



**NATIONAL PLANNING TOOL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**(And the approved format for National Reports to be  
submitted for the 9th Meeting of the Conference of  
the Contracting Parties, Uganda, 2005)**

**HEADLINE ACTIONS AND INDICATORS ONLY VERSION**

**MAY 2005**

| INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>CONTRACTING PARTY</b>  |  |
| <b>MALTA</b>  |  |
| <b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>   |  |
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| <b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (OR DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>                           |  |
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| <b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>                                       |  |
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| <b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS</b>     |  |
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| <b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENT FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS</b> |  |
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### SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION (OPTIONAL)

*Please, include a summary on the implementation of Ramsar Convention in your country during the last triennium*

Malta, a small island state in the Central Mediterranean region, has no mountains or rivers. True freshwater 'wetlands' are consequently very small in size and extent, and largely dependent on rain water, with some dependencies on groundwater. Most wetlands are therefore transient, the largest being in proximity of the sea, and often influenced by sea water.

The most important Maltese wetlands, namely L-Ghadira and Is-Simar, have been protected via the [Environment Protection Act](#) [Cap. 435] and are managed in line with the provisions of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations [[Legal Notice 257 of 2003](#)] and the [Protection of Birds and Wild Rabbit Regulations](#) [LN 146/93 as amended]. Both are declared Special Areas of Conservation and Bird Sanctuaries.

During the period 2003-2005, BirdLife Malta (a non-government organization) together with the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (designated Ramsar Administrative Authority) and the Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment, continued with the management of the two designated Ramsar sites of L-Ghadira and Is-Simar. Such management included on-site active management and research to maintain the saline wetland habitat, as well as providing access to the public for leisure and educational purposes. Research is conducted by the University of Malta, in collaboration with BirdLife Malta, and is subject to permits and conditions issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

**Action 1.1.1.-** Promote and encourage the use of standard wetland inventory methodologies following the *Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Resolution VIII.6)*, to undertake, update and disseminate national (or, where appropriate, provincial) scientific inventories of wetlands.

| 1.- Country has a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory <i>(if inventory exists, please include the number of sites)</i> | E/H | <i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i><br>A = Not applicable;<br>B = Yes; C = No;<br>D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below);<br>I = No answer | N° wetlands / Ramsar sites |
|---|-----|--|----------------------------|
|   |     |  |                            |

All freshwater wetlands have been identified, most of which are afforded legal protection under various legislation. The existing national wetland inventory is currently being updated and digitised.

**Action 1.2.7.-** Undertake assessments of water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands, to support the implementation of the *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1)*, as a contribution to the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

| 1. The water quality and quantity available to, and required by, wetlands has been assessed                      | F | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned;G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
|--|---|---|
| 2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the assessment undertaken.]</i> |   |   |

Water quality assessments are planned in relation to the management and monitoring of the Ramsar Sites and other freshwater wetlands of importance, in line with the provisions of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations of 2003 [[Legal Notice 257 of 2003](#)], the Water Policy Framework Regulations of 2004 [[Legal Notice 194/04](#)] and the Quality of Fresh Waters Supporting Fish Life (Protection and Improvement) Regulations of 2001 [[Legal Notice 342/01](#)].

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION, INCLUDING IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND VALUATION

**Action 2.1.2.-** Ensure that wetland policies are fully integrated into and harmonized with other strategic or planning processes and documents, in particular those related to biodiversity, desertification, climate change, agriculture, trade in endangered species, water resource management, integrated coastal zone management and environmental planning in general including national strategies for sustainable development called for by the WSSD. When these other documents include chapters or sections on different ecosystems, ensure that one of them is devoted to wetlands.

|   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| 1. Wetland issues have been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development called for by WSSD  | D/E | <i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i><br>A = Not applicable;<br>B = Yes;<br>C = No;<br>D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress;<br>F= Being planned;<br>G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below);<br>I = No answer |
| 2. Wetland issues have been incorporated into poverty eradication strategies  | A   |   |
| 3. Wetland issues have been incorporated into water resources management and water efficiency plans   | E/F |   |
| 4. Wetland issues (conservation, wise use, restoration/rehabilitation) have been integrated into other sectoral strategic or planning processes and documents at any of the following levels: national, regional, provincial, and local   | B/D |   |
| <b>5.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the incorporation of wetland issues into other sectoral strategic or planning processes.]</b>  |     |   |
| <p>Land-use policy is guided by the <u>Development Planning Act</u> [Cap. 356] and its <u>Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands</u>, which was drawn up in 1990, and adopted legally through the aforementioned Act. The Plan provides strategic guidance on land-use in the Maltese Islands and contains 320 policies on settlements, the built environment, housing, social and community facilities, commerce and industry, agriculture, minerals, tourism and recreation, transport, urban and rural conservation, ecology and public utilities. Through this Plan, various wetlands have been 'scheduled'<sup>1</sup> as Areas of Ecological Importance or Sites of Scientific Importance.</p> <p>The Structure Plan is currently under review., and various topic papers have been prepared with the aim of setting out a policy framework for the new structure plan. One such topic paper is the <u>Coastal Zone Topic Paper</u>.</p> <p>More recently, the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations of 2003 [<u>Legal Notice 257 of 2003</u>] and the Water Policy Framework Regulations of 2004 [<u>Legal Notice 194/04</u>] have been enacted through the <i>vires</i> of the <u>Environment Protection Act</u> [Cap. 435]. The former regulations regulate activities in Special Areas of Conservation<sup>2</sup> and provide the basis for integrated management plans for important wetlands declared as Special Areas of Conservation, whilst the latter provides a framework for the protection of waters to be implemented jointly by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the Malta Resources Authority, in line with the EU Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>A <u>Draft Sustainable Development Strategy for Malta</u> is also being developed in line with relevant provisions of the aforementioned <u>Environment Protection Act</u>. For further information, reference can be made to the following websites: <a href="http://www.mepa.org.mt/environment/sustainable_development/Nationalstrategy.htm">http://www.mepa.org.mt/environment/sustainable_development/Nationalstrategy.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.home.um.edu.mt/islands/ncsd">http://www.home.um.edu.mt/islands/ncsd</a>.</p> |     |   |

**Action 2.2.4.-** Promote the continuing development, wide dissemination - primarily through the Internet-based resource kit (<http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/assessment/ramsar-503-01.htm>) and application of methodologies to undertake valuations of the economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands, in collaboration with the *International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA)*, Ramsar's International Organization Partners, and interested Parties and organizations.

<sup>1</sup> Article 46 (1) of the Development Planning Act [Cap. 356] requires MEPA to prepare, and from time to time review, "a list of areas, buildings, structures and remains of geological, palaeontological, cultural, archaeological, architectural, historical, antiquarian, or artistic or landscape importance, as well as areas of natural beauty, ecological or scientific value [referred to as "scheduled property"] ... which are to be scheduled for conservation and may in respect of all or any one or more of the scheduled property make conservation orders to regulate their conservation".

<sup>2</sup> Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are declared through the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection (Declaration of SACs) Regulations [GN 223/05].

|   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| 1. Progress has been made in the development and/or application of methodologies for the valuation of economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of wetlands   | E/F | <i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;<br>D = Partly/ in some cases; |
| 2. The Party has contributed to the STRP work on methodologies for economic, social and environmental valuation of wetland benefits and functions   | C   | E = In progress; F= Being planned;<br>G = Being updated; H = Other status<br>(explain below); I = No answer      |
| 3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on progress made and contribution to STRP work, if applicable.]</i>   |     |  |
| The valuation of the economic, social and environmental benefits and functions of a number of significant wetlands is being carried out under the provisions of the Water Policy Framework Regulations of 2004 [ <a href="#">Legal Notice 194/04</a> ] and Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations of 2003 [ <a href="#">Legal Notice 257 of 2003</a> ]. |     |  |

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. INTEGRATION OF WETLAND WISE USE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Action 3.2.1.-** Implement the *Guidelines for global action on peatlands* as adopted by Resolution VIII.17, noting the priority sought therein for inventories of peatlands, the protection and possible designation of peatlands as Ramsar sites, the transfer of peatland restoration technology, and the maintenance of the cultural significance of peatlands, and implement those actions identified as national priorities.

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Action has been taken to implement at national level the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17) | A | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| 2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i>   |   |  |
| Peatlands do not occur in the Maltese Islands.   |   |  |

**Action 3.4.2.-** Apply the Guidelines in *Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) and, where appropriate and feasible, participate in the related CBD/Ramsar project entitled the "River Basin Initiative" so as to support the WSSD agreement to increase understanding of the sustainable use, protection and management of water resources.

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. The <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i> (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 4) have been used/applied   | F | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| 2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on application of the Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management.]</i> |   |  |
|  |   |  |
| 3. The Party has participated in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative   | C | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| 4.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the participation in the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative.]</i>  |   |  |
|  |   |  |

**Action 3.4.6.-** In decision-making processes related to freshwater resources, apply the *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands*, as adopted by Resolution VIII.1.

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|---|----------|--|
| 1. The <i>Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1)</i> have been used/applied in decision-making related to freshwater  | <b>F</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>  |          |  |
| <p>Important wetlands are protected and/or scheduled under different provisions and subsidiary legislation of the <a href="#">Environment Protection Act</a> and the <a href="#">Development Planning Act</a> respectively, both of which are administered by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. Such regulations or policies regulate various processes involving decision-making related to wetlands.</p> <p>With respect to water allocations, the regulation of water resources falls within the competency of the Malta Resources Authority (MRA). The MRA has been set up in 2000 via the <a href="#">Malta Resources Authority Act</a> [Cap. 423]. Moreover, water resources are also covered through the provisions of the Water Policy Framework Regulations of 2004 [<a href="#">Legal Notice 194/04</a>].</p> |          |  |

**Action 3.4.9.-** Ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the *Kyoto Protocol*, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands.

|  |          |  |
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| 1. The implications of implementation of the <i>Kyoto Protocol</i> for wetland conservation have been assessed           | <b>A</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b> |          |  |
|  |          |  |

#### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

**Action 4.1.2.-** Establish wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, where feasible, at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially in those associated with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value, in line with Recommendation 4.1 and Resolutions VII.17 and VII.20.

|  |            |  |
|--|------------|--|
| 1. Wetland restoration / rehabilitation programmes or projects have been developed   | <b>B/D</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>   |            |  |
| <p>The Ramsar sites of L-Ghadira and Is-Simar are being managed by a non-government organisation under contractual agreement with the Ramsar Administrative Authority, and in accordance with the provisions of approved management plans. Restoration and rehabilitation measures are incorporated in these management plans.</p> |            |  |

#### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 6. LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND CULTURAL VALUES

**Action 6.1.6.-** Consider using the *Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites* (Resolution VIII.19), and continue to document case studies on social and cultural values of wetlands and how they can be incorporated into the effort to conserve and sustainably use wetland resources.

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| <b>1. The guiding principles on cultural values (Resolution VIII.19) have been used or applied</b>  | <b>A/B</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the application of the Guiding Principles on cultural values.]</b>   |            |  |
| Although, no case studies on such aspects have been prepared so far, the agricultural areas in proximity with wetlands are protected and/or scheduled under different provisions and subsidiary legislation of the Environment Protection Act and the Development Planning Act respectively.                                      |            |  |
| <b>3. Resource information and case studies on cultural aspects of wetlands have been compiled</b>  | <b>D</b>   | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| <b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the resource information compiled.]</b>  |            |  |
| As part of the identification of important wetlands for the national wetland inventory and the setting up of the National Ecological Network, important wetlands have been surveyed and relevant information collected. Information in relation to candidate Natura 2000 sites is available at the <a href="#">MEPA website</a> . |            |  |

### OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA) <sup>3</sup>

**Action r9.ii.i.-** Develop pilot projects to evaluate a range of approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands, in particular involving those who make a direct use of wetland resources

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| <b>1. Pilot projects have been developed to evaluate different approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands</b> | <b>C</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>              |          |  |
|   |          |  |

**Action r9.iii.ii.-** Establish a national *Wetland CEPA Task Force* (if no other mechanisms exist for this purpose), ensuring suitable stakeholder and NGO representation, to undertake a review of needs, skills, expertise and options, and to set priorities for the implementation of this programme of work.

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| <b>1. A National wetland CEPA Task Force has been established</b>   | <b>C</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;<br>F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below);<br>I = No answer |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>  |          |  |
| Although a national wetland CEPA task force does not exist, education campaigns have continued in the two Maltese Ramsar Sites. The two sites have been open to the public at scheduled times and during certain periods. Teachers are employed within the Management Team of the two sites, and guided visits (including school visits) with talks and publications are provided. However, not all area is accessible to the general public. |          |  |

<sup>3</sup> The Operational Objectives and Actions listed here are those adopted by Resolution VIII.31 (Annex 1), which fully incorporate and expand upon the 15 Actions as listed in Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25).

**Action r9.iii.iii.-** Formulate, drawing upon the *Additional Guidance on reviewing and action planning for wetland communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)* developed for this purpose, a national (and, where appropriate, sub-national, catchment or local) action plan for wetland CEPA which incorporates the conclusions to emerge from Action r9.iii.ii above, and provide a copy of this to the Ramsar Convention Bureau so that it can be made available to other Parties and interested organizations and individuals. (The Additional Guidance document is available in hard copy from the Bureau and in html at [http://ramsar.org/outreach\\_reviewsactionplansI.htm](http://ramsar.org/outreach_reviewsactionplansI.htm))

**1. A National Action Plan for wetland CEPA has been developed**

**C**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Refer to reply to Action r9.iii.ii.

**Action r9.vii.iii.-** Ensure that multi-stakeholder bodies are in place to guide and inform catchment/river basin and local wetland-related planning and management, and that these bodies include appropriate expertise in CEPA.

**1. CEPA expertise has been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management tools**

**F**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Such '*multi-stakeholder bodies*' are planned in connection with the setting up of the water catchment management plan established through the provisions of the Water Policy Framework Regulations of 2004 [[Legal Notice 194/04](#)].

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. DESIGNATION OF RAMSAR SITES

**Action 10.1.1.-** Renew efforts to apply the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the Ramsar List* (Resolution VII.11) including, as a matter of priority the establishment of a strategy and priorities for the further designation of Ramsar sites so as to achieve, as soon as possible, the coherent national networks called for in the Vision for the List. (Resolution VIII.10).

**1. A strategy and priorities have been established for further designation of Ramsar sites, in application of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List**

**H**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

**2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]**

Designation of 'protected areas' follows national criteria set by the Environment Protection Act and Development Planning Act and their subsidiary legislation. Various sites are protected nationally and internationally, and the most important freshwater wetlands have already been designated as '*Ramsar Sites*'.

**Action 10.2.4.-** Fully update and submit revised *Ramsar Information Sheets* as frequently as necessary to record changes in the status of sites, and at least at intervals of not more than six years, so that they can be used for reviewing change in ecological character and progress in achieving the Vision and Objectives of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Handbook 7) at each COP.

**1. All required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands have been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau**

**G**

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*



2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]*

Ramsar Information sheets are being reviewed and will be submitted in due course.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND MONITORING OF RAMSAR SITES

**Action 11.1.2.-** Apply the Convention's *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* (Resolution VIII.14) to develop management plans or strategies for all Ramsar sites.

1. The *New Guidelines for management planning* have been used in the development of management plans or strategies

F

*Choose an answer*

*A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer*

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include additional comments on the way the guidelines have been used.]*

The management plans for the Ramsar sites of L-Ghadira and Is-Simar are currently being reviewed. The *New Guidelines for management planning* will be taken into consideration in the review exercise.

### MANAGEMENT PLANS AT RAMSAR SITES

N° Ramsar sites

3.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place

2

4.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies in place and being fully applied

2

5.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being prepared

0

6.- Ramsar sites with management plans or strategies being revised or updated

2

7.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include the list of Ramsar sites whose management plans fall under each category, and any additional comments you consider relevant.]*

Management plans have been prepared for both Ramsar sites of L-Ghadira and Is-Simar and these are currently being reviewed.

**Action 11.2.4.-** In fulfilment of Article 3.2 of the Convention, report to the Ramsar Bureau without delay all actual or likely changes in ecological character on Ramsar sites, and include Ramsar sites “where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur” in the *Montreux Record* as appropriate.

1.- Changes or likely changes (both positive and negative) in ecological character at Ramsar sites have occurred or may occur (Art. 3.2) *(if applicable, please include number of sites)*

C

*Choose an answer for each indicator*

*A = Not applicable;*

*B = Yes;*

*C = No;*

*D = Partly/ in some cases;*

*E = In progress;*

*F= Being planned;*

*G = Being updated;*

*H = Other status (explain below);*

*I = No answer*

N° Ramsar sites  
Nil

2.- Changes or likely changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites have been reported to the Ramsar Bureau pursuant to Article 3.2

A

3.- Ramsar sites were included in the Montreux Record since COP8 *(if applicable, please include number of sites)*

A

N° Ramsar sites  
Nil

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include information on the changes or likely changes in ecological character, and list the sites affected.]*

5.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include information on the steps followed to include sites in the Montreux Record since COP8.]*

The ecological character of the Ramsar sites of L-Ghadira and Is-Simar has remained stable.

**Action r11.2.viii.-** For sites included in the *Montreux Record*, regularly provide the Ramsar Bureau with an update on progress on taking action to address the issues for which these Ramsar sites were listed on the Record, including reporting fully on these matters in National Reports to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Resolution VIII.8)

|  |   | N° Ramsar sites  |
|--|---|--|
| 1.- Actions have been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites were listed in the Montreux Record <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i> | A | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable;<br>B = Yes; C = No;<br>D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| 2.- Actions taken to address issues at Montreux Record Ramsar sites have been communicated to the Ramsar Bureau  | A | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;<br>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer       |
| 3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of Ramsar sites concerned and results of the actions taken.]</i>                                |   |  |
|  |   |  |

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12. MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS AND WETLAND SPECIES

**Action 12.1.1.-** Identify all wetland systems in each Contracting Party shared with other Parties and with non-parties and promote cooperation in their management with the adjoining jurisdiction(s), applying, where appropriate, the *Guidelines on integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management* (Ramsar Handbook 4, Section A1 of the Guidelines), and the *Principles and Guidelines for integrating wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)* (Resolution VIII.4).

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1.- All transboundary/shared wetland systems have been identified <i>(if applicable, please include number of sites)</i>   | A | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;<br>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer | N° wetlands/<br>wetland systems<br>Nil |
| 2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please list the transboundary wetlands identified and provide any other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i> |   |   |  |
| Malta, being an island state, has no directly shared or transboundary wetlands.  |   |   |  |

**Action 12.3.2.-** Encourage development of regional arrangements under the Convention similar to *MedWet*, where appropriate, applying the *Guidance for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands* (Resolution VIII.30) for example in the Black Sea, Caspian Sea, the Caribbean, South America and the Altaj-Sayansky region.

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Party has been involved in the development of a regional initiative in the framework of the Convention                | B | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| 2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</i> |   |  |
| Malta participated to some MedWet initiative meetings.   |   |  |

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 13. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

**Action 13.1.1.-** Continue to strengthen cooperation and synergy with the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, the *Convention to Combat Desertification*, the *Convention on Migratory Species* and its Agreements, the *World Heritage Convention*, and the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, in particular through the vehicles of Joint Work Plans and collaboration among the respective subsidiary scientific bodies of the conventions and the secretariats, and at national level among the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and Focal Points of the different MEAs.

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| <b>1. Mechanisms are in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)</b>  | <b>B</b> | <p><i>Choose an answer</i><br/> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p> |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the MEAs involved and additional comments you consider relevant.]</b>  |          |  |
| <p>Most MEAs are dealt with by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. Indeed, the work-plan of the Environment Protection Directorate (EPD) already integrates various provisions of multilateral environmental agreements, since MEAs are mostly administered by the same Unit or NFP within the EPD. Moreover, e-groups have been set up to ensure that correspondence from the Secretariat reaches all relevant MEPA staff (e.g. <a href="mailto:ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt">ramsar.malta@mepa.org.mt</a>, <a href="mailto:cbd.malta@mepa.org.mt">cbd.malta@mepa.org.mt</a>, <a href="mailto:cms.malta@mepa.org.mt">cms.malta@mepa.org.mt</a>, etc.).</p> <p>A small working group within the Nature Protection Unit also deals with nature protection MEAs; e-mail: <a href="mailto:treaties.nature@mepa.org.mt">treaties.nature@mepa.org.mt</a>.</p> <p>Furthermore, particularly in relation to treaties with overlapping responsibilities (such as CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD), MEPA has also set up a small European Union and Multilateral Affairs Unit (EUMA) to ensure further co-ordination with other institutions and agencies.</p> <p>In some areas, Memoranda of Understanding are being drafted. In the case of water policy, a Memorandum of Understanding has been already signed between the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the Malta Resources Authority in 2005 on the shared competency and implementation of the aforementioned Water Policy Framework Regulations of 2004 [<a href="#">Legal Notice 194/04</a>], and is being implemented.</p> |          |  |

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 14. SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION

**Action 14.1.3.-** Develop twinning and/or networks of transboundary wetlands and wetlands sharing common features, as an important mechanism for sharing knowledge and providing training opportunities.

|   |          |  |                                   |
|---|----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1.- Networks among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training</b>   | <b>A</b> | <p><i>Choose an answer</i><br/> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p> |                                   |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the wetland networks established and other comments you consider relevant.]</b>                                  |          |  |                                   |
| <b>3.- Twinning arrangements among wetlands sharing common features have been established for knowledge sharing and training (if applicable, please include number of sites involved)</b> | <b>A</b> | <p><i>Choose an answer</i><br/> <i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated; H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i></p> | <b>N° wetlands / Ramsar sites</b> |
| <b>4.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include information on the twinning arrangement, the sites involved and other comments you consider relevant.]</b>                      |          |  |                                   |

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 15. FINANCING THE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS

**Action 15.1.1.-** Mobilize direct funding support from multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies in order to assist developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition in the conservation and wise use of wetlands and in implementation of the present Strategic Plan. (Based on Section E1 of the Guidelines).

|   |          |   |
|---|----------|---|
| <b>1. (For CPs with development assistance agencies) Funding support has been mobilized from development assistance agency for wetland issues</b> | <b>A</b> | <i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes;<br>C = No; D = Partly/in some cases; |
| <b>2. Other forms of funding support have been mobilized for wetland issues</b>   | <b>C</b> | E = In progress; F= Being planned;<br>G = Being updated; H = Other status<br>(explain below); I = No answer     |
| <b>3.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b>                          |          |   |
|   |          |   |

**Action 15.1.8.-** For those Parties eligible for development assistance, include projects for conservation and wise use of wetlands in national portfolios and plans for consideration by development assistance agencies, and give priority among these for projects to build institutional capacity. (Based on Sections E8 and E12 of the Guidelines)

|  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to development assistance agencies</b>                   | <b>A</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b> |          |   |
|  |          |   |

**Action 15.1.9.-** For eligible Contracting Parties of both the *Ramsar Convention* and the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, develop wetland conservation and wise use projects suitable for consideration by the *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*, as part of the implementation of the Joint Work Plan with the CBD and in accordance with paragraphs 6 and 7 of Decision IV/4 of CBD's COP4 relating to inland water ecosystems.

|  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>1. Project proposals related to wetlands have been submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)</b>             | <b>A</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
| <b>2.- Implementation progress since COP8 [Please include additional comments on the implementation of this action.]</b> |          |   |
| Malta is not eligible to GEF funding in this field.  |          |   |

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 17. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE CONVENTION

**Action 17.1.6.-** Ensure that each Contracting Party has nominated a national focal point for the work of the STRP (as called for by Resolutions VII.2 and VIII.28) and two focal points (one government, one non-government) for the *Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme* (as called for by Resolutions VII.9 and VIII.31)

|  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>1. The National Focal Point for the work of STRP has been nominated</b> | <b>C</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
|--|----------|---|

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include information on the STRP National Focal Point and other comments you consider relevant.]*

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 18. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

**Action 18.1.1.-** Encourage the review of existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and on the basis of such a review, identify and implement measures to:

- increase cooperation and synergy among institutions with direct or indirect responsibility for wetland issues, especially those responsible for the management of water resources and for biodiversity and wetland conservation and management;
- promote enhanced cooperation, and where appropriate integrated approaches, among the national focal points of environment-related conventions, and consider establishing a coordinating committee to ensure that integrated approaches are taken;
- promote enhanced contact, and where appropriate close coordination, between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and national professional, technical, scientific and educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including those involved in social and cultural heritage issues; and
- provide appropriately trained staff, in adequate numbers, to enable these institutions to implement the Convention to full effect.

|  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>1. A review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands has been completed</b> | <b>E</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
|--|----------|---|

2.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include information on the review and other comments you consider relevant.]*

|  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>3. A coordinating committee among focal points of environment-related conventions is in place</b> | <b>B</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No; D = Partly/in some cases;<br>E = In progress; F= Being planned; G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer |
|--|----------|---|

4.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include information on the coordinating committee and other comments you consider relevant.]*

A formal co-ordinating committee is not in existence, however such duties are discussed during regular EPD management meetings and meeting with EUMA. For further information refer to the reply for 'Action 13.1.1'.

|   |          |   |
|---|----------|---|
| <b>5. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and other national institutions directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues, in particular water and biodiversity</b> | <b>B</b> | <i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i><br>A = Not applicable;<br>B = Yes;<br>C = No;<br>D = Partly/in some cases; |
|---|----------|---|

|   |          |   |
|---|----------|---|
| <b>6. Mechanisms are in place to ensure cooperation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and relevant professional, scientific or educational societies and agencies involved in wetland conservation or management, including social and cultural heritage issues</b> | <b>B</b> | E = In progress;<br>F= Being planned;<br>G = Being updated;<br>H = Other status (explain below);<br>I = No answer |
|---|----------|---|

7.- Implementation progress since COP8 *[Please include information on the relevant cooperation mechanisms and any other comments you consider relevant.]*

With respect to wetland issues, reference is made to the aforementioned Memorandum of Understanding between the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the Malta Resources Authority, signed in 2005, and the Water Policy Framework Regulations of 2004 [[Legal Notice 194/04](#)].

As far as scientific studies, close co-operation exists between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the main research institution of the country, namely the University of Malta. An agreement also exists between the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, the Department of Biology of the University of Malta and

BirdLife Malta for research in the two Maltese Ramsar sites.

With respect to cultural heritage, this is being dealt with by the Integrated Heritage Management Section of the Environment Protection Directorate of MEPA, which works in close collaboration with Heritage Malta, the latter being set up by the [Cultural Heritage Act](#) [Cap 445]. The Cultural Heritage Act also modifies the composition of MEPA's Heritage Advisory Committee (Article 57 of the Act).

**Action 18.1.2.-** Establish National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, relevant government agencies, including national water management ministries and/or agencies, where appropriate, and non-governmental organizations, STRP and CEPA National Focal Points, key stakeholders, indigenous people and local communities, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities (Recommendation 5.13). When in place, ensure the proper functioning of these Committees.

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| 1. A National Ramsar / Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body) is in place  | <b>C</b> | <i>Choose an answer for each indicator</i><br><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i><br><i>D = Partly/ in some cases;</i><br><i>E = In progress; F= Being planned;</i><br><i>G = Being updated; H = Other status</i><br><i>(explain below); I = No answer</i> |
| 2. If a Ramsar Committee exists, it is cross-sectoral (relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, key stakeholders, local communities, private sector, etc.) | <b>A</b> |  |
| 3.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include additional comments on the National Ramsar Committee].</i>                                      |          |  |

Refer to the replies to operational objective 13 and Action 18.1.1.

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20. TRAINING

**OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 20.1. Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses**

**Action 20.1.8.-** Encourage further development and use of regional wetland training and research centres, including a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (Resolution VII.26) and a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia (Resolution VIII.41).

|   |          |   |                   |
|---|----------|---|-------------------|
| 1.- Support has been provided to the development of regional wetland training and research centres <i>(if applicable, please include number of centres)</i> | <b>C</b> | <i>Choose an answer</i><br><i>A = Not applicable; B = Yes; C = No;</i><br><i>D = Partly/ in some cases; E = In progress;</i><br><i>F= Being planned; G = Being updated;</i><br><i>H = Other status (explain below); I = No answer</i> | <b>N° centres</b> |
| 2.- Implementation progress since COP8 <i>[Please include the list of centres and other additional comments you consider relevant.]</i>                     |          |   |                   |