



**NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Republic of Korea, October/November 2008).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 35<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

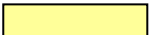
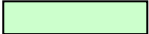
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: IRAQ</b>  |   |
| <b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>   |   |
| <b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>  | <b>National Committee for Wetlands in Iraq</b>  |
| <b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>   | Dr. Hassan Janabi, Advisor to the Minister of Water Resources   |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   | Advisory Board<br>Council of Minister<br>Baghdad-Iraq   |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   | +964 790 192 5404   |
| <b>Email:</b>   | ramsar.iraq@gmail.com   |
| <b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>                              |   |
| <b>Name and title:</b>  | Ekram Qassim (Ms), Chief engineer in Water Resources,<br>Member of the Advisory Board to Iraqi Government |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   | General Secretariat for Council of Ministers<br>National Committee on Wetlands in Iraq                    |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   | Tel: +9647901164537   |
| <b>Email:</b>   | ramsar.iraq@gmail.com   |
| <b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>                                       |   |
| <b>Name and title of focal point:</b>   | Dr. Adnan Hassan, expert in Environmental geochemistry  |
| <b>Name of organisation:</b>  | Ministry of Science and Technology  |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   | Ministry of Science and Technology<br>Baghdad/ Iraq   |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   | 07902200638   |
| <b>Email:</b>   | adnan_Afaj2004@yahoo.com  |
| <b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS</b>     |   |
| <b>Name and title of focal point:</b>   | Dr. Kamal Hussain Latif   |
| <b>Name of organisation:</b>  | Ministry of Environment   |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   | Ministry of Environment/ Baghdad/ Iraq  |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   |   |
| <b>Email:</b>   | moen_iraq@yahoo.com   |
| <b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS</b> |   |
| <b>Name and title:</b>  | To Be Determined.   |
| <b>Name of organisation:</b>  |   |
| <b>Mailing address:</b>   |   |
| <b>Telephone/Fax:</b>   |   |
| <b>Email:</b>   | ramsar.Iraq@gmail.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?

- 1- Ratification of the accession to Ramsar Convention
- 2- Attending the Asian Regional Meeting in Thailand January, 2008
- 3- Establishment of the Iraqi National Committee

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

Raising the profile and the level of awareness on wetlands issues at government as well as non-government and research institutions levels.

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

Lack of a single focal point or coordinating agency in Iraq to get things done more efficiently.

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

- 1- Designate the focal points,
- 2- Complete the NR,
- 3- Develop and implement management plan for Hawizeh Marsh
- 4- Develop Wetlands Inventory of Iraq.
- 5- Consolidate a comprehensive data base for the Iraqi Wetlands.

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

- Yes, Iraq needs assistance in developing and implementing a national wetland management plan.
- Iraq needs extensive capacity building programs

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

Yes. In surveying, monitoring and reporting on wetlands management, especially on biodiversity and migratory species.

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?

Iraq is building its capacity in terms of implementing MEAs. The Ministry of Environment has already signed a number of MEAs that are yet to be ratified by the Iraqi Parliament. Iraq is taking steps towards implementing these agreements and by creating the National Wetlands Committee, Iraq will be able to better link Ramsar Convention with the other MEAs through more coordination and capacity building workshops and training.

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)?



- 1- Closer coordination among all stakeholders including central, regional and local authorities, planning agencies and research institutions.
- 2- Strengthening Iraqi institutions and better define roles and responsibilities of various agencies.
- 3- Regional planning.
- 4- Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management practices.
- 5- Enforcing Environmental Impact Assessment legislations.
- 6- Review existing environmental laws and develop new laws to ensure sustainable development.
- 7- Intensify capacity development programs for all stakeholders
- 8- Education on and promotion of wise use of natural resources.

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

Iraq is at an earlier stage of implementing the Convention but is determined to live up to its obligations under the Ramsar 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}   | B - No             |
| 1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}   | B - No             |
| 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}<br>[if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed] | C - For some sites |
| 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:<br>a) Ramsar sites<br>b) wetlands generally                               | A - Greater<br>--- |

### 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: Iraq has an initial inventory of wetlands done by an international agency for the Ministry of Environment in late 1960s and it needs updating.

1.1.2: The information has not been easily accessible to all stakeholders.

1.1.3: So far only the information on the Hawizeh Marsh RIS is accessible. However, a number of studies have been done on the Hawizeh Marsh. Copies of the studies are available on request.

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}<br>[If “Yes”, please give the title and date of the policy in Additional implementation information]  | B - No      |
| 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}   | B - No      |
| 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} | B - No      |
| 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}   | D - Planned |

**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 ...]”

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}<br>[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] | C - Partly |
| 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}  | C - Partly |
| 1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}  | B - No     |
| 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}   | B - No     |

### 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: Various studies had been conducted, some of them by an Iraqi NGO funded by the Italian Ministry of Environment and territories that compared the benefit of wetland versus other land uses.

1.3.2: Although the wise use concept of wetlands has not been fully implemented, it underpins various discussion forums, workshops, site assessments and meetings with stakeholders. No formal policies have been approved as Iraq is moving towards stability and the rule of law.

1.3.3 & 1.3.4: The National Ramsar Committee is getting established and it is anticipated that international guidelines and principles would be followed.

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

1.3: Iraqi wetlands are getting higher visibility and greater significance in terms of poverty reduction and the preservation of cultural and social values. The research community in Iraqi universities is focusing a good deal of efforts towards more understanding of the marshland ecosystem.

It is worth mentioning that steps had been taken to construct a National Museum and Research Center for the marshlands in Iraq to contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage and enhance public awareness of the marshlands values.

**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} | B - No |
| 1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?   | B - No |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| 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} | B - No |
| 1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}   | B - No |

**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 ...]”

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

Integrated Water Resources Management is a new concept in Iraq and there is an understanding that this approach must be implemented. However, the process is not straight forward and is linked to the political process and the stability of the government. Iraq used to have plenty of water. It developed an extensive control structures but the patterns of water use hasn't changed much with inefficient agriculture consuming nearly 90% of annual water available in the country. Industrial/commercial use of water has been historically limited. Water for environmental restoration is a new phenomena in Iraq and it has been implemented since the removal of the former regime. Further steps towards integrating the management of water resources are necessary.

**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}<br>[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} | B - No  |

**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: The restoration of the Iraqi marshlands is an ongoing process since the end of the war in 2003. More of the historically inundated wetland areas drained under the former regime are getting restored. Projects are being implemented including those who help in generating economic benefit as well as facilitating the introduction of basic services. The restoration of the marshes in Iraq is one of the most fascinating occurrence in the life of hundreds of thousand of families in the vicinity of the marshes.

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

**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} | B - No     |

**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: The Ministry of Water Resources has a program to eradicate invasive aquatic weeds. Due to years of wars, neglect, lack of maintenance and the discharge of pollutants and sewage into Iraq's rivers and canals, conditions were created for exotic and invasive weeds that threatened the native species and caused significant imbalance in the natural system. The Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a program to remove the weed mechanically but it's also persuing other ways to fight this phenomena.

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

1.6: Iraq must allocate more resources to protect and preserve the biodiversity in the marshes. Research institutes, universities and international specialized organizations need to work together to develop the knowledge base, collect all possible information on native, as well as exotic species and help in developing methods to eradicaat the harmful invasive species.

## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition; Handbook 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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]

D - Planned

### Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

2.1.1: It is widely known that more sites are qualified for designation as Ramsar sites. However, no steps have been taken yet towards this goal. The process may start following the establishment of the National Ramsar Committee in Iraq.

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}

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2.2.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its database used in national implementation of the Convention concerning Ramsar site issues?

C - Partly

### 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: Not applicable

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

**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}  | C - Partly  |
| 2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2}<br>[ 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] | D - Planned |
| 2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5}<br>[If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information]   | B - No      |
| 2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out?<br>[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]  | B - No      |

**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 ...]”

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}<br>[If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]  | D - Planned        |
| 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}<br>[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] | B - No             |
| 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}<br>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]   | D - Not applicable |

**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 ...]”

2.4.3: We believe that the Hawizeh Marsh, the only Ramsar Site in Iraq, is facing imminent danger and is becoming hydrologically and ecologically stressed. Upstream dam building in Turkey as well as in Iran have caused significant decrease in water infows to the marsh. The construction of Karkha dam in Iran and the currently under construction Ilisu Dam in Turkey represent real threat to the ecological and hydrological integrity of the Marsh. It is likely that Iraq will try to have the Hawizeh Marsh registered in Motreux Record.

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}<br>[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 ...]”

2.5.2: Iraq and its riparian countries still have a long way to go to ensure effective management. Cooperative programs are implemented when it comes to the shared water resources or transboundary wetlands. There have been contacts and discussions between Iraq and Iran at various levels to ensure a mutual understanding of marsh and water issues. However, further steps are needed to transform this into implementable programs. This also applies to Iraq’s relationship with Turkey and Syria.

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

2.5: It is anticipated that Ramsar Convention will represent the perfect forum for Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Sysria to agree on cooperative management approaches towards wetlands protection and wise use. Iraq believes that the application of Ramsar Conventions relavant resolutions as well as the existing United Nations agreements are the best guarantees for preservation, wise use and fair and equitable share of economic benefit of wetlands amongst the riparian nations.

**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]

B - No

**Additional implementation information:**

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

2.6.1: Although Iraq's ratification of the Ramsar Convention entered into force on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 2008, initial discussions and bilateral contacts have taken place. It is expected that these contacts and discussions will gain momentum in the coming years.

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} | B - No      |
| 3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}   | D - Planned |
| 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}   | ---         |

#### 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 ...]”

3.1.2: The National Ramsar Committee is being formed and therefore, no major activities have been organized.

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}<br>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved] | C - Partly |
| 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}  | C - Partly |

#### Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1: Since 2003, a wide range of workshops and capacity building sessions have been conducted for staff from various Iraqi ministries and local authorities. However, the entire exercise lacked appropriate institutional coordination at the national level. This is partially attributed to the political situation and due to lack of a national focal point agency in charge of developing and implementing nation-wide programs on wetlands in the country.

3.2.2: Iraq has developed and is developing a wide range of publications on its wetlands. These publications are becoming more and more publically available.

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}  | C - Partly |
| 4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}  | C - Partly |
| 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}  | C - Partly |
| 4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi}<br><small>[if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]</small> | C - Partly |

### 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 - 4.1.5: There is a great deal of information on indigenous people, their heritage and activities. As they started to move back to their lands, after years of displacement under the former regime, their participation in managing their lives and their habitat has increased. However, the process is more complicated than anticipated due to the changing nature of landuse, past government practices and the chaotic nature of some of the actions introduced by the current government. As the situation stabilizes more coordinated and beneficial input of the local inhabitants is expected. The local inhabitants are in great need for education and help to resort to the principles of wise use of wetland and to abandon the unsustainable methods of fishing or agriculture.

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]

B - No

**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: The marshlands of Iraq are the main source of economic activities in southern Iraq. The limited industries and commercial activities are all in private hands. However, there is a potential for dramatic increase in economic activities once the private sector invest more resources in dairy product, fishing, traditional and popular businesses. More work needs to be done on the part of Central as well as Local authorities to create conditions for profitable and sustainable investment in economic development of the region.

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}

C - Partly

4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}

C - Partly

**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: Various activities on marsh restoration in southern Iraq have resulted in local inhabitants taking active role in encouraging wise use of wetlands. Methods that lead to overfishing and/or pollution increase have been prohibited by the locals rather than by the government. These local initiatives have been encouraged by the government as they represent positive shifting in the attitude of the people who are benefiting directly from the newly restored marshlands and their appreciation of what the marshlands can do in terms of poverty reduction.

4.3.2: Actions have been taken to remove privileges granted by the former regime for some of its loyalists particularly in the former marshlands that have been drained to allow unproductive agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture cancelled land lease contracts allowing for the restoration of the marshlands to take place as it is proven to be more profitable and environmentally necessary for Iraq to undo the injustices that have been done by the former regime to the indigenous people and their habitat.

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:**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <p>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}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]</p>  | <p>B - No</p>     |
| <p>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}</p> <p>[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]</p>   | <p>B - No</p>     |
| <p>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}</p>   | <p>C - Partly</p> |
| <p>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}</p> <p>[If:</p> <p>a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or</p> <p>b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values,</p> <p>please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p> | <p>C - Partly</p> |
| <p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>  | <p>A - Yes</p>    |
| <p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl &amp; Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>   | <p>B - No</p>     |

**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 ...]”

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:**

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <p>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}<br/>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p>                               | <p>D - Not applicable</p> |
| <p>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}<br/>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the agencies from which support has been received since COP9]</p> | <p>D - Not applicable</p> |

**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 ...]”

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:**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <p>4.6.1 {16.1.1}<br/>a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?</p> | <p>---</p> |
| <p>b) If “No” in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p>   |            |
| <p>Not applicable</p>  |            |

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

**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 ...]”

[Green bar for additional information]

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

[Green bar for additional information]

**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:**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <p>4.7.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention?<br/>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring]</p> | --- |
|---|-----|

**Additional implementation information:**

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

Not applicable

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

[Green bar for additional information]

**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:**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <p>4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1}<br/>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]</p> | B - No     |
| <p>4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2}<br/>[If “Yes”, please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]</p>   | 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 ...]”

[Green bar for additional information]

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:**

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

\* 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:**

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <p>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?<br/>[If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]</p> | <p>D - Planned</p> |
| <p>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}</p>  | <p>B - No</p>      |
| <p>4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}</p>   | <p>B - No</p>      |

**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 ...]"

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

