by ministry of Ariculture, Water Resources and NGOs, but not on periodic basis.

Mechanisms have been established to collect information on changes in ecological character of wetland sites by:

- Using integrated data sheet for collecting information on changes in ecological characters.

- Entering the collected data into the regional data base for wetland. This database has main categories, which are about; Catchments area, wetland site, wetland habitat description, biodiversity (Fauna & Flora), Human activities and Impacts, Metrological data, References.

Arrangements are in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites. First, information were gathered by consultants, analyzed and represented to the Director of NCS. Staff were recruited, trained and equipped. Then they took part in the commulative process concerning management plans and directives and decisions of Ramsar's COPs. They are currently implemented by the management plan (see enclosed two books on Burullus and Bardawil). Monthly reports prepared by each Ramsar sitemanager and his staff, followed by quarterly, half-year and annual reports. Regular meetings are held between the NCS headquarter and Ramsar site managers. Information and results regarding likely changes in the ecological character of the Ramsar site will be reported to the newly established supreme national committee of the wetlands.

2.4.2 – Changes were reported to Ramsar Secretariat, however the National Focal Point was informed that the secretariat has not received information. There will be sent with the current national report.

2.4.3 - The two declared Ramsar sites have been listed on Montreux Record. Information for assessing possible removal of the two Ramsar sites listed in Montreux record have been gathered, and the Montreux record-questionnaire was prepared (see enclosed questionnaire).

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.5 *Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

Indicator questions:

2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}	A - Yes
2.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (including regional site and waterbird flyway networks)? {12.1.2; 12.2.2} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.5.1 – 2.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "2.5.1: [.. additional information …]"

2.5.1 - Egypt is collaborating with the other countries of the Nile Basin in the management and conservation of priority basin wetlands and biodiversity through the Wetland and Biodiversity

Conservation Component of the Nile Trans boundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP). This component aims at enhancing the understanding of wetlands function in sustainable development and to demonstrate an improved management at selected Trans boundary wetland sites within the Basin. This is to be done through building on nationally focused wetland conservation and management initiatives within the Nile basin, and is using the network of existing centers of knowledge and experience to provide a transboundary overlay of set perspectives to complement national wetlands conservation programs.

To fulfill its objectives, the Component has four major outputs as follows:

1.Regional Wetlands network established whereby the basin wide activities and national government agencies especially those responsible for managing Wetlands and Biodiversity in the region are linked, enhancing cooperation. Egypt, like the other countries of the Basin has brought the activities to the national level through establishing a national inter-ministerial committee. Egypt is also in the process of establishing a national network of experts in wetland and biodiversity management to be linked up similar networks in the other Nile Basin Countries to initiate dialogue on a regional level and share experiences within the Basin.

2.Wetlands training and awareness programs to be developed according to needs, where-by Egypt, among the other Nile countries, would benefit of the capacity building opportunities offered and materials developed.

3.Ecological and economic studies on wetland roles in sustainable development are conducted. Lake Nasser was identified as the priority area of transboundary significance and management plans will be developed for it in coordination with the Watershed Management project of the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program within the Nile Basin Initiative.

4.Pilot initiatives in support of capacity building and management will be completed within the Nile Basin.

As for water bird flyway networks, Egypt is part of the AEWA convention, but there is a lot of work needed to be done in field of data exchange, bird monitoring, and -ringing.

2.5.2 - Cooperation management for shared wetland systems still in the early stage. several meetings were held in some countries to discus how to implement shared wetland management. It is hoped that the newly established Supreme National Committee will activate cooperative management of wetlands among the Nile Basin Countries.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 2.6 *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

Indicator questions:

2.6.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development of a regional initiative under the framework of the Convention? {12.3.2} [If "Yes" or "Planned", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the name(s) and collaborating countries of each regional initiative]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

2.6.1- Egypt has been involved in the development and implementation of regional initiatives and programs. Egypt has been active in programmes related to the conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, (PERSGA), Mediterranean action plan (MAP) through RAC/SPA, the Nile Basin Initiative and NEPAD. Many activities of these initiatives and programs are related to wetlands (e.g. Nile, lakes, coral reefs, mangroves and many other wetland site.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 national implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGY 3.1 *Collaboration with other institutions: Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies.*

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	A - Yes
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}	A - Yes
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.1.1 – 3.1.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "3.1.3: [.. additional information …]"

3.1.1. All international and regional convention and agreements dealing with biodiversity conservation are housed within Nature Conservation Sector. These include CBD, Ramsar, AEWA, Bon, RAC/SPA, of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and PERSGA, (Red Sea and Gulf of Aden). Focal points meet regularly and consult with relevant governmental institutions, private sector and NGOs. These results are put usually in the form of national reports (see our website for clearing house mechanism) that are regularly submitted to administrative authorities conventions and agreements.

3.1.2. Focal points of other MEAS are members of the Supreme National Committee for Wetland and National Committees for Climate Change, Decertification and Biodiversity. Mainstreaming of this convention have been made.

3.1.3 - Egypt is already represented in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD. In Addition, Egypt has attended most meetings of NEPAD held in several African Countries including Egypt. Two main Themes Egypt is interested in. These are the wetlands and invasive species programs. There is a representative of NEPAD in Cairo (National Research Center) where various activities are coordinated.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 3.2 *Sharing of expertise and information: Promote the sharing of expertise and information.*

Indicator questions:

3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]	D - Planned
3.2.2 Has information about the country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a Web site)? {14.1.1}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1 - The strategy of the Nature Conservation Sector is to disperse information about wetlands, its importance to biodiversity and measures taken to conserve it. The 'Wetlands Day' was used in this respect by conducting several seminars and meetings with local communities to explain the role of wetlands. Networks have been established regionally and nationally where information on wetlands of Egypt are included.

3.2.2. Information about Egypt's wetlands and their status have been made publicly available. These include the National Wetland Strategy, 3 books about Lake Nasser, Lake Bardawil and Lake Brullus, database on wetlands, web sites for protected areas, biodiversity and environmental forum:

http://www.egyptchm.org see (Egypt's Biodiversity - Relevant Websites)

http://www.medwet.org

http://www.globwetland.org

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 national implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

STRATEGY 4.1 *Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values: Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, including women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including in relation to understanding the dynamics of cultural values.*

Indicator questions:

4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5}	A - Yes
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	A - Yes
4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party promote public participation in decision-making (with respect to wetlands), especially with local stakeholder involvement in the selection of new Ramsar sites and in Ramsar site management? {6.1.4}	A - Yes
4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii}	A - Yes
4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} [if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.1.1 – 4.1.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.1.3: [.. additional information …]"

4.1.1 - Resources information on local communities and indigenous people have been completed for many wetlands including Zaranik, Brullus, Wadi Allaqi, Qarun, Wadi Rayan, and along the Red Sea coast and Gulf of Aqaba, particularly communities dealing with mangroves. For example, number of people living in Burullus Lake has exceeded 275000 person, whereas at Zaranik, it dose not exceed 500 person. Similarly, estimated population of 5 villages around mangroves was 437. In addition to the population, information available include education level, employment status, marital status, origin of the population (in case of tribes and bedouins), their perception to conservation, and threats to wetlands.

4.1.2 - Several studies have been conducted on the traditional knowledge in wetlands, including Zaranik, Brullus, Qaroun, Rayan, Wadi Allaqi, and the Red Sea coast. Knowledge included fishing practice, women knowledge of medicinal plans, role of women in the community, knowledge on birds, agricultural knowledge, grazing activities. These studies are being in cooperated in one report to assess knowledge prepare lessons learned, as the first step to encourage applications to wetland management. Meanwhile a new law is being prepared regarding access and benefit sharing arising from the use of biological resources. This new law will call for documenting all traditional knowledge to protect and regulate biological resources use.

4.1.3 - The Presidential Campaign and the governmental programmers encourage decentralization of the government. There exist a Ministry for local development, and there are local authorities that are elected by the local people. In wetland sites, stakeholders meet regularly with authorities of the natural conservation (managers of protected areas where wetlands exist) to gather with the governorates (e.g. North Sinai, Kafr el – Sheikh, Red Sea, and Aswan). Different types of wetlands have been identified (see enclosed strategy), and a very long list of sites, varying from few to thousands of acres is completed. Priority sites are being selected, and a consultation process is being made for selection of new sites for Ramsar. It is hoped few Sites (e.g. Wadi Rayan and Qarun) will be nominated soon.

4.1.4 - Educational and training activities have been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands. Based on traditional knowledge available, many activities have been implemented. These included issuing birth certificate for women to benefit from governmental resources for local communities, training women to improve their skills in handcrafts that reflect their environment, provide alternatives for livelihood, (e.g. training in using honeybee heaves), application of best practices in wetland, etc.

4.1.5 - Based on the national wetland strategy, the fourth goal is full ecological, economic, cultural and social values of wetlands to be assessed and protected. Plans for management of wetlands should be an integral part of national plans for development. The guiding principles of the strategy call for actions to manage a wetland site should observe socio – economic and socio – cultural interests of communities associated with the wetland site to be managed. Sustainability of these actions depends on public support and active participation of people who depend for their life – support on the wetland site. These actions have been identified with clear objectives to be achieved in the management plan (see enclosed national strategy). Most of actions are based on the cultural values of wetlands. Several programs of action were prepared and being implemented. These include research on societal, economic and cultural features of local communities' impacts of human activities on ecosystems and mitigation measures. Management plans call for mechanism concerning social mechanism and preparing inventories of cultural heritage.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.2 *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

4.2.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands? {7.1.1}	A - Yes
4.2.2 Have private-sector "Friends of Wetlands" fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.2.1 – 4.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.2.2: [.. additional information …]"

4.2.1- Private sector has been encouraged to apply wise use principle in activities and investment concerning wetlands. During the last few years, many fish farms were established by private sector, the result was fish from aquaculture practice has contributed significantly bay more than 60% of the total fish catch. Prior establishment of a fish farm, an environmental impact assessment has to be carried out, approved by EEAA and monitored by managers of protected areas. For example, at Lake Burullus, there exist many fish farms that contribute by about 150000 tons of fish in 120 km of wetland, compared with only 60000 tons of fish that are caught by fisher men in 300 km2. Similarly there exist about 4000 acres of fish farms around Qarun and Wadi Rayan lakes, where each acre can produce up to two tons. Similarly, private sector has been involved in many activities dealing with coastal habitat management, particularly coral reefs. Prior establishment of any activity (e.g. hotel, resort, desalination plant), an environmental impact assessment has to be carried out and approved by EEAA. Rangers of protected areas follow up with activities during construction and operation phase. Those who violate law 4 for environmental protection and law 102 for natural protectorate are submitted to courts, and have to pay the cost of environmental degradation.

4.2.2 - There exist mechanisms for coordinating private sector activities within wetlands. Examples include cooperative for owners of fish farms, investors associations at Sharm el-Sheikh, Hurghada and Marsa Alaam. These investors meet regularly with protected areas mangers and staff, as well as local authorities to regulate activities, and ensure the wise use of wetlands.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.3 *Promote measures which encourage the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

4.3.1 Have actions been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	A - Yes
4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.3.2: [.. additional information …]"

4.3.1 – Actions have been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These included providing fisherman with engines for their boats (Zaranik), buying fishing gear with legalized mesh for fishermen with a discount of 50%, involvement of local comunities with sustainable touristic activities (bird hides, bird observatory), provide incentives to fisherman to remove weeds in wetlands, provide fodder for their animals to reduced grazing , ensure boughaz (already idendified before) are maintained, establish fish hatcheries by the general authority for development of fish authorities and private sector, encourage establishment of fish farms , and provide fishermen with refrigerators to keep fish prior marketing.

Sustainable ecological tourism projects at Zaranik Protected Area, a Ramsar site and a migratory bird pass, is encouraged by building 4 bird observation huts, an ecolodge to receive bird observation groups and a parking place. This project is providing work opportunities to many of the local people decreasing poverty.

4.3.2 - Actions taken to remove pressure on incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands include, providing locals with honey bee heaves and provide training to improve their livelihood, provide cookers instead of using wood as a source of energy, provide job opportunities in other fields (e.g. tourism) to decrease fishing pressures, and involve them in wetland management based on the above national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands were identified and their activities were integrated based on the recommendations provided by the wetland strategy.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.4 *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Programme (Resolution VIII.31) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA).*

Indicator questions:

4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]	A - Yes
4.4.2 Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the subnational, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? {r.9.iii.iii} [Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4]	C - Partly
4.4.3 Have actions been taken to communicate and share information cross-sectorally on wetland issues amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {r9.iii.v}	A - Yes

4.4.4 Have national campaigns, programmes, and projects been carried out to raise community awareness of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {r9.vi.i} [If: a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]	A - Yes
4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}	A - Yes
4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i} [If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.4.1 – 4.4.6 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.4.3: [.. additional information …]"

4.4.1- The fourth objective of the national wetland strategy is to ensure community recognition of wetlands as natural assets, and to promote public support to programs of action for sustainability. Specific action include, public awareness on wetlands socio-economic and environmental values, disseminate information to local communities, seek to expand curricula and other learning activities of schools and higher education institutes. Based on that, small unit was established at NCS to coordinate activities related to implementation of wetland CEPA.

4.4.2 - Based on the national wetland strategy 10 national programs were made. The 6th program is related to education and. public awareness, with an estimate cost of 400,000 US$ (see enclosed national strategy)

4.4.3 - A national wetland data-base was established, using the existing MedWet methodology and software as the basis for monitoring the nation's wetlands. This information was made more widely available to, among others, university students, research institutes, bodies involved in water management.

4.4.4 - The program of action for education and public awareness has four major components. These are setting a frame for education, communication and public awareness among target groups, producing a series of educational materials, promote public awareness materials through media, civil society and schools, and coordinate all activities with Nature Conservation Sector of EEAA. Based on the programs, many actions were taken, including approval of the governor of the Red Sea to allocate a template for environmental education at schools where rangers teach students weekly on matters related to wetlands, producing special book for educators, producing a magazine for children called 'Bezra' (meaning the seed) numerous children books and booklets, interview with media (TV) and numerous articles in news papers.

4.4.5 - Awareness campaigns were organized during World Wetlands Day in last 3 years containg, school visits, and protected areas celebrations, printing posters and educational presentations for university students.
The last 'World Wetlands Day' activities has witnessed several dimensions that could be summarized as follows:

1.Translating posters of the Ramsar "Wetlands Day" into Arabic and publishing them.
2.Publishing a brochure on Wetlands in Egypt, highlighting its economic importance, status and the risks they face.
3.Wetlands protectorates were opened for free to visitors at that Day.

4.Symposiums and seminars (5) were held at public libraries discussing all about Wetlands issues.
5.Schools at Wetland areas were visited by rangers to explain the importance of Wetlands & biodiversity to the community, and how to help in its conservation.
6.A competition was made on Nile Basin Initiative about the best study and picture dealing with the economic value of wetlands, its importance and the dangers that may face. The competition was judged and rewarded by $500.

4.4.6 - Education center have been established at Ramser sites and other wetlands. They are located at Zaranik, Burllus, Saloga and Ghazala Islands, Wadi Allaqi, Geftoun Island, Wadi Rayan, Nabq, and Ras Mohamed. These centers include information focal points fully equipped offices, boundary delimitation, signs, bird hides, information leaflets and book shops.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.5 *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.*

Indicator questions:

4.5.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only] Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {15.1.1} [If "Yes" or "Some countries", please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]	C - some countries
4.5.2 [For Contracting Parties in receipt of development assistance only] Has funding support been mobilized from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {15.1.8} [If "Yes" or "Some countries", please indicate in Additional implementation the agencies from which support has been received since COP9]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.5.1 – 4.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.5.2: [.. additional information …]"

4.5.1 - MedWetCoast project (Egypt) was a regional United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project funded by the Global Environment Facilities (GEF) and the Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM). It aimed to provide supporting programmes for conservation of Mediterranean wetland sites in Egypt, in addition to governmental fund (Ministry of state for Environmental affairs). Other funding Egypt received was from PERSGA and ITTO for conservation of coral reefs and mangrove. see (http://www.medwet.org , http://www.globwetland.org , http://www.egyptchm.org)

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.5 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.6 *Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.*

Indicator questions:

4.6.1 {16.1.1} a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?	A - Yes
b) If "No" in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	
Egypt has allready added its contribution in full (466 000 Swiss Frank) for the year 2007-2008.	

4.6.2 {16.1.2} a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity?	B - No
b) If yes, please state the amounts:	

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.6.1 – 4.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.6.2: [.. additional information …]"

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.6 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.7 *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Framework.*

Indicator questions:

4.7.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

4.7.1 - National reports submitted previously to Ramser secretariat were based on consultation with relevant stakeholders. Once the national report was finished, it was sent to national governmental institutions for endorsement. After attending COPs, and report is prepared, and sent to relevant authorities. Main activities related to monitoring the convention implementations are usually conducted with assistance of different stakeholders. For example, research is usually carried out by the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries and other research centers. Database on wetlands are regularly stored at NCS and are available at the website or biodiversity CHM.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.7 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.8 *Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implemenation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]	A - Yes
4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2} [If "Yes", please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.8.1 – 4.8.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.8.2: [.. additional information …]"

4.8.1. It was suggested at the national wetland strategy that a national council for wetland strategy be established. This council will be the policy and planning body and the supreme authority for Egyptian wetlands plans.

4.8.2. A prime ministerial Decree (# 2649) was issued on 29 th November 2007 for the establishment of the Supreme Committee for integrated wetlands and biodiversity conservation. It is chaired by the Minister of Environment, with membership of representatives of many governmental institutions, private sector, scientists and NGOs (e.g. Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Nature Conservation Sector, National Center for Water Research, Ministry of Housing, National Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries, National Authority for Remote Sensing, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Ministry of Health, General Authority for Tourist Development, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Interior). The Supreme Committee will oversee the implementation of the national plan and its programmes, review policies and plans for sustainable development of wetlands, provide financial mechanisms for supporting the implementation of the national plan of action, and coordinate national actions related to Ramsar convention.

The first meeting of the Supreme Committee was held in March 2008. Items discussed included, River Nile Basin Initiative, linking the national Wetland Strategy with River Nile Basin Initiative, establishment of scientific teams with expertise of wetlands, seek support of private sector and civil society, implementation of CEPA in wetlands, establishing wetland network and endorse the national report on wetlands.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.8 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.9 *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

Indicator question:

4.9.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs* in its implementation of the Convention? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]	B - No
4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs*? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]	B - No

* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), and WWF International.

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.9.1-4.9.2

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.9 national implementation:

STRATEGY 4.10 *Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses.*

Indicator questions:

4.10.1 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? [If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]	A - Yes
4.10.2 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention, including in the use of the Wise Use Handbooks, been made? {20.1.2}	A - Yes
4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.10.1 – 4.10.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.10.3: [.. additional information …]"

4.10.1 - During the last 3 years intensive training programs were conducted at regional level. These included training on coastal and marine invasive species (supported by PERSGA at Hurghada and RAC/SPA at Sharm el Shkeik, Egypt), monitoring and research related to conservation of turtles (Cyprus – Jeddah), marine birds, coral reefs and mangroves (Jeddah – Djibouti- Yemen).
4.10.2 - Training needs assessment was conducted. A training strategy was prepared by an expert

from Italy within the framework of Italian – Egyptian Cooperation Program. The following is a summary

Training Needs Assessment

One of the main issues that came out of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Egypt's Protected Areas was the Limited Training Opportunities. In Cooperation with the Capacity Building and Institutional Support Program funded by Italian – Egyptian Environmental Cooperation Programme, an international expert was hired in (2005) to assess training needs for NCS Staff. The Expert was given two Tasks:

1. Analyze the training profiles of NCS Staff, to identify potentialities and weakness of NCS employees and the related training needs, to draw the guidelines for Training Plan, to identify training opportunities and target groups, and to outline the content of the courses to be carried out.

2. Carry out, through a SWOT analysis process on overall evaluation of the NCS Training Centre at Sharm El-Sheikh, of it is facilities, capacities and training needs of its trainers, all aimed at reinforcing the Capacity of the Centre and at promoting it's development as a regional Center of Training Excellence.

The Work of the international expert together with Senior Staff of NCS went through Four Phases:

Preparatory Work: Standard - Questionnaires were prepared and distributed to NCS staff at the central and local levels. A list of main question and information were collected during the first mission to Egypt by means of interviews and meetings. Target groups have been identified.

Data Collection and Training Center Review:

This phase was undertaken by the expert and senior staff of NCS where they were asked to describe in detail the time planning and activities carried out, including data and other relevant information such as dissemination of objectives and scope of the Training Centre and its work methodology.
The distribution of Questionnaires within NCS staff started during this phase

Data Analysis and Assessment:

This phase aimed at organizing and record useful information and data provided by the questioners in order to process them. Data analysis and training needs assessment went through (5) stages conceptual processes: Occupational Analysis, Functional Analysis, Skills Audit, Training Needs and Training Programme.

Sharing and disseminating finding:

This was conducted during the second mission (January 2006) of the expert to Egypt, and attended by the Director of NCS, Directors of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Department, Senior NCS staff, National Experts, Managers of Protected Areas and some of their senior staff.

Main Findings:

1-Training Needs

A total of (514) questionnaires were sent to (NCS) staff including lawyers / legal affairs, managers, rangers / environmental researcher, accountants and administrators, guards and clericals. The average age of staff was 35.5 years, most of them (62%) were on temporary contracts (during the last few months more than 170 staff became permanent staff). Level of formal education was quite high as most of them have academic university degree, others with M.sc (24) and Ph.D (7). Most of staff (84%) were with good English knowledge.

Training experience was very low (the average for the whole staff was 2.5 experiences per person, however it was quite satisfactory for managers (4.6 experiences / person) and rangers (3.8 experiences).

Satisfaction about personal knowledge and qualifications, job performances and present positions were variable, depending on PAs (same problems with Wadi Degla, Ashtoum El – Gamil and Siwa PAs). Dissatisfaction was evident for accountants and some rangers due to lack or inadequacy of training or problems connected with workplace (organization problems, lack of resources, etc).

NCS employees are aware of their duties and responsibilities and know which are their needs in terms of requested knowledge and skills. However, training and work experiences are not sufficient to ensure effective and professional level of work. Rangers perform very different and heterogeneous tasks depending on individual qualification and specificity of each PA. Guards seem to have other roles besides guarding and patrolling, which appear under estimated (i.e. in public awareness and visitor management).

With regards to training needs, the most requested topics of training were: computer skills, specific technical skills, safety, environmental education and sustainable development education, international and national conservation strategies and PAs policies, biodiversity monitoring and management. Rangers specified training towards sustainable issues (sustainable tourism) and law enforcement. Other training topics included environmental economics, management and planning (e.g. leadership, time management, human resource management, risk management, business planning).

Concerning the kind of training, there was a clear preference for the study tour abroad (the most mentioned destinations were USA, South Africa, Jordan and England). Other choices were: intensive and extensive training, study tour in Egypt and on the job.

A training strategy approach was prepared, based or the global issues and future conservation challenges. It aimed towards enhancing Egyptian PAs systems on the level of management. The training plan includes a top priority, and two mainstreams of actions. Top priority is considered a training course, the implementation of which is a pre – requisite for putting in practice any further action (e.g. Training for Trainers). The two main streams include a group of courses dealing with 'cross-cutting themes' e.g. courses aiming at a given common knowledge and capacities background to all NCS and courses dedicated to improve the skills requested by a specific job or rank or position in the NCS structure.

Training activities for all NCS staff (cultural and technical cross – cutting themes) include:

-Speaking a common language: Protected Areas and the global conservation challenges,
-Basic communication and public awareness promotion skills,
-Basic computer skills,
-Environmental legislation, law enforcement,
-Reporting skills,
-Basic knowledge of English language.

PA Mangers and NCS top rank personal should receive the following training:

-Team building activities,
-Human resource management,
-PAs planning and management,
-PAs management and sustainable development planning,
-Biodiversity conservation principles and techniques,
-Communication, public awareness and environmental education: principles and techniques,
-Environmental education and sustainable development issues.

Rangers should receive the following training:

-Biodiversity monitoring and management,
-GIS, IT and practical applications,
-Safety and other specific technical skills,
-Basic skills of environmental interpretation,
-Advanced computer skills.

Administrators and legal affairs should receive training on advanced computer skills, whereas

community guards receive training and safety and other accident prevention, first aid, visitor assistance, patrolling and technical skills.

For each course, based on IUCN World - Commission on Protected Areas, the consultant provided the aims, objectives, target group, kind of training and suggested duration, suggested modules / topics and guidelines.

4.10.3 - Based on the training needs assessment and training strategy, several training workshops were conducted during 2006 and 2007. These included new rangers and managers of protected areas where wetlands exist.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.10 national implementation: