



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.

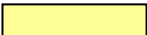
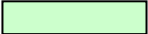
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis 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: LEBANON	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of environment Department of Conservation of Natural Wealth
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Ms. Lara Samaha / Head of Department
Mailing address:	Lazarieh bldg. Block A4 New, 7th floor P.O. Box 11 – 2727 Beirut Central District, Beirut, Lebanon
Telephone/Fax:	00961 1 976 555 ext. 417 Fax: 00961 1 976 530
Email:	l.samaha@moe.gov.lb
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Nabil Assaf, Forest Engineer-Ecologist, Department of Conservation of Natural Wealth
Mailing address:	Lazarieh bldg. Block A4 New, 7th floor P.O. Box 11 – 2727 Beirut Central District, Beirut, Lebanon
Telephone/Fax:	00961 1 976 555 ext. 555 Fax: 00961 1 976 530
Email:	n.assaf@moe.gov.lb
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Lina Yamout - Acting Chief of Service, Protection of urban Environment
Name of organisation:	Ministry of Environment
Mailing address:	Lazarieh bldg. Block A4 New, 7th floor P.O. Box 11 – 2727 Beirut Central District, Beirut, Lebanon
Telephone/Fax:	00961 1 976 555 ext. 443 Fax: 00961 1 976 530
Email:	l.yamout@moe.gov.lb
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	

Name and title:	Mr. Chris Naylor
Name of organisation:	A Rocha Lebanon for the Environment
Mailing address:	PO Box 11-3092 Riad el Solh, Beirut
Telephone/Fax:	00 961 (0) 1 364786
Email:	arocha@cyberia.net.lb



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?

The MedWetCoast project, "Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region". A regional project with national activities in: Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine Authority, and Tunisia, 2001-2006. Project outcomes are mentioned in the section B.

A project has been implemented in Palm Island Nature Reserve aiming at assessing the effect of the oil spill on the biophysical environment of the islands through conducting terrestrial and marine surveys with ecotoxicological laboratory analysis. The project is co-managed by the Lebanese Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and technically supported by the American University in Beirut and the IUCN Mediterranean Marine Program.

The Ministry of Environment signed in 2007 a MoU with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) which is now under implementation for the removal of oil contamination that remains in Palm Islands Nature Reserve resulting from 2006 conflict as well as implementing a monitoring program for the marine part of the reserve

The cleaning of Palm Island Nature Reserve (Ramsar Site Number 1079) after the oil spill from Jieh power plant due to the Israely bombing during july War 2006 on Lebanon

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

The outcomes of the Medwet Coast project for the two Ramsar sites: 1- Ammiq wetland (Site number 978) and 2- Tyre Beach (Site number 980) :

Project Outcomes

Outcome 1:

Promotion and capacity building for the development of national policies and tools to address policy-related root causes of the loss of wetland and coastal biodiversity
Background paper on Wetlands policy and strategies

Assisted in modifying the framework law for nature reserves in Lebanon through private sectors inputs and incentives. Law currently being finalized at Ministry of Environment

Assisted in developing a memorandum of understanding “voluntary agreement” between private landowners & Ministry of environment which has been reviewed

Wetland conservation mainstreamed with at least 12 sectors and Ministries

Outcome 2:

The root causes of biodiversity loss in key demonstration sites are removed, and sites are protected.

Practical and comprehensive management kits for each site to ensure effective management on the scientific institutional and financial fronts

The kit includes: management plans in English & Arabic, practical ecological monitor manuals, site diagnosis report, water& sediment study, business plans, administrative & legal documents)

Biodiversity status improved and overall ecological status of the two sites has improved

Major violations/threats reduced (hunting, grazing, uncontrolled visitor access)

Stakeholders in both sites that have increased their acceptance of the site’s conservation through proactive involvement in site activities and behavioral change either completely or partially

More than 10,000 Lebanese residents have been directly targetted by the project’s awareness events including:

- 7 Off site events
 - 10 events at Tyre Coast nature reserve
 - 6 events at Ammiq Wetland
 - Economic benefits to the local communities from new sources of income
 - Bed & breakfast accommodations (increase from 1 to 3 homes)
 - Organic farming as a more profitable source of income (increased from 3,000 m2 to 10,000m2)
 - Eco-guiding
 - Marine turtle monitoring
 - Bed & breakfast accommodations (increase from 4 to 25 homes)
 - Local produce
 - 32 homes in Aammiq ready to handle food for visitors
 - Eco-guiding
- More than 300 stakeholders have received direct capacity building from project

- Ammiq Wetland 60% of its direct stakeholder categories targeted: farmers, youth club, Mayor, local inhabitants
- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve 75% of its direct stakeholders categories targetted: farmers, Appointed Protected Area Committee , kiosk owners, Tyre Municipal Council in Tyre, local inhabitants
- Capacity building on national level to promote an enabling environment and to Ministry staff to ensure institutional memory

Site resources used in a completely or partially sustainable manner

- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve: 75% of its use categories targeted: organic farming, drip irrigation, uncontrolled public access reduced, fishing
- Ammiq Wetland : 100% of its use categories targeted: Organic farming, uncontrolled public access reduced, grazing controlled & organized

Outcome 3

"Closing of the Mediterranean circle" through cost-effective regional networking for transfer of lessons, interchange and training Participated in 11 regional events from 2002-2006 including regional workshops/seminars, study tours etc..

32 local representatives of sectoral Ministries, NGOs and other institutions have had the opportunity to participate in MedWetCoast regional events

30 communication and awareness tools including: Website, documentary, species field leaflets, brochures, environmental song tapes, eco-guide manual

Collaboration and partnerships with 32 organizations (governments, NGO, Academia, private sector and projects for the amount equal to \$190,000 USD in kind and financial contributions

Ammiq wetland was designated By UNESCO-Man and Biosphere as a transition area of the the Shouf Biosphere Reserve.

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

- The Land Ownership of the Ramsar site number 979 Deir el Nourieh cliffs of Ras Chekaa which is owned by rereligious group.
- Little cooperation from the land owners in Ammiq wetland, only one family cooperated with the MedWetCoast project team and the Ministry of environment
- Insufficient financial and human resources for the implementation of the management plan of ammiq wetland specially that Ammiq wetland is not benefiting from the Ministry of Environment's allocation since the land is private and the Ministry of Environment has no legal direct authority on the land

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

Establishment of National Wetlands Inventory

Establishment of a national wetlands Policy

Update the management plan of Palm Island Ramsar site

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

By helping in the Establishment of National Wetlands Inventory and a national wetlands Policy

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

By including Lebanon into their projects especially the capacity building programme

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?

By close coordination between National focal points

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 Ramsar secretariat should provide contracting parties success stories from different countries

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

No

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}	---
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	A - Greater ---

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 ...]”

1.1.3 Through the outcomes of the MedWetCoast project and A Rocha Lebanon monitoring programme

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]	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}	---
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?	A - Yes
1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2}	B - No

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 ...]"

1.2.4 For Ammiq wetland yes

1.2.5 A draft decree has been prepared in line with international SEA guidelines and European Commission (EC) directive and approved by the Council of State awaiting adoption by the Council of Ministers, consequently any land use and /or water policies, plans and programmes have to comply with SEA guidelines once the SEA decree will be issued.

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]	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}	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}	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 Two business plan were prepared for Ammiq Wtland and Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in the framework of MedWetCoast Project 2001-2006 and are available at the Ministry of Environment WebSite: www.moe.gov.lb

1.3.2 Economic benefits to the local communities from new sources of income

Tye Coast Nature Reserve:

- Bed & breakfast accommodations (increase from 1 to 3 homes)
- Organic farming as a more profitable source of income (increased from 3,000 m2 to 10,000m2)
- Eco-guiding (3 locals trained by project)
- Marine turtle monitoring (3 locals trained)

Ammiq Wetland

- Bed & breakfast accommodations (increase from 4 to 25 homes)
- Local produce Aammiq Village shop participated in the weekly open market “Souk El Tayeb” in Beirut
- 32 homes in Aammiq ready to handle food for visitors
- Eco-guiding

1.3.2 The water drainage at Ammiq wetland for agriculture purpose have been stopped

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}	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:

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}	D - Planned

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

Palm Islands nature Reserve (PINR)

A project has been implemented in the site since 2006 aiming at assessing the effect of the oil spill on the biophysical environment of the islands through conducting terrestrial and marine surveys with ecotoxicological laboratory analysis.

The project is co-managed by the Lebanese Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and technically supported by the American University in Beirut and the IUCN Mediterranean Marine Program.

The project resulted in the Development of a short, medium, and long term monitoring plan of indicator/ key species and physical parameters of PINR based on the information collected in the biodiversity survey and pollution assessment Identify further research/ work priorities based on field work.

The Ministry of Environment signed in 2007 a MoU with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) which is now under implementation for the removal of oil contamination that remains in Palm Islands Nature Reserve resulting from 2006 conflict as well as implementing a monitoring program for the marine part of the reserve.

Organic farming initiated in Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

Uncontrolled public access to conserved zones reduced through fencing and guarding

Grazing on Ammiq wetland is controlled in terms of seasons, numbers and location

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}	B - No
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 ...]”

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

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]

D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

2.1.1 A national wetland inventory is needed to identify the potential sites to be declared as Ramsar Sites

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 ...]”

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} [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]	C - Some sites
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]	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 ...]”

2.3.2 Management plans for Ammiq and Tyre Coast Nature Reserve were developed within the MedwetCoast project. The one for Ammiq wetland is being managed by [A Rocha Lebanon / Skaff estate] and the other for Tyre Coast Nature Resrve is implemented by the Reserve's Appointed Committee by the Ministry of Environment Through a Ministerial Decree

2.3.3 A committee have been appointed by the ministry of Environment for Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, composed of representatives from Tyre municipality, Ministry of Agriculture, the administrative authority of Tyre Caza and two local NGO's, its tasks include providing overall supervision and management of the site and the implementation of the management plan. The committee complies with the law of the establishment of Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in order to build up a stable and solid local govermental and crossectoral management and coordination structure that involve all stakeholders and decision makers for the conservation of the site.

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:

<p>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}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]</p>	<p>C - Some sites</p>
<p>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}</p> <p>[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]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]</p>	<p>D - Not applicable</p>

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 through implementation of the management plans developed for Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, Palm Islands Nature Reserve and Ammiq Wetland

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:

<p>2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}</p>	<p>D - Not applicable</p>
<p>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}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]</p>	<p>E - Not applicable</p>

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 ...]”

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 Lebanon is a member in MedWet initiative and a member for the triennial 2007-2010 in the steering group of MedWet representing Asia (Syria, Jordan and Palestine Authority)

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}	B - No
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}	E - Not applicable

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 ...]”

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]	A - Yes
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 A Rocha Lebanon as part of A Rocha International has knowledge sharing mechanisms for projects with wetland components

Through MedWet, there is a twinning programme for Royal Society of Conservation of Nature (Jordan) and Society for Protection of Nature in Lebanon staff

3.2.2 Through brochures, posters and the website of the Ministry of Environment on the link ([http://www.moe.gov.lb/MOE Site/RamsarSites](http://www.moe.gov.lb/MOE%20Site/RamsarSites))

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} <small>[if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]</small>	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 ...]"

4.1.3 The appointed Committees of the two nature reserves: Tyre Coast and Palm Islands include municipalities and NGO's from the regions who are involved in decision-making regarding the management of both sites

4.1.4 and 4.1.5

A Rocha Lebanon have developed "Celebrating Creation" an environmental art program for rural communities in Ammiq Wetland

In year 2008, 2 participatory workshops were conducted in collaboration with the Holland embassy in Lebanon targeting officials as well as local communities with the context of upgrading of Palm Islands nature reserve management plan

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 At Aammiq, on the Skaff estate, "set aside" of agricultural land next to the wetland is practiced in order to reduce agriculture chemical run off, increase buffer habitat and reduce water use, drainage in winter is reduced in the area to increase water levels in the wetland.

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}	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.- Through MoE contribution to NGO's - Ministry of Environment provide financial support for Nature Reserves (including Tyre Coast Nature Reserve and Palm Island Nature Reserve) to cover running cost and management expenses

4.3.2.- By eliminating the subsidies to sugar beet cultivation

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>A - Yes</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 & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</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 ...]”

4.4.3 Wetland conservation mainstreamed with at least 12 sectors and Ministries including

- 15 participants from (NGOs, private sector, Ministries, landowners) participated in the Lebanese working group as the first informal steering committee meeting during the regional workshop to initiate the process for establishing wetland policies and strategies in Lebanon.
- 20 high level government employees from different Ministries participated in a field trip and presentation in AW on the importance & value of wetlands
- 35 participants from (Ministry of Economics, banking sector, private sector, tourism sector) attended the workshop where the business plans for Ammiq Wetland and Tyre Coast Nature Reserve were presented and potential investment options were discussed
- 12 participants from (Ministry of Tourism, syndicates of guides and eco-tour operators) participated in the eco-guide training
- 35 participants from various travel agencies in Lebanon were taken on an informative trip to all the nature reserves to create a new market for eco-tourism in their traditional local tour
- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve has been included in the city wide tourism plan of the World Bank- Council for Development & Reconstruction (CDR) "Cultural Heritage and Urban Development Project" (CHUD) and the ToR for the rehabilitation of Raes El Ain wells has been added to the project CHUD project due to the collaboration efforts of the MedWetCoast Project
- Collaboration with the CDR-"Schema D'aménagement du Territoire Libanais Project "(SDATL) and private consultancy Dar Al-Handasah (Shair and Partners) to integrate wetlands in the master land use plan for Lebanon by disseminating to the concerned entities informative packages about wetlands, important bird areas and migration routes in Lebanon
- Collaboration with the Lebanese Marine Civil Defense-Sea Rescue Team for potential joined effort in marine turtle protection including monitoring, diving, photography and rescue
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Syndicate of Guides, Lebanese University Faculty of Tourism to formulate a standardized and nationally accredited certification and training for eco-guides
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Transport for TyreCoast Nature Reserve protection
- Arrangement of a meeting with the Tyre Municipality, CDR-CHUD Project, Caritas fishermen Project, and the fishermen syndicate to initiate collaboration between all the players for more sustainable fishing

4.4.4 More than 10,000 Lebanese residents have been directly targetted by the MedWetCoast project's awareness events:

For Ammiq Wetland and Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (TCNR):

- Informative visits were organised to many groups on site: scouts, clubs, government officials, university students, school children
- Lectures and presentations were given to schools, universities, clubs, scouts, stakeholders
- More than 40 individuals from different backgrounds have volunteered with the MedWetCoast Project and become missionaries for wetland conservation

7 Off site events

- 1,500 students (age group 8-12) made aware of the importance of Tyre Coast Nature Reserve and marine ecosystems through a 6 day animated awareness campaign in private and public schools in Tyre
- Participated in and co-organized a one week awareness exhibition for National day for Protected Areas in Lebanon (March 10th, 2004)
- Participation in an awareness stand at the Beirut Marathon Event 2006
- Participation in an awareness stand at the World Environment Day 2003
- Participation in an awareness stand at World Environment Day 2004
- Participation in an awareness stand at the X exhibition at Biel
- Participation in an awareness stand at the X exhibition at the Engineer Syndicate

10 events at Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

- 1,200 students made aware of the importance of the cultural and natural heritage of Tyre city and the Reserve through a 20 session animated awareness campaign with educational songs and lectures provided by children animators specialized in environment, from the NGO T.E.R.R.E –LIBAN
- Organisation of a national awareness workshop about marine turtle conservation
- Organisation of regular beach cleanup activities with schools and scouts
- Hosted the awareness event “Sustainable Management of the Lebanese Coast” by Green Line NGO
- Hosting of the Big Blue Operation organized by the Operation Big Blue Association for summer 2003 & 2004)
- Hosted and cost shared the Green Rally Marathon in Tyre City organized by the Ministry of Environment and Beirut Marathon
- Participation in Tyre’s Annual cultural event “Aaras al Mina” in summer 2004 & 2005
- Hosting the launching of Sun Wise Event with an educational concert and an exhibition stand on marine turtles organized by UNDP “Institutional, Strengthening Project for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Lebanon Project”

6 Events at Ammiq Wetland

- Organisation of an awareness seminar for the local communities that discussed several issues (importance / value of Ammiq Wetland, MedWetCoast project introduction, eco-tourism and organic farming as sources of income, experience of Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve as a successful example of nature conservation in Lebanon)
- Organisation of 2 awareness activities for the AmmiqWetland youth club (environmental photography and education field visit to the Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve)
- Participation in an environmental stand in the Aammiq Village annual fair targetted at West Bekaa inhabitants
- Hosting of a field trip and presentation on the importance of wetlands for 35 high level government employees from different Ministries
- Hosting of an informative field trip for 25 members of UNPFA agency unit in Beirut

Raise the ecosystem benefits to the local communities from new sources of income

Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

- Bed & breakfast accommodations (increase from 1 to 3 homes)
- Organic farming as a more profitable source of income (increased from 3,000 m² to 10,000m²)
- Eco-guiding (3 locals trained by project)
- Marine turtle monitoring (3 locals trained by project)

Ammiq Wetland

- Bed & breakfast accommodations (increase from 4 to 25 homes)
- Local produce Aammiq Village shop participated in the weekly open market “Souk El Tayeb” in Beirut
- 32 homes in Aammiq ready to handle food for visitors
- Eco-guiding (locals by project)

1. Increase in the amount of visitors

- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (2,000 visitors in 2006)

Increased tourism potential through promotion and development

- Promotion of eco-tourism development of the two sites through collaboration and marketing with the general public, eco-tour operators and travel agencies

- Developing Tyre Coast Nature Reserve for ecotourism through basic infrastructure (bird hides, trails, interpretative signage, visitor center, boat, kayaks, binoculars, trails) and visitor material
- Developing Ammiq Wetland for ecotourism through basic infrastructure (bird hide, trails, interpretative signage, barges, binoculars, fencing) and visitor material

2. Business plans developed in order to fund the management plans and ensure overall economic viability of both sites.

- Ammiq Wetland business plan has been effectively used to acquire additional funds for an eco-tourism development project

3. Management plans include detailed costs

Awareness Materials were produced and widely disseminated:

- Posters about the importance of wetlands and their benefits
- Posters about the 4 Ramsar Sites in Lebanon
- Brochures on Wetlands in Lebanon
- Environmental songs for Tyre coast Nature Reserve
- Informative Brochures on Tyre Coast Nature Reserve
- Seven Visitors Guides on Fauna and flora in Ammiq wetland
- Manuals for Eco-guides
- Field book on the observed birds at Ammiq Wetland
- A screen saver illustrating the protected areas in Lebanon including Wetlands

4.4.5 in 2007 and 2008 WWDay activities were carried out by A Rocha Lebanon, They included an organised visit to the Bekaa wetlands, special educational mailings on the importance of wetlands and Daily newspaper coverage with 2 articles on the importance of wetlands (al Nahar)

4.4.6 Education centre for schools, universities and the general public is run full time at Ammiq wetland through A Rocha Lebanon

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} [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} [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} 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>B - No</p>
<p>b) If “No” in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p> <div style="background-color: #ffff00; height: 100px;"></div>	

<p>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?</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>b) If yes, please state the amounts:</p> <div style="background-color: #ffff00; height: 100px;"></div>	

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:

<p>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]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
---	----------------

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

National Reports are used as a guide for Ramsar Administrative Authority as a tool for identifying gaps and ensure the monitoring the implementation of the convention.

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:

<p>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 implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>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]</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>

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 ...]”

4.8.2 The Ministry of Environment is fully aware of the importance of a national Wetland Committee and will coordinate with Ramsar Secretariat for more info and experience from other contracting parties

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? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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]</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

4.9.1 A project has been implemented in Palm Island Nature Reserve aiming at assessing the effect of the oil spill on the biophysical environment of the islands through conducting terrestrial and marine surveys with ecotoxicological laboratory analysis. The project is co-managed by the Lebanese Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and technically supported by the American University in Beirut and the IUCN Mediterranean Marine Program.

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? [If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]</p>	<p>C - Partly</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>A - Yes</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 ...]"

4.10.1. Lebanon has participated in the discussions held at the Conference of Parties in Uganda in 2005 for the establishment of the Ramsar Regional training center hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran..

4.10.3. Through MedwetCoast project

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