



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.

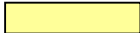
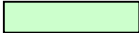
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis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

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA)
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Martin Seychell, Director of Environment
Mailing address:	Malta Environment and Planning Authority Environment Protection Directorate St. Francis Ravelin Floriana FRN 1230 Malta
Telephone/Fax:	+356 2290 7302 / +356 2290 2295 (Attn Mr Martin Seychell)
Email:	martin.seychell@mepa.org.mt

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Darrin T. Stevens, Unit Manager
Mailing address:	Malta Environment and Planning Authority Environment Protection Directorate Ecosystems Management Unit St. Francis Ravelin Floriana FRN 1230 Malta
Telephone/Fax:	+356 2290 7102 / +356 2290 2295 (Attn Mr Darrin T Stevens)
Email:	ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt, darrin.stevens@mepa.org.mt

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)

Name and title of focal point:	
Name of organisation:	Malta Environment & Planning Authority
Mailing address:	Malta Environment and Planning Authority Environment Protection Directorate St. Francis Ravelin Floriana FRN 1230 Malta
Telephone/Fax:	+356 2290 7102 / +356 2290 2295 (Attn Unit C/Environment Protection Directorate)
Email:	ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt, nature.protection@mepa.org.mt

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:	Malta Environment & Planning Authority
Mailing address:	Malta Environment and Planning Authority Environment Protection Directorate St. Francis Ravelin Floriana FRN 1230 Malta
Telephone/Fax:	+356 2290 7102 / +356 2290 2295 (Attn Unit C/Environment

	Protection Directorate)
Email:	ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt, nature.protection@mepa.org.mt
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title:	
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	



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?

In Malta there are two Ramsar sites - L-Għadira (l/o Mellieħa) and Is-Simar (l/o San Pawl il-Baħar) - which are also protected via the subsidiary legislation of the Environment Protection Act [Cap. 435], namely the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006) and the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 79 of 2006 as amended). Through the provisions of the above-mentioned legislation, both sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation of International Importance, Special Protection Areas and Bird Sanctuaries. Both L-Għadira and Is-Simar are declared as lakes under the Water Policy Framework Regulations, 2004 (Legal Notice 194 of 2004), which transpose the Water Framework Directive. Both sites were also scheduled under the vires of the Development Planning Act as Areas of Ecological Importance and Sites of Scientific Importance in 2006.

Since COP9, BirdLife Malta (a non-governmental organisation) together with the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (the Ramsar Administrative Authority) and the Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment, continued with the management of both L-Għadira and Is-Simar. The management plans of these sites are also being reviewed as their five-year period elapses in 2008.

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

Further protection has been afforded to the sites since COP9, since L-Għadira and Is-Simar have been also designated as Special Protection Areas, and hence form part of the EU Natura 2000 network; and have also been declared as lakes under the Water Policy Framework Regulations of 2004. Additionally, they have been scheduled specifically under the vires of the Development Planning Act, hence safeguarding further the sites with respect to development. Such designations further strengthen the importance of these wetlands and the need for their continued management.

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

The main difficulty which was encountered is related to resource constraints, which unfortunately hindered Malta in participating fully in the Convention's activities and meetings.

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

Consideration could be given to assess the potential for designation of more Ramsar sites in Malta.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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?

National implementation is already taking into account the link between some of the aspects of implementation of the Ramsar Convention with some of the other MEAs to which Malta is party. For most of the above-mentioned MEAs, responsibility for implementation lies within the same entity in Malta, namely the Malta Environment & Planning Authority (MEPA). This facilitates matters, as communication and coordination is inevitably better than if separate entities were involved. National implementation could possibly be improved further if joint actions are proposed by the various MEAs involved, as this would indirectly instigate national linkages when considering work on the MEAs in question.

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)?

It is acknowledged that a strong link exists between Ramsar Convention implementation and specifically implementation of water policies, especially through river basin management. Greater awareness, even within the relevant responsible authorities, is necessary to ensure that appropriate consultation takes place so that the obligations arising out of the various policies are fulfilled. The biodiversity aspect of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention is currently being integrated with other policies through the compilation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NBSAP is viewed as an important tool for implementing measures at a national level, whilst mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into all public sectors, including amongst others the production sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism, and national sustainable development plans. By mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes, the crucial role that biodiversity has for human well-being is acknowledged and actions are taken to safeguard this resource.

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

N/A.

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in this section

1. For each “indicator question”, please select one answer from the “drop-down” list in the yellow box.
2. If you wish to add any additional information on either one or more of the specific indicators for each strategy, and/or for other aspects of the national implementation of this strategy, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions for each Strategy.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut-and-paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. So as to assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP9, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP9 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

Indicator questions:

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1}	A - Yes
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	C - Partly
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	B - the same B - the same

Additional implementation information:

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

1.1.1: Wetlands have been identified, and have been afforded legal protection under various legislation.

1.1.2: All environmental data is made accessible in accordance with the Aarhus Convention. The Inventory should be accessible online by the end of the year.

1.1.3: The two local Ramsar sites are managed by a local NGO, which records and monitors the status and trends of relevant species as part of the ongoing management. This information is available at the site managers. The level of information available about the status and trends of the ecological character of other wetlands varies.

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}	A - Yes
1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	B - No
1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

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

1.2.1: Although there is no specific National Wetland Policy, wise use of wetlands is ensured through various other policy instruments:

As indicated in Section 2, the two Maltese Ramsar sites have been also protected through local legislation, namely the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006) and the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 79 of 2006 as amended), which transpose the EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Directive 92/43/EEC) and the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Directive 79/409/EEC), respectively.

Through the provisions of the above-mentioned legislation, both sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation of International Importance, Special Protection Areas and Bird Sanctuaries,

and consequently form part of the EU Natura 2000 network. Both sites are also declared as lakes under the Water Policy Framework Regulations (Legal Notice 194 of 2004), which transpose the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The obligations arising out of these EU directives ensure the wise use of these wetlands.

Activities, projects and plans which are likely to affect Natura 2000 sites are subject to assessment in terms of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, thereby ensuring that no significant adverse effects will impact these sites. In addition, the River Basin Management Plan which is required by the WFD, will also ensure the wise use of wetlands.

In the Maltese Islands, land-use policy is guided by the Development Planning Act [Cap. 356] and its Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands, which was drawn up in 1990, and adopted legally through the aforementioned Act. The Plan provides strategic guidance on land-use in the Maltese Islands and contains 320 policies on settlements, the built environment, housing, social and community facilities, commerce and industry, agriculture, minerals, tourism and recreation, transport, urban and rural conservation, ecology and public utilities. Through this Plan, a considerable number of wetlands have been protected as Areas of Ecological Importance and / or Sites of Scientific Importance – including the two Ramsar sites. Such designation affords further detailed protection policies which are applied whenever proposed development projects affect these areas.

1.2.3: The National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD) is the institutional catalyst responsible under the Environmental Protection Act (Act XX of 2001, Cap 435) for promoting sustainable development and drafting A Sustainable Development Strategy for the Maltese Islands, on which further information is available at: <http://home.um.edu.mt/islands/ncsd/ncsd.html>.

1.2.5: In Malta, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2005 (Legal Notice 418 of 2005), which transpose the EU Directive on the Assessment of the Effect of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (Directive 2001/42/EC), provide the regulatory framework for carrying out such assessments on strategic policies, programmes and plans that may impact the environment, including wetlands.

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:

<p>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]</p>	<p>B - No</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>F - Not applicable</p>
<p>1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}</p>	<p>E - Not applicable</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>B - No</p>

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 ...]”

No peatlands are found in the Maltese Islands, and poverty is not a direct concern in relation to wetlands and wetland management in Malta.

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

STRATEGY 1.4: *Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change, all in the context of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).*

Indicator questions:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

1.4.1: The regulation of water resources falls within the competency of the Malta Resources Authority (MRA). Water resources are also covered through the provisions of the Water Policy Framework Regulations of 2004, whose competency is shared between MRA and MEPA. Programmes of work in relation to water resource planning and management are planned, which should aim to take into consideration wise use of wetlands.

1.4.2: A River Basin Management Plan is planned to be prepared for all of Malta, thereby including also the two Ramsar Sites. The CEPA tools will be used once this is ongoing.

1.4.3: ICZM planning and decision-making is regulated by the relevant policies included in the Structure Plan of the Maltese Islands (referred to in the Additional implementation information of 1.2.1).

1.4.4: Policies and measures in connection with the Kyoto Protocol are underway, and it is acknowledged that the conservation of wetlands and the wise use of water resources should be integrated in these policies.

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:

<p>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]</p>	<p>C - Planned</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>B - No</p>

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 Il-Maghluq (l/o Marsaskala) is planned, and a project for the restoration of Is-Salini (l/o Naxxar) has also been submitted for funding. L-Ghadira and Is-Simar are currently being managed by a local NGO and their management includes plans for restoration.

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:

<p>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}</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>
<p>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}</p>	<p>D - Planned</p>

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: Guidelines in connection with the introduction of alien species, as well as guidelines on the keeping, monitoring, prevention, control and eradication measures of established terrestrial invasive and alien species, in terms of Regulation 28 of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (LN 311 of 2006), are planned. These guidelines are aimed as policy at the national level, therefore also applicable to wetlands. In addition, the management plans for the two Ramsar sites also take into consideration the localised impact of alien species at these wetlands.

1.6.2: These policies will be developed in line with other obligations, Conventions and organisations, and consultations will be carried out as necessary, to ensure cooperation between those concerned.

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:

<p>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}</p> <p>[If further Ramsar site designations are planned, please indicate in Additional implementation information, the number of sites and anticipated year of designation]</p>	B - No
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

Various 'protected areas' have been designated and protected at a national and international level through various criteria set by the Environment Protection Act and the Development Planning Act and their subsidiary legislation. The most important freshwater wetlands have already been designated 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:

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

Additional implementation information:

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

2.2.1: The Ramsar Sites Information Sheets are being updated and will be submitted in due course.

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

2.2.2: The RSIS and its database are not used in view of the fact that Malta only has two Ramsar sites, and other national information services/databases are utilised.

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

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	A - Yes
2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised]	A - Yes
2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information]	B - No
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]	D - Planned

Additional implementation information:

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

2.3.1 & 2.3.2: Management plans catering also for the maintenance of the ecological character of the Ramsar sites have been prepared and are currently being reviewed as the five-year period for which they were compiled will elapse in 2008.

2.3.4: A component for facilitating management effectiveness evaluation is being included in the revised management plans for both Ramsar sites.

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>A - Yes</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: The Administrative Authority oversees the management of the two Ramsar sites and the site managers are managing the site through a contractual tri-partite management agreement, which requires financial and progress auditing of the activities carried out by the Administrative Authority (MEPA) and the Ministry responsible for the environment. Thus, changes in the ecological character of the sites would be known.

2.4.2: Such reporting to the Ramsar Secretariat was not necessary since the ecological character of the Maltese Ramsar sites remained stable.

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:

<p>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]</p>	<p>---</p>
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

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

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	A - Yes
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {r13.1.iii}	E - Not applicable
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 ...]”

3.1.1: Most MEAs are dealt with by MEPA. Indeed, the work-plan of the Environment Protection Directorate (EPD) within this Authority already integrates various provisions of multilateral environmental agreements, since MEAs are mostly administered by the same Unit or NFP within the EPD. Moreover, e-groups have been set up to ensure that correspondence from the Secretariat reaches all relevant MEPA staff (e.g. ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt, cbd.malta@mepa.org.mt, cms.malta@mepa.org.mt, etc.).

Furthermore, particularly in relation to treaties with overlapping responsibilities (such as CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD), MEPA has also set up a European Union and Multilateral Affairs Unit (EUMA) to ensure further co-ordination with other institutions and agencies.

In some areas, Memoranda of Understanding are being drafted. In the case of water policy, a Memorandum of Understanding has been already signed between the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the Malta Resources Authority in 2005 on the shared competency and implementation of the aforementioned Water Policy Framework Regulations, 2004 (Legal Notice 194/04), and is being implemented.

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]	B - No
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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
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.2: Education campaigns have continued in the two Ramsar sites. They have been open to the public at scheduled times, during certain periods. Guided visits, including school visits, with talks and publications are provided. Information about the sites is also included in the local NGO's website, which is responsible for the management of these sites. Reference to the sites is also available on the MEPA website, which also includes the boundaries of the sites, a habitat types map, as well as data on the habitats and species found in the area and their conservation status, threats to the site and its vulnerability and other related information; this information is included in standard data sheets employed for the identification of the sites as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

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}	D - Planned
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	B - No
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}	C - Partly
4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii}	B - No
4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} [if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]	D - Planned

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: No resource information has been compiled on local communities to date. However, it is envisaged that these local communities will be involved in wetland management as they are important stakeholders.
 4.1.2: This is not applicable to Malta.
 4.1.3: Public participation is encouraged for site management and it would also be encouraged if new Ramsar sites are identified for designation.
 4.1.4 & 4.1.5: Most of the wetlands in Malta do not have any exceptional cultural traditions. However, where relevant, such as at Is-Salini, cultural traditions associated with the use of salt-pans have been taken into consideration in a proposed project submitted for funding.

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: Activities in protected wetlands are regulated through the aforementioned Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006), and any activities involving development considerations are to follow the provisions of the Development Planning Act (Act I of 1992 as amended). These are both administered by MEPA, and are supplemented by various Supplementary Guidance Documents.

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}	B - No
4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	B - No

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 ...]”

4.3.2: Not applicable.

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>D - Planned</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 ...]”

4.4.1 & 4.4.2: Reference is made to Additional implementation information for 3.2.2.

4.4.3: Actions have not been taken to address cross-sectoral transfer of information specifically for wetlands. However, whenever necessary, information has been communicated to inform relevant ministries, departments and agencies on wetland issues.

4.4.4: Currently, the compilation of a national strategy aimed at identifying strategic goals and actions for raising public and community awareness on Natura 2000 sites is underway (the two Ramsar sites are also Natura 2000 sites). This strategy will not address only wetlands, but all types of Natura 2000 sites. However, most of the important wetlands in Malta do form part of the EU Natura 2000 network and will therefore be catered for through this strategy. In addition, a project proposal which will be submitted for EU funding is also being prepared. This project would include the preparation of the management plans of all Maltese Natura 2000 sites, whilst ensuring consultation with all stakeholders and communities, and awareness raising. Thus, community awareness will be raised for those wetlands that fall within the Natura 2000 network for Malta.

4.4.5: The local NGO responsible for site management of Malta's two Ramsar sites have this year invited the public to the sites to celebrate World Wetlands Day. BirdLife Malta, together with their major education sponsor APS Bank, also organised educational tours for the students of De La Salle College to the Nature Reserves. As part of BirdLife's education programme, students from De La Salle College were given a guided tour of the reserves. Staff at the reserves explained why wetlands are valuable.

4.4.6: There is an educational programme for both Ramsar sites, which programme targets the general public and schools in particular. The education/visitors centres play an integral role, as do school visits and organised events.

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:

4.6.1 {16.1.1}	A - Yes
a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?	
b) If "No" in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	N/A.
N/A.	

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

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 ...]"

[Redacted area]

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

[Redacted area]

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

Indicator questions:

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

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

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

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

Indicator questions:

4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]	C - Partly
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]	B - No

Additional implementation information:

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

4.8.1: The review started in 2004 in conjunction with the setting up of the Water Policy Framework Regulations, 2004 and the former Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2003 (Legal Notice 257 of 2003). Further work will continue in view of the aforementioned National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) process, and its implementation.

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

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

Indicator question:

4.9.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention’s IOPs* in its implementation of the Convention? [If “Yes”, please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]	A - Yes
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]	A - Yes

* 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 & 4.9.2: The two Maltese Ramsar sites are administered and managed by BirdLife Malta, who provide their expertise in relation to avifauna and management of the sites. The management of the site is funded by Government through a tripartite Management Agreement, established through the vires of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006), between the Ministry for Rural Affairs & the Environment, MEPA and BirdLife Malta. Through this agreement BirdLife Malta receives annual funding for the management of the site. Moreover, Government has seconded Government employees to BirdLife Malta, to assist in the implementation of the management plans for the sites.

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

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

Indicator questions:

4.10.1 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? [If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]	B - No
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}	B - No
4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}	B - No

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: Unfortunately, most training available does not directly tally with the situation of Maltese wetlands, which are often transient/temporary, subject to considerable fluctuations in temperature, nutrients and salinity, and very small.

4.10.3: Wetland site manager training has not been provided in Malta. However, training opportunities in the field of wetland management are occasionally provided by other institutions, which can be followed by the site managers.

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