



## 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

*“Wetlands: home and destination”*

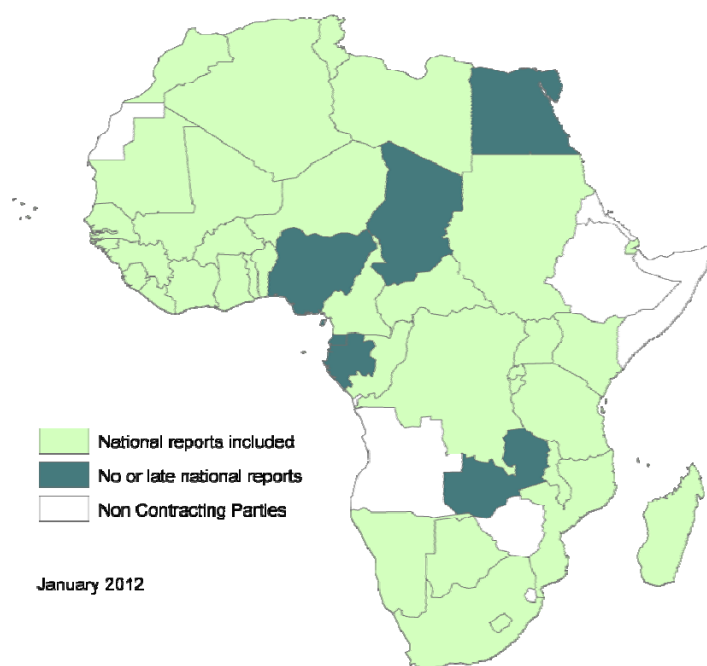
Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012

**Ramsar COP11 DOC. 9**

English and French only

### Regional overview of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in Africa

This synthesis is based on National Reports which are available on the Ramsar website at [www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-natl-rpts-national-reports-2012/main/ramsar/1-31-121%5E25327\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-natl-rpts-national-reports-2012/main/ramsar/1-31-121%5E25327_4000_0__).



**Figure 1: Contracting Parties in Africa**

1. **Contracting Parties in Africa (47):** Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.

2. **Contracting Parties whose National Reports are considered in this analysis (41):** Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and United Republic of Tanzania.
3. National reports from Chad, Egypt, and Nigeria were received after the deadline for inclusion in the Ramsar Database of National Reports to be discussed by COP11. The information from these countries has not been included in this summary.
4. **Contracting Parties yet to submit National Reports (2):** Equatorial Guinea and Zambia. Gabon has submitted a National Report using the COP10 format.

## 1. Main achievements since COP10 and priorities for 2013-2015

### 1.1 Key achievements since COP10

5. Compared to the previous period, the 2009-2012 triennium has been a real takeoff for the implementation of the Convention in Africa. Despite nine months (March-November 2010) without a Senior Advisor for Africa in the Secretariat, the actions under the Convention gained a renewed interest in Africa since November 2010 in terms of the volume and diversity of activities on the continent. Improved communication with the Contracting Parties and the establishment of strategic partnerships with institutions and groups concerned with the wise use of wetlands in the region may be noted among other things. The Africa Region has focused on actions covering both conservation and the balance between conservation and wise use of wetlands. The content of the National Reports illustrates the results of the partnership between the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat, the International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other partners as well. The results of the National Reports are instructive and reveal the many efforts at each level to achieve the goals set in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015. This triennium presented opportunities to innovate in terms of implementation of the Convention given the high demands upon the Secretariat for assistance. As the international environmental agenda requires increasingly high pooling of efforts and investments, so too the Contracting Parties are increasingly called upon to better commit to the implementation of the Convention's principles. This invitation occurs particularly when a financial crisis is hitting the economies of all countries of the world, thus limiting the resources available to the Secretariat's Africa team. Implementing the Convention in a global context weakened by a persisting economic shock will be one of the major challenges that the Africa team will face during the next triennium.
6. During this 2009-2012 triennium, the Parties have recognized the importance of achieving national inventories as a vital basis for many activities necessary for achieving the wise use of wetlands, including policy development, identifying and designating Ramsar Sites, documenting wetland dynamics and identifying wetlands that can be restored. With a growing demand from Contracting Parties to assess and value the wetlands' resources, the

Convention undertakes to support and encourage them in preparing the reporting of inventory during the next triennium.

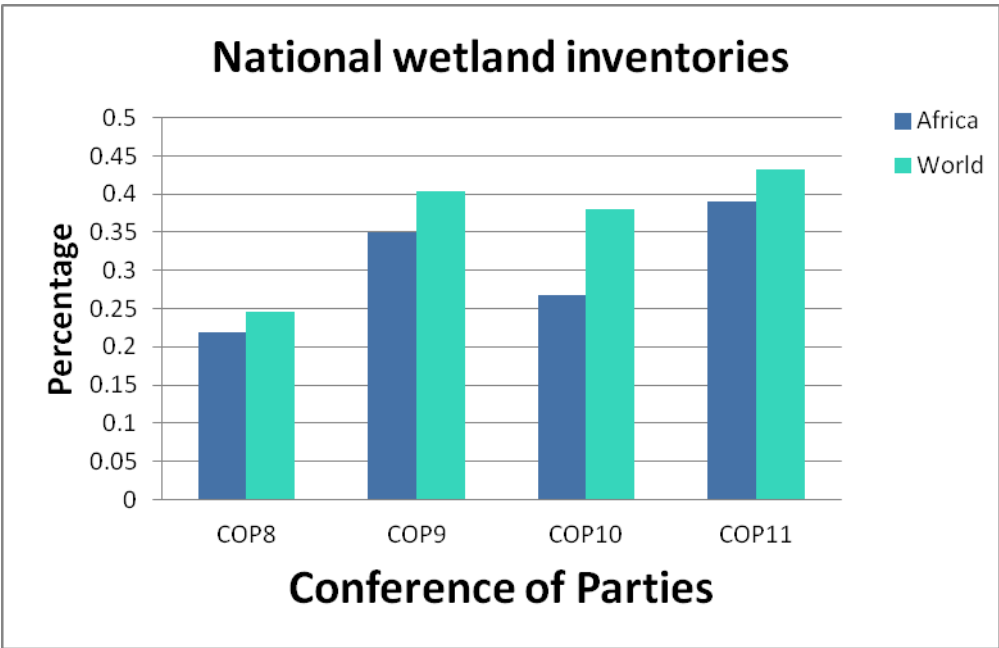
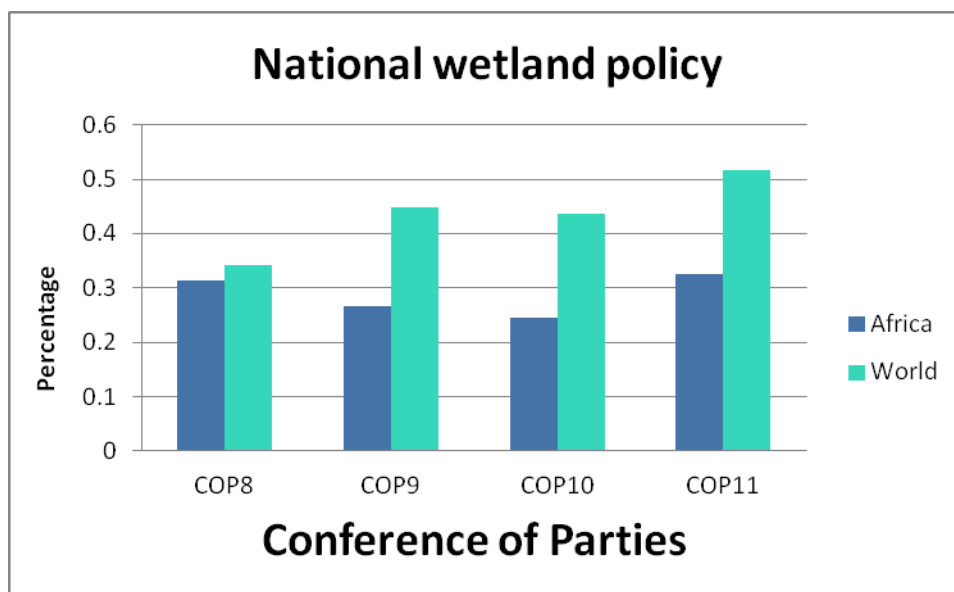


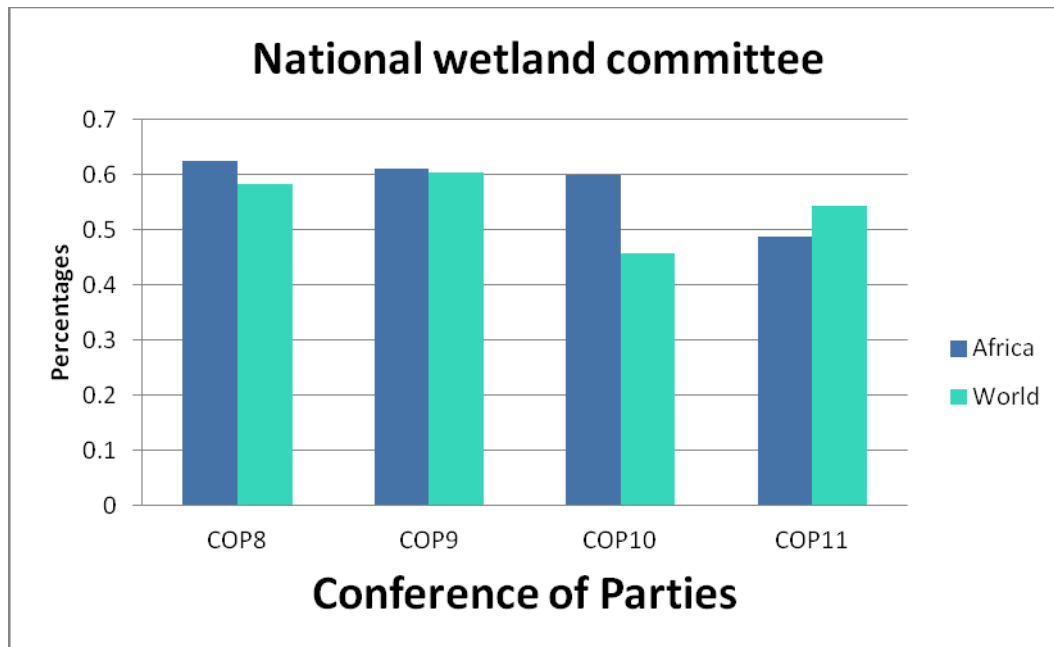
Figure 2: Percentage of National Wetland Inventories (0.25 = 25%)

7. The data show a marked revival of interest in the development of national policies for wetlands consecutively to national inventories. These National Wetland Policies are gradually integrated into public policies related to accelerated growth and poverty eradication and to the management plans of water resources. These results are cross-cutting mechanisms for achieving the objectives of the Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands adopted by Resolution X.3 (2008). They document and assist Contracting Parties to make progress for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target 1 of goal 1 on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. It is the same for targets 1, 2 and 3 of Goal 7 on ensuring sustainable human environment.



**Figure 3: Percentage of Parties with National Wetland Policies**

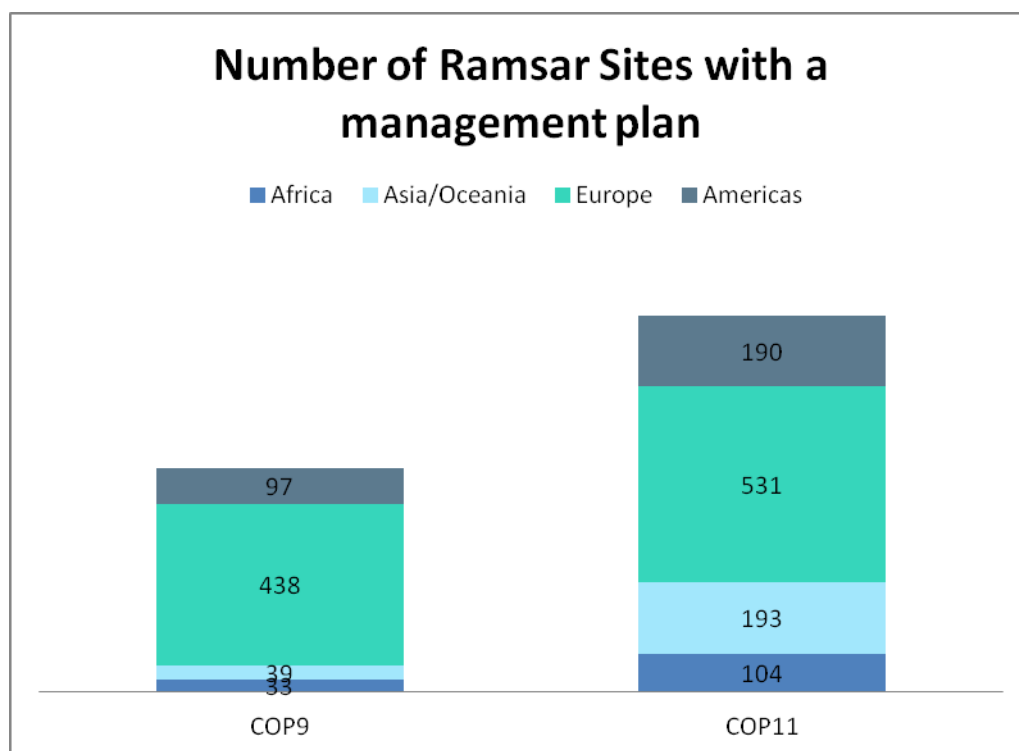
8. The establishment of National Ramsar/Wetland Committees (or equivalent organizations) has been more important in Africa than in the rest of the world from 2000 to 2009, although there was some stagnation from 2006 to 2009. However during the last triennium the establishment of these committees has been reduced by about 10%.



**Figure 4: Percentage of Parties with National Wetland Committees**

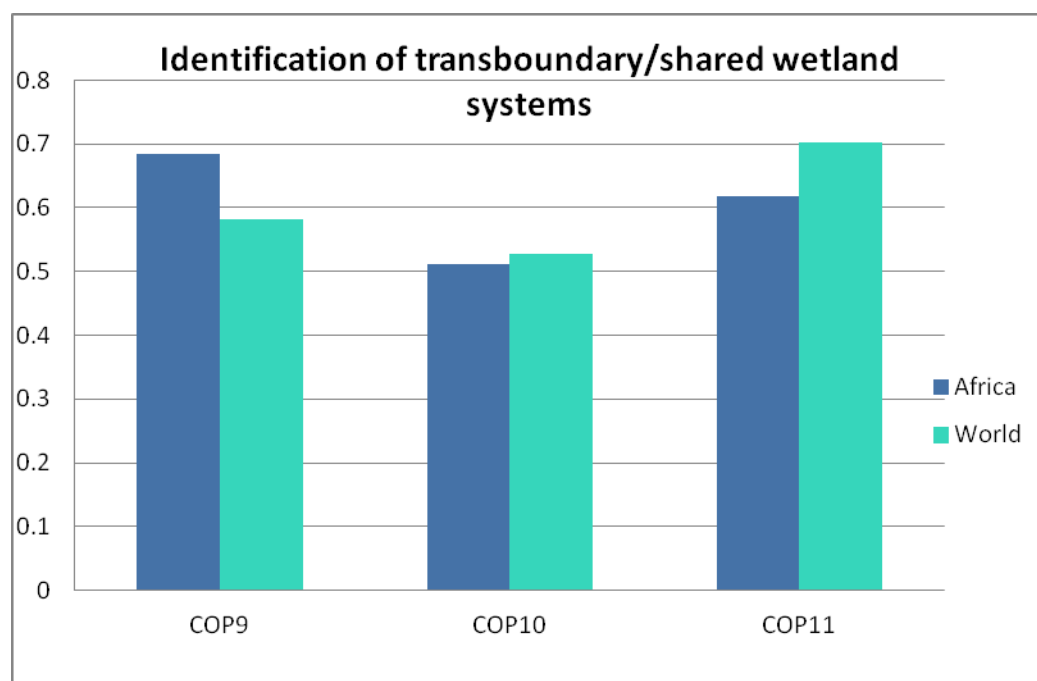
9. In Africa, 51 new Ramsar Sites have been designated since COP10 and dozens of requests for designation are being finalized by the Contracting Parties. This dynamic reflects the implementation of one of the three pillars of the Convention.

10. The advances observed in the designation of new Ramsar Sites are accompanied by an increase of about 52% of the development of management plans for Ramsar Sites in Africa. Management plans for Ramsar Sites have been developed by several Contracting Parties as tools and guides to direct action. This is a sign of the dynamism of some Parties in implementing the Convention, including measures for the conservation of the ecological character of Ramsar Sites.



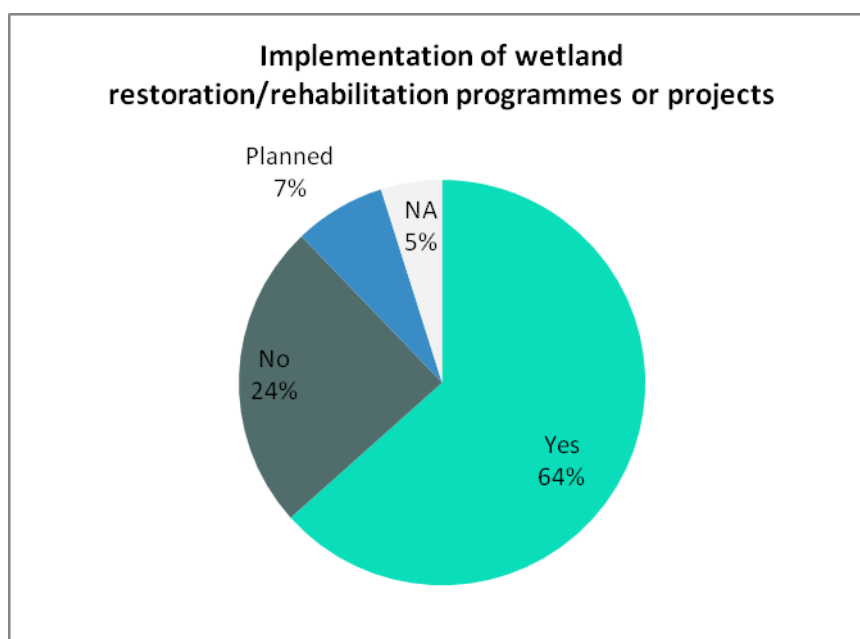
**Figure 5: Number of Ramsar Sites with a management plan per COP and according to region**

11. From an ecological point of view, Africa is home to eight major biomes – large and distinct biotic communities – whose characteristic sets of flora and fauna are often transboundary in nature, insofar as they extend across several political borders. Most major rivers of the continent and its many water bodies are also cross-border elements of the landscape. For example, the Congo River basin covers nine countries, and ten countries share the Nile basin. The transboundary nature of these ecosystems, and many others, as well as the natural resources found there, are the source of many environmental issues and have many challenges for their management throughout Africa, and sometimes even beyond the continent. When environmental issues involve many nations, the answers to those problems are often based on different laws and regulations. Sustainable use of natural resources such as those derived from forest ecosystems, and the control, management, and conservation of flora and fauna shared by several countries, represent a major concern for Africa. Efforts were made to introduce management mechanisms involving international cooperation, especially regarding transboundary rivers, but inadequacies in the latter arise when questions arise about the many other shared resources such as shelter forests and protected areas. Increasing the number of Ramsar Sites is a positive sign as part of the implementation of the Ramsar pillar on international cooperation.



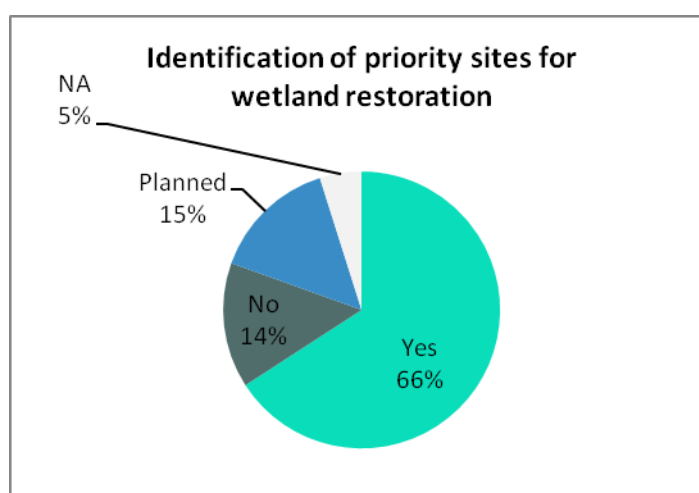
**Figure 6: Identification of transboundary/shared wetland systems**

12. Since COP10, the African region has had a series of Ramsar Regional Initiatives which have demonstrated very different levels of functioning. These are: NigerWet and WacoWet in West Africa, MedWet in North Africa, ChadWet in Central Africa and RAMCEA, NileWet and the Regional Initiative for dwarf flamingos in East Africa. Communication between the Secretariat and these initiatives has been fluid with respect to NigerWet, WacoWet, MedWet and RAMCEA. The partnership with ChadWet, NileWet and the Regional Initiative for dwarf flamingos has remained very basic. During the 2013-2015 triennium, the region will consolidate the gains of operational initiatives and support them according to the partnership arrangements between the Secretariat and the Regional Initiatives. The Contracting Parties will also be invited to revitalize non-operational Initiatives.
13. In the region, the celebration of World Wetlands Day (WWD) over the past three years has been useful as evidenced by the results and impacts described in National Reports and the reports of Regional Initiatives in raising public awareness about the role, functions and benefits of the wetland ecosystems on the continent. The 2011 edition was devoted to the 40th Anniversary of the Convention. This is progress that needs to be replicated during the next triennium.
14. In total 64% of the Contracting Parties of the region are implementing wetland restorations/rehabilitation programmes or projects. For the past three triennia, the proportion was 50%. This is indeed a major advance because at the COP9 only 13% of the Contracting Parties had implemented restoration projects. This is a positive sign since Parties are no longer limited to nominating sites for designation on the Ramsar List, but they now undertake the restoration of sites in poor condition.



**Figure 7: Percentage of implementation of wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects**

15. The results presented in National Reports on the identification of priority sites for restoration corroborate the implementation percentages of wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects. Indeed 66% of the Contracting Parties have identified priority sites for restoration.



**Figure 8: Percentage of priority sites for wetland restoration**

16. In collaboration with the IOPs and other partners, Africa has made significant efforts over the past three years to gain the accession of Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe to the Convention. Since 2011, the Africa team is working hard with the Ministry of Environment and UNDP to accelerate the membership of South Sudan. Positive signs are observed and the opportunity of COP11 will be seized by some countries to join the Convention.

## 1.2 Priorities for 2013-2015

17. The compilation of National Reports for COP11 was used as an opportunity to examine and monitor indicators relating to the implementation of the Convention in Africa and better understand the challenges to take up during the next triennium.
18. Wetland inventory activities recorded in National Wetland Policies remain crucial for the implementation of the Convention. The usefulness of combining policy development and inventory of wetlands as part of national planning is increasingly perceived by the Contracting Parties. The Secretariat and its partners will continue to provide assistance to the Parties so that they can simultaneously develop policies and carry out wetland inventories.
19. The integration of the wise use of wetlands in sustainable development and poverty reduction remains essential for African Contracting Parties. The inclusion of wetlands as key cross-cutting issues such as environment and land planning is a prerequisite for successful implementation of the Strategies for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development. These issues need to be constantly present at all levels of dialogue, of policies, and in formulating sectoral policies and programmes. National guidelines can be developed to facilitate the implementation of this trend. The new Draft Resolution on an integrated framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication should serve as a guideline to achieve this priority.
20. In the six subregions of Africa, the impact of extractive industries on wetlands has been reported, even though many National Reports are silent on the subject. The Secretariat gave special attention to this problem over the past triennium. Thus strategic partnerships are envisaged with the private sector involved in mining activities that impact wetlands in the region. Furthermore, synergies with other environmental conventions and the sensitization of high level authorities are being implemented. In addition, restoration and rehabilitation of degraded wetlands will also be a priority for the next triennium, subject to available resources. Contracting Parties in collaboration with the Secretariat and its partners will develop a list of important wetlands (Ramsar Sites and others) that require immediate restoration and rehabilitation. An action plan should be developed and submitted to donors for funding, a plan which covers the actions of identifying degraded wetlands as well.
21. The impacts of invasive species constitute a major cause of disturbance of water cycles and of the ecological character of wetlands in Africa. Despite progress in the fight against invasive species in wetlands in Africa, much remains to be done, since the problem has not been fully brought under control and represents a threat to the region's wetlands. The Convention should focus on developing strategic partnerships with organizations responsible for river basins and subregional institutions for economic development (e.g., ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC, and EAC) to address this issue during the next triennium. Moreover the niche theme on invasive plants should be strengthened within conservation institutions for a global treatment of the problem.
22. In June-July 2011, an analysis was made of the diversity and benefits of Ramsar National Committees for Wetlands in the six Ramsar regions. This quick review has resulted in recommendations for the establishment of Ramsar National Committees and proposals



for strengthening the committees already established. Regarding the establishment of a new National Ramsar Committee, it is recommended to:

- use the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention to set the objectives of the Ramsar National Committee,
- legitimize the opinion of the Ramsar National Committee,
- review the financial and human resources available,
- make efficient intersectoral collaboration, and
- involve the STRP National Focal Point as much as possible

23. In terms of already established National Committees, it is recommended to:

- develop a clear work plan,
- define the specific roles of members of the Committee,
- establish procedures for monitoring and evaluating its activities,
- create permanent or special task forces,
- seek funding for the activities of the Committee,
- ensure operation through meetings and other activities,
- plan the Committee's activities in coordination with the main activities of the Convention, and
- keep the Ramsar Secretariat informed.

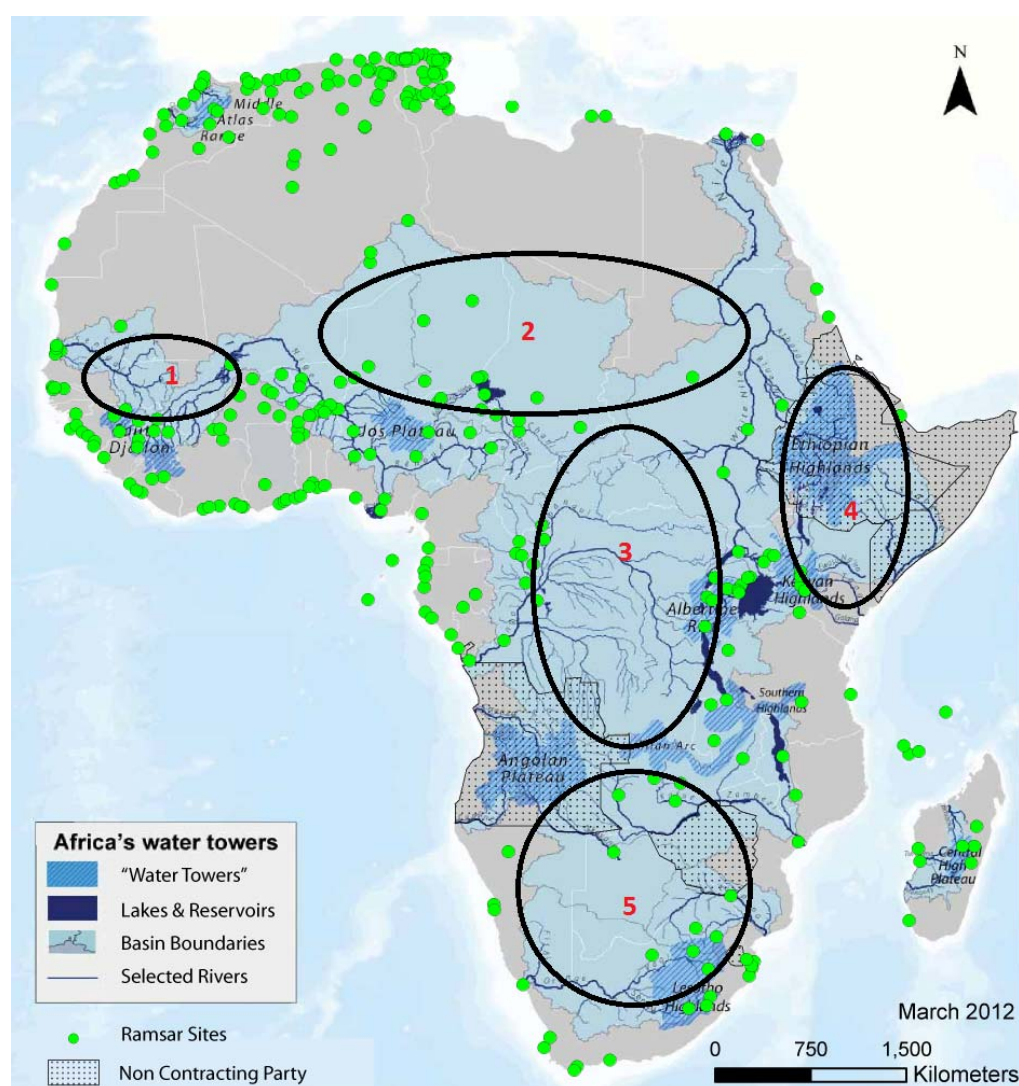
24. The region's priority for the next triennium should be to advise the implementation of these recommendations to the Contracting Parties and to encourage partnership from the countries' IOP representatives and synergies with correspondents of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related to biodiversity (Ramsar, CCD, CBD, CMS, CITES, AEW, etc.).

25. Many Contracting Parties mention in their National Reports that partnership with the private sector is growing regarding their involvement in the wise use of wetlands in Africa. Some cases seem to have borne fruit. In order to maintain the dynamic created over the past three years, it will be advisable for the Secretariat and its partners to increase their support to African Contracting Parties to obtain tangible support of private sector companies, whether or not they use the wetland resources to produce benefits. For this purpose a first focus must be put on mining and water exploitation companies and tourism sector companies.

26. The content of the National Reports of several Contracting Parties mention CEPA activities at all levels to promote the value of wetlands. These activities address a range of actors who are the target groups and stakeholders of the Convention's CEPA Programme. The CEPA Programme, which is important for the implementation of the Convention, is considered a tool for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and the efforts made by the Secretariat and IOPs during the past triennium should be consolidated. Contracting Parties request that the CEPA activities put emerging issues such as oil, gas exploitation, and climate change in public policy agendas. The priority for the next triennium will be to translate these emerging issues into CEPA products directed towards decision makers and environmental planners at local, provincial and national levels. Similarly, the Secretariat and ATEN (France) have given francophone Contracting Parties training modules whose

impact on the implementation of the Convention must be assessed. These modules will be translated for anglophone Contracting Parties as well.

27. The superposition of the spatial distribution of Ramsar Sites and “water towers” of the African region shows an urgent need to define a strategy to designate and plan the management of new sites in Africa. Of the 326 Ramsar Sites in the Africa region, many are located along the shores of the Mediterranean and Atlantic. The “water towers”, lakes and reservoirs harbor some Ramsar Sites. The first priority for the current triennium is to define a programme of designation and monitoring of Ramsar Sites in the catchment areas of the “water towers” of lakes and reservoirs with a view to consolidating their resources. Five priority areas are defined for this programme. This is a framework for the support of Ramsar to the conservation and rational use of water throughout Africa. The main goal is that by 2021, water availability is stable or increasing in the five priority areas.



Source: Map of Africa “water towers” Africa Water Atlas (2010), United Nations Environment Programme, 314 pages

**Figure 9: African Ramsar Sites spatial distribution**

28. During the last triennium, the Africa team has developed and consolidated partnerships with institutions including the Senghor University, the Secretariats of the CBD, CMS and

AEWA, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Swiss Tropical Health Institute, and ICLEI. These partnerships have allowed the pooling of efforts and investments and the development of projects. Over the next three years, we will develop a strategy to establish partnerships with Université Senghor of Alexandria, ECOWAS, ECCAS, EAC, SADC, the MAVA Foundation, the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility and convention secretariats such as the CSD, CBD, World Heritage, and the UNFCCC.

29. 47 African countries are Parties to the Convention. In total, seven countries – Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe – are expected to join the Convention soon. During the next triennium, the focus will be on the accession of Angola, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe, all of which are at an advanced stage of the membership process.
30. The consideration of requests to the Secretariat by Contracting Parties allows ranking technical and financial support as a priority. The expression of both types of requests seems recurring for all actions for the implementation of the Convention at the national level. The structure and the current availability of the Convention's budget limit the capacity of the Africa team to meet those expectations in a context where the arrears and voluntary annual contributions exceed the amount of CHF 450,000. Therefore, during the next triennium, the Contracting Parties will implement the Ouagadougou commitments and work with the Secretariat to mobilize funds for the implementation of the Convention at national and regional level. Concurrently, the Secretariat will develop several thematic programmes to be implemented by Contracting Parties. These programmes, such as translation of Changwon Declaration into action, will reflect the principles and pillars of the Convention.

## **2. Implementation activities undertaken since COP10**

### **Goal 1: The Wise Use of Wetlands**

#### **National wetland inventories and assessment (*Strategy 1.1*)**

31. The Convention recognizes the wetland inventory as the basis for supporting the development of strategies, policies and management plans for wetlands. By 2008 only nine Parties had achieved a national inventory of wetlands, but in 2012 this number has increased to 15 countries, a 40% increase, though many countries have still not accomplished this objective. One plausible explanation is that few countries know that it is possible to make a low-cost inventory with reliable results. In addition, the Contracting Parties do not have sufficient capacity to collect and process free satellite data. It is therefore imperative that the Secretariat, together with the IOPs and other partners, provides support to the Parties so that they are able to make progress in this important area.

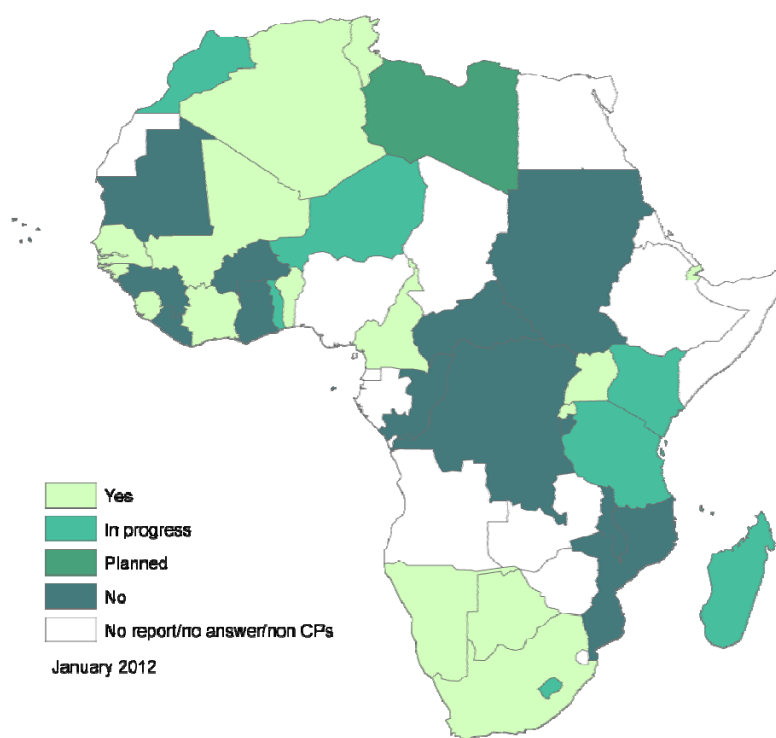
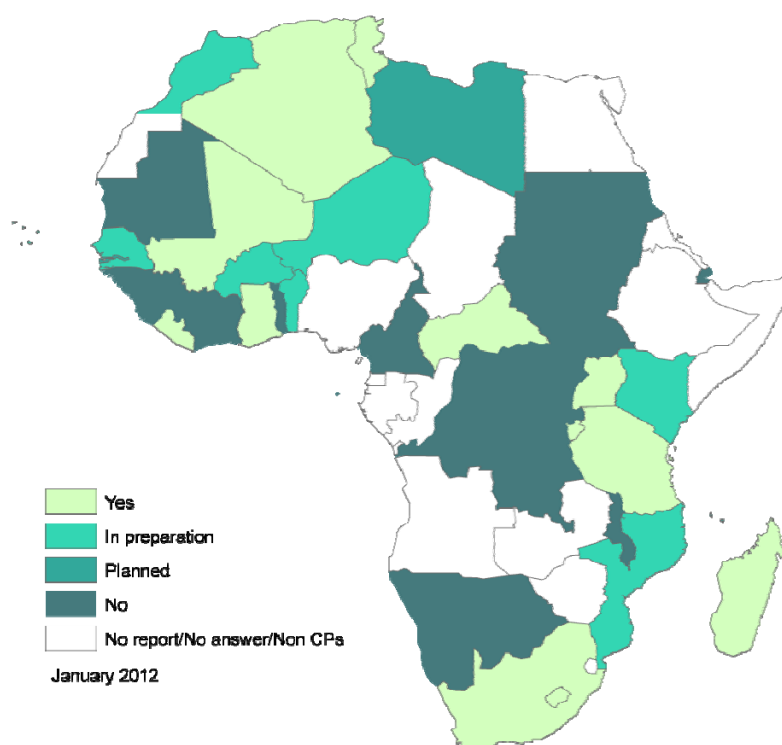


Figure 10: Countries with a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory

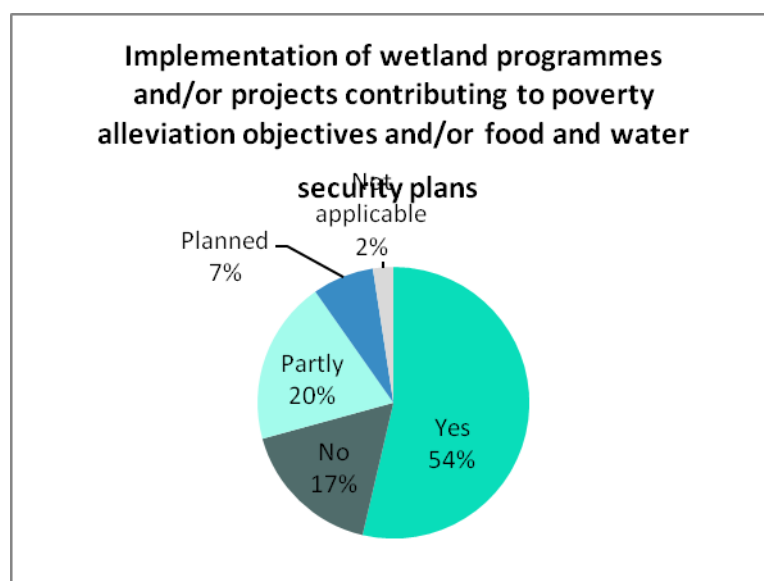
**National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) (*Strategy 1.3*)**

32. The development of a national policy on wetlands is generally a slow exercise in the region, though there has been a slight increase since COP10. A total of 12 against 10 Contracting Parties at COP10 said that they had set up a national policy for wetlands. Of a total of 47 Contracting Parties, 25 countries have planned or are preparing the development of a national policy. This slowness may be related to the gradual installation of democratic governance in Africa with an increasingly clear division of powers. Priority for the triennium is to provide technical assistance to Contracting Parties to establish a parliamentary watch on management issues and appropriate use of critical ecosystems such as wetlands.



**Figure 11: Countries with a National Wetland Policy in place**

33. As reported in the previous section, there is a gradual inclusion of wetlands in the number of crosscutting issues in the areas of Environment and Land Planning Strategies for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development of some countries in the region. The priority for Ramsar is that the Secretariat assists the Contracting Parties so that these issues are constantly present in all levels of dialogue and policy and in the process of formulating sectoral policies and programmes. A note of information can allow the development of national guides in an attempt to facilitate the implementation of these guidelines. This note of information may be annexed to the new Draft Resolution on an integrated framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication and should serve as a guideline to achieve this priority.
34. National Reports state that 54% of the Contracting Parties of the region are implementing programmes/projects for the rational use of wetlands contributing to the goals of poverty reduction and/or plans for food and water security. 20% of the countries do so partially. This is a good indication of the level of implementation of Resolution IX.14 on wetlands management and poverty reduction.

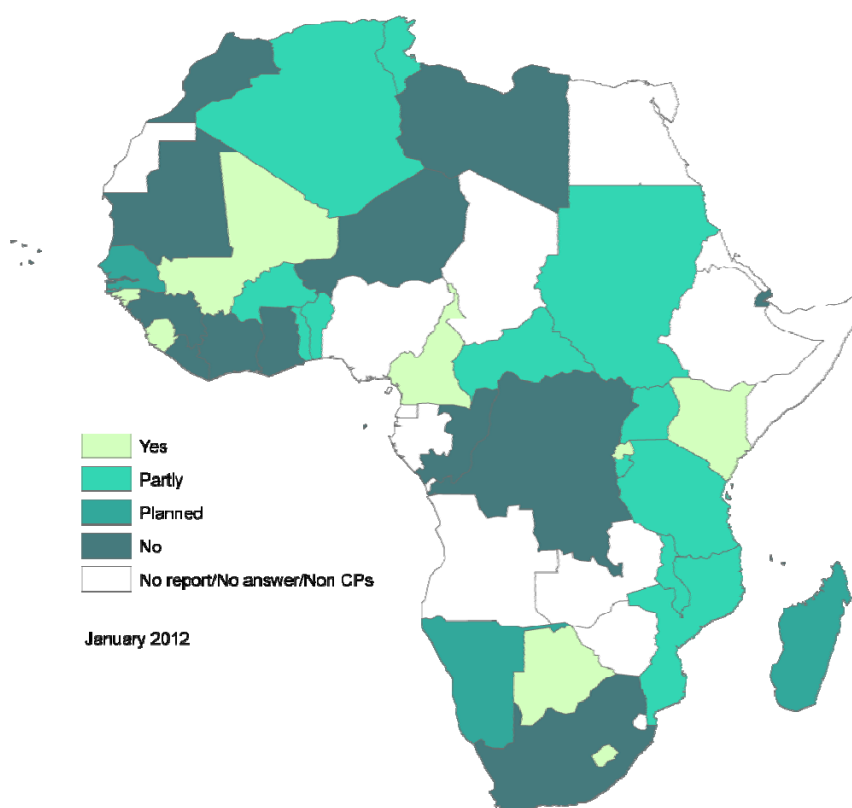


**Figure 12: Percentage of countries that are implementing wetland programmes and/or projects contributing to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water**

35. When the Contracting Parties of the region are implementing programmes and projects for the wise use of wetlands that contribute to the goals of poverty reduction, a request for technical assistance for assessing water quality and quantity for wetland may be appropriate. In 2011, the Secretariat and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute have made a brief situation analysis in Western, Southern and Central Africa for designing a project on ecosystem services of urban wetlands with a focus on local governance, health and the fight against poverty in Africa. This brief analysis shows a significant demand for improving skills in the field.

#### **Wetland ecosystem services (*Strategy 1.4*)**

36. The number of Contracting Parties that have completed or are currently evaluating the benefits and ecosystem services provided by Ramsar Sites is increasing. Technical assistance for the evaluation of these services of Ramsar Sites is the second priority requested by African Contracting Parties to the Technical Evaluation and Monitoring Group. The first priority is the technical support for wetland inventory. The global socioeconomic context of the last five years, marked by many crises (energy, food, financial and economic) associated with disturbances related to climate change, demand that the Contracting Parties rely primarily on themselves by taking the necessary steps for a more judicious exploitation of natural resources of their wetlands. The rightness of the choice of policies depends also on the information made available to policymakers. For example, studies of the economic value of wetlands appear as an opportunity for development actors. They do provide economic information crucial for guidance and strategic planning for the use of public resources.



**Figure 13: Countries that are conducting an assessment of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites**

37. African Contracting Parties generally do not inform the Secretariat about the peatlands they host. Except Tunisia and Algeria, African National Reports do not address the ongoing measures to implement the *Guidelines for global action on peatlands* (Resolution VIII.17). Some countries like South Africa and Uganda acknowledge that they support the principles of rational use of the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands.
38. A total of eight Parties reported that they have taken measures at national level to implement the guiding principles on the cultural values of wetlands. This figure has remained constant since COP9 and COP10. This finding requests actions to be taken to show the strong link between conservation of wetlands and their benefits to humans. In order to strengthen the implementation of Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21, ongoing programmes that require the participation of indigenous and local communities must define the components for which cultural values offer excellent opportunities to conservation.

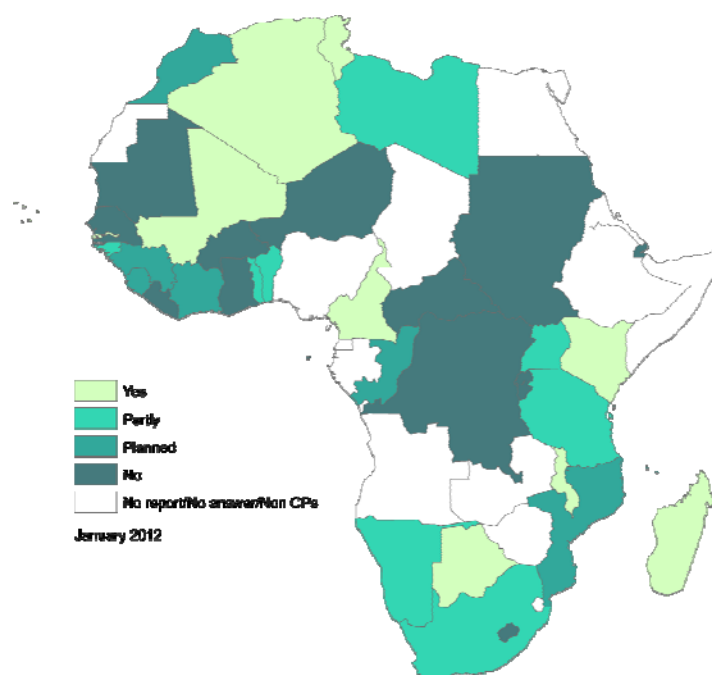
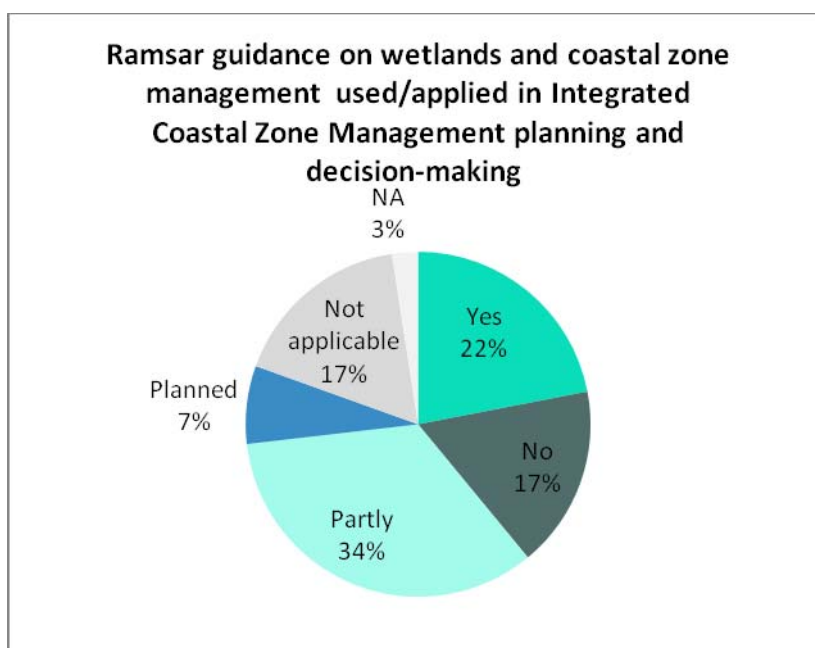


Figure 14: Countries that have taken measures at national level to implement the guiding principles on the cultural values of wetlands

#### Integrated Water Resources Management (*Strategy 1.7*)

39. To support a series of more and more comprehensive guidelines and resolutions on the relationship between water and wetland ecosystems, primarily in response to the instructions of Resolutions VIII.1 and VIII.2 of COP8, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has made an “Integrated Framework for the guidelines of the Ramsar Convention on water”. The role of the Convention relating to water resources in the context of wetlands and the global hydrological cycle is explained in this document, which also highlights the relationship between different aspects of the guidelines of the Convention relating to water, and identifies gaps in the guidance on certain aspects of water and ecosystems, gaps that could be the future work of the STRP. This framework is designed to assist the Ramsar Administrative Authorities to involve other sectors in the role by the Convention in water-related areas.
40. About 45% of the Contracting Parties of the region report that they have used / applied the guidelines of the Convention relating to water in decision-making processes for water resources planning and management. For COP10, this figure was 36%, so there is progress in the region in this regard.
41. National Reports show that 22% of the Contracting Parties apply the Convention’s guidance on the management of wetlands and coastal areas (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) as part of the planning and decision making in the integrated management of coastal areas (IMCA). 34% of countries in the region indicate that they partially apply them, against 17% who do not use them. It is necessary to assist the region in leveraging this instrument for the management of their marine and coastal wetlands.



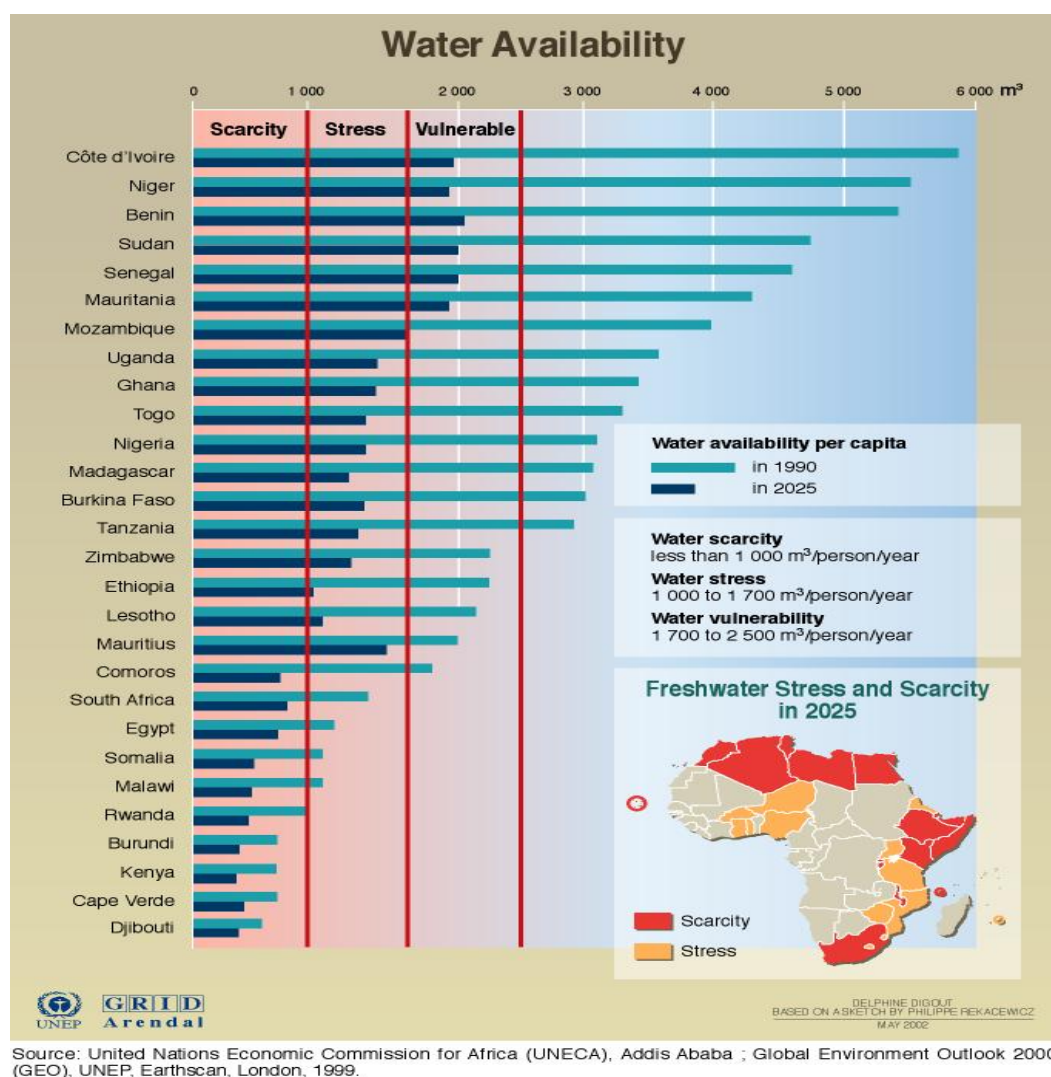


**Figure 15: Contracting Parties that applied the Convention's guidance on the management of wetlands and coastal areas**

42. The biggest challenge of Africa's sustainable development is access to water. The global warming, increasing population and changes in growing land use for agricultural production are aggravating factors. The major facts are:
- water resources are inextricably linked with climate;
  - the expected climate changes will have significant impacts on water resources and regional development;
  - Africa is the second driest continent – with 15% of the world's population, it has only 9% of renewable water resources;
  - the water is unevenly distributed – Central Africa holds 50.6% of total interior water of the continent and North Africa only 2.99%;
  - Africa is experiencing a remarkable variability in decadal and longer-term interannual rainfall scales, and climate is highly variable;
  - a combination of natural and human factors is responsible for the great disparities in terms of water availability between African countries;
  - water in Africa is contained in large rivers and reservoirs, extensive aquifers, lakes and wetlands, and in the atmospheric water vapor and soil moisture;
  - access to water is also affected by poor urban planning and poor management of water and sanitation, lack of resources, and competition for available water between sectors such as industries, municipalities, agriculture, tourism, and often between upstream and downstream users.
43. The challenges of Africa related to water are to:
- provide drinking water;
  - ensure access to adequate sanitation;

- promote cooperation between transboundary basins;
- provide water for food security ;
- develop hydropower to increase energy security;
- avoid soil degradation and water pollution;
- meet the growing demand for water;
- manage water in a changing global climate context;
- build capacities to address water challenges.

44. Strategies to provide water resources suitable for Africa face several challenges, including the pressure exerted by the population and problems associated with land use: erosion, siltation, ecological consequences of changes in land use on the hydrological cycle.



**Figure 16: Water availability in Africa under the pressure of increasing population and climate change**

45. Climate change – including changes in climate variability causing droughts and floods – will complicate the search for solutions. In addition, the impact will be felt mainly by the poor because they have the most limited access to water resources. The conclusions of the

4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that the surface areas affected by drought will probably increase. Heavy rains, which will probably be more frequent, will increase the risk of flooding



**Figure 17: Climate change vulnerability in Africa**

46. Africa occupies about a fifth of the world's total land area and contains about one fifth of all known species of plants, mammals and birds, and a sixth of amphibians and reptiles. Nearly a fifth of volatile species in southern Africa migrate according with the seasons within the African territory, whereas one tenth migrates annually between Africa and the rest of the world. One of the largest internal migrations in Africa is that of waterfowl, which spend the austral summer in southern Africa and winter in Central Africa. Palaearctic migratory birds spend the austral summer in locations such as Langebaan Lagoon near Cape Town, and the northern summer in the marshes of Siberia. If very specific climate conditions and habitat of migratory bird were altered beyond their tolerance level, at the arrival from their travels, one would expect considerable biodiversity losses. Although species have some ability to change their destinations, in a world used

more and more intensely, they are likely to have difficulty finding a sufficient number of new areas offering suitable habitat. The current system of protected habitats, according to the Ramsar Convention, is based on the current distribution climate, thus raising the possibility of significant change in the type and quality of habitat in relation to climate change.

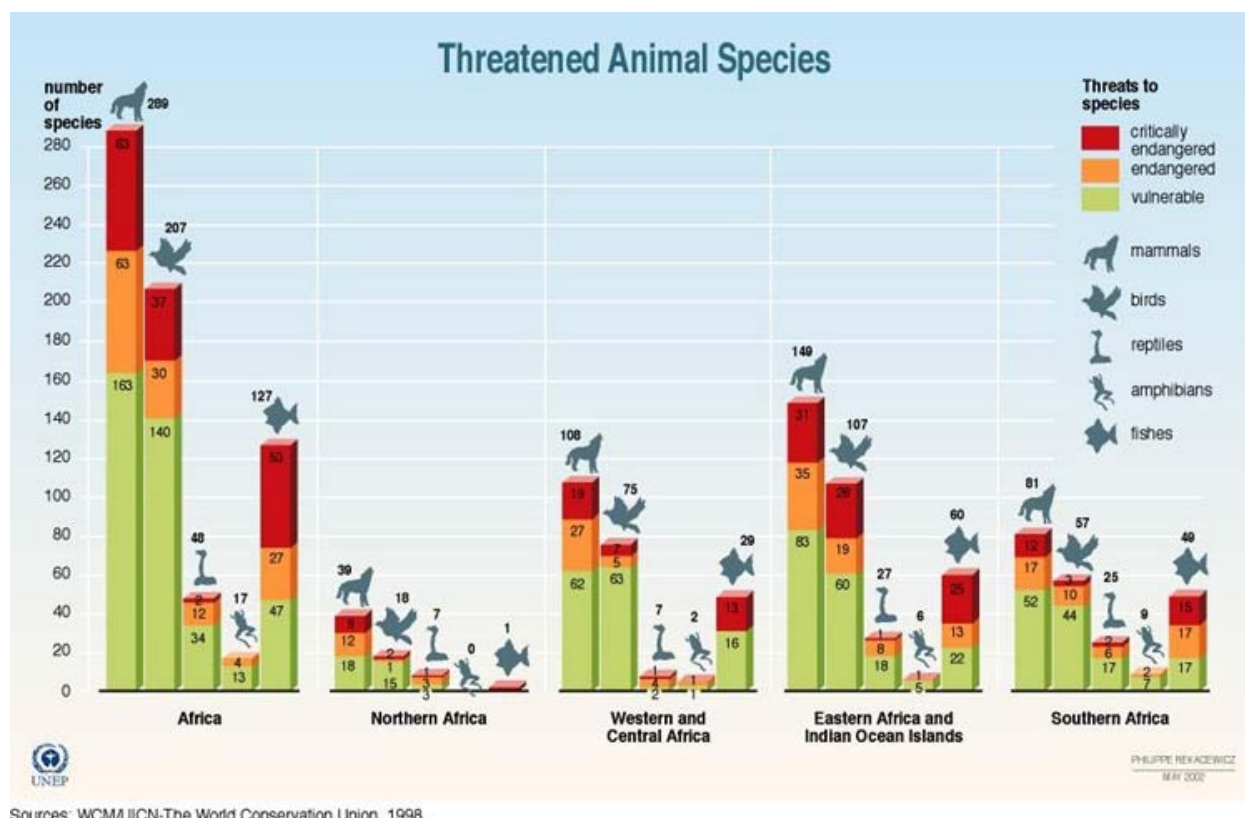
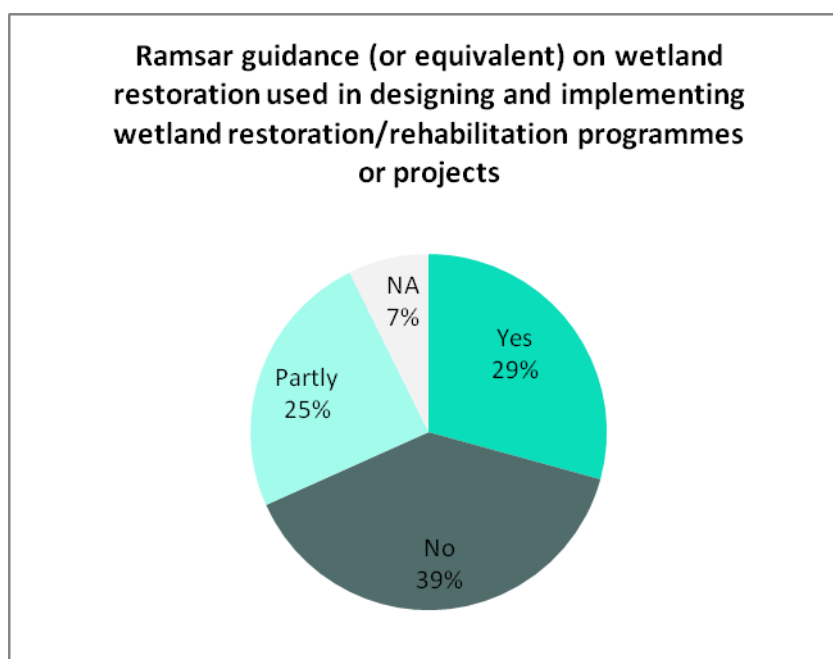


Figure 18: Threatened animal species in Africa and Indian Ocean

47. The *Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands*, which calls on governments to integrate water management and wetlands in effective strategies to fight climate change at national level, should help to address the strong correlations between the use of wetlands and climate change.

#### Wetland restoration and rehabilitation (Strategy 1.8)

48. The Convention's guidance on wetland restoration (Appendix to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidelines have been used / applied by 29% of the Contracting Parties of the region to design and implement restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects. This figure was 59% at COP10. A total of 25% of countries report that they have partially used these guidelines, a percentage which is double that of COP10. This is a sign that it is necessary to monitor this indicator carefully, especially when one knows the advanced degradation situation of wetlands on the continent. Similarly, it is necessary to follow particularly the use and application of the Convention's guidance on wetland restoration (Annex to Resolution VIII.16; Wise Use Handbook 15, 4th edition) in the design and implementation of wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects in the countries frequently hit by drought and floods.



**Figure 19: Percentage of Contracting Parties that used Ramsar guidance on wetland restoration in designing and implementing wetland restoration projects**

#### **Invasive alien species (*strategy 1.9*)**

49. It is widely accepted that aquatic invasive species can cause an important prejudice to wetland ecosystems and loss of livelihoods in Africa. Although several of the Contracting Parties have indicated that they have developed policies and national strategies in response to threats posed by invasive species, one would have expected more progress on this crucial issue. Invasive species are seen as a real problem, as evidenced by the full incorporation of prevention, eradication and the fight against invasive alien species in national laws and national policies for wetlands and biodiversity and other management action plans of several Contracting Parties. This theme must be a priority for the next triennium.
50. However, only 31% of the Contracting Parties of the region report having taken action on invasive species in collaboration with the national focal points of other conventions and organizations / international agreements. This synergy needs to be strengthened because the fight against invasive species can bring conclusive results only at the scale of watersheds and large river basins. The region needs to redouble efforts for that action to be included in strategies and action plans relating to biodiversity and management of water resources.

#### **Involvement of the private sector (*Strategy 1.10*)**

51. Several Contracting Parties reported having integrated the African private sector, universities and specialized institutions in the decision-making processes related to wetlands. In the region, about 35% of the Contracting Parties (against 50% for the whole world) indicate they have encouraged the private sector to apply the wise use principle in



activities and investments in wetlands. This is a significant step forward with respect to the number of Contracting Parties involved. Africa is well ranked among the regions recognized by the Convention in terms of private sector involvement in the wise use of wetlands. This result is satisfactory and the Secretariat will provide support to the Contracting Parties which gave a negative answer. Indeed, it is important that Contracting Parties involve the private sector as much as possible in the rational use of African wetlands.

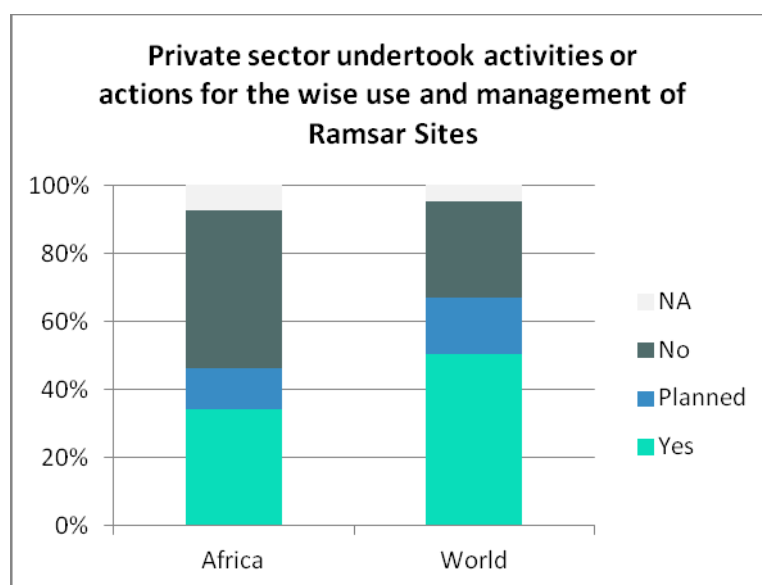


Figure 20: Percentage of Contracting Parties that have encouraged the private sector to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments in wetlands

## Goal 2: Ramsar Sites or Wetlands of International Importance

### Ramsar site designation (*Strategy 2.1*)

52. About 28% of the Contracting Parties have designated 51 new sites (Appendix 1) since COP10 in the framework of their national strategies and their priorities. It is a major achievement in the implementation of the Convention.

### Updating information on Ramsar Sites (*Strategy 2.2*)

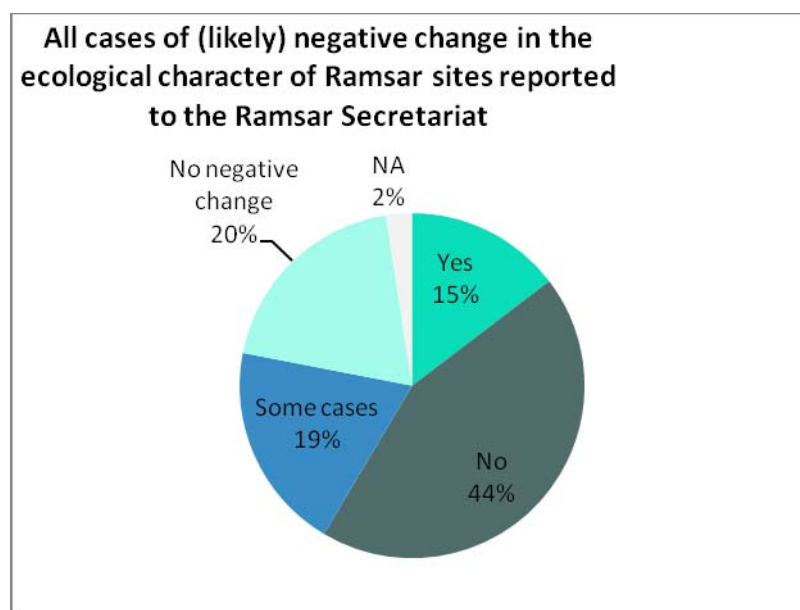
53. Updating information on Ramsar Sites is required under resolutions of the Conference of Contracting Parties, as it allows easily measuring the ecological character of sites that have occurred over the preceding six years. However we note that the required updates to the Information Sheet related to Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance are not systematically made and transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat, and Appendix 2 lists the Contracting Parties which should update the sheet of one or more Ramsar Sites. During the past triennium, the Contracting Parties which have updated the Information Sheet on Ramsar Sites are Algeria, Burundi, Cape Verde, Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco and Seychelles.

### Maintaining the ecological character of the Ramsar Sites (*Strategy 2.4*)

54. Among the primary objectives of the Convention's Strategic Plan is the development and implementation of management plans for all Ramsar Sites. In Africa, progress (probably insufficient) was made during the past triennium to achieve the objective to provide management plans for half of the Ramsar Sites. However the analysis of the transmission of information on the ecological character of Ramsar Sites to the Secretariat indicates that only 15% of the Contracting Parties inform the Secretariat of cases of negative changes. There is a lack of progress in the implementation of Resolution VIII.8 on the assessment and report on the status and trends of wetlands and implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention. This then becomes a priority in the region during the next triennium.

#### **Monitoring the conditions of Ramsar Sites** (*Strategy 2.6*)

55. As reported in the previous paragraph, Article 3.2 of the Convention states that "Each Contracting Party shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay to the organization or government responsible for the continuing bureau duties specified in Article 8". This is an important article because it is one of the few provisions of the Convention to establish a basis for respect and serves as a true indicator with the aim of conserving wetlands in the world. Note that 44% of the Contracting Parties fail to take provisions with Administrative Authorities to be informed of the changes which occurred or may occur in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites.



**Figure 21: Percentage of the Contracting Parties that took provisions with Administrative Authorities to be informed of the changes which occurred or may occur in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites**

56. Since COP10, no Ramsar Site in the region has been added to the Montreux Record. Only governments of Tunisia and South Africa have informed the Secretariat that steps had been taken to solve the problems that led to the designation of Ramsar Sites in the Montreux Record. Currently, the African sites on the Montreux Record are:

**Table 1: African sites on the Montreux Record**

No	Country	Site name	Designation Date	Date site was added to list	Surface area/ha	Comments
1	Democratic Republic of Congo	Parc national des Mangroves	18/01/1996	11/04/2000	66,000	
2	Egypt	Lake Bardawil	09/09/1988	04/07/1990	59,500	
3	Egypt	Lake Burullus	09/09/1988	04/07/1990	46,200	
4	Senegal	Bassin du Ndiel	11/07/1977	04/07/1990	10,000	
5	South Africa	Blesbokspruit	02/10/1986	06/05/1996	1,858	
6	South Africa	Orange River Mouth	28/06/1991	26/09/1995	2,000	
7	Tunisia	Ichkeul	24/11/1980	04/07/1990	12,600	Request for removal was sent in 2007 and the process is still ongoing
8	Uganda	Lake George	04/03/1988	04/07/1990	15,000	

57. The Secretariat has been informed of ecological changes that have occurred or are likely to occur as a result of planned interventions on five Ramsar Sites in the region. For these sites, the Secretariat has not yet received sufficient information from the Administrative Authority indicating that the real or perceived problem of environmental changes or likely changes has been successfully managed or resolved. The Secretariat looks forward to clarifying these cases through further exchanges with the Administrative Authorities:

- Congo (Cayo-Loufoualeba)
- Democratic Republic of Congo (Parc National des Virunga)
- Morocco (Embouchure de la Moulouya)
- Mozambique (Marromeu Complex)
- South Africa (Ndumo Game Reserve)

### **Goal 3: International Cooperation**

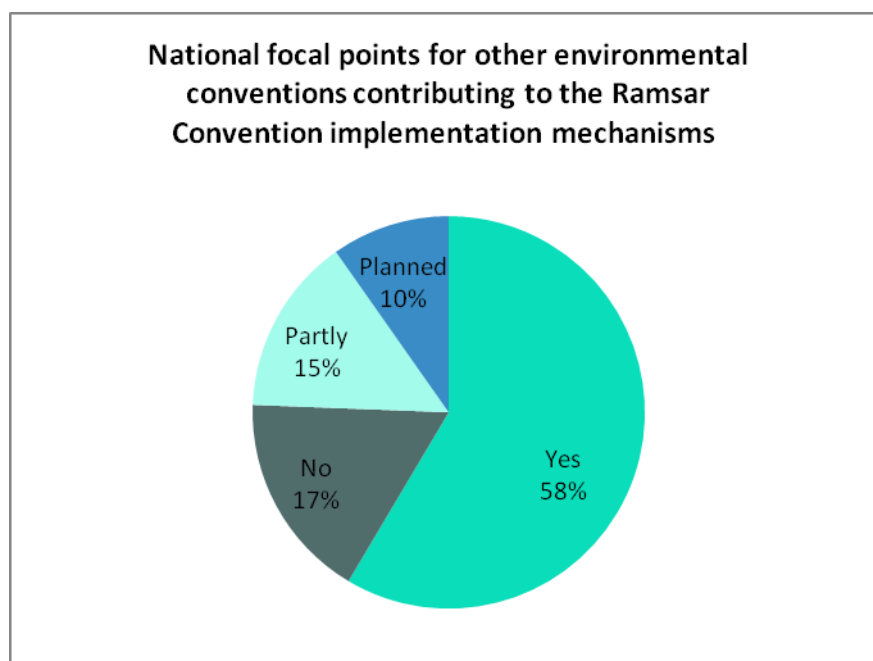
#### **Synergies and partnership with other agencies and agreements (*Strategy 3.1*)**

58. In Resolutions IX.3 and IX.5 (2005), the Parties called for greater coordination of national activities to implement various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Within this framework, several Contracting Parties have established national mechanisms for collaboration between Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). This action has now been strengthened by the participation of Ramsar National Focal Points in the workshop for updating the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans organized by the CBD from 27 February to 1



March 2012 in Addis Ababa. This is an important point, given that the recommendations of the workshop mention the need to:

- involve indigenous peoples and local communities in the process of revising their strategies and action plans for biodiversity (NBSAP) using the approach of prior informed consent (PIC);
- establish thematic working groups between CBD, Ramsar, and CMS National Focal Points for comprehensive integration of biodiversity issues in NBSAPs;
- involve the National Focal Points of the Ramsar Convention in the process of revising the NBSAPs;
- take into account the integration of wetlands in the process of revising their NBSAPs; and
- focus through the National Focal Points on the synergy of biodiversity so that the NBSAP can be implemented in a participatory way. CBD and Ramsar National Focal Points and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities must work together to ensure sustainability of actions favorable to biodiversity.



**Figure 22: Percentage of Contracting Parties that have established national mechanisms for collaboration between Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements**

### **Regional Initiatives in Africa** (*strategy 3.2*)

59. The African region has two operational Regional Initiatives: WacoWet for coastal wetlands in West Africa and NigerWet for wetlands of the Niger River Basin. It also has a regional wetland center called the Regional Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA) in eastern Africa. WacoWet and NigerWet have made the following progress:

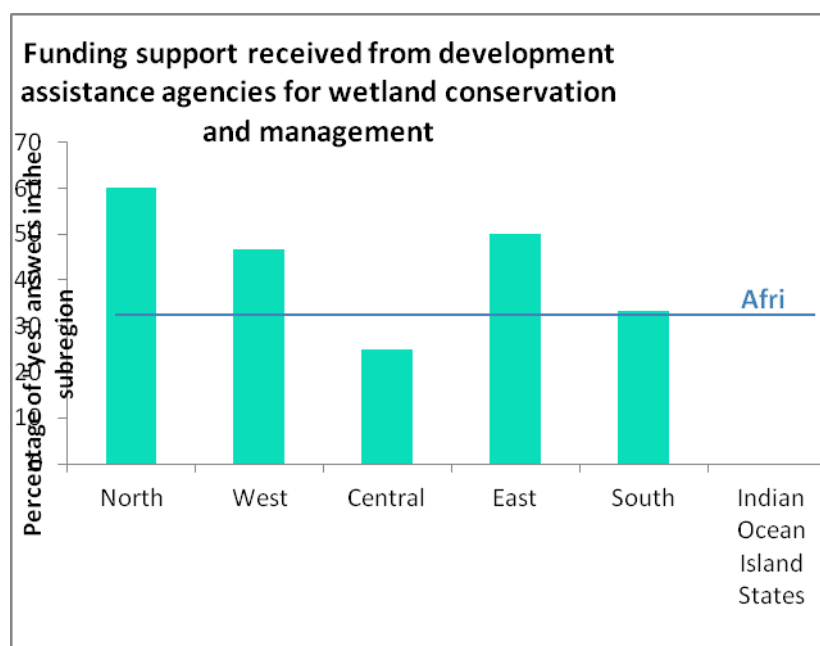
- contribution to a common understanding of the principles of the Ramsar Convention at the national and subregional levels;

- contribution to improving the implementation of the Resolutions of the Conference of Contracting Parties through its annual work plan;
  - support for the implementation of the Ramsar Resolutions; and
  - influence in the definition of projects and programmes in the subregion.
60. Their main challenges and lessons learned are reported to be:
- the need to increase the willingness of countries to contribute to the budget of Regional Initiatives;
  - that there are insufficient human resources for coordination and supervision;
  - that there is no official document outlining the rules and responsibilities of countries within the initiatives;
  - that, though several projects and programmes are being implemented in the subregion, the Regional Initiatives must define a mechanism for synergy;
  - that there is no strategic framework for the regional network; and
  - that there is no administrative and financial manual of procedure.
61. The Ramsar Convention has assisted RAMCEA to achieve the following:
- 20 Ramsar Site managers from Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda trained and equipped with skills for improved management of Ramsar Sites;
  - the Strategic Framework for RAMCEA, developed through a participatory process involving RAMCEA partner states, has been finalized;
  - the Ministry of Finance of Uganda has been lobbied to include RAMCEA in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework under the Environment and Natural Resources sector; and
  - the visibility of the Ramsar Convention at national and regional levels has been increased.

### **International development cooperation and assistance** (*Strategy 3.3*)

62. Within the Secretariat of the Convention there are two funding mechanisms to support implementation of the Convention within the countries of Africa. These are respectively the Swiss Grant for Africa (an annually variable envelope for the 47 Contracting Parties) and the Small Grants Fund, which provides financing each year (maximum 40 000 CHF per project) for a project in one of the 47 Contracting Parties. In comparison with other MEAs, such as the CCD and CDB which have a funding mechanism such as the GEF that devotes billions of dollars to helping countries implement the conventions, we must recognize that these two funding mechanisms for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention are far from sufficient. Therefore, on the occasion of the COPs, African Contracting Parties are asked to make every effort to mobilize support from development aid agencies for the conservation of wetlands in their country. The results of the National Reports indicate differences in the African region, with North Africa leading in terms of funds received from development agencies for the conservation and management of wetlands. Central Africa and Southern Africa receive less financial support than the average amount received by whole continent. The Indian Ocean states show negligible results. The Secretariat will intensify its collaboration with development agencies to make

conservation and management of wetlands a priority for those agencies with a view to obtaining funds to implement the Convention in African countries.



**Figure 23: Percentage of Parties receiving funding support from development agencies for the conservation and management of wetlands**

#### **Managing shared Ramsar Sites and hydrological basins (*Strategy 3.5*)**

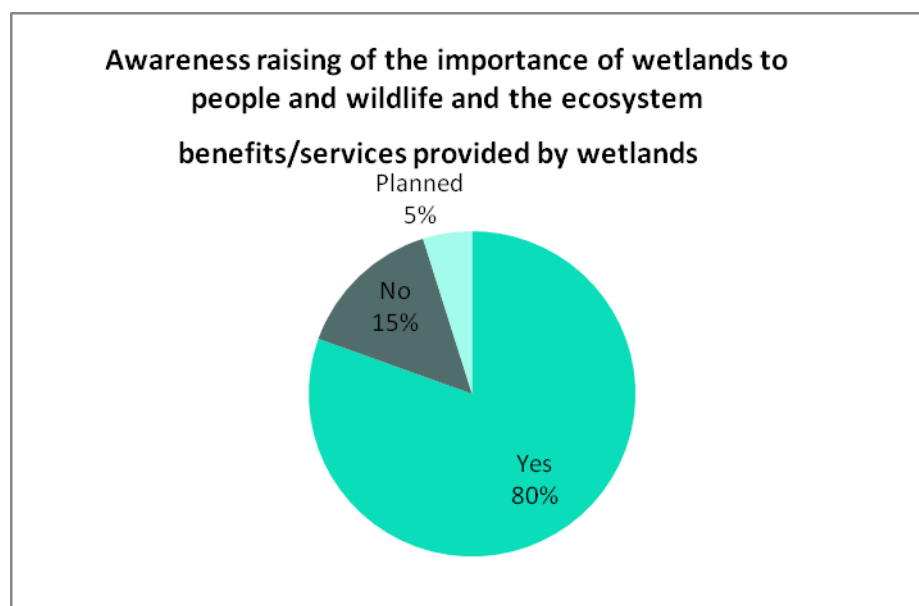
63. In the region more than half of the Contracting Parties have transboundary/shared wetlands. By the mechanism of basin commissions and subregional organizations, over 50% of the Contracting Parties have indicated they have identified their transboundary/shared wetland systems, and approximately 15% of the countries are planning to do so. This result is positive though it requires careful monitoring. It is particularly important because it is about introducing the principles of Ramsar in management mechanisms involving international cooperation. Effective joint management of shared wetland systems is essential and has been encouraged by various decisions of the COP.

#### **Goal 4: Implementation Capacity**

##### **Communication, education, participation and awareness (*Strategy 4.1*)**

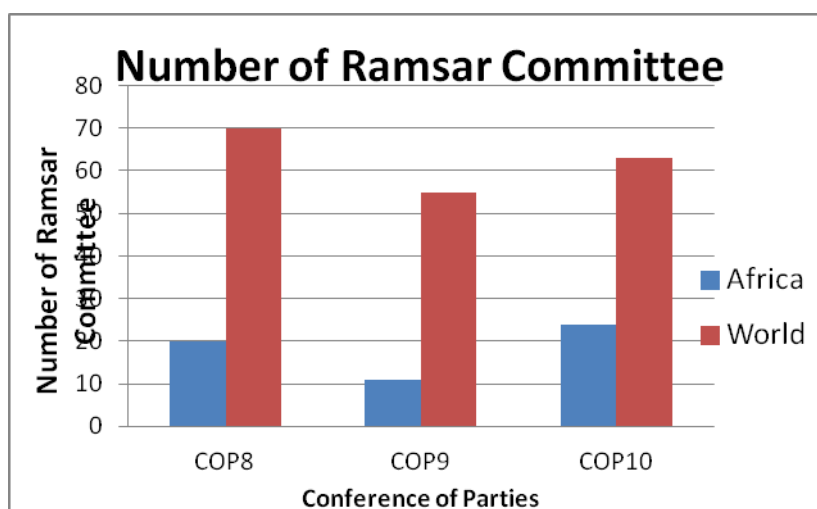
64. A total of 80% of Contracting Parties have led national campaigns, programmes and projects, other than for the World Wetlands Day, to raise community awareness of the benefits/services provided by wetlands. To these good results can be added the 5% of countries that plan to undertake the same action. The CEPA programme of the Convention that was adopted by COP7 (Resolution VII.9) and reinforced by Resolution VIII.31 from COP8 has raised a real interest in Africa. However, the Contracting Parties mentioned the need for further financial mobilization campaigns and awareness programmes in the region. One possible solution was the proposal of a mechanism for planning and implementation of CEPA on wetlands through either the Ramsar National/wetland Committee or some other mechanism. The evaluation shows that the situation

has not changed in terms of financial mobilization in the countries. Efforts to recognize and incorporate the role and functions of wetlands in national and local planning should be intensified to produce the desired results. The modules developed and broken down by the Secretariat to lend a hand to the National Focal Points in francophone countries will help solve the problem. For the next triennium, it is strongly recommended to develop a curriculum and a competency framework in which the presentation modules will introduce the Convention and will be taught in journalism schools and training seminars for environmental journalists. This experience is already done by UNESCO, which attempts to extend it to about sixty schools of journalism around the world.



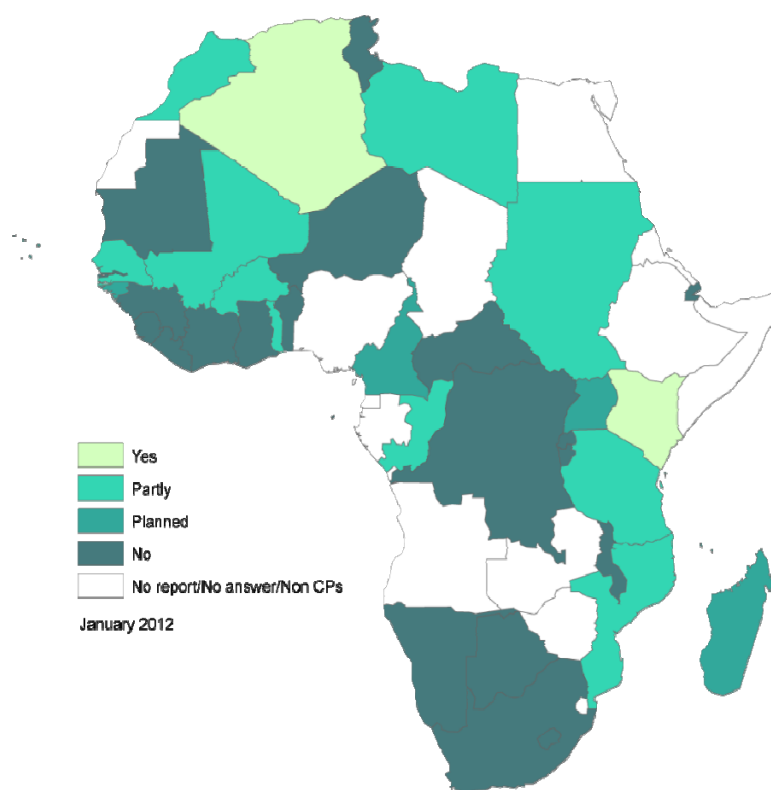
**Figure 24: Percentage of Contracting Parties that led national campaigns, programmes and projects, other than for the World Wetlands Day, to raise community awareness of benefits/services provided by wetlands**

65. Globally the number of Ramsar or wetland committees established by Ramsar Contracting Parties has increased since COP8. Given that according to Recommendation 5.13 (1993), the Contracting Parties are urged establish a National Ramsar Committee, we can consider that there has been some progress in achieving this strategic objective of the Convention. However, we must also admit that once created, the RNCs frequently do not seem operational as the funding for their activities is generally lacking, despite their key role in coordinating and organizing the implementation of the Convention at the national level with the participation of all the stakeholders interested. To address this problem, the Secretariat will adapt and implement the recommendations of the short study done by Marcela Bonells and Monica Zavagli in June-July 2011. Similarly the opportunity of the participation of Ramsar Focal Points in the revision of NBSAPs will be used to expand the activities of National Committees.



**Figure 25: Number of Ramsar National Committee according to COP**

66. The analysis of National Reports highlights that the Contracting Parties insistently mentioned the lack of ability and training as a major obstacle to the implementation of the Convention in Africa. Only two Contracting Parties have targeted and assessed their needs for training and capacity building – all other Parties indicate needs at all levels from site management to policy development. Thus the identification of training needs of institutions and individuals, particularly in Africa, and the provision of appropriate responses, remain key to capacity building for wetland conservation and the wise use of resources.
67. The Secretariat, in Partnership with UNEP-DELC, was able to organize in March 2012 a training workshop on the COP and other multilateral negotiation techniques. However, this experience should be expanded regionally to provide those responsible for implementing the Convention on the ground with the right tools and the insight allowing them to address key issues relating to wetlands such as fundraising, development and implementation of policies, reviewing legislation, inventories of wetlands, wetland management, and other topics linked to the implementation of the Convention. The African region has produced a manual/module to identify the capacity of the Convention's focal points in francophone countries in their daily role of implementing the Convention.



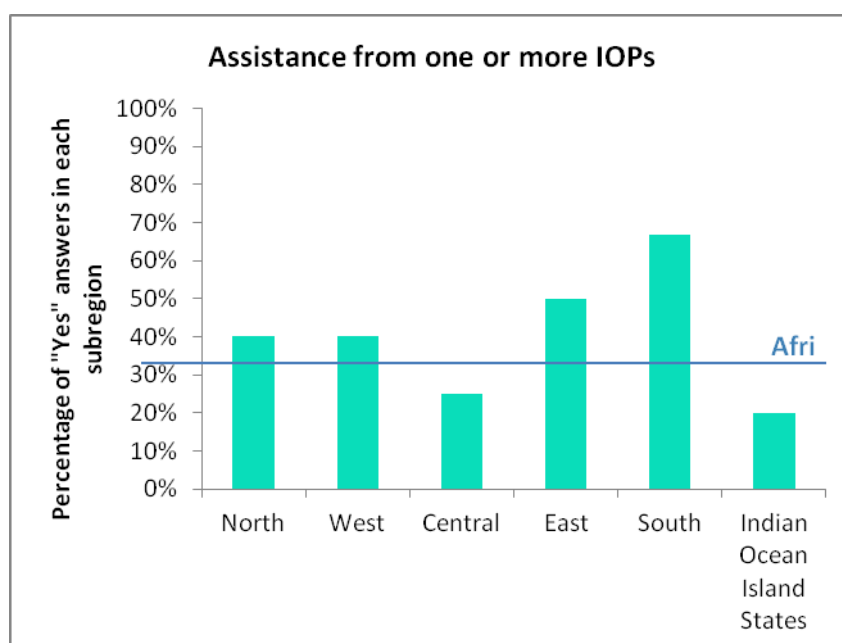
**Figure 26: Contracting Parties that have targeted and assessed their needs for training and capacity building**

#### **Annual contributions** (*Strategy 4.2*)

68. In 2011, the arrears of the national contributions of the African states reached CHF 450,000. The problem has been raised several times during previous triennia and in this one. At the preparatory meeting for COP11 in Ouagadougou, the participants included the following action within the Ouagadougou commitments agreed at that time: “To pay outstanding arrears in annual contributions by COP11 in June 2012; and to make voluntary contributions especially in the context of the African Parties’ decision at COP10 noted in Resolution X.2 (para 23).” As of March 29, 2012, the arrears were somewhat reduced to CHF 345,000 (further information can be found in the information paper COP11 DOC. 15.) Nevertheless, nearly a third of the African Contracting Parties have never paid their contributions since joining the Ramsar Convention, and for some Contracting Parties, this represents an accumulation of 17 years of arrears. The contributions remain unpaid despite regular reminders and other mechanisms. This is not just about the economic situation of the least developed countries in the region, since six of the 10 oil-producing African countries have still not paid their contributions to the Convention. This situation is not acceptable and all African Contracting Parties must honor their commitments. The Secretary General is convinced that this failure to make the minimum financial contribution is a clear sign of an absence of basic commitment and is both impacting the Core budget of the Convention and making voluntary fundraising for Africa from other regions increasingly difficult.

#### **Working with the International Organization Partners (IOPs)** (*Strategy 4.4*)

69. In National Reports and by other means, Contracting Parties mention the assistance received from one or more Ramsar IOPs for their activities aimed at implementing the Convention. The responses obtained and aggregated show a difference between the regions, however: southern Africa leads with a 60% confirmation of the assistance received from IOPs; North and West Africa are identical with a slightly above the average for the continent. Central Africa and the Indian Ocean states have the lowest results. These results demonstrate the key role played by the IOPs in assisting Parties to implement the Convention at national and regional level.
70. In comments and observations of the Contracting Parties, WWF was the most active IOP in its contribution to the Contracting Parties, in particular in the inclusion of new Ramsar Sites. Then follow Wetlands International and BirdLife International, and IUCN is also mentioned in the comments of West Africa countries. The updating of the MOU with the IOPs during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee meeting (16-20 May 2011) gives grounds for envisaging further progress in this area.



**Figure 27: Assistance received by subregion from one or more IOPs for activities aimed at implementing the Convention**

### **Conclusion: Modalities of achieving the priorities for the 2013-2015 triennium**

71. Internationally, there is a strong demand to pool the efforts and investments to better address environmental issues in sustainable development strategies. This request comes at a time when a financial crisis hits the economies of the Contracting Parties. It is therefore imperative to set priorities in the implementation of the Convention in a global context weakened by an economic shock that lasts. This prioritization is done in a context where the African region requires more support to assess and enhance wetland resources. During the 2013-2015 triennium, the regional team will consolidate several achievements, introduce innovations and assist Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention.

Table 2: Modalities of achieving the priorities for the 2013-2015 triennium

Strategy	Priorities	Modalities	Existing achievements
STRATEGY 1.1 Inventory & assessment of wetlands	Inventory & assessment of wetlands	Support Contracting Parties for wetland inventory	
STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation & institutions	Policy Formulation	Provide technical assistance to countries to establish a parliamentary watch on management issues & appropriate use of critical wetland ecosystems	Ongoing collaboration with the Parliamentary Centre
		Assist countries to ensure that issues on wetlands are constantly present at all levels of dialogue, political processes & in formulating sectoral programmes.	Adaptations of national guides
STRATEGY 1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of the services provided by wetlands	Cross-sectoral recognition of the services provided by wetlands.  Ramsar guidance related to water	Strengthen the implementation of Resolutions VIII.19 & IX.21 & translate the Changwon Declaration into programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland programme &amp; <i>in situ</i> conservation</li> <li>• Wetland programme &amp; indigenous peoples</li> <li>• Wetland programme &amp; climate change</li> <li>• Wetland programme, urbanization &amp; human health</li> </ul>	Mangrove programme under development  Joint project with ICLEI under development  “Wetlands” component of the Strategy for the Conservation of Elephants in Africa
Restoration & rehabilitation of wetlands (STRATEGY 1.8)	Restoration & rehabilitation of wetlands	Monitor the use & implementation of the Convention’s guidance on wetland restoration (annex to Resolution VIII.16)	
Invasive alien species (STRATEGY 1.9)	Invasive alien species	Build synergy between basin organizations to strengthen the fight against invasive species.	
Private sector (STRATEGY 1.10)	Private sector participation	Develop mechanisms to involve the private sector in the rational use of African wetlands.	
Ramsar Sites Designation (STRATEGY 2.1)	Assist the Contracting Parties to register 51 new sites (Appendix 1) since COP10 in the framework of their national strategy & their priorities. It is a major achievement in the implementation of the Convention	Define a designation & monitoring programme of Ramsar Sites in the 5 priority areas & areas of influence of “water towers” of lakes & reservoirs with a view to sustaining their resources.	“Wetlands” component of the Strategy for the Conservation of Elephants in Africa
Ramsar Sites Information (STRATEGY 2.2)	Update of information related to Ramsar Sites	Define a mechanism to enable the updating of information related to Ramsar Sites	
Ramsar Site ecological character (STRATEGY 2.4)	Conservation of the ecological characters of Ramsar Sites	Define a mechanism for better transmission of information on the ecological characters of Ramsar Sites to the Secretariat (Resolution VIII.8 & Article 3.2 of the Convention )	



Ramsar Site status (STRATEGY 2.6)	Continuous monitoring of the status of Ramsar Sites	Make continuous monitoring of the status of Ramsar Sites & African sites in the Montreux Record	
Synergies & partnerships with MEAs & IGOs (STRATEGY 3.1)	Cooperation with other agencies & agreements	Establish national mechanisms for collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEA)	
		Foster partnerships with the IPOs & synergies with MEAs related to biodiversity (CCD, CBD, CMS, CITES, AEWA, etc.)	
Regional initiatives (STRATEGY 3.2)	Ramsar Regional Initiatives in Africa	Support the development of a manual of procedures, a capacity building plan & strategic framework Provide technical assistance	
International assistance (STRATEGY 3.3)	Cooperation & international assistance to development	Increase collaboration with development agencies to make wetland conservation & management a priority in order to obtain funds for implementing the Convention in Africa	
Shared wetlands, river basins & migratory species (STRATEGY 3.5)	Management of Ramsar Sites & shared water basin	Monitor the management of Ramsar Sites located in shared river basins  Develop strategic partnerships with organizations responsible for river basins & subregional economic development institutions (e.g., ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC, EAC)	
CEPA (STRATEGY 4.1)	Communication, education & public awareness	Translate the modules for the national correspondents of the Convention  Develop a curriculum & a competency framework in which the presentation modules of the Convention will be taught in journalism schools & training seminars for environment journalists	Experience already carried out by UNESCO, which extends it to journalism schools around the world
Convention financial capacity (STRATEGY 4.2)	Annual contributions	Develop a mechanism to encourage the implementation of the Ouagadougou commitments	
Working with IOPs & others (STRATEGY 4.4)	Collaboration with International Partner Organizations	Implementation of the MOU with the IOPs Organize a workshop for a strategy on invasive species control	
	Training requirements on wetlands (STRATEGY 4.10)	Capacity building for wetland conservation & wise use of resources.	

## Annex 1

### African Ramsar Sites designated since COP10 (from 8 November 2005 to 29 March 2012)

- Number of new Ramsar Sites: 51
- Total surface area of new sites: = **6,676,242** hectares

Country	Site Name	Ramsar No.	Date of Design'n	Surface Area (ha)
Algeria	Garaet Timerganine	1894	18/12/2009	1,460
Algeria	Marais de Bourdim (Wilaya d'El Tarf)	1895	18/12/2009	11
Algeria	Site classé Sebkhet Ezzmoul	1896	18/12/2009	6,765
Algeria	Vallée de l'oued Soummam	1898	18/12/2009	12,453
Algeria	Site Ramsar du Lac Boulhilet	1897	18/12/2009	856
Algeria	Oum Lâagareb	1959	05/06/2011	729
Algeria	Lac du barrage de Boughezoul	1960	05/06/2011	9
Algeria	Ile de Rachgoun	1961	05/06/2011	66
Burkina Faso	Barrage de Bagre	1874	07/10/2009	36,793
Burkina Faso	Barrage de la Kompienga	1875	07/10/2009	16,916
Burkina Faso	Barrage de la Tapoa	1876	07/10/2009	3,419
Burkina Faso	Cône d'épandage de Banh	1877	07/10/2009	10,003
Burkina Faso	La Forêt Classée et Réserve Partielle de Faune Comoé-Léraba	1878	07/10/2009	124,500
Burkina Faso	Forêt Galerie de Léra (Nan, Tchèfoun)	1879	07/10/2009	451
Burkina Faso	Lac Bam	1880	07/10/2009	2,693
Burkina Faso	Lac de Tingrela	1881	07/10/2009	494
Burkina Faso	Lac Dem	1882	07/10/2009	1,354
Burkina Faso	Lac Higa	1883	07/10/2009	1,514
Burkina Faso	Réserve Totale de Faune d'Arly (Parc National d'Arly)	1884	07/10/2009	134,239
Burkina Faso	La Vallée du Sourou	1885	07/10/2009	20,926
Cameroon	Estuaire du Rio Del Rey	1908	20/05/2010	165,000
Central African Republic	Rivière Sangha située en République Centrafricaine	1889	05/11/2009	275,000
Congo	Les Rapides du Congo-Djoué	1857	03/04/2009	2,500
Congo	Sangha-Nouabalé-Ndoki	1858	03/04/2009	1,525,000
Gabon	Bas Ogooue	1851	02/02/2009	862,700
Gabon	Chutes et Rapides sur Ivindo	1852	02/02/2009	132,500
Gabon	Rapides de Mboundou Badouma et de Doume	1853	02/02/2009	59,500
Madagascar	Rivière Nosivolo et affluents	1916	17/09/2010	352,511
Mauritania	Lac Gabou et le réseau hydrographique du Plateau du Tagant	1854	13/02/2009	9,500

Mauritius	Pointe d'Esny Wetland	1988	06/09/2011	22
Mozambique	Lake Niassa and its Coastal Zone (Lago Niassa e Zona Costeira)	1964	26/04/2011	1,363,700
Seychelles	Aldabra Atoll	1887	02/02/2010	43,900
Seychelles	Mare Aux Cochons High altitude freshwater wetlands	1905	02/02/2010	0.315
South Africa	Ntsikeni Nature Reserve	1904	02/02/2010	9,200
Sudan	Dongonab Bay-Marsa Waiai	1859	02/02/2009	280,000
Sudan	Suakin-Gulf of Agig	1860	02/02/2009	1,125,000
Tunisia	Chott Elguetar	2005	02/02/2012	7,400
Tunisia	Sebkhet Halk Elmanzel et Oued Essed	2006	02/02/2012	1,450
Tunisia	Marais d'eau douce Garaet Douza	2007	02/02/2012	1,400
Tunisia	Golfe de Boughrara	2008	02/02/2012	12,880
Tunisia	Les Gorges de Thelja	2009	02/02/2012	675
Tunisia	Barrage Merguellil	2010	02/02/2012	714
Tunisia	Oued Dekouk	2011	02/02/2012	5,750
Tunisia	Iles Kerkennah ou L'archipel de Kerkennah	2012	02/02/2012	15,000
Tunisia	Barrage Oued El Hajar	2013	02/02/2012	254
Tunisia	Barrage Oued Ermal	2014	02/02/2012	620
Tunisia	Salines de Monastir	2015	02/02/2012	1,000
Tunisia	Barrage Sidi Abdelmoneem	2016	02/02/2012	31
Tunisia	Barrage de Sidi El Barrak	2017	02/02/2012	2,734
Tunisia	Barrage de Sidi Saad	2018	02/02/2012	8,650
Tunisia	Sebkhet Sidi Elhani	2019	02/02/2012	36,000

## Annex 2

### New site designations in progress

Designation letters and Ramsar Information Sheets have been received for a further 20 sites.

Country	Site name	Date of receipt of RIS
Benin	Réserve Biosphère de la Pendjari	01/05/2011
Burundi	Paysage protégé des Lacs du Nord	09/12/2011
Burundi	Reserve Naturelle de la Malagarazi	09/12/2011
Cameroon	Ebogo	Feb. 2010
Cameroon	Partie camerounaise du fleuve Ntem	Feb. 2010
Egypt	Lake Qarun Protected Area	
Egypt	Wadi El Rayan Protected Area	
Madagascar	Sandravinany	01/06/2011
Madagascar	Tsaratanana	02/06/2011
Madagascar	Mikaiky	03/06/2011
Madagascar	Ivondro Lavaraty	04/06/2011

Madagascar	Befondrano	05/06/2011
Madagascar	Sitriaky	06/06/2011
Madagascar	Fenoambany	07/06/2011
Madagascar	Angodongodona	08/06/2011
Madagascar	Andranolalina	09/06/2011
Madagascar	Manambondro	10/06/2011
Mali	Zone humide du Lac magui	May 2011
Mali	Zone humide du Sourou	May 2012
Mali	Lac Wegnia	May 2012

## Annex 3

## List of projects since COP10

Type	Year	Country	Title		Amt allocated (CHF)	Amt Paid (CHF)	Amt Remaining (CHF)
SGF	2008	Cape Verde	Protecting key wetlands in Maio Island, Cape Verde	Ongoing	37,119.00	22,271	14,848.00
SGF	2008	Cameroon	Implementation of the Action Plan 2008-2009 of the Ramsar Convention in Cameroon	Finalised	34,000.00	34,000.00	0
SGF	2009	Mali	Sauvons le Delta Intérieur du Fleuve Niger	Ongoing	39,440.00	23,664	15,776.00
SGF	2009	Congo	Inventaire et évaluation des zones humides du Congo	Ongoing	29,275.00	0.00	29,275.00
SGF	2009	Morocco	Inventaire des zones humides du Maroc	Ongoing	40,000.00	24,000	16,000
SGF	2010	Guinea-Bissau	Protection & development of wetlands of Lagoa de Cufada Ramsar site in Guinea-Buissau	Ongoing	34,504.00	0.00	34,504.00
SGA	2008	Cote d'Ivoire	Atelier national sur le thème Les impacts des biocarburants sur les zones humides	Finalised	27,500	27,500	0
SGA	2008	Gabon	Mise en œuvre de la politique Nationale pour les zones humides au Gabon	Finalised	27,500	27,500	0
SGA	2008	Mozambique	Mission Consultative Ramsar au Site Ramsar Marromeu Complex	Finalised	25,000		
SGA	2008	Niger	Projet d'élaboration de la Politique Nationale pour les Zones Humides du Niger	Finalised	20,000	20,000	0
SGA	2008	Uganda	Grant towards designation of Lake Victoria	Finalised	5,000	5,040	
SGA	2008	Tanzania	Grant towards designation of Lake Victoria	Nearly finalised	5,000		

SGA	2009	Benin, Burkina, Niger	Développement du tourisme ornithologique pour réduire la pauvreté dans le parc régional du W	Finalised	40,000	40,000	
SGA	2009	Namibia	Eco-tourism and Namibia's wetlands	Finalised	30,000	30,000	
SGA	2009	Morocco	Mission Consultative Ramsar: Site Ramsar Embouchure de la Moulouya	Nearly finalised	25,000		
SGA	2009	Congo	Mission Consultative Ramsar: Site Ramsar Cayo-Loufoualeba	Finalised	25,000		
SGA	2010	Egypt	Assessment & dissemination of ecological status of wetlands in Egypt in conjunction with awareness raising on the values of wetlands through alternative income generating activities and designation of new Ramsar Sites	Finalised	35,000		
SGA	2010	Tunisia	Awareness-raising of the values of wetlands through multimedia tools: Mission to the Mediterranean region	Finalised	30,000		
SGA	2010	South Africa	First meeting of the Africa region Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel National Focal Points to be held in South Africa	Finalised	30,000		

## Annex 4

### Ramsar Advisory Missions in Africa since COP10

Site	Country	Date	Comments
Lake Natron Basin	Tunisia	01/02/2008	Visit was done before COP10
Marromeu Complex	Mozambique	01/08/2009	
Cayo-Loufoualeba	Congo	23-27/06/2010	
Embouchure de la Moulouya	Morocco	01/10/2010	