



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.

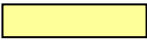
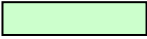
Section 2 is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: IRAN	
DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY	
Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Mahmoud Barimani Director General
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Telephone/Fax:	+98 21 61154475, 61154476 +98 21 66704176; +98 21 61154515
Email:	mahmoudbarimani@hotmail.com
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
Name and title:	Mr. Javad Momeni Cancellor International Economic Affairs and Specialized Agencies Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Telephone/Fax:	+98 21 61154452, 61154450 +98 21 66704176; +98 21 61154515
Email:	momenijavad@yahoo.com
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Masoud Bagherzadeh Karimi - Deputy Director General for Wetlands and National Parks
Name of organisation:	Department of Environment - Habitats and Protected Areas Bureau
Mailing address:	Pardisan Eco-Park - Hakim Highway - Tehran -IRAN
Telephone/Fax:	Tel: 0098 21 88233109 Fax: 0098 21 88233160
Email:	mbkarimi@yahoo.com
DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Arezoo Ashrafizadeh - Senior Expert of Wetlands
Name of organisation:	Department of Environment
Mailing address:	Pardisan Eco-Park - Hakim Highway - Tehran -IRAN
Telephone/Fax:	Tel. 0098 21 88233241
Email:	a_ashrafizadeh@yahoo.com
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS	

Name and title:	nomination of NGO realating to CEPA is on the way accourding CRITERIA MOSETLY Success story
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	



SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

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

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

- Designate 2 new wetlands (Choghakhor and Kanibarazan Wetlands) as Ramsar Sites and increase the number of Ramsar sites to 24.
- Develop and approve a National Wetlands Strategy and Action Plan (Annex 1)
- Promote ecosystem management in 3 demonstration wetlands (Urmia, Shadegan and Parishan). This approach is going to be applied for other wetlands throughout the country. It should be noted that in the 5th socio-economic development plan (2010-2015) of Iran it has been decided to develop ecosystem-based management plans for 10 important wetlands of Iran.
- Incorporate the necessity of development and implementation of ecosystem management for wetlands in national legislations (Articles 187, 191, 193 of 5th development plan 2010-2015)
- Efforts have been taken for the approval of a national and local management committee for wetlands in the Cabinet. It should be mentioned that this implementation structure has already been established for Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan, Shadegan Wetland and Anzali Wetland.
- Restore one of the threatened wetlands and removing it out of Montreux list in 2009 (Alagol, Almagol, Ajigol)
- Preparation draft CEPA national action plan
- Holding 40th anniversary of Ramsar Convention at international level in cooperation with Ramsar Secretariat in March 2011 in Iran (statement of the ceremony is attached, annex 2)
- Holding WWD ceremony at national and local levels in 2009-2011.
- Financial and in-kind support of Ramsar regional centre in West and central Asia in order to achieve educational goals of the convention in the region
- Support the RRC_CWA to construct a complex for administration and training and exhibition for the regional centre in Ramsar city (Started at 2010)
- Publish books and reports related to wetlands (annex 3)
- Updating information of Ramsar Sites (maps and information sheets)
- Establishing Wetlands National Databank (www.wetlanddatabank.ir)
- Cooperate with other agencies to determine environmental water requirement for wetlands and enforce the executive agencies for its implementation. It should be noted that considering the recent drought and climate change in the area, Montana method (10-30% of annual water of river) has been chosen as an urgent method for determining environmental water requirement for wetlands.
- Restoration activities in some wetlands such as Hasanloo, Yadegarloo, Dorge sangi, which are in montreux list. It is expected to remove them from the montreux list by 2013. Anzali wetland which is in montreux list as well, is being restored. This one is expected to be taken out of montreux record by 2014.
- Working on the joint project with JICA regarding implementation of Anzali Wetland ecologic management which is mentioned in Rasmar convention web site (Web site:http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-anzalirscooperation/main/ramsar/1%5E25239_4000_0__).
- Awareness raising by preparing brochures, hold festivals, workshops and other events

to introduce wetlands values and functions to the public.

- Developing new national and regional projects, initiatives and agreements regarding management and restoration of wetlands:

1) Regional initiatives between Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey addressing the problem of dust storm which causes socio-economic and environmental damages through sustainable management of wetlands.

2) To schedule an international meeting in 2012 for rehabilitation of Hamoon (Iran, Afghanistan) transboundary wetland.

3) Agreement with UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office for implementing an applied research project on wetlands economic valuation in Iran in 2011 (first phase).

- Publish Ramsar Convention 40th Anniversary stamp in March 2011 (annex 4)

- Research and prepare a report on peatlands of Iran and their role in reducing carbon emission. The results of this study will be presented in Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS) Wuxi 2011, China (annex5)

- The River pollution Reduction Plan was developed in 2010 based on 3 years study. These Plans have been provided for 10 river catchments. Some of these rivers feed important wetlands such as: Karkhe river to Horol Azim wetland, sefid rud river to bojagh and Amir kelaye wetlands.

- Integrated Water Quality Management Plan was prepared in 2010. One of the issues which was emphasised in this plan was related to adequate water allocation for wetlands

- Upgrade national conservation category of some wetlands (annex 6)

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

- To improve and better understanding of decision-makers and the public towards wise use and sustainability of wetlands (for instance: emphasis on implementation of ecosystem approach in national legislations (articles 191, 193 and 187 of the 5th socio-economic development plan 2010-2015)

- Designate 2 new wetlands (Choghakhor and Kanibarazan Wetlands) as Ramsar Sites and increase the number of Ramsar sites to 24.

- Develop and approve a National Wetlands Strategy and Action Plan (Annex 1)

- Restore one of the threatened wetlands and removing it out of Montreux list (Alagol, Almagol, Ajigol)

- Hold 40th anniversary of Ramsar Convention at international level in cooperation with Ramsar Secretariat (statement of the ceremony is attached, annex 2)

- Establish Wetlands National Databank

- Establish national and provincial and local wetlands management committees (At three pilot sites).

- Integrated water resource management has been a successful aspect which relates to COP 10 strategy NO: 1.7.

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

- Lack of an integrated applicable approach according to the socio-economic and ecological situation for determining environmental water requirement right of wetlands
- Deficiency of financial allocations
- Insufficient intersectoral coordination among governmental agencies
- Drought and climate change
- Lack of inflow of some transboundary wetlands whose water resources are in other countries
- Water and soil pollution, overgrazing, soil erosion, water drainage in wetlands basin
- Unsustainable development of infrastructural projects
- Insufficient financial resource mobilisation and investment by private sector and other stakeholders in conservation, wise use and rehabilitation of wetlands

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

- Designate new Ramsar sites
- Develop ecosystem based management plans for for all Ramsar sites in collaboration with all stakeholders
- Completion of CEPA national action plan
- Determine and provide environmental water requirement for all wetlands
- Implementation of national wetlands strategy and action plan
- Raise the level of local communities' and other stakeholders' engagement in management of wetlands.
- Developing visitor centers in Wetlands
- Developing monitoring and assessment plans, indexes and criteria
- Enhancing transboundary and regional cooperation
- Developing cooperation with research and scientific institution and universities

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

yes

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

1. Strengthening the cooperation between Ramsar Secretariat and GEF with regard to the climate change and drought to assist parties in developing projects consistence with focal area of GEF on the lining the adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects on sustainable management of wetlands.
2. Capacity building for the parties by the Convention in deliberation and implementation of strategic plan.

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

It is suggested that IOPs develop more guidelines and deliver services regarding the management of wetlands in arid areas. For example there is guideline for water allocation but it is not applicable for arid areas.

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?

Sustainable Development National Committee in which all the above mentioned conventions have professional subcommittees, is the best opportunity for better coordination and shared tasks of conventions at national level. National committee of Biosphere Reserve is also very important.

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)?

In Iran there is high council of water, which is the common committee of water and environment and Ramsar National Committee.

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

Continuing holding regional workshops through RRC-CWA and the convention with technical support of IOPs for training of experts of contracting parties and site managers. It is also suggested to strengthen RRC-CWA in technical and training support and exchange of information and experiences among parties.

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

1.1.1 Additional information:

A National Wetlands Data bank has recently been developed by UNDP/GEF/IR DOE Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project. This data bank is designed based on MedWet databank and now it is being finalized in cooperation with DOE Habitat and Protected areas bureau and provincial offices of DOE.

The photo maps have also been prepared for all important wetlands (Ramsar sites and other important wetlands) in the country. There is also some information about national wetlands on the web site of DOE.

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>The whole data in the databank is accesible to DOE experts and managers. But it is partly accesible to other stakeholders and the public. The information on DOE web site can be reached by the public.</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>N - Status deteriorated N - Status deteriorated</p>
<p>1.1.3 a) Additional information:</p> <p>- Climate change, drought have decreased the inflows water to Ramsar sites Urmia, Parishan, Bakhtegan, Gavkhooni, Hamouns and Shadegan, etc. Therefore, this led to deterioration of wetlands status. To mitigate the current situation there have been several positive measures by the line ministers in rehabilitation of the upland basin, such as water efficiency in agriculture sector which saved more water for the wetlands. The water allocation has also been determined and approved in collaboration with Ministry of Energy.</p>	
<p>1.1.3 b) Additional information:</p> <p>- A number of 84 identified important wetlands except the Ramsar sites in Iran in the period of reporting have been suffering from the loss of long-term precipitation. Iran is located in an arid and semiarid area, during the recent years the average precipitation has decreased in the region and consequently most of wetlands in Iran (particularly Hoorolazim, Gharagheshlagh, and meyghan) have faced dramatic lack of water and some changes in ecologic status. Besides that the wetlands and their biodiversity have recently been faced threats such as pollution, over abstraction of water, overfishing, etc.</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.*

<p>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)</p>	A - Yes
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1.3.1 Additional information: Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project in cooperation with DOE and other Habitat and protected areas bureau stakeholders has developed "National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan". This document is going to be approved by the Cabinet in near future.

Also water allocation for river and wetland's ecosystem have been approved by the government and ministry of energy and Department of Environment responsible to estimate the amount of wetlands water needs

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: Ecosystem based approach, adaptation with climate change, poverty alleviation are the issues which have been considered in NWP.

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

C - Partly

A - Yes

A - Yes

C - Partly

C - Partly

C - Partly

C - Partly

1.3.3 Additional information:

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

D - Planned

1.3.4 Additional information:

A strategic environmental assessment project is defined between UNDP and DOE. It is a capacity building project. Within the project a core team including representatives of different organizations, NGOs and universities are trained so that they could be source persons to develop human resources technical capacities in the country. SEA is not a regulator need in Iran but within the project the necessary legal studies are done to provide draft regulations for approval (not approved yet).

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
1.3.5 Additional information: EIA is essential for all development projects, particularly the ones which are located in high sensitivity ecosystems and wetlands. EIA national committee is in charge of these cases. A representative of Habitat and Protected areas bureau is a permanent member of this committee.	

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?	A - Yes
1.3.6 Additional information: The agreed definition of wetlands by the convention and its functions have been widely used in all regulations relevant to water resource management. Besides in 4 th and 5 th socio-economic plans, ecosystem approach is highly emphasized in wetlands management.	

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	C - Partly
1.4.1 Additional information: The economic valuation of some Ramsar sites such as Khorkhoran, choghakhor, Hamoon, Amirkelaye and Anzali have been accomplished.	

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	C - Partly
1.4.2 Additional information: In some areas construction of small dams for irrigation of farms and gardens, fish farming in wetlands and ecotourism master plans have been accomplished to promote the local communities livelihood. In some wetlands such as Alagol, Almagol and Hoorolazim transboundary wetland some projects have been conducted. It is planned for Ajigol wetland as well. Also due to Wetlands management plans which developed for some sites, Ecotourism activities for local communities and alternative livelihood is determined.	

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
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1.4.3 Additional information:

Considering the fact that for some wetlands (Parishan, Urmia, Shadegan, Anzali) the management plans have been developed and partly implemented based on the ecosystem approach, most of the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands have been taken to apply in the management process.

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

C - Partly

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

As mentioned the management plans for some of Iranian wetlands (Urmia, Parishan, Shadegan, Anzali) have been developed based the ecosystem approach. So according to the principles of this approach socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands are considered in the management planning process.

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:

National committee on Ramsar convention, which consists of fully authorized representative from related ministries and organizations. Each convention in our country has a national committee or steering committee that work under national committee of National sustainable development committee. Also some related national focal point such as CBD and CMS are the member of national Ramsar Committee

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:

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:

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:

At universities there are different issues related to wetland policies and plans particularly regarding agriculture-wetland interactions. besides that a lot of work has been done through Conservation of Iranian Wetlands project including some study on land and water resources in the management planning process. Some executive activities then have taken place such cooperative activities with Ministry of Agricultur-Jihad on demonstration sites around Lake Parishan. In these farms sustainable agriculture, organic agriculture and crop pattern and new irrigation methods are promoted in close collaboration with local communities.

There is also a technical water and agriculture working group under implementation structures of Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan and Shadegan Wetlands integrated management plans in which the related issues are discussed and planned in meetings on a regular basis.

Some scientific studies have been done on the role of peatlands in climate change.

In some Ramsar sites such as Khorkhoran, Choghakhor, Hamoon, Amirkelaye and Anzali the economic valuation is being done.

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

C - Partly

1.6.2 Additional information:

The recent management plans which are developed based on the ecosystem approach consider all scientific baseline studies and also threats.

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

C - Partly

1.7.1 Additional information:

Water resources management plans were mostly based on the needs of portable, agricultural, fishery and industry sectors. But as in the recent years ecosystem approach has been promoted throughout the country, environmental water requirement of some wetlands is now considered as an important part of IWRM in some wetlands. For other wetlands this issue is being studied.

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:

According to IWRM, the environmental water right of some wetlands have been determined and in any dam construction projects it should be taken into consideration as well as EIA.

In general there are decent guidelines and legislations regarding this issue. But there are also some cases where wetland issues have been neglected in basin water management.

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: In recent management plans which are based on ecosystem approach one of the management goals relates to CEPA activities.

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}

C - Partly

1.7.4 Additional information:

It has been taken into consideration, but it seems not be sufficient and needs more work.

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

C - Partly

1.7.5 Additional information: Development of National Strategy Plan indicates the role of sustainable wetlands management in mitigation of 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

C - Partly

1.7.6 Additional information:

- This has been done in some cases in the country:

1. The role of Ab-bandan-daran (The farmers who are allowed to get some water out of wetlands for farming) in conservation of Anzali Wetland and follow-ups for official registration of their association in Gilan
2. Involvement of Ab-bandan-daran in management of wetlands and conservation of Siberian Crane in Fereydoonkenar, Ezbaran and Sorkhrood
3. In collaboration with Agricultral Jihad Office in villages around Lake Parishan, there have been a couple of projects on sustainable agriculture and IPM.

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:

The Ramsar sites which in Montreux Record are in high priority for restoration measures. In some of them such as Yadegarloo, Hasanloo and Dorge-sangi the restoration activities are being done.

Besides that 10 other wetlands have been chosen for management planning based on ecosystem approach.

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:

Yadegarlou, Seiran gouli, Hassanlou, Ghara gheslagh, Hassan khah and Khataei wetlands are restored with fully by local community and NGOs with some supports from DOE

Also as mentioned the Alagol, Almagol and ajigol removed from Montreoux List and water allocation for this wetlands approved by Ministry of Energy.

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}

C - Partly

1.8.3 Additional information:

The mentioned resolution has been used in executive details of the projects. In determining environmental water right and wetlands boundary marking, national legislations and also Ramsar guidelines are taken into consideration.

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:

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:

There is a need for a comprehensive national policy. Fish farming is just permitted if the fish is indigenous.

"IUCN guidelines for the prevention of biodiversity loss caused by invasive species" has also been translated to Farsi and published.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

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

C - Partly

1.10.1 Additional information:

In some cases mostly regarding ecotourism, wise use guidelines are applied. Effort is now on the way to develop the management plan for all the wetlands and explore those area which are more attractive for private sector like ecotourism for their investment.

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

D - Planned

D - Planned

1.10.2 Additional information:

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 are quite a large number of awareness-raising materials at national, provincial and local levels for different target groups.

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

D - Planned

1.11.1 Additional information:

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

D - Planned

1.11.2 Additional information:

There have been a couple of measures such as prohibition of shooting and overfishing. Also marking wetlands boundaries helps this issue a lot.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:

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: It has been planned in 5 years ahead to designate one Ramsar site every year. 84 important wetlands have been studied and 35 of them have been designated as Ramsar sites under 24 titles.	
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: It is planned to be done in 5 years ahead. This plan started in 2011.	
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	1 sites
2.1.3 Additional information: 1 site (Zarivar Wetland)	
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	3 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation): According to the plans each year one site would be added. It would be 3 for the next triennium.	

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
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2.2.1 Additional information:

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

C - Some sites

2.3.1 Additional information:

- By the law conservation of all the wetlands are under the authority of DOE. There are already management pre-plan for the most designated Ramsar sites, although for 11 of them management planning process is in progress.

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

8 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

4 sites

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

11 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:

Lake Urmia, Lake Parishan, Shadegan, Anzali, Miankale, Harra, Hamoon and Amirkelaye Wetlands have management plans and the management plans are being implemented in Urmia, Parishan, Shadegan and Anzali.

Based on the 5-year ahead plan, 11 other wetlands will be provided by a management plan, 6 of them are Ramsar Sites.

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:

- One of the main goals in the integrated management plans is conservation of biodiversity and ecological character of wetlands.

Core zone of wetlands is also defined based on the sensitive habitats and existence of rare and vulnerable species.

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

4 sites

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

Parishan, Shadegan, Urmia and Anzali.

A management committee will also be established at national level based on the approval of the Cabinet.

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

24 sites

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

For 24 Ramsar sites this information is available in the books and reports, but they are not well-classified. The data is being inserted in the data bank now.

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

C - Some sites

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): For Urmia and Parishan in which implementation of management plans started, there has been some measures to assess the effectiveness of those plans. This is based on a monitoring plan. It was a part of CIWP activities.

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):

Holding different training workshops provincial and local authorities, NGOs activities, publications, etc help to inform and sensitize the related stakeholders about the importance of wetlands.

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

A - Yes

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):

- For the removal of Alagol, Almagol, Ajigol from Montreux record the Secretariat was asked to send an advisor for visiting the sites.

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:

All wetlands in Iran are being conserved and managed by DOE whether they are Ramsar sites or not.

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 environmental conventions including Ramsar convention have a subcommittee and the heads of these subcommittees are members of Sustainable Development National Committee. Head of Ramsar National Committee is also a member of Climate Change National Committee. Efforts are on the way to strengthen the synergy between all environmental conventions at national level.

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	C - Partly
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3.1.2 Additional information:

The representatives of CBD and CMS are invited to the meetings. It is planned to invite UNFCCC and UNCCD representatives in the National Ramsar Committee.

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:

- This collaboration takes place through RRC_CWA. There has also been some collaboration with UNDP via shared activities of CIWP and RRC-CW.

Transboundary river management, UNECE, ECO, UNDP, ROPME, CEP(Capian environment programm)

- Correspond with UNEP for Hamoon

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	Z - Not applicable
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3.1.4 Additional information:

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):

- The secretariat of RRC_WCA which is a research and training centre, is in Iran.
- The International workshop of wetland managers of countries in the region was proposed and organised by RRC-CWA and Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project.

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}

A - Yes

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

RRC-CWA provides technical and financial support for participation of countries in the region, several workshops were organized and several documents provided by center. -

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

The ecological management of Anzali Wetland has been defined and is being implemented in cooperation with Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Some support has also been received from UNDP/GEF Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project

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}	A - Yes
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3.4.1 Additional information (If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):

An international workshop was held by RRC-CWA and CIWP in October 2010 in which about 11 GEF/WWF/UNDP/UNEP wetland project managers of countries in the region shared their experiences on managing such projects, the lessons learned, etc. This workshop was the first step towards establishing A Community of Practice for Wetland Managers. The achievements of this workshop was then classified and published in Farsi and English (Which is available in Ramsar Website)

At national level there are good mechanisms for knowledge sharing of experts and managers such as in-service training courses, consulting workshops, distributing scientific reports and maps.

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
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3.4.2 Additional information:

- The information and maps are available on web sites (DOE, Ministry of Energy, CIWP, Provincial DOE offices)
- There have been different publications (A book on Iran Ramsar sites in Farsi and English, some other books, posters, brochures, etc) (annex.....)
- Wetlands data bank

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:

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:

Some of them such as Hamoon Wetland and Gwadar Bay have been identified and some others like Booralan Wetland and Aras river wetland are being planned.

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):

At regional level some initial steps have been taken for the shared management of Hamoon Wetland with Afghanistan.

At national level, for the management of Lake Urmia whose basin is shared by 3 provinces, a national committee and a regional council are in place. They work together on the basis of a MOU for Lake Urmia Basin Integrated Management.

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:

Iran is one of the countries located in the migration corridor of Siberian Crane and is involved in a joint project for conservation of wetland habitats of this species in the region.

Iran is also a member of Tehran Convention (Caspian sea environmental issues) and ROPME.

Wings over wetlands project (WOW): During training workshop of this project which held last year in Kazakhstan, The Persian language countries suggested that the three toolkits to be translated in Persian and the training workshop be organized for site managers and technical experts. RRC-CWA is translating these documents and will held the workshop in this year

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY
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<p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. <i>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.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>a) At the national level
b) Sub-national level
c) Catchment/basin level
d) Local/site level</p> | <p>C - In progress
B - No
B - No
D - Planned</p> |
|--|--|

<p>(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)</p>	
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<p>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):</p>	
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<p>Based on the guidelines prepared by the secretariat, a CEPA action plan has been drafted. For this purpose a series of meetings and a 2-day workshop were held in 2010 in Ramsar city. In the workshop the experts who are responsible for Ramsar sites helped to develop a draft of action plan. They were also asked to start the process of action planning at local level.</p>	
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<p>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</p>	<p>6 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)):</p>	
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<p>Urmia, Hamoon, Amirkelaye, Anzali, Shadegan and Kanibarazan have visitor centres. In Parishan it is planned and will be established in near future. RRC-CWA have a plan to establish a visitor center in one of satellite wetland of uromieh.</p>	
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<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p>	
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- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> | <p>C - Partly
C - Partly</p> |
|--|----------------------------------|

<p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	
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4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):

As participation is very much emphasized in the ecosystem approach, it has been encouraged in the management planning process of wetlands, particularly in Urmia, Shadegan, Anzali and Parishan. For this the key stakeholders have been involved in the planning process and also implementation phase of wetlands management.

There are also some local cooperatives who are actively participating in the management of wetlands, such as Yadegarloo, Hasanloo, Dorge sangi and Parishan.

Selection of Kanibarazan, Kaji namakzar, Gahar and Meyghan Ramsar sites have taken place through a participatory approach.

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

D - Planned

4.1.4 Additional information:

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): 111

Since COP10

- 5 staff have attended the training course in Japan
- CIWP have held different thematic training workshops (such as ecosystem management workshops for experts, training of trainers 8-day course for NGOs, training workshop on ecosystem approach for journalists, training course on ecosystem approach for DOE guards) RRC-CWA also held several training course in regional level.

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

A - Yes

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

National Ramsar Committee is active and holds its meetings on a regular basis.

Members: DOE habitats office, Conservation of Iranian wetlands project, RRC-CW, Coastal wetlands management office, sustainable development national committee, DOE water and soil office, fisheries, ministry of foreign affairs, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Jihad and Agriculture, Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Road and Housing, University, NGOs.

Besides that a National Wetlands Committee is going to be established. That would be a high-level committee which follows all the issues related to the management of wetlands in Iran.

<p>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</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites managers? b. other MEA national focal points? c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):</p> <p>There are some bilateral/multilateral governmental committees such as: Water and Environment Committee, Environment and Fisheries Committee, Forest and Environment Committee.</p> <p>In provinces that have Ramsar site there is a provincial committee related to wetland conservation and management.</p>	
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>DOE celebrates WWD every year. The event usually takes place in a Ramsar Site wetland. Along with this event there are some other events in the provinces and at local level, which are led by NGOs or DOE provincial offices. Some of these events are supported by Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP), RRC-CWA.</p> <p>Besides the above mentioned activities, every year on WWD, DOE, RRC-CWA, CIWP holds a Wetland Championship.</p>	
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>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):</p> <p>There have been different events. some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A campaign on support of wildlife in Parishan which was organised by local communities and supported by CIWP - Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) monitoring programme which is organised by a national NGO in Parishan with direct involvement of local communities. This project is supported by CIWP and DOE - Different awareness raising activities at schools (book reading competition, painting competition, etc) - Some TV programmes have been prepared and broadcast by Ministry of Energy, CIWP, provincial DOEs 	

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

B - No

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

The contribution for 2009 has been paid and for 2010 and 2011 is in the process.

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

A - Yes

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

-2 million \$ from national budget was allocated to the construction of Ramsar Regional Centre in west and central Asia's building and also annual budget is allocated for the center activities.

- Funding for Ramsar Convention 40th anniversary

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):

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

A - Yes

4.3.2 Additional information: There will be an announcement by DOE with regard to the new focal point and administrative authority of the convention.

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

B - No

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

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:

IOPs are not active in Iran, For example Birdlife has office for West Asia but they did not identify Focal point for Iran same problem with Wetland International. Iran is very keen on working with IOPs more closely in future.

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).