



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Romania, June 2012**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **15 September 2011**.

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

Introduction & background

1. This National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee in Decision SC41-24 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40th meeting in May 2009, and its Decision SC40-29, this COP11 National Report Format closely follows that used for the COP10 National Report Format, which in turn was a significantly revised and simplified format in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In addition to thus permitting continuity of reporting and implementation progress analyses by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP10 NRF), this COP11 NRF is structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP10 as Resolution X.1, and the indicators speak to relevant Key Result Areas (KRAs) for each Strategy in the Strategic Plan.
4. The COP11 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee, certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in light of its work on assessing effectiveness indicators, and by the CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention. The format also includes indicator questions concerning the use of the "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands", as requested in Resolution X.3 (2008).
5. This COP11 NRF includes 82 indicator questions. 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.
6. The COP11 Format also now includes an additional, optional, section (section 4) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, if it wishes to, on indicators relevant to individual Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

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 website.
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 and experience to help Parties develop future action;
 - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
 - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable for their commitments under the Convention;

- v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and to plan its future priorities; and
 - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation 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 COP11 consideration.
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent 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 meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the 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., COP10 DOC. 6);
 - 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., COP10 DOC. 7); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP10 DOCs 8-13);
 - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP. Examples at CO9 and COP10 included:
 - Resolution IX.15 and X.13, *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), *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC. 25), *Overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2006-2008* (COP10 DOC. 16, and *Background and rationale to the Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character* (COP10 DOC. 27);
 - iii) providing the source data for 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 (4th edition, 2010); 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 on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the COP10 NRF indicators have been used extensively in 2009 in the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems that was being considered by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3).

The structure of the COP11 National Report Format

12. The COP11 National Report Format is in four sections.

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

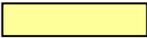
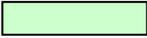
Section 2 is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 82 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional “free-text” section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity; and a further “free-text” section for adding further information on other aspects of implementation of that Strategy.

Section 4 (www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). This has been included at the request of a number of Parties.

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP11 National Report Format

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

13. All of the first three Sections of the COP11 National Report Format should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **15 September 2011**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP11.
15. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
16. Fields with a pale green background  are optional free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since experience

shows 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.

17. In order to assist Contracting Parties in providing 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.
18. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the form and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties. If you need to work with an unlocked version of the Format, please contact Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer (dufour@ramsar.org), who will advise on how that can be done.
19. 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.
20. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
21. 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 Microsoft “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes in the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
22. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic data entry into our database for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [] °°°° in the “free text” fields.
23. 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, but are generally of the form: “Yes”, “No”, “Partly”, “In progress”, etc. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
24. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
25. 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.
26. 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. When filling in this form, it is also advised to refer back to the National Report submitted for COP10 for purposes of continuity and consistency.

27. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP11NRF [Country] [date].
28. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, e-mail: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in this electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
29. 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 COP11 National Report.**
30. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP11 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: EGYPT	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency – Nature Conservation Sector
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Email:	e.ahmedali_ncs@hotmail.com
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Prof. Moustafa Fouda Advisor, Ministry of Environmental Affairs
Name of organisation:	Nature Conservation Sector/EEAA
Mailing address:	30 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Rd., 7th flr, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
Telephone/Fax:	+20 2 2527 1391, Fax 2: +20 2 2524 8792
Email:	foudamos@link.net
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Mr. Adel Soliman Information Technology & Public Awareness Officer
Name of organisation:	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency - Nature Conservation Sector
Mailing address:	30 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Rd., 7th flr, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
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Email:	adelnbu@yahoo.com
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
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Name of organisation:	IMAGE HOUSE
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SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP10 reporting):

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

Egypt continues the implementation of its national wetland strategy which was prepared in 2005 and incorporated Ramsar COPs and CBD COPs:

1. A Supreme National Committees, chaired by the Minister of Environment and representatives of the relevant governmental and local communities, was held.
2. Good coordination exists with relevant stakeholders dealing with wetlands.
3. A detailed action are being developed to design two new Ramsar sites with international importance.
4. Conducted studies on the evaluation of economic values of some egyptian wetlands.
5. A comprehensive monitoring program for of wetlands in Egypt, including the northern lakes and lakes Qarun and Wadi Rayan and the Timsah Lake and Bitter Lakes, is currently in action.
6. Two new projects funded by GEF/UNDP dealing with soaring birds and self-financing protected areas are being implemented.
7. Partnerships and synergies with RIO conventions and other related biodiversity conventions continues.
8. Sustainable Development/ MDGs are being incorporated in the new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, in accordance with CBD COP10 Decisions, with emphasis on resource mobilization strategy.
9. Second Communication was submitted to Climate Change Convention; and CMS with its relevant agreements are incorporated in the national wetland strategy.
10. Partnerships with private and public sector as well as NGOs exhibit good case studies, with focus on the importance of wetlands and its wise use (e.g. eco-tourism, aquaculture projects, salt production, poverty alleviation, and mitigationss for climate change, and securing migratory birds from high elctricity grids and wind mills).
11. Intial steps had been taken to review and update the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) which will include the management of wetlands.
12. Participate regularly in the Med-winter census for birds in several wetlands in Egypt (e.g. Zaranik - Burulus - Red Sea - etc.).
13. Celebration of the Wetland Internatioal Day was organized regularly accompanied with production of awareness materials, workshops, field visits for schools, etc.
14. Creation of National Team for monitoring of wetland habitats espceially migratory birds and threats affecting wetlands.
15. Conduct management effectiveness evaluation for 6 wetlands (PAs) (Ras Mohamed - Wadi El-Rayan - Qaroun - Wadi El-Gemal - Nabq - Red Sea Islands).
16. Declared a new PAs (El-Salum PA) within Matrouh Governorate to offer protection to the Mediterranean wetland in Egypt.
17. Development of management plans for Qaroun Lake, Nabq and a draft one for Ras Mohamed. While updating the management plan of Wadi El-Rayan Lakes.
18. Update the national biodiveristy indicators with new indicators specific for different wetlands issues.
19. Implementation of rehabilitation and restoration of mangrove in the Red Sea in coordination with local communities.
20. Conduct inventory for biodiversity features of Nile Basin wetlands in Egypt.

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

There are many successful aspects of the convention implementation. These included:

1. Rehabilitation and restoration programmes implemented with assistance of local communities such as rehabilitation of Mangrove in Red Sea as a mitigation to climate change adaptation
2. CEPA campaign on the importance of wetlands especially Ramsar sites.
3. Preparation of Montreux record files for the possible removal of the two listed sites (Brullus and Bardawil).
4. Improved capacity building for management of wetlands in Egypt.
5. Begin designating two new Ramsar sites by funding from Swiss Grant for Africa regulated by Ramsar Secretariat
6. Studying the economic values of some Egyptian wetlands such as Wadi El Rayan and mangrove and coral reefs.
7. Securing funds from different sources to implement national wetland strategy.
8. Improving the ecological character of Ramsar sites.
9. Obtain more information on other wetlands in Egypt.
10. More scientific papers, reports, M.Sc. and Ph.D thesis on wetlands in Egypt.

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

- 1- Limited awareness of principles of sustainable use of wetlands.
- 2- Complex inter-governmental management process affected mainstreaming of wetlands in the developmental projects.
- 3- Growing human processes and pressure on wetlands due to recent political changes, leading to security and safety issues that need to be resolved very soon.
- 4- Slow decision-making on the importance of wetlands and their wise use (e.g. implementing strategic environmental assessment still not approved on sensitive sites for migratory birds, integrated water management, control of invasive species.

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

Our future priorities are based on:

1. Mainstreaming of the national wetlands strategy into the new Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in accordance with CBD COP10 Decisions with focus on resource mobilization, partnerships with MEAs and other related biodiversity conventions.
2. Develop innovative financial mechanisms for Egyptian protected areas and wetlands.
3. Emerging issues (e.g. invasive species, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), mainstreaming of biodiversity and 2020 targets of CBD).
4. More legislation on biodiversity such as ABS law and wildlife law.
5. Improve effective management of protected Areas, including wetlands of international importance (Ramsar).
6. Continue biodiversity monitoring and assessment of wetlands.

E. Does the Contracting Party have any proposals concerning adjustments to the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan?

New emerging issues such as green economy in agriculture and eco-tourism are proposed. More efforts will be needed for RIO+20 in Brazil, where expected important decisions will be made, and these should be discussed in the coming COP11 next year.

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

Guidance on the recommended scale and detail for the National Wetland Inventory

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

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

H. 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?

Most of conventions still act in isolation from each others inspite of the contineous efforts to synchronize, synergize and mainstreaming of activities, but most actions are still restricted to attend joint meetings. The most important actions are providing the enabling environment that ensures the necessary capacity be developed to fulfill global/national biodiversity obligations and priorities. A new project to enhance RIO conventions is being implemented in Egypt, where database have been prepared, cross-cutting issues have been agreed upon, and being implemented. Other related biodiversity conventions such as CMS, CITES, World Heritage Convention, need to enhance synergies through a joint project and agree in joint reporting to reduce overlap in activities.

Also, there is a need to strengthen the governance, programmatic and administrative support for more effective implementation of by different conventions thus a coordinated approach is essential in addition to more integrate or mainstream wetlands into the national policies.

I. 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 industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

1. Updating the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans will facilitate implementation of the national wetland strategy by incorporating it in one Biodiversity Strategy and Several Action Plans, one will be on wetlands
2. Create a national network for Egyptian protected areas including wetlands, and implementing effective management plans.
3. Evaluate Climate Changes impacts on Wetlands, Coastal Zones and Biodiversity and provide mitigation measures.
4. Exchanging and transferring experiences and information, linking entities working in the field of wetlands, Biodiversity conservation regionally and internationally.
5. Studying social, environmental and economic dimensions of Wetlands and Biodiversity conservation on achieving sustainable Development objectives.
6. General supervision on aquatic surfaces of Wetlands, specifying development limits, control & following-up methods for applying laws and directives, eliminating violations, discussing the improvement of environmental & administrative status plans for them and the best investment for available environmental & fish resources.
7. Rehabilitation of deteriorated Wetlands exposed to environmental pressures or deteriorations as a result of wrong human activities.
8. Harmonizing all Wetlands` activities among ministries and stakeholders to implement integrated management for those lands through formulating and designing general guide lines for all activities including EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) studies for projects and activities expected to be held in Wetlands.

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

Non

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 a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions.
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 paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database designed for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [], °°°° in the free text box.
5. To assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP10, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP10 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment. *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.*

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A - Yes
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<p>1.1.1 Additional information: Egypt has made a comprehensive wetland inventory for several sites including Lake Bardawil, Burullus, Nabq, Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun lakes. In addition, a preliminary inventory assessment was made for the the 12 site groups that were included at the National Wetland Strategy.</p>	
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1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>A. Wetland inventory data and information are available, and data is maintained in various forms (e.g. website, http://www.wetlands.org/rsis/ , see also http://www.egyptchm.org/chm/implementation/cross_cutting_pas_implementation.htm)</p> <p>B. several books such as Wadi Rayan, Lake Burullus, Lake Bardawil and Lake Nasser, and official reports (ITTO final report on the mangroves ,reports described current status of Nile, Lake Qarun and Wadi El Rayan Lakes were released.</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>O - No change P - Status improved</p>
<p>1.1.3 a) Additional information:</p> <p>Yes, information about status and trends of the ecological character of some sites are available. For example, connection between the sea and coastal lakes (2 Ramsar sites) was closed, resulted in changing the ecological character of the site, where fresh water and brackish water dominated the sites for several years, and fresh water fish and weeds were dominant.</p>	
<p>1.1.3 b) Additional information:</p> <p>Efforts made resulted in that changes in some sites have been improved than before. For example, most of water inlets are well-maintained, the results are more sea water and marine fish are available now. Meanwhile, fresh water weeds became less than few years ago. Artificial wetlands were constructed to reduce pollution pressure from sewage as well as other waste from industry and fish farms. Furthermore, all mangrove sites have been demarkated, and rehabilitation and restoration programmes were implemented, resulted in an increase of the mangrove area.</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i
(If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

A - Yes

1.3.1 Additional information:

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

- 1- To conserve and wisely manage, on sound ecological bases, wetlands as integral elements of the nation's natural resources;
- 2- To manage, rehabilitate or restore wetland sites with the support of governmental agencies and local communities;
- 3- To create and promote institutional arrangements required for effective implementation of the planned actions;
- 4- To ensure community recognition of wetlands as natural assets, and so promote public support for programs of action for sustainable management of wetlands sites;
- 5- To identify, on a scientific basis, wetlands sites that are ecologically important at the local, national and international levels, and ensure their conservation;
- 6- To survey the wetlands of Egypt, build up a comprehensive inventory of these wetlands and their resources, and to make this information accessible.

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

1. Establishment of a national council of wetlands (which is already established)
2. Survey of wetlands (ecology, hydrology, biodiversity, socioeconomics); an ongoing activity
3. Selection of sites for wetland nature reserves as a national wetland network and proposals for a tentative list made international (Ramsar) sites;
4. Research programs in selected wetland sites;
5. Formulation of management plans for each site;
6. Public awareness programs;
7. Establishment of a national wetlands databank;
8. Training and capacity building program;
9. Inventories of cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge of wetlands in Egypt
10. Consolidation of national laws for wetlands and means of enforcement
11. Financial mechanisms to support programs of action.

1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}

A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

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

1.3.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
- b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
- c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
- d) National forest programmes
- e) National strategies for sustainable development
- f) National policies or measures on agriculture
- g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans

{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

A - Yes
 A - Yes
 A - Yes
 Z - Not applicable
 A - Yes
 C - Partly
 A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information:

Treatment of wastewater via engineered wetlands at Lake Manzala is a new low cost technology to the Middle East and the Lake. The project aims to explore the suitability of using treated water in breeding some fish species that have already declined from the lake under pollution stress. Meanwhile, the project is keen on involving the local community in the operation and maintenance of the facility to increase awareness on the technology and reduce the risks of pollution. This resulted in the improvement of the livelihood of local communities where more fish farms were established at the edge of wetlands. Fish farms production last year contributed by 70% of all fish production. Egypt is also in the process of signing the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol, and is updating its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan according to CBD COP10 where resource mobilization strategy will be a major component, as well as partnership and synergies with MEAs will be incorporated. Efforts are being made for the National Strategy for Sustainable Development where green economy is being incorporated, and will be submitted to RIO+20 next year in Brazil

1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii

C - Partly

1.3.4 Additional information:

The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources has prepared national water resources plan till 2017. The strategy has a policy in protecting public health and environment. Priority is giving to measures that prevent pollution. This includes reduction of pollution by stimulating clean products and relocation of certain industries. Agriculture will be encouraged to use more environmentally friendly methods and products. If pollution can not be prevented treatment is the next option. The plan includes a considerable increase in treatment of municipal sewage and waste water. However, ministry of Environment has not yet implemented Strategic Environmental Assessment yet, and efforts are being made for sometime without success.

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?	A - Yes
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1.3.5 Additional information:
According to Law 4/1994 for Environmental Protection (amended by law 9/2009), and Law 102/1983 for Protectorates, any development project is not approved without making EIA. Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) and EIAs department of EEAA have to review EIAs, and issue a permit before construction. During construction and even Operation phase, EEAA staff visit the sites for inspection, and those that violate the law, will be sent to court. During operation, each construction has to keep a registrar for environmental monitoring on periodic basis. This is being implemented for more than 15 years.

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	A - Yes
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1.3.6 Additional information:
Law 4/1994 was amended by law 9/2009 where more enforcement of the law was approved, and being implemented now. Executive regulations for Law 9/2009 have also been endorsed by the Prime Minister where a list of protected species is included, and also commitments to Biodiversity Related Conventions are obligatory according to the National Constitution

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii	A - Yes
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1.4.1 Additional information:

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

Within the framework of the new project on self financing of protected areas, economic evaluation is mandatory where the benefits of ecosystem services at local and national levels are being made, with emphasis on eco tourism, medicinal plants, organic farming, etc, are being made. This will help in the preparation of concession permits, and even in reviewing EIAs.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i

A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information:

The National Biodiversity strategy and action plan, National Environmental Action Plan of Egypt, Recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development including Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), recommendations and decisions of COPs of different conventions including CBD and Ramsar, have been incorporated in our work programmes for protected areas in Egypt. Our NCS vision is to preserve the natural character of the Egyptian environment for future generations while using it innovatively to enhance sustainable local productivity and alleviate poverty (see enclosed book on biodiversity conservation capacity building). Thus, while we are protecting our natural resources, we allow wise use of these resources for the benefit of local communities and the national economy. We have encouraged establishment of NGOs and have provided them with necessary training to execute specific programmes in our protected areas. These included rehabilitation and restoration programmes (e.g. removal of weeds, maintaining the connection between the seawater and the lakes), transplantation of mangroves and other trees, establishing honey bee hives, encourage handcrafts of local inhabitants, etc. give priority to declaration of new PAs where indigenous ways of life are strongly linked with nature, such as Salum.

1.4.3 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {1.3.4} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

1.4.3 Additional information:

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

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

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

A new law has been prepared on Access and Benefit Sharing, in accordance of Nagoya Protocol, and is being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice prior submitting to the Cabinet and the Egyptian Parliament.

1.4.4 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.1.5} KRA 1.4.iii

D - Planned

1.4.4 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention. *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes*

1.5.1 Have you taken steps to ensure that your national focal points for other environmental conventions are contributing to the application of Ramsar Convention implementation mechanisms? KRA 1.5.i

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

The joint project funded by GEF/UNDP on streamlining of the RIO Conventions is taking place where database for each convention is prepared, and cross-cutting issues have been agreed, and being implemented

1.5.2 Have you brought the “Changwon Declaration” (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
- b. parliament
- c. private sector
- d. civil society

A - Yes
A - Yes
A - Yes
A - Yes

1.5.2 Additional information:

The Changwon declaration was translated into Arabic, and was included in the COP10 report prepared by the National Focal Point which was approved by the Minister of Environment, and later was sent to all stakeholders, including all sectors of the society.

1.5.3 Has the “Changwon Declaration” been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?

C - Partly

1.5.3 Additional information:

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages relevant for your country?

A - Yes

1.5.4 Additional information:

Changwon Declaration was published in the newsletter of NCS which was cited in several websites and visited by millions of Egyptians and Arabs

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

KRA 1.6.i

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

- Report on agro-biodiversity in Egypt was produced in coordination with Conditional Incentive Based Rural Development Program-EU in Cairo.
- Master degree on the impact of climate changes on wetlands in El-Omeid PA. Second Communication was submitted to Climate Change secretariat. Valuation of ecosystem services have made for several wetlands.

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including on potential threats to the wetlands? KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

As stated before, many reports, M.Sc. and Ph.D thesis as well as many scientific papers were published. However, data base and information exist, but not yet incorporated into management plans. It is planned to incorporate such information in updating the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan where they will be translated into actions in updating management plans of protected areas in Egypt.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

The research program of the national Wetland Strategy calls to studies on the hydrology of wetland sites, with special attention to:

- (i) defining the catchment areas;
- (ii) assessing the volumes of inflows and outflows, and the water balance in the site.
- (iii) measuring the quantity and quality of pollutants collected from the catchment area and flowing to the site

However, the National Wetland Strategy still need to be effective, and most of research are carried out by individuals from NCS, universities and Research Centers in Egypt. It is hoped that Res 1X Annex C of COP10 will be used soon in informing the decision-making related to water resource planning and management .

1.7.2 Does your country's water governance and management treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins?
KRA 1.7.ii

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

1.7.3 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.4.2}

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

CEPA expertise and tools have been incorporated into catchment , River basin planning and management of wetlands (management plans of Burullus, Qarun, Wadi El Rayan and Bardawil). In addition, several Ramsar Books were translated into Arabic. There is a plan to publish them, otherwise they will be located digitally in several websites related to biodiversity in Egypt .

1.7.4 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? {1.4.3}

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

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

1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

1.7.5 Additional information:

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

The second communication of Egypt to Climate Change convention was sent last year, and efforts are being made in the third communication where wetlands will be part of the mitigation adaptation to climate change.

1.7.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands and water in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? KRA 1.7.v

A - Yes

1.7.6 Additional information:

Most wetlands in Egypt have around their peripheries intensive fish farming systems that provide more than 70% of fish production in Egypt. There exist artificial wetlands for water treatment at more than wetlands to reduce water pollution in major large wetlands in Egypt,

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems 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 and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

Recent studies have shown that mangroves store carbon dioxide four times more than other rainforests. Since we started restoration program on mangroves for several years, mangrove restoration is given a priority, and a project is being prepared to be funded by GEF.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

There were several restoration and rehabilitation programs that were and are still being implemented in wetlands in Egypt:

1. In lake Brullus, when freshwater dominated the lake for several years, due to the closure of connection with the sea, weeds dominated most of the lake.

Therefore enormous efforts were made to remove weeds from the lake. These included hiring workers to remove weeds, establishing NGOs to coordinate activities and providing incentives to locals to participate in the whole campaign.

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

3. About 50.000 *Avicennia marina* seedlings were transplanted from the established nurseries and from the wild. Successful introduction of *Rhizophora* propagules were made at Hamata and Quseir .

4. Rehabilitation programme of the tortoise was successful and now several hundred animals are estimated at Omayed and Zaranik PAs.

1.8.3 Has Ramsar guidance (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidance on wetland restoration been used in designing and implementing wetland restoration/ rehabilitation programmes or projects? {1.5.2}

A - Yes

1.8.3 Additional information:

Rehabilitation or restoration of a wetland sites are implemented with support of government agencies and community organizations concerned with the site.

1) Promote education and empower local people to become involved in the planned management activities.

2) Information collected from ecological inventories and research are available to people and their organization in the Wetland site.

3) Provide means for community consultation in the preparation, review and implementation of management plans.

4) Explore means including incentives, encouraging stakeholders, landowners of fish farms, tourist facilities to participate in programmes of action.

5) Apply capacity building of government institutions and non-governmental organizations to help the implementation of this strategy.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species. *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands?
KRA 1.9.i

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information:

The Nature Conservation Sector (NCS), has made considerable program where many consultations, workshops and meetings were held. A task team was formed, at NCS, of national experts. The task team was assigned to review all invasive species in Egypt through available literature, communication with experts, and interviews with governmental institutions. They also consulted literature available from Global Invasive Species Program. A list for Alien Invasive Species introduced to Egypt is being updated regularly (211 species were listed by 2011).

Type	Terrestrial species	water pecies	Total
plants	40	44	84
Crustaceans	0	16	16
Insects	26	-	26
Arachnids	1	-	1
Fishes	-	29	29
Mammals	3	-	3
Birds	5	-	5
Reptiles	-	1	1
Amphibians	-	1	1
Micro-organisms	17	-	17
Nematodes	5	-	5
Molluscs	-	5	5
Echinoderms	-	1	1
Coelenterates	-	1	1
Polychaetes	1	1	2
Total	112	99	211

1.9.2 Have national invasive species control and management policies or guidelines been established for wetlands?
{1.6.1} KRa 1.9.iii

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information:

National policies, strategies and management respond to threats from invasive species in wetlands are being developed, based on studies made, consultation with experts, attending meetings, workshops and corresponding with regional and international agencies related to invasive species. The policy will be in accordance to CBD New Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2021) (target 9) where efforts are being made to include many issues such as capacity building, low enforcement, legal and regulatory framework, resource mobilization, information gathering and sharing, political commitments, research, and database, networking, stakeholder involvement, environmental impact assessment, etc. The following are examples of what is available on some invasive species in Egypt.

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

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

Efforts made by NCS has encouraged more scientists to start research program on invasive species in Egypt. It is hoped their results will convince decision-making to repond to this importantsnt issue affecting the livelihood of millions of Egyptians.

STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. <i>Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.</i>

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {4.2.1} KRA 1.10.i

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information:

Private sector has been encouraged to apply wise use principle in activities and investment concerning wetlands. During the last few years, many fish farms were established by private sector, the result was fish from aquaculture practice has contributed significantly bay more than 70% of the total fish catch. Prior establishment of a fish farm, an environmental impact assessment has to be carried out, approved by EEAA and monitored by managers of protected areas.

For example, there exist about 4000 acres of fish farms around Qarun and Wadi Rayan lakes, where each acre can produce up to two tons.

The new project on self financing protected areas in Egypt calls for partnerships with private sector. The Inception Workshop held in July 2011, was attended by many private sector companies and individuals where partnerships principles, and approaches were discussed and approved. It is hoped very soon real partnerships will be translated into actions and projects related to tourism and aquaculture.

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of:

- a. Wetlands in general
- b. Ramsar Sites

KRA 1.10.ii

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

Private sector has been involved in many activities dealing with coastal habitat management, particularly coral reefs. Prior establishment of any activity (e.g. hotel, resort, desalination plant), an environmental impact assessment has to be carried out and approved by EEAA.

Rangers of protected areas follow up with activities during construction and operation phase. Those who violate law 4 for environmental protection and law 102 for natural protectorate are submitted to courts, and have to pay the cost of environmental degradation

1.10.3 Have awareness-raising materials been made available to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices? KRA 1.10.iii

A - Yes

1.10.3 Additional information:

There is a forum site for biodiversity in Egypt. This electronic website has been initiated to be a reference for all those interested in status and trends of biological diversity in Egypt. It was activated on 5th June 2007 in celebration of World Environment Day, and has been visited by about 40 million oerson from Egypt and arab countries.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.1} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Actions have been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These included providing fisherman with engines for their boats (Zaranik), buying fishing gear with legalized mesh for fishermen with a discount of 50%, involvement of local communities with sustainable touristic activities (bird hides, bird observatory), provide incentives to fisherman to remove weeds in wetlands, provide fodder for their animals to reduced grazing , ensure boughaz (already identified before) are maintained, establish fish hatcheries by the general authority for development of fish authorities and private sector, encourage establishment of fish farms , and provide fishermen with refrigerators to keep fish prior marketing.</p> <p>Sustainable ecological tourism projects at Zaranik Protected Area, a Ramsar site and a migratory bird pass, is encouraged by building 4 bird observation huts, an ecolodge to receive bird observation groups and a parking place. This project is providing work opportunities to many of the local people decreasing poverty.</p> <p>Fish farms were established to increase fish stocks in PAs that have lakes like Qarun and Wadi El –Rayan. Assistance was given to young graduates to start small enterprise like cage culture and establish fish farms, in collaboration with the Social Development Fund and Banks.</p> <p>Rangeland programmes at Al-Omayed involved many activities where Roman wells cisterns were cleared, well maintained to store water for grazing animals. Local communities in and around the protected areas were allowed to graze their animals to decrease the pressure on vegetation, based on the carrying capacity studies. Meanwhile, alternatives were provided when vegetation cover decreased. Examples included supporting local communities with animal feed for several months, till vegetation cover came back to its natural conditions. Other alternative was to assist local communities is small agricultural practices like plantation of olive and Acacia trees.</p> <p>Local communities were encouraged to establish their own NGOs and assistance was given to them like: training on management, in obtaining funds (e.g. small grants from GEF programmes). They were also involved in many activities within the Protected Areas. Examples included assisting in reed control at Lake Brullus. Water passes in Lake Brullus and Zaranik were cleared, with assistance given by the Ministry of Water Resources and General Authority for Development of Fish Resources. This resulted in more marine fishes entered the lakes. In addition, fishermen were given assistance including covering a percentage of fish gear cost (fish nets and boat engines). Thus, fishermen were able to catch the sustainable fish stocks.</p>	
1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

The current projects being implemented (e.g. soaring birds, self-financing protected areas) include in their programs actions related to incentives. A study is being made on how to apply positive incentives at NCS, private and public sectors. Results will be formulated into policies and action plans.

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note. An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP11 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on any of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. Apply the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance" (Handbook 14, 3rd edition).

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A - Yes
2.1.1 Additional information: The objective 5 of the National Wetland Strategy is to identify, on scientific basis, wetland sites that are ecologically important at local, national and international scales, and ensure their conservation. There are 12 generic types of wetlands that have been recognized in Egypt. These include the coastal lakes along the Mediterranean (Salloum), Wadi Natroun lakes, Qaroun-Rayan lakes, agricultural drainage water depressions in the Nile Delta, water springs along the Red Sea, River Nile, Lake Nasser, Toshka spill way, littoral salt marshes along the Mediterranean coast, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba and Suez (mangroves, coral reefs), and Suez Canal lakes. Database is currently being collected for priority areas (Qaroun – Wadi Rayan lakes).	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	D - Planned
2.1.2 Additional information:	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	2 sites
2.1.3 Additional information: RIS of Lake Qarun and Wadi El Rayan Lakes were filled and will be submitted to Secretariat to be added as two new Ramsar Sites of International Importance	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	several sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation): An inventory of some other sites in the south of Egypt at Aswan(Salouga and Gazalla islands) and lake Nasser (Wadi Allaqi) is planned during 2012.	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information. *Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.*

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

RIS were used in the preparation for Qaroun and Wadi Rayan lakes.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning - new Ramsar Sites. *While recognizing that Ramsar Site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar Sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.*

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? KRA 2.3.i

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

Both Qaroun and Wadi El Rayan lakes have management plan, however, they are being updated through the new project on the self financing protected areas where economic evaluation of wetlands are being prepared to assist in the preparation of policy and strategy for self financing of protected areas.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.3.2} KRA 2.4.i

3 sites

2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i

3 sites

2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i

2 sites

2.4.4 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being revised or updated? KRA 2.4.i

2 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:

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

2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii

A - Yes

2.4.5 Additional information:

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

2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv

3 sites

2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):

2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v

3 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness. *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the "Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance".*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of Ramsar Site management effectiveness been carried out? {2.3.4} KRA 2.5.i

A - Yes

2.5.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available):

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

Main findings were presented, followed by a response to the management effectiveness evaluation of Egypt’s Protected Areas. Effective evaluation for management of selected sites have been made including Zaranik for Important Bird Areas, Wadi El Gemal national park, Ras Mohamed, and Wadi El Rayan, according to IUCN and WWF.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status. *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.4.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established):

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

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {2.4.2} KRA 2.6.i

B - No

2.6.2 Additional information (if “Yes” or “Some cases”, please indicate 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):

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.4.3} KRA 2.6.ii

A - Yes

2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken):

Two declared Ramsar sites have been listed on Montreux Record. Information for assessing possible removal of the two Ramsar sites listed in Montreux record have been gathered, and the Montreux record-questionnaire was prepared .

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i>
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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)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.ii	A - Yes
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3.1.1 Additional information:

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

3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	A - Yes
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3.1.2 Additional information: .

Focal points of other MEAs are members of the Supreme National Committee for Wetland and National Committees for Climate Change, Decertification and Biodiversity. Mainstreaming of this convention have been made through a joint project, funded by GEF to streamline and synergies with RIO Conventions. Database for each convention are being prepared, and cross-cutting issues such as public awareness, capacity building,protected areas management were given priorities,and action plans are being prepared.

3.1.3 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO, etc)? KRA 3.1.iv	A - Yes
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3.1.3 Additional information:

Egypt participates through its membership in the League of Arab States in meetings o fCAMRE and regional conferences of the Arab countries to exchange experiences and common issues of wetland such as Muscat Action Plan for wise use of arab wetlands and recommendations of Fujairah workshop.

3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii

A - Yes

3.1.4 Additional information:

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

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i

A - Yes

3.2.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Planned", please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

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

3.2.2 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {4.10.1}

B - No

3.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. *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.

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i

Z - Not applicable

3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10):

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”): Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}

A - Yes

3.3.3 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10):

Egypt has received Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF), GEF/UNDP for self financing protected areas, GEF/UNDP/Bird Life International for soaring birds in the Middle East countries.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.2.1}

D - Planned

3.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):

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

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

Two books were published about Egyptian Mammals and Butterflies. There are also three other books were published for Burollus and Bardaweel lakes and lake Nasser . Many reports on the current status of Lake Qarun , Wadi El Rayan Lakes were published also. In addition, many M.Sc and Ph.D theses and scientific papers were published on the Nile and coastal lakes of Egypt.

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? KRA 3.4.ii

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

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

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

<http://www.medwet.org>

<http://www.globwetland.org>

infospa@gmail.com

www.epasp.org

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. *Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

3.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

Lake Nasser as Transboundary wetlands between Sudan and Egypt were known and a book and many scientific papers were published on this lake

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

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {2.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

C - Partly

3.5.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

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

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? KRA 3.5.iii

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

Egypt participates in a regional project funded by GEF/UNDP/Birdlife International for soaring birds in the Middle East countries.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.*

4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i

- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

A - Yes
A - Yes
A - Yes
A - Yes

(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this below in the Additional information section below)

4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):

1. Resources information on local communities have been completed for many wetlands including Zaranik, Brullus, Wadi Allaqi, Qarun, Wadi Rayan, and along the Red Sea coast and Gulf of Aqaba, particularly communities dealing with mangroves. For example, number of people living in Burullus Lake has exceeded 275000 person, whereas at Zaranik, it dose not exceed 500 person. Similarly, estimated population of 5 villages around mangroves was 437. In addition to the population, information available include education level, employment status, marital status, origin of the population (in case of tribes and bedouins), their perception to conservation, and threats to wetlands.
2. Several studies have been conducted on the traditional knowledge in wetlands, including Zaranik, Brullus, Qaroun, Rayan, Wadi Allaqi, and the Red Sea coast. Knowledge included fishing practice, women knowledge of medicinal plans, role of women in the community, knowledge on birds, agricultural knowledge, grazing activities. These studies are being in cooperated in one report to assess knowledge prepare lessons learned, as the first step to encourage applications to wetland management. Meanwhile a new law is being prepared regarding access and benefit sharing arising from the use of biological resources. This new law will call for documenting all traditional knowledge to protect and regulate biological resources use. Information provuded are currently being used in the Action Plan for Wetlands, and at thee same time the National Biodiversity Strategy is being updated inaccordance with CBD COP10 decions .

4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii	2 centres
<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)): These two centers are located at Zaranik and Brullus (Ramsar Sites). They have general displayson the wetland, bird migration,and other activities implemented at the protected areas. They recieve visitors, mostly children, where they are provided by the information on the sites. The network exist only at Cairo where all available information exist on NCS website and also EEAA where annual reports can be cited, and other information avaiailable on NCS. Thereis a plan to connect visitor centers with the main national web site.</p>	
<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p> <p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):</p> <p>Several Workshops were held where scientists , NGOs and local communities were invited to increase awareness and selection of lake Qarun and Wadi El Rayan Lakes to designate thes wetlands as Ramsar Sites. Major events regarding wetland day, and other environmental events were also made and involved local communities. Furthermore staff of NCS usually make visits to wetland sites and involve children and local communities in many activities related to wetlands .</p>	
4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii	C - Partly
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>Effectiveness evaluation for the management of protected areas are being carried out at several wetland sites. Evaluation included taining needs assessment. Results are being prepared toinclude training on resources mobilization,effective financing, and economic evaluation. A report on the issue is expected to be available early 2012.</p>	
4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv	opportunities

4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

Many training workshops were held during the last 3 years in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, UAE, Oman, Malta, Tunisia and other countries of the Middle East and Mediterranean countries. Egypt participated in most of these workshops that dealt with turtles, bird counts, marine mammals, management effectiveness, updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and many other issues.

4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}

B - No

4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):

4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and

- a. Ramsar Sites managers?
 - b. other MEA national focal points?
 - c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?
- {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):

It is a usual practice that after the COP a report is prepared on all the issues raised and decisions adopted. After approval of the Minister of Environment, the report is sent to all relevant governmental sectors and other stakeholders informing them on all the decisions adopted and requesting them to follow up on the implementation and reporting on progress. Meanwhile, any relevant information received from the Ramsar Secretariat are communicated with relevant stakeholders.

4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information:

Every year the Ramsar Booklet is translated into Arabic, published by NCS/EEAA, and major events are celebrated at national and local levels where visitors are invited to visit protected areas without any charge, and receive the booklet, hats, t-shirts, etc, and they participate in the activities of the protected areas, including lectures, contests and awards, cleaning up campaign, and other activities.

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this):

Major events like Environment Day, Bird Day (CMS), Biodiversity Day, wetland day are celebrated every year with support from Government, NGOs, private sector, and others

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation: .

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. *Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.*

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.6.2} KRA 4.2.i

B - No

4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness. *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii

A - Yes

4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

As stated previously, National Ramsar Reports are prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders before submitting to Ramsar Secretariat. Then , after each COP another report is prepared by the national Ramsar Focal point, where all relevant decisions adopted are communicated with the relevant stakeholders to follow up with implementations.

4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i

B - No

4.3.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

Several projects are being funded by GEF/Bird Life International(for soaring birds), IUCN (for establishing marine protected area at Salloum), GEF/UNDP for self financing protected areas, and a small funds from RAC/SPA to monitor birds, turtles and marine mammals in the Mediterranean Sea

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

Section 4 (www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).